2024

Saskatchewan

Point-In-Time Count Report

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

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2024 Count Summary

In fall 2024, thirteen communities (listed below) in Saskatchewan participated in a Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in Saskatchewan?

- 1,072 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in participating Saskatchewan communities on a single night.
- 1,085 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 38% of people counted experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 58% were staying at someone else's place
- 17% were in a homeless shelter
- 15% were in an unsheltered public place

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 52% Male
- 42% Female
- 16% Youth
- 43% First Nations
- 23% Métis
- 18% have Indigenous ancestry

Introduction

In fall 2024, a Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by local organizations within each community, and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in Saskatchewan based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Participating Communities in Saskatchewan:

- Melfort
- Nipawin
- North Battleford
- Meadow Lake
- Moose Jaw
- Yorkton
- La Ronge
- Buffalo Narrows
- La Loche
- Beauval
- Ile-a-la-Crosse
- Pinehouse
- Lloydminster

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Community	Enumerated (Single Night)	Surveyed (Oct/Nov 2024)
Buffalo Narrows	30	30
Ile-a-la-Crosse	49	49
La Loche	37	37
Beauval	29	29
La Ronge	100	100
Pinehouse	162	133
Meadow Lake	40	35
North Battleford	98	192
Melfort	42	30
Nipawin	98	98
Lloydminster	246	246
Moose Jaw	120	76
Yorkton	21	30
Total (SK)	**1,072**	**1,085**

Gender

52% of survey respondents identified as men and 42% as women, indicating a similar gender distribution among the homeless population in Saskatchewan (See Figure 1).
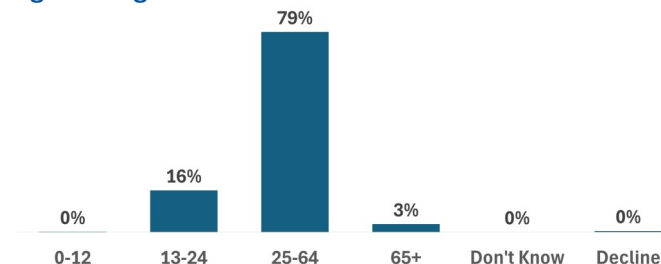
Figure 1: Gender
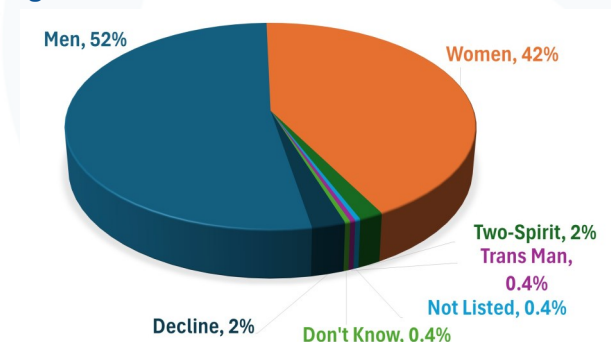
Age

The largest group experiencing homelessness in Saskatchewan are adults aged 25–64 (79%), with 16% youth (13–24), and 3% aged 65 or over.

Figure 2: Age

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in Saskatchewan identify as First Nations (43%), followed by 23% identifying as Métis, and 18% with Indigenous ancestry.
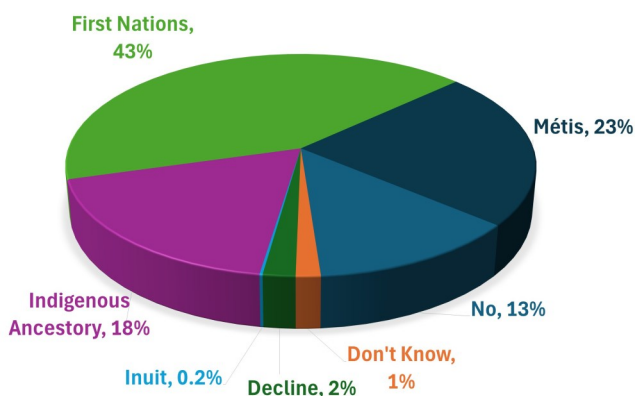
Figure 3: Indigenous Identity

Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained five screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data of 1,085 participants are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location
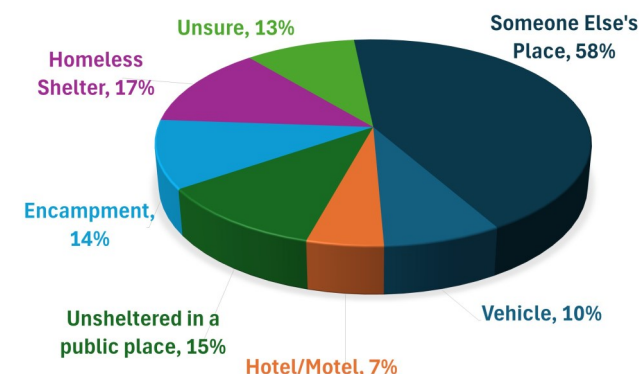
Chronicity

58% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness from 6 – 12 months over the past year, and 25% said time homeless was from 1 - 6 months.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year

When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 55% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 30% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.

Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years

Age First Homeless

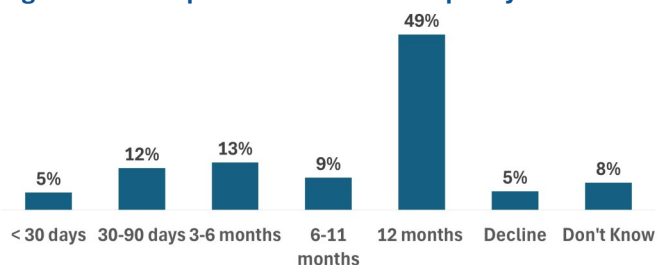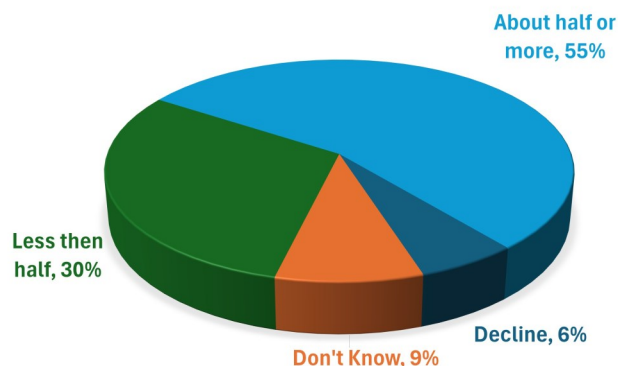About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in Saskatchewan often began in their youth, with 51% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 11 – 30 years old.

Figure 7: Age first homeless
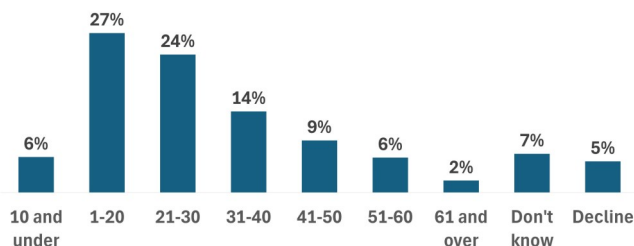
Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

As seen in Figure 8, over one third of individuals surveyed were experiencing chronic homelessness, while 18% were uncertain about when their homelessness began.

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss
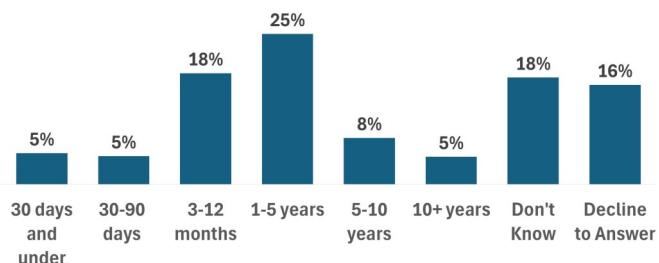
Length of Time in Saskatchewan

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked how long they had been in Saskatchewan. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. 37% of individuals reported they had always been in Saskatchewan.

Figure 9: Time spent in Saskatchewan
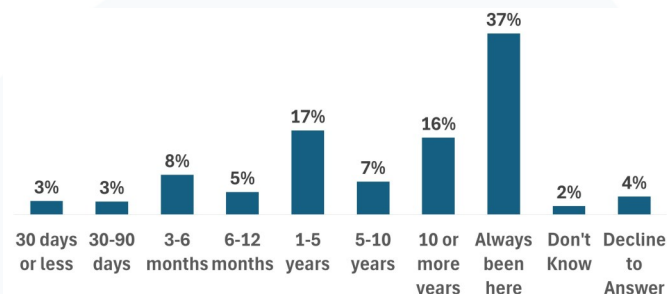
Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (84%) identified as straight/heterosexual, while 7% declined to answer.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation
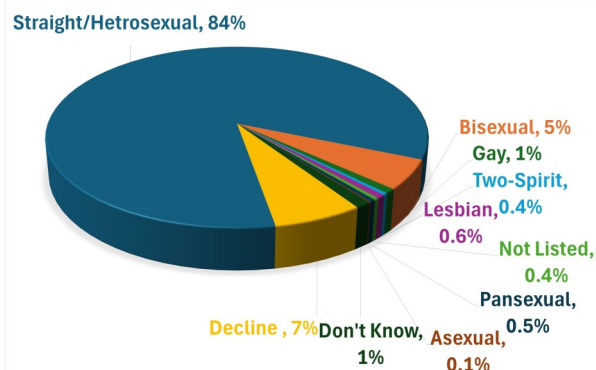
Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in Saskatchewan is not enough income for housing (33%), substance abuse issues (15%), conflict with spouse (13%) and other reasons (10%). Other notable causes include unfit/unsafe housing (8%) and relocated (7%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as discrimination by other (7%), abuse by spouse/partner (6%), and conflict with landlord (5%).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason

Not Enough Income for Housing	33%
Substance Abuse Issue	15%
Conflict with Spouse	13%
Other Reason	10%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing	8%
Conflict with Parent/Gaurdian	8%
Left the Community/Relocated	7%
Abuse by Other	7%
Descrimination by other	7%
Decline	6%
Abuse by Spouse/Partner	6%
Conflict with Landlord	5%
Mental Health Issue	5%
Other	4%
Descrimination by Spouse/Partner	3%
Complaint	3%

Foster Care

While a majority of individuals surveyed did not grow up in foster care, 33% had experience with the foster care system.

Figure 12: Foster care

No, 62%
Yes, 33%
Decline to Answer, 4%
Don't Know, 1%

Origin and Citizenship
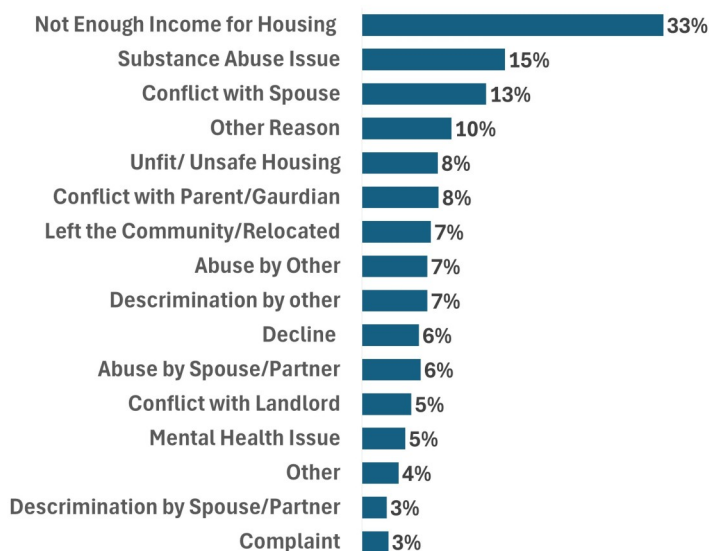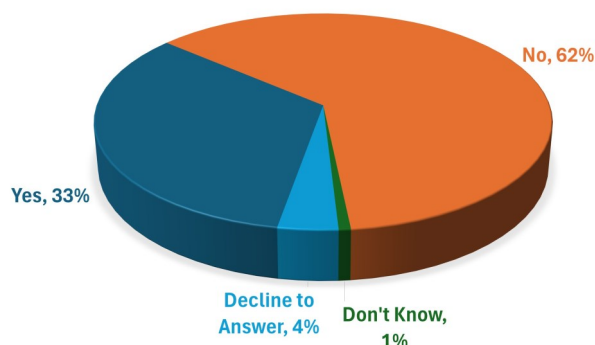
The survey data showed that 10 individuals that were part of the homeless population in Saskatchewan were an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.

Income

The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (41%), while 22% indicated they had no income. Other sources of income included GST (14%), child and family benefits (9%), and other (7%). Smaller portions rely on money from family and friends (5%) and part time employment (4%). It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (8%), they were still experiencing homelessness.

Figure 13: Main source of income

Social Assistance	41%
No Income	22%
GST	14%
Child and Family Benefits	9%
Disability Benefit	8%
Full Time Employment	8%
Other	7%
Money from Family and Friends	5%
Part Time Employment	4%
Casual Employment	4%
Seniors Benefit	4%
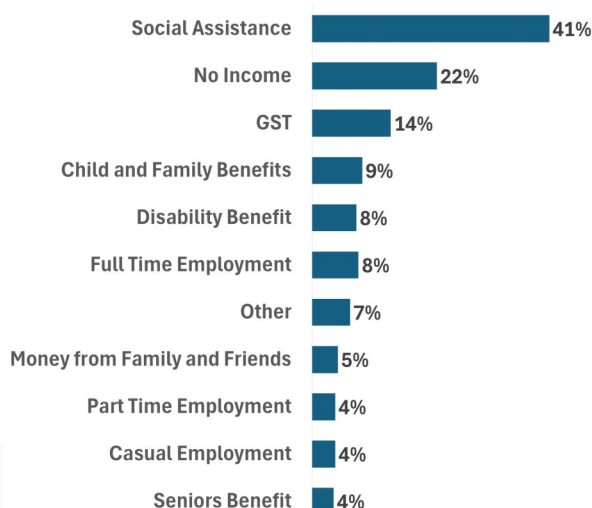
Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness who have dependents, particularly children. 40% of the respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 17% noting that they had children relying on them.

Figure 14: Dependents

Children, 17%
Partner, 12%
Pets, 1%
Other Adults , 10%
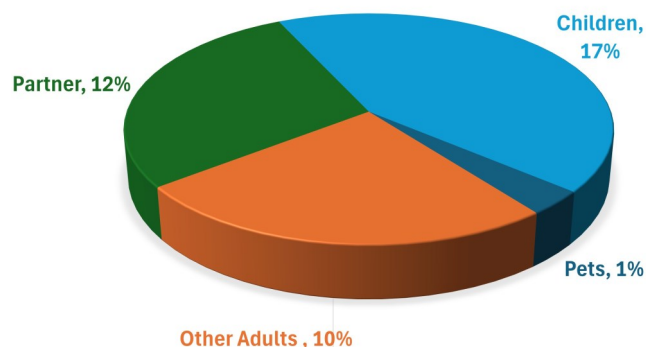
Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that 37 of the respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Métis Nation Saskatchewan

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in Saskatchewan has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in Saskatchewan. With 1,072 individuals (approximately 1% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 84% of individuals experiencing homelessness identified as Indigenous (43% First Nations, 18% reporting Indigenous ancestry, and 23% Métis), highlighting the continued impacts of systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities.

- **Economic challenges:** The primary cause of housing loss was insufficient income for housing (33%), with 41% of respondents relying on social assistance as their main income source. Notably, 8% of those experiencing homelessness reported having full-time employment, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee housing security in the community.

- **Chronic homelessness:** 38% of individuals counted were experiencing chronic homelessness, suggesting long-term barriers to stable housing that require comprehensive intervention strategies.

- **Early onset:** 51% of respondents first experienced homelessness between the ages of 11-30, pointing to the need for youth-focused prevention strategies.

This initial PiT Count, led by the community organizations in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of Saskatchewan residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, Saskatchewan will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: An individual must have spent a total of at least six months (180 days) as homeless over the past year or have had recurrent episodes in the past three years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months staying in unsheltered locations, in emergency shelters, or staying temporarily with friends or family members. (Statistics Canada (2023))

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's nancial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

Appendix A - Survey Questions

1. Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year? (check all that apply)
2. Do you have family members or anyone else who is staying with you tonight? / Did any family members or anyone else stay with you last night? (Indicate survey number for partners. Check all that apply)
3. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born? (If unsure, ask for best estimate)
4. In total, for *how much time* have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR (the last 12 months)? (Does not need to be exact. Best estimate.)
4b. In total, for *how much time* have you experienced homelessness over the PAST 3 YEARS? (Does not need to be exact. Best estimate.)
5. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?
6. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee, asylum claimant (i.e. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada), or through another process?
7. How long have you been in (*community name*)?
8. Do you identify as First Nations (with or without status), Métis, or Inuit? (If yes, please specify) (*COMMUNITY NOTE: The wording of this question can be adapted to what makes sense in your community, for example by listing specific First Nations*)
8b. In *addition* to your response in the question above, do you identify with any of the racial identities listed below? (Show or Read list. Select all that apply)
9. Have you ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP?
10. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or in a youth group home (*COMMUNITY NOTE: include any other Provincial child welfare programs*)? (Note: This question applies specifically to child welfare programs.)
11. Have you been experiencing difficulties related to any of the following?:
12. What gender do you identify with? (Show list or read list.)
13. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? (Show list or read list.)
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. Follow up for the reason if the respondent says "eviction" or that they "chose to leave".)
14b. Was your most recent housing loss related to an eviction?
14c. How long ago did that happen (that you lost your housing most recently)? (Best estimate)
15. What are your sources of income? (Reminder that this survey is anonymous. **Read list** and check all that apply)
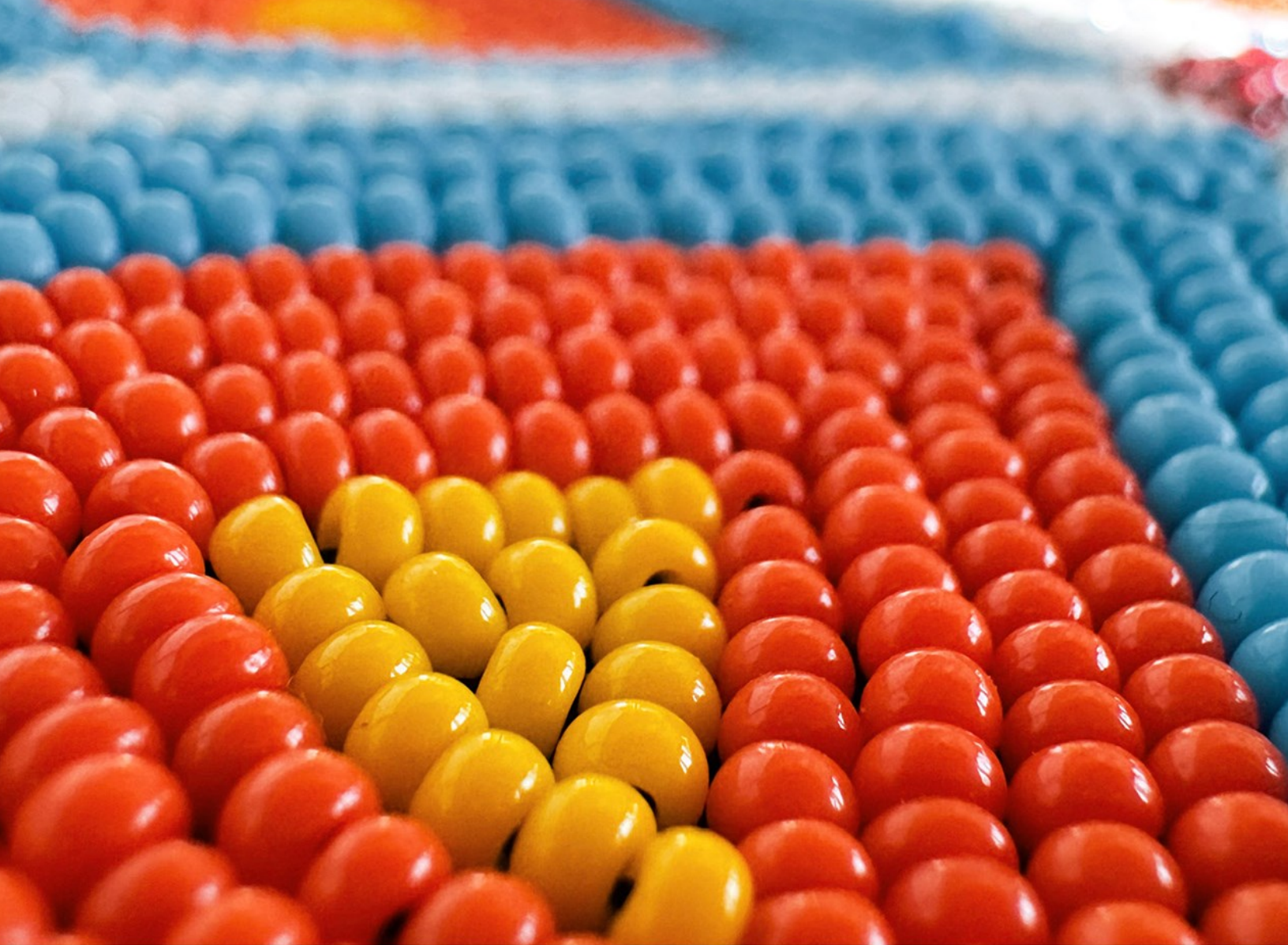
2024

Beauval, SK

Point-In-Time Count Report

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

2024 Count Summary

On October 30th, 2024, Beauval participated in its first ever Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count, adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in Beauval?

- 29 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Beauval on October 30, 2024.
- 29 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 31% of people surveyed were experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 90% were staying at someone else's place
- 7% were staying in a vehicle
- 3% were unsure

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 55% Male
- 45% Female
- 21% Youth
- 69% Métis
- 24% First Nations

Introduction

On October 30th, 2024, the first Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in Beauval, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by the Ile-a-la- Crosse Friendship Centre , and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in Beauval based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On October 30th, 2024, 29 people (4% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in Beauval (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 29 individuals experiencing homelessness were surveyed.
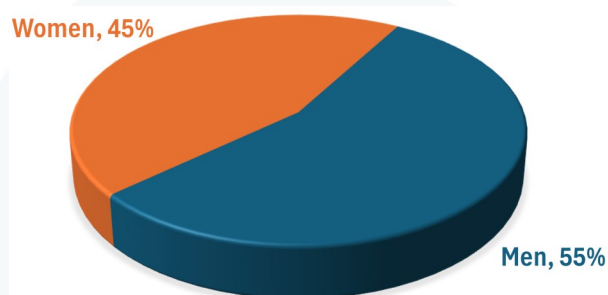
Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of Beauval	Enumerated on October 30, 2024	% of Population
685	29	4%

Gender

55% of survey respondents identified as men and 45% as women, indicating a nearly even gender distribution among the homeless population in Beauval (See Figure 1).
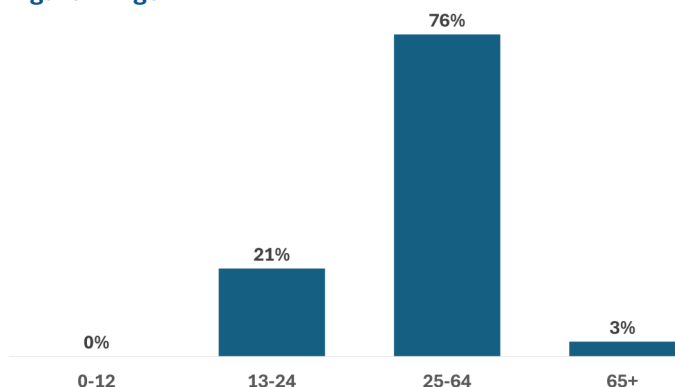
Figure 1: Gender

Women, 45%
Men, 55%

Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in Beauval are adults aged 25–64 (76%), followed by 21% youth (13–24), and 3% aged 65 or over.

Figure 2: Age

0-12	13-24	25-64	65+
0%	21%	76%	3%

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in Beauval identify as Métis (69%), followed by 24% identifying as First Nations, and 3% reporting Indigenous ancestry.

Figure 3: Indigenous Identity

Métis, 69%
First Nations, 24%
Indigenous Ancestry, 3%
Don't Know, 3%
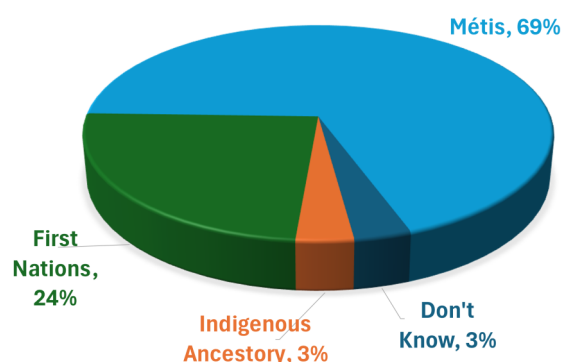
Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location

Unsure, 3%
Vehicle, 7%
Someone Else's Place, 90%
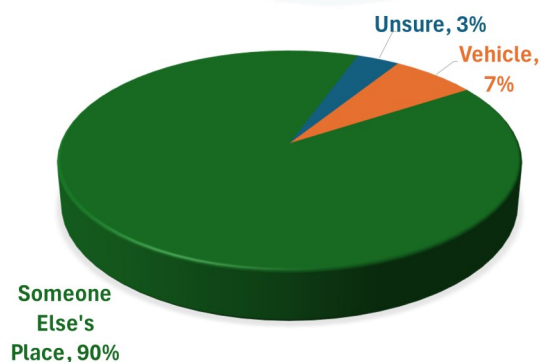
Chronicity

31% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness anywhere from 6 – 12 months over the past year, a majority (45%) said they were unsure.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year

When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 48% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 28% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.

Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years
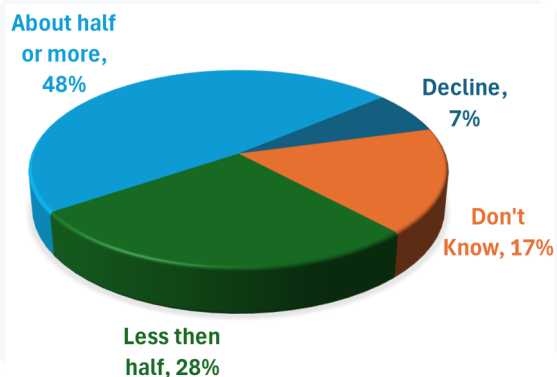
Age First Homeless

About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in Beauval often began in their youth, with 49% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 11 – 30 years old.

Figure 7: Age first homeless

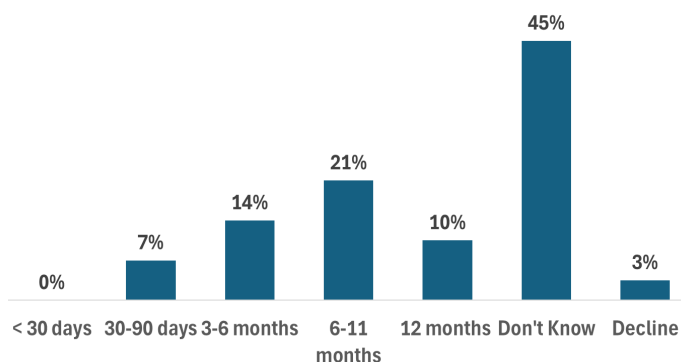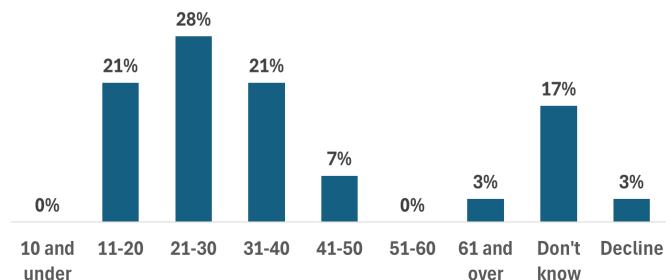## Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

As seen in Figure 8 , nearly one third of individuals surveyed lost their housing at least one year ago, while 13% were recently homelessness (within the past year).

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss
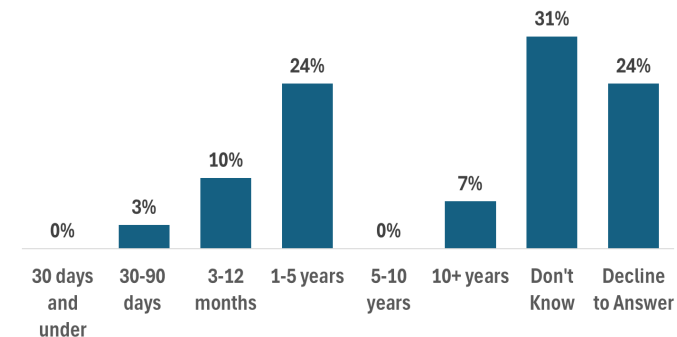
Length of Time in Beauval

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked how long they had been in Beauval. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. Neary three quarters of individuals reported they had always been in Beauval

Figure 9: Time spent in Beauval
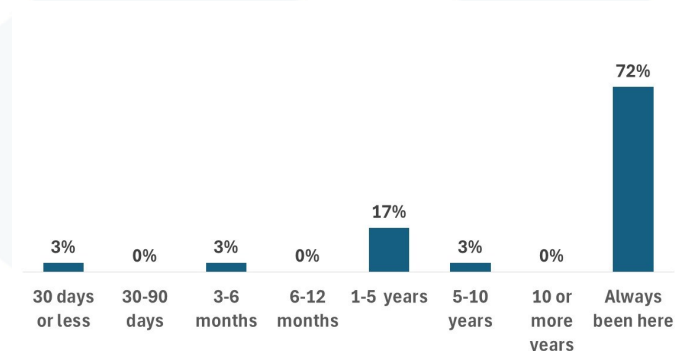
Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (93%) identified as straight/heterosexual, while 7% identified as bisexual.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation

Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in Beauval is not enough income for housing (48%), followed by relocation/left the community (21%) and mental health issues (17%). Other notable causes include conflict with a spouse (14%) and unfit/unsafe housing (10%).

Smaller proportions reported issues such as conflict with parent/guardian (7%), substance abuse (3%), and various forms of abuse or discrimination by landlords or partners (3% each).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason

Reason	%
Not Enough Income for Housing	48%
Left the Community/Relocated	21%
Mental Health Issue	17%
Conflict with Spouse	14%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing	10%
Conflict with Parent/Gaurdian	7%
Substance Abuse Issue	3%
Abuse by Landlord	3%
Abuse by Spouse/Partner	3%
Descrimination by Landlord	3%
Descrimination by Spouse/Partner	3%
Conflict with Landlord	3%
Other Reason	3%

Foster Care

While a majority of individuals surveyed did not grow up in foster care, 10% had experience with the foster care system.
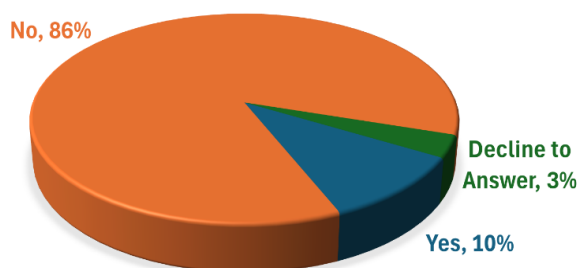
Figure 12: Foster care

No, 86% — Decline to Answer, 3% — Yes, 10%

Origin and Citizenship

The survey data showed that no individual that was part of the homeless population in Beauval was an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.

Income

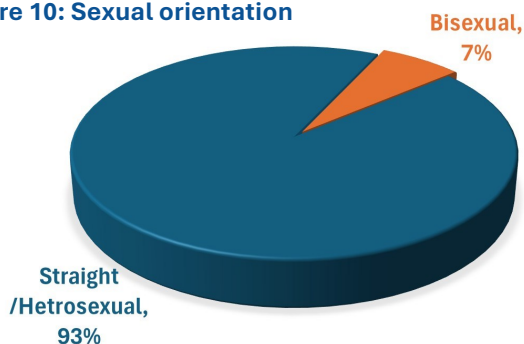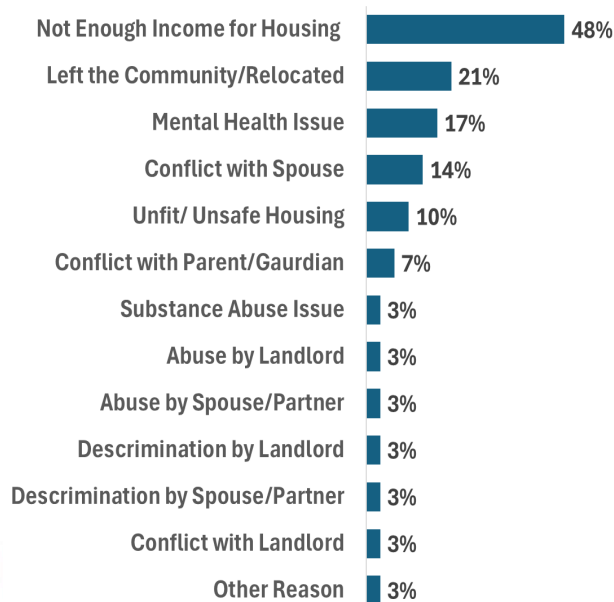The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (38%), while 21% indicated they had no income.

Other sources of income included GST benefits (14%), child and family benefits (14%), and part-time employment (10%). Smaller portions rely on employment insurance (7%), other money from a service (3%), seniors' benefits (3%), disability benefits (3%), and casual employment (3%).

It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (10%), they were still experiencing homelessness.
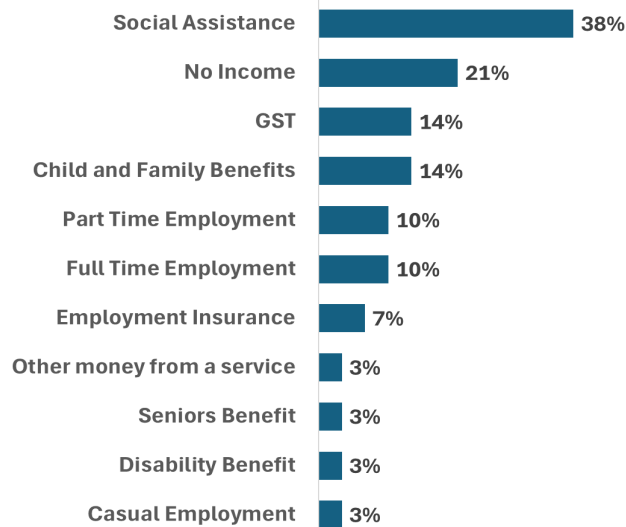
Figure 13: Main source of income

Source	%
Social Assistance	38%
No Income	21%
GST	14%
Child and Family Benefits	14%
Part Time Employment	10%
Full Time Employment	10%
Employment Insurance	7%
Other money from a service	3%
Seniors Benefit	3%
Disability Benefit	3%
Casual Employment	3%

Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. All respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 31% noting that they had children relying on them.

Figure 14: Dependents

Other Adults, 17% — Children, 31% — Partner, 17% — Pets, 3%
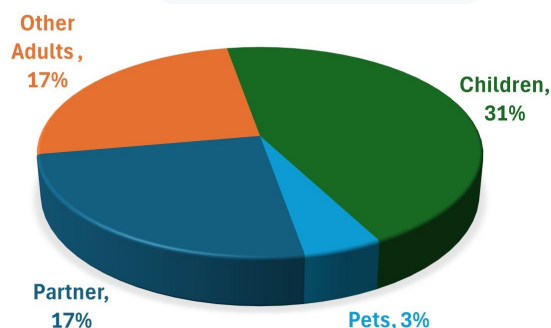
Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that none of respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in Beauval has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this northern Saskatchewan community. With 29 individuals (approximately 4% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 96% of individuals surveyed indicated they were Indigenous (69% Métis, 24% First Nations, and 3% reporting Indigenous ancestry), highlighting the continued impacts of systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities.

- **Shelter:** With 90% of the respondents indicating that they had stayed at someone else's place (at least once) over the last year and 7% reported staying in a vehicle. This indicates a shortage in options for those experiencing homelessness in Beauval.

- **Economic challenges:** The primary cause of housing loss was insufficient income for housing (48%), with 38% of respondents relying on social assistance as their main income source. Notably, 10% of those experiencing homelessness reported having full-time employment,

indicating that employment alone does not guarantee housing security in the community.

- **Local population:** 72% of respondents reported having always lived in Beauval, indicating that homelessness in the community primarily affects long-term residents rather than transient populations.

This initial PiT Count, led by the Ile-a-la-Crosse Friendship Centre in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of Beauval residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and northern homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, Beauval will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: An individual must have spent a total of at least six months (180 days) as homeless over the past year or have had recurrent episodes in the past three years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months staying in unsheltered locations, in emergency shelters, or staying temporarily with friends or family members. (Statistics Canada (2023))

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's nancial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or

racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

2024

Buffalo Narrows, SK

Point-In-Time Count Report

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

2024 Count Summary

On October 18, 2024, Buffalo Narrows participated in its first ever Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count, adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in Buffalo Narrows?

- 30 people were counted experiencing homelessness in Buffalo Narrows on October 18, 2024.
- 30 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 37% of people counted experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 33% were staying at someone else's place
- 7% were staying in an unsheltered public place
- 3% were a vehicle or homeless shelter

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 63% Male
- 33% Female
- 7% Youth
- 67% Métis
- 27% First Nations
- 3% have Indigenous ancestry

Introduction

On October 18, 2024, the first Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in Buffalo Narrows, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by the Buffalo Narrows Friendship Centre, and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in Buffalo Narrows based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On October 18th, 2024, 30 people (3% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in Buffalo Narrows (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 30 individuals experiencing homelessness were surveyed.
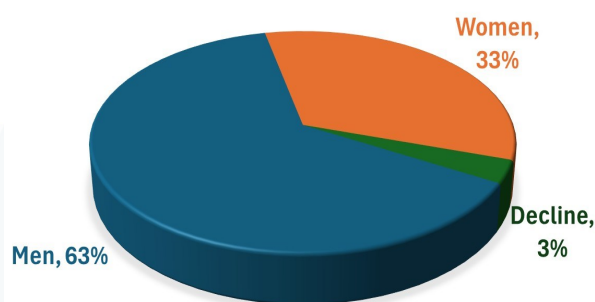
Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of Buffalo Narrows	Enumerated on October 18, 2024	% of Population Homeless
1,014	30	3%

Gender

63% of respondents identified as men and 33% as women, indicating a disproportionate gender distribution among the homeless population in Buffalo Narrows (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Gender

Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in Buffalo Narrows are adults aged 25–64 (87%), with 7% youth (13–24), and 7% aged 65 or over.
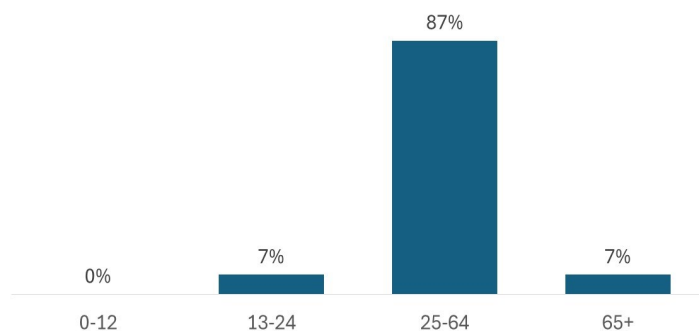
Figure 2: Age

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in Buffalo Narrows identify as Métis (67%), followed by 27% identifying as First Nations, and 3% reporting Indigenous ancestry.

Figure 3: Indigenous Identity

Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained five screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location
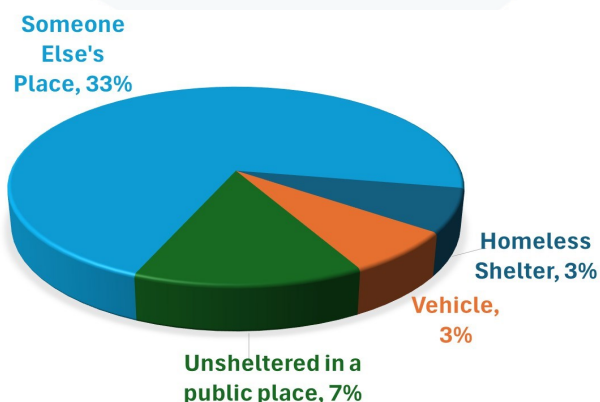
Chronicity

30% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness for 12 months over the past year, while 43% said they were unsure.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year

< 30 days	7%
30-90 days	7%
3-6 months	3%
6-11 months	0%
12 months	30%
Don't Know	43%
Decline	10%

When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 43% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 13% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.

Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years

About half or more, 43%
Decline, 7%
Don't Know, 37%
Less then half, 13%

Age First Homeless

About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in Buffalo Narrows often began in their youth, with 43% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 0– 30 years old.

Figure 7: Age first homeless

10 and under	3%
11-20	27%
21-30	13%
31-40	17%
41-50	7%
51-60	3%
61 and over	0%
Don't know	30%
Decline	0%
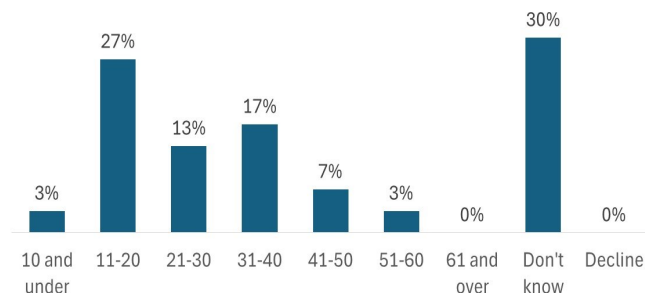
Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

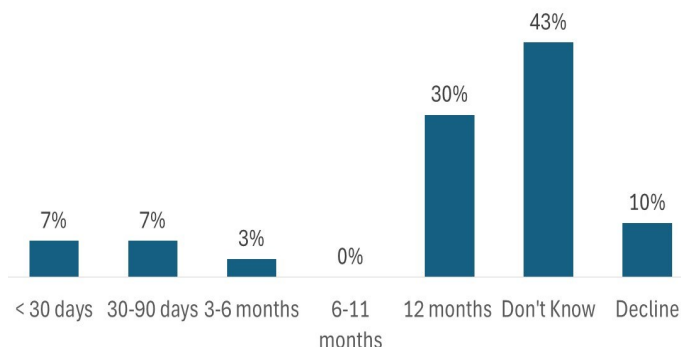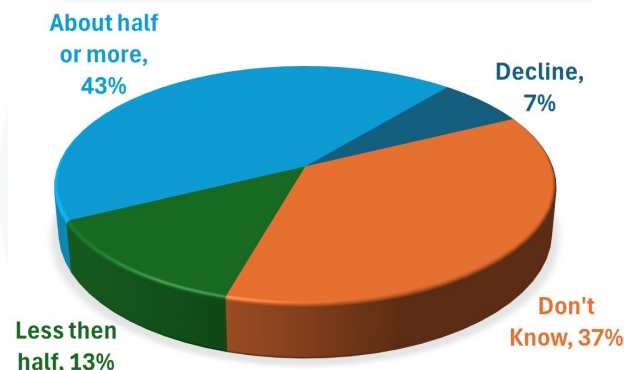As seen in Figure 8, over one third (37%) of individuals surveyed lost their housing at least one year ago, while 40% were uncertain about when their homelessness began.

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss

30 days and under	3%
30-90 days	3%
3-12 months	17%
1-5 years	30%
5-10 years	0%
10+ years	7%
Don't Know	40%
Decline	0%
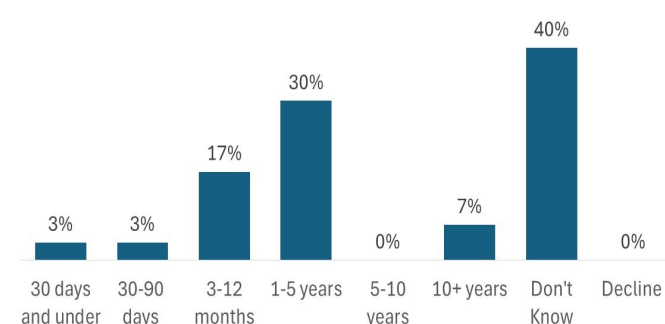
Length of Time in Buffalo Narrows

Individuals who answered the 2024 PiT Count were asked how long they had been in Buffalo Narrows. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. Neary three quarters of individuals reported they had always been in Buffalo Narrows.

Figure 9: Time spent in Buffalo Narrows
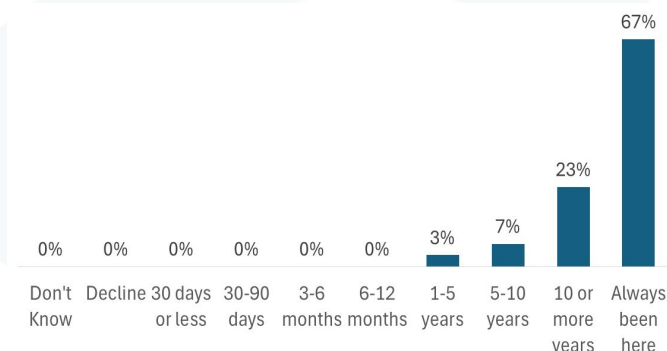
Don't Know	0%
Decline	0%
30 days or less	0%
30-90 days	0%
3-6 months	0%
6-12 months	0%
1-5 years	3%
5-10 years	7%
10 or more years	23%
Always been here	67%

Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (93%) identified as straight/heterosexual, while 3% identified as gay.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation

Straight /Hetrosexual, 93%
Decline , 3%
Gay, 3%

Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in Buffalo Narrows is not enough income for housing (27%), followed by other reasons (10%) and conflict with spouses (7%). Other notable causes include unsafe housing (7%) and abuse by landlord (7%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as conflict with landlord (3%), relocated (3%), and building sold (3% each).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason

Not Enough Income for Housing	27%
Decline	17%
Don't Know	10%
Other Reason	10%
Conflict with Spouse	7%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing	7%
Conflict with Parent/ Gaurdian	7%
Abuse by Landlord	7%
Descrimination by Landlord	7%
Physical Health Issue	7%
Descrimination by Spouse/partner	3%
Conflict with Landlord	3%
Left the Community/ Relocated	3%
Other	3%
Complaint	3%
Building sold	3%

Foster Care
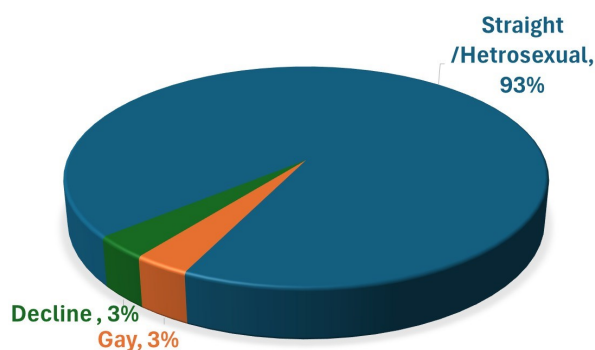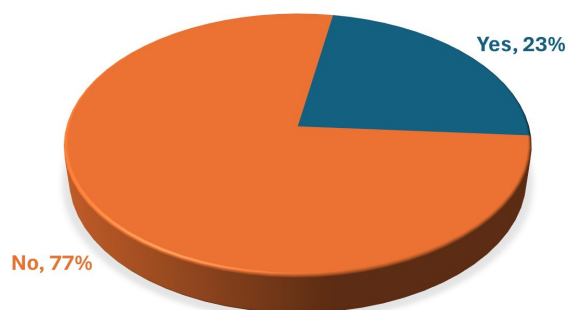
While a majority of individuals surveyed did not grow up in foster care, 23% had experience with the foster care system.

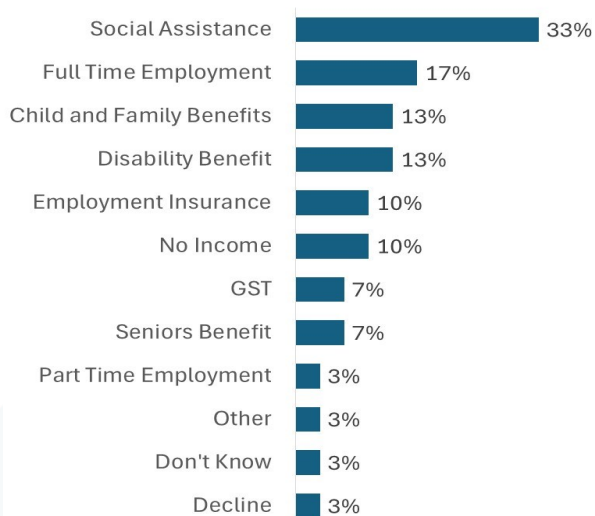### Figure 12: Foster care

Yes, 23%
No, 77%

Origin and Citizenship

The survey data showed that one individual that was part of the homeless population in Buffalo Narrows was an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.

Income

The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (33%), while10% indicated they had no income. Other sources of income included disability benefits (13%), child and family benefits (13%), and employment insurance (10%). Smaller portions rely on GST (7%), other seniors benefit (7%), part-time employment (3%), and other (3%). It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (17%), they were still experiencing homelessness.

Figure 13: Main source of income

Social Assistance	33%
Full Time Employment	17%
Child and Family Benefits	13%
Disability Benefit	13%
Employment Insurance	10%
No Income	10%
GST	7%
Seniors Benefit	7%
Part Time Employment	3%
Other	3%
Don't Know	3%
Decline	3%

Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. Over half of the respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 30% noting that they had children relying on them.
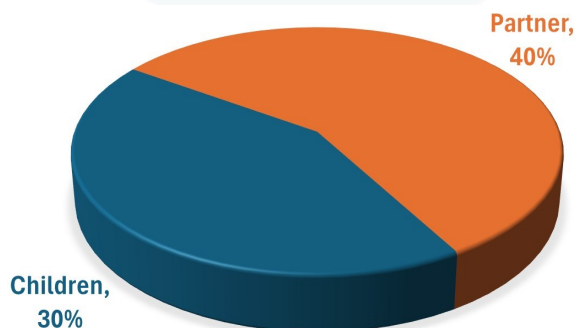
Figure 14: Dependents

Partner, 40%
Children, 30%

Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that one of respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in Buffalo Narrows has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this northern Saskatchewan community. With 30 individuals (approximately 3% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 97% of individuals surveyed indicated they were Indigenous (67% Métis, 27% First Nations, 3% with Indigenous ancestry), highlighting challenges facing Indigenous communities.

- **Economic challenges:** The primary cause of housing loss was insufficient income for housing (27%), with 33% of respondents relying on social assistance as their main income source. Notably, 17% of those experiencing homelessness reported having full-time employment, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee housing security in the community.

- **Chronic homelessness:** 37% of individuals counted were experiencing chronic homelessness, suggesting long-term barriers to stable housing that require comprehensive intervention strategies.

- **Local population:** Nearly three-quarters of respondents reported having always lived in Buffalo Narrows, indicating that homelessness in the community primarily affects long-term residents rather than transient populations.

- **Early onset:** 40% of respondents first experienced homelessness between the ages of 11-30, pointing to the need for youth-focused prevention strategies.

This initial PiT Count, led by the Buffalo Narrows Friendship Centre in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of Buffalo Narrows residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and northern homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, Buffalo Narrows will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: An individual must have spent a total of at least six months (180 days) as homeless over the past year or have had recurrent episodes in the past three years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months staying in unsheltered locations, in emergency shelters, or staying temporarily with friends or family members. (Statistics Canada (2023))

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's nancial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or

racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

2024

Île-à-la-Crosse, SK
Point-In-Time Count Report

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

2024 Count Summary

On October 29th, 2024, Ile-a-la-Crosse participated in its first ever Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count, adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in Ile-a-la-Crosse?

- 49 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Ile-a-la-Crosse on October 29, 2024.
- 49 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 39% of people counted experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 82% were staying at someone else's place
- 6% were unsure
- 4% were a vehicle or hotel/motel

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 53% Male
- 43% Female
- 12% Youth
- 51% Métis
- 49% First Nations

Introduction

On October 29th, 2024, the first Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in Ile-a-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by the Ile-a-la-Crosse Friendship Centre, and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in Ile-a-la-Crosse based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On October 29th, 2024, 49 people (3% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in Ile-a-la-Crosse (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 30 individuals experiencing homelessness were surveyed.
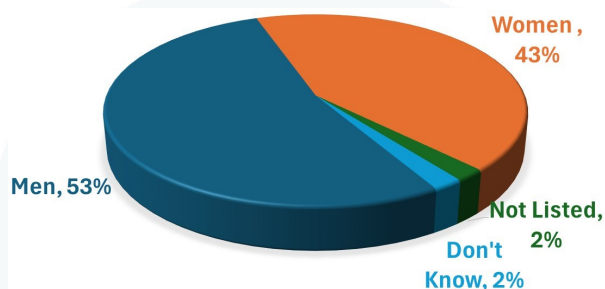
Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of Ile-a-la-Crosse	Enumerated on October 29, 2024	% of Population
1,425	49	3%

Gender

53% of survey respondents identified as men and 43% as women, indicating a near even gender distribution among the homeless population in Ile-a-la-Crosse (See Figure 1).
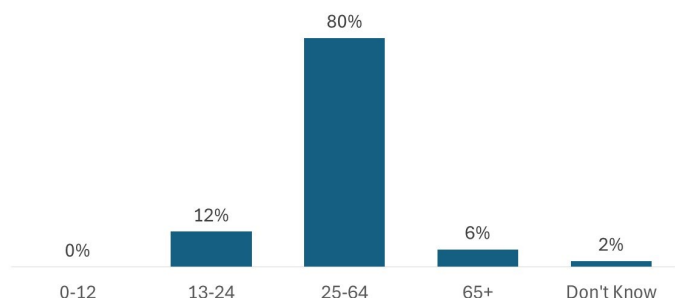
Figure 1: Gender

Women, 43%
Men, 53%
Not Listed, 2%
Don't Know, 2%

Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in Ile-a-la-Crosse are adults aged 25–64 (80%), with 12% youth (13–24), and 6% aged 65 or over.
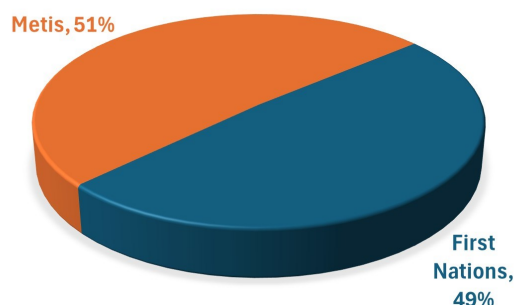
Figure 2: Age

0-12	13-24	25-64	65+	Don't Know
0%	12%	80%	6%	2%

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in Ile-a-la-Crosse identify as Métis (51%), followed by 49% identifying as First Nations.

Figure 3: Indigenous Identity

Metis, 51%
First Nations, 49%

Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained five screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location

Someone Else's Place, 82%
Unsure, 6%
Vehicle, 4%
Hotel/Motel, 4%
Unsheltered in a public place, 2%
Homeless Shelter, 2%
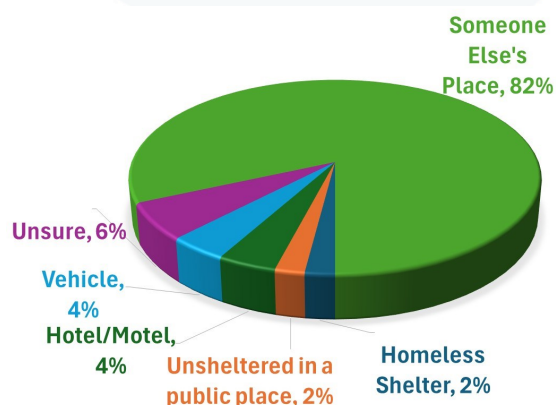
Chronicity

45% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness anywhere from 6 – 12 months over the past year, 10% said they were unsure.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year

When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 39% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 45% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.
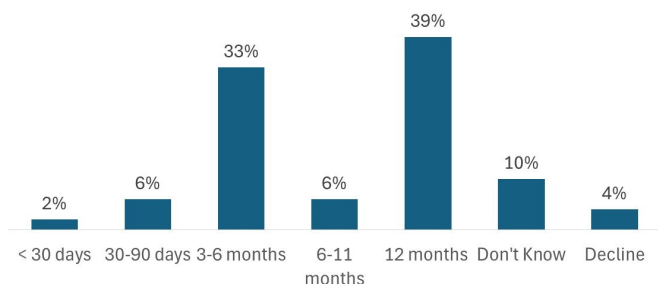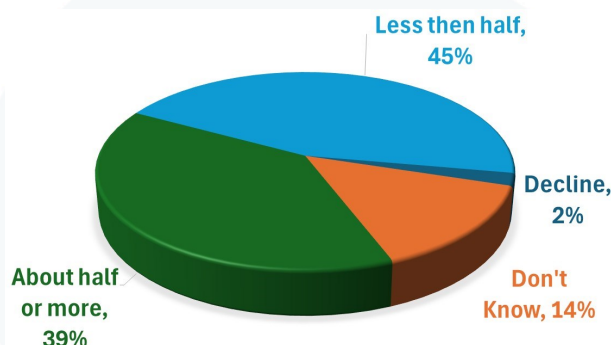
Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years

Age First Homeless

About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness began in their youth, with 49% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 0– 30 years old. Nearly one quarter of respondents noted that their first experience of homelessness started after age 50.

Figure 7: Age first homeless
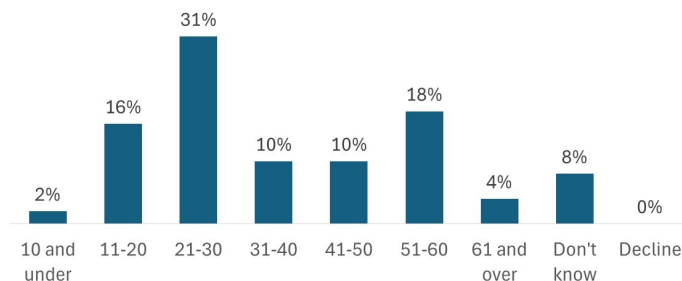
Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

As shown in Figure 8, one third of individuals surveyed lost their housing at least one year ago, while 14% were uncertain about when their homelessness began.

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss
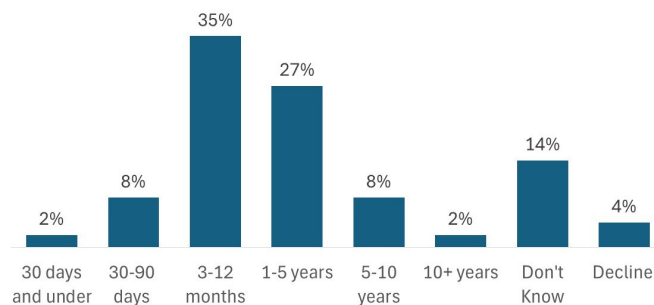
Length of Time in Ile-a-la-Crosse

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked how long they had been in Ile-a-la-Crosse. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. Over one third of individuals reported they had always been in Ile-a-la-Crosse

Figure 9: Time spent in Ile-a-la-Crosse
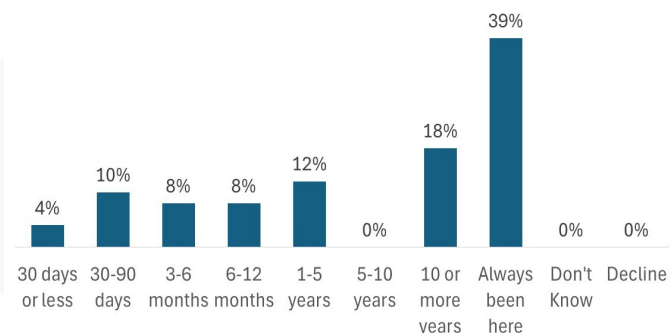
Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (88%) identified as straight/heterosexual, while 8% identified as bisexual.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation

Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in Ile-a-la-Crosse is not enough income for housing (51%), followed by relocated (10%), and other reasons (10%). Other notable causes include conflict with spouse (8%) and unsafe housing (6%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as mental health issues (4%), conflict with parent/guardian (2%), and physical health issues (2% each).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason

Not Enough Income for Housing	51%
Left the Community/ Relocated	10%
Other	10%
Conflict with Spouse	8%
Other Reason	6%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing	6%
Conflict with Landlord	6%
Abuse by Spouse/partner	6%
Mental Health Issue	4%
Conflict with Parent/ Gaurdian	2%
Physical Health Issue	2%
Descrimination by Spouse/partner	2%
Building sold	2%
Don't Know	2%

Foster Care

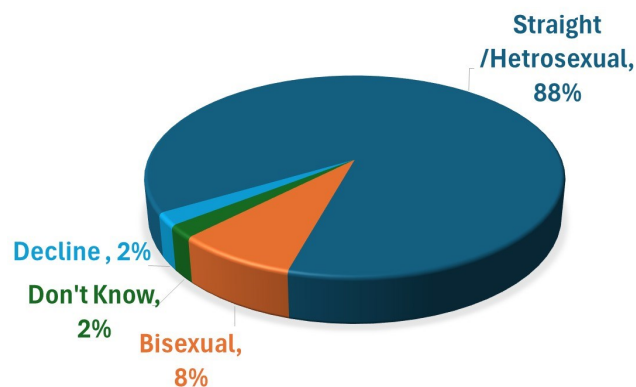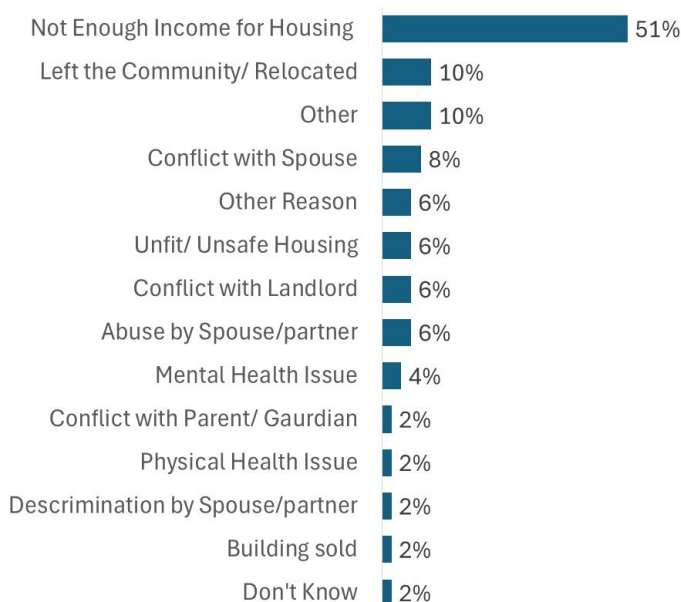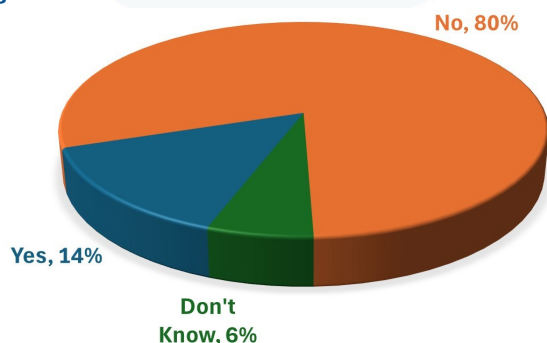While a majority of individuals surveyed did not grow up in foster care, 14% had experience with the foster care system.

Figure 12: Foster care

No, 80%
Yes, 14%
Don't Know, 6%

Origin and Citizenship

The survey data showed that no individual that was part of the homeless population in Ile-a-la-Crosse was an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.

Income

The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (45%), while none indicated that they had no income at all. Other sources of income included GST (35%), casual employment (14%), child and family benefits (10%), and part-time employment (10%). Smaller portions rely on employment insurance (8%), seniors benefit (8%), money from family and friends (8%), and other (2%). It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (8%), they were still experiencing homelessness.

Figure 13: Main source of income

Social Assistance	45%
GST	35%
Casual Employment	14%
Child and Family Benefits	10%
Part Time Employment	10%
Full Time Employment	8%
Employment Insurance	8%
Seniors Benefit	8%
Money from Family and Friends	8%
Other money from a service	4%
Disability Benefit	2%
Other	2%
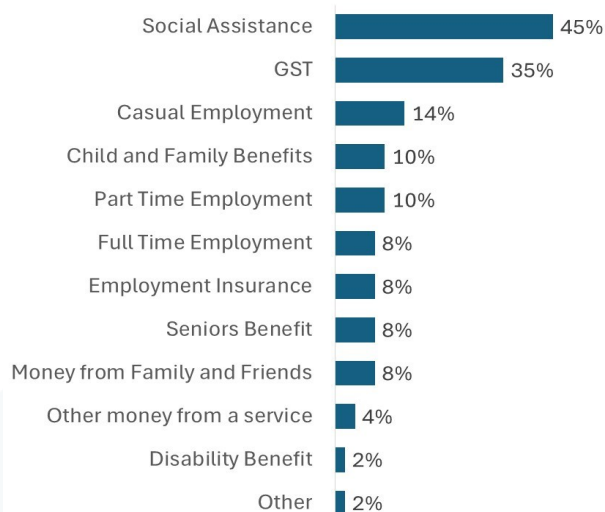
Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. 48% of respondents have a dependent of some sort, with 22% noting that they had children relying on them.
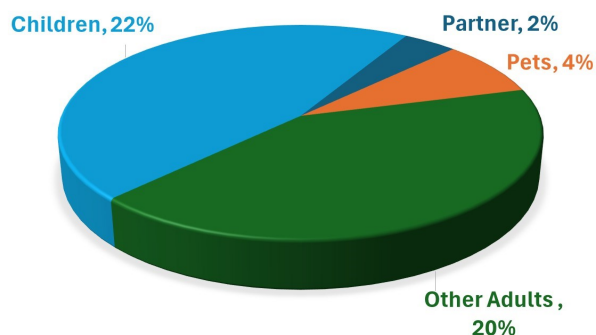
Figure 14: Dependents

Children, 22%
Partner, 2%
Pets, 4%
Other Adults, 20%

Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that one of respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in Ile-a-la-Crosse has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this northern Saskatchewan community. With 49 individuals (approximately 3% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 100% of individuals surveyed indicated they were Indigenous (51% Métis and 49% First Nations), highlighting the continued impacts of systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities.

- **Dependents:** The data shows that 48% of the respondents had a dependent of some form (22% children, 20% other adults, 4% pets, and 2% their partners) indicating a need for resources that not only support the individual but families as-well.

- **Economic challenges:** The primary cause of housing loss was insufficient income for housing (51%), with 45% of respondents relying on social assistance as their main income source. Notably, 8% of those experiencing homelessness reported having full-time employment, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee housing security in the community.

- **Chronic homelessness:** 39% of individuals counted were experiencing chronic homelessness, suggesting long-term barriers to stable housing that require comprehensive intervention strategies.

This initial PiT Count, led by the Ile-a-la-Crosse Friendship Centre in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of Ile-a-la-Crosse residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and northern homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, Ile-a-la-Crosse will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: Includes people who have been continuously homeless for one year or more, or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's nancial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

2024

La Loche, SK

Point-In-Time Count Report

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

2024 Count Summary

On November 6th, 2024, La Loche participated in its first ever Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count, adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in La Loche?

- 37 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in La Loche on November 6, 2024.
- 37 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 54% of people counted experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 51% were staying at someone else's place
- 19% were unsure
- 14% were staying in a vehicle

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 65% Male
- 30% Female
- 5% Youth
- 59% Métis
- 38% First Nations
- 3% have Indigenous ancestry

Introduction

On November 6th, 2024, the first Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in La Loche, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by the Town of La Loche , and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in La Loche based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On November 6th, 2024, 37 people (1% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in La Loche (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 37 individuals experiencing homelessness were surveyed.
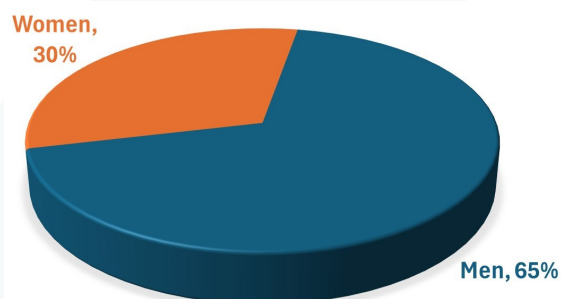
Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of La Loche	Enumerated on November 6, 2024	% of Population Homeless
2,514	37	1%

Gender

65% of survey respondents identified as men and 30% as women, indicating a disproportionate gender distribution among the homeless population in La Loche (See Figure 1).
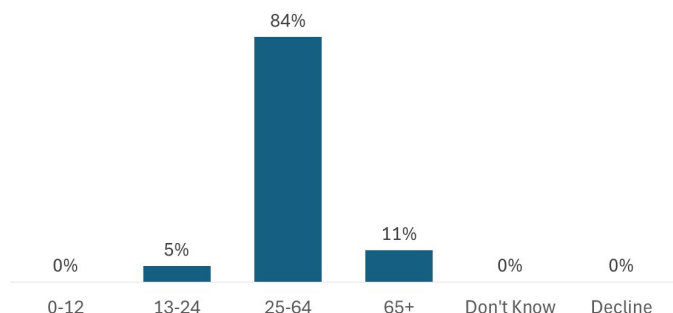
Figure 1: Gender

Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in La Loche are adults aged 25–64 (84%), with 5% youth (13–24), and 11% aged 65 or over.

Figure 2: Age

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in La Loche identify as Métis (59%), followed by 38% identifying as First Nations., and 3% with Indigenous ancestry.
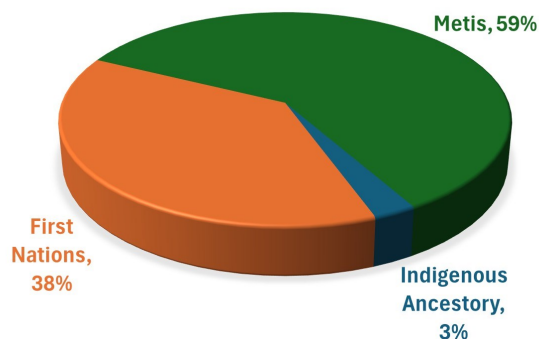
Figure 3: Indigenous Identity

Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained five screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location
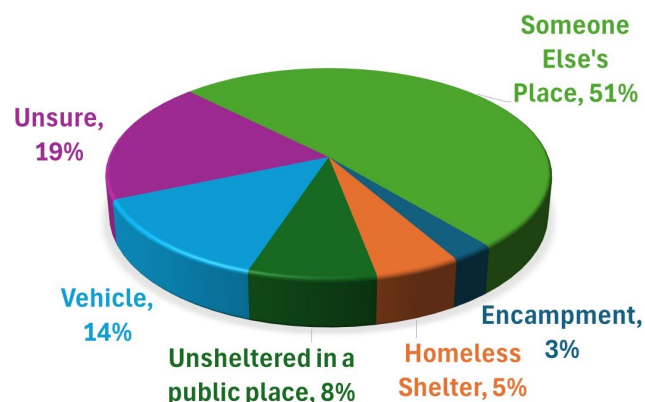
Chronicity

73% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness anywhere at least 12 months over the past year, 11% said they were unsure.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year
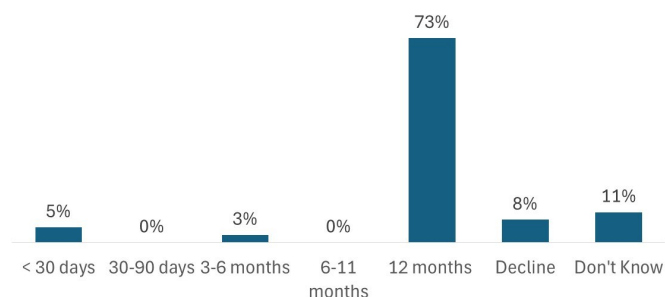
When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 78% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years.

Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years
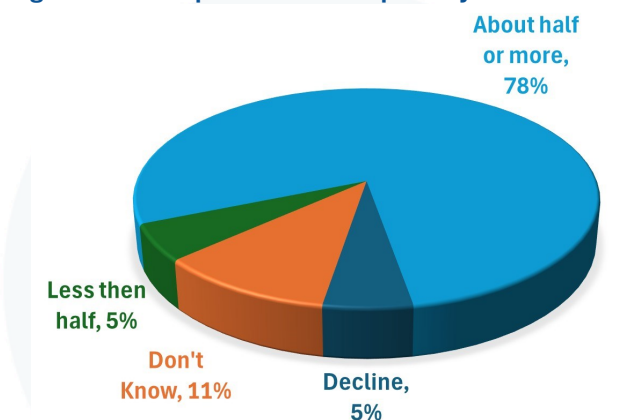
Age First Homeless

About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in La Loche often began in their youth, with 46% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 0 – 30 years old.

Figure 7: Age first homeless
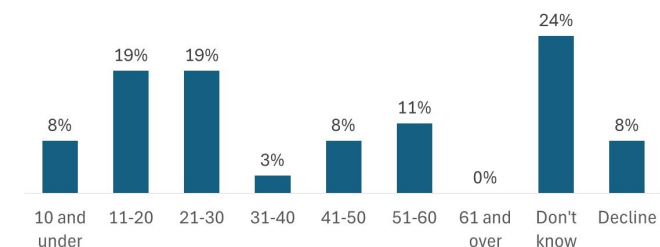
Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

As seen in Figure 8, 45% of individuals surveyed lost their housing at least five years ago, while 5% were recently homeless (within the past year).

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss
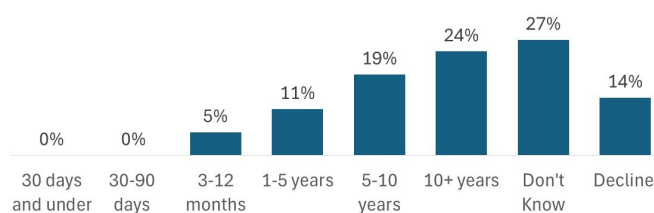
Length of Time in La Loche

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked how long they had been in La Loche. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. Over three quarters of individuals reported they had always lived in La Loche.

Figure 9: Time spent in La Loche
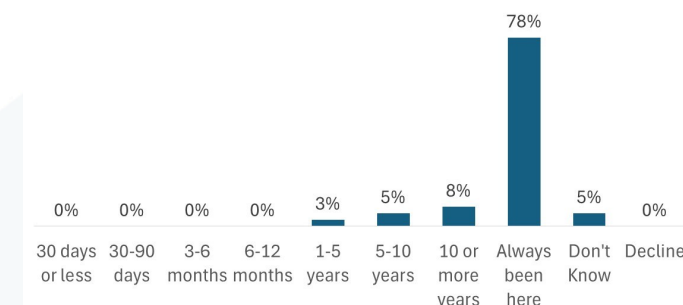
Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (84%) identified as straight/heterosexual, while 8% declined to answer.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation
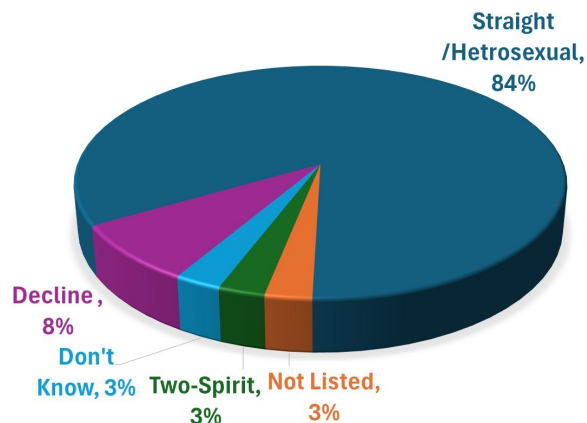
Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in La Loche is not enough income for housing (62%), followed by unsafe housing (16%), and conflict with spouse (11%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as abuse by other (3%), discrimination by other (3%), and other reasons (3% each).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason
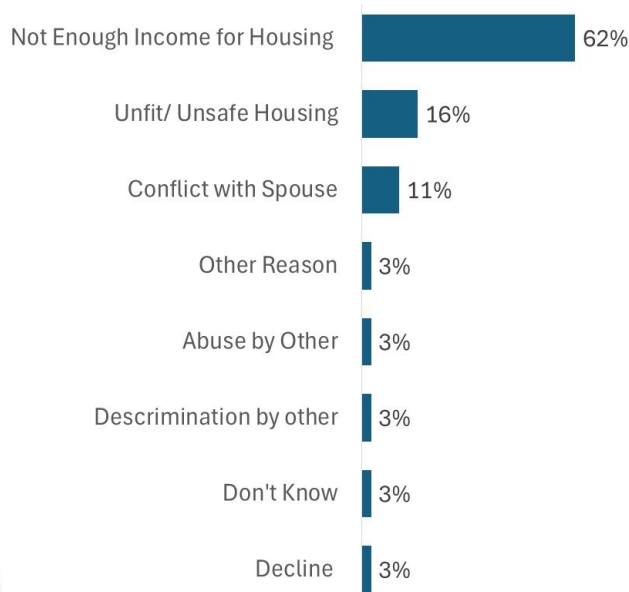
Reason	Percent
Not Enough Income for Housing	62%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing	16%
Conflict with Spouse	11%
Other Reason	3%
Abuse by Other	3%
Descrimination by other	3%
Don't Know	3%
Decline	3%

Foster Care

While a majority of individuals surveyed did not grow up in foster care, 43% had experience with the foster care system.

Figure 12: Foster care

No, 49%
Yes, 43%
Decline, 8%
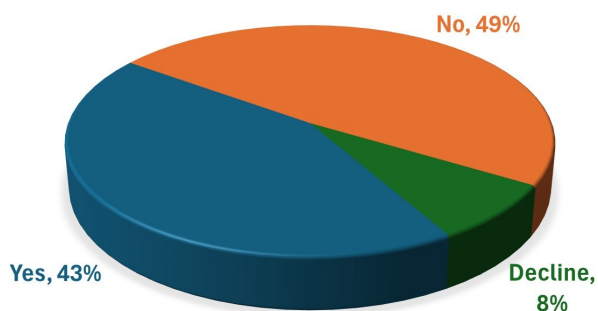
Origin and Citizenship

The survey data showed that no individuals experiencing homelessness in La Loche was an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.

Income

The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (41%), while 19% indicated that they had no income at all. Other sources of income included disability benefit (14%), senior benefit (11%), and part-time employment (8%). It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (22%), they were still experiencing homelessness.

Figure 13: Main source of income

| Source	Percent
Social Assistance	41%
Full Time Employment	22%
No Income	19%
Disability Benefit	14%
Seniors Benefit	11%
Part Time Employment	8%
Don't Know	3%
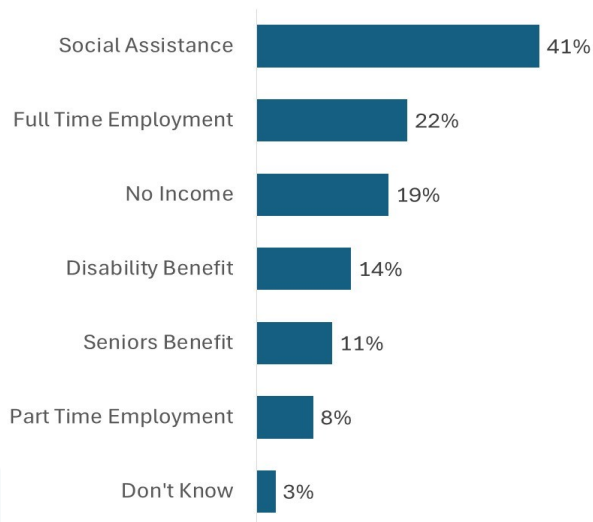
Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. 47% of respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 11% noting that they had children relying on them.
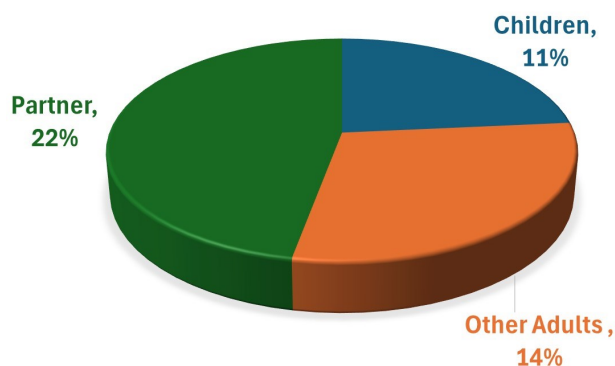
Figure 14: Dependents

Children, 11%
Partner, 22%
Other Adults, 14%

Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that one of respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Métis Nation Saskatchewan

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in La Loche has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this northern Saskatchewan community. With 37 individuals (approximately 1% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 100% of individuals surveyed indicated they were Indigenous (59% Métis, 38% First Nations, and 3% reporting Indigenous ancestry), highlighting the continued impacts of systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities.

- **Shelter:** 51% of the respondents indicating that they had stayed at someone else's else (at least once) over the last year and only 5% reported staying at a homeless shelter. This indicates a shortage in options for those experiencing homelessness in La Loche.

- **Economic challenges:** The primary cause of housing loss was insufficient income for housing (62%), with 41% of respondents relying on social assistance as their main income source. Notably, 22% of those experiencing homelessness reported having full-time employment, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee housing security in the community.

- **Chronic homelessness:** 73% of individuals counted were experiencing chronic homelessness, suggesting long-term barriers to stable housing.

- **Local population:** 78% of respondents reported having always lived in La Loche, indicating that homelessness in the community primarily affects long-term residents rather than transient populations.

This initial PiT Count, led by the Town of La Loche in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of La Loche residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and northern homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, La Loche will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: Includes people who have been continuously homeless for one year or more, or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

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Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's nancial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

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Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

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Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.
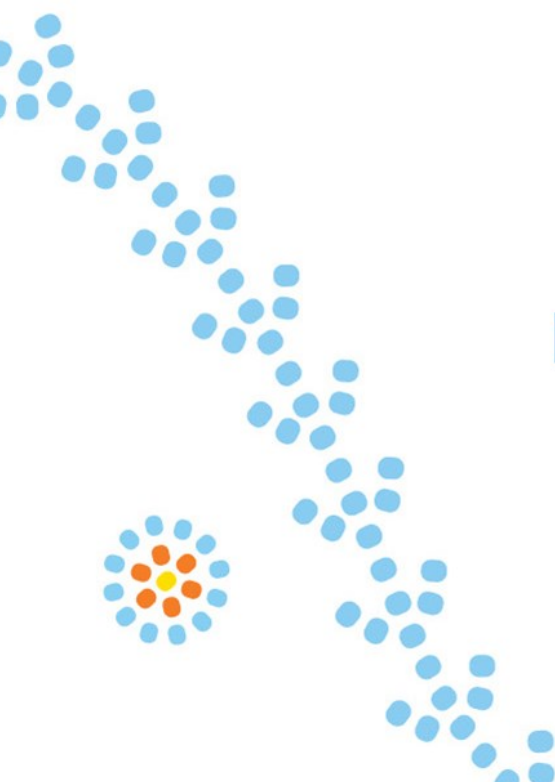
2024

La Ronge, SK

Point-In-Time Count Report

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

2024 Count Summary

On October 22nd, 2024, La Ronge participated in its first ever Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in La Ronge?

- 100 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in La Ronge on October 22, 2024.
- 100 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 53% of people counted experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 43% were staying at someone else's place.
- 10% were in a homeless shelter.
- 7% were in an unsheltered public place.

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 35% Male
- 45% Female
- 5% Youth
- 74% First Nations
- 10% Métis
- 3% declined to answer

Introduction

On October 22nd, 2024, the first Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in La Ronge, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by the Tri-Community Homeless Shelter, and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in La Ronge based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On October 22nd, 2024, 100 people (4% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in La Ronge (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 100 individuals experiencing homelessness were surveyed.

Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of La Ronge	Enumerated on October 22, 2024	% of Population Homeless
2,521	100	4%

Gender

35% of survey respondents identified as men and 45% as women, indicating a disproportionate gender distribution among the homeless population in La Ronge (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Gender
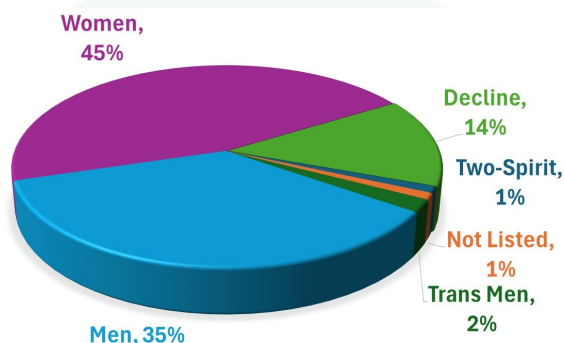
Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in La Ronge are adults aged 25–64 (89%), with 5% youth (13–24), and 4% aged 65 or over.
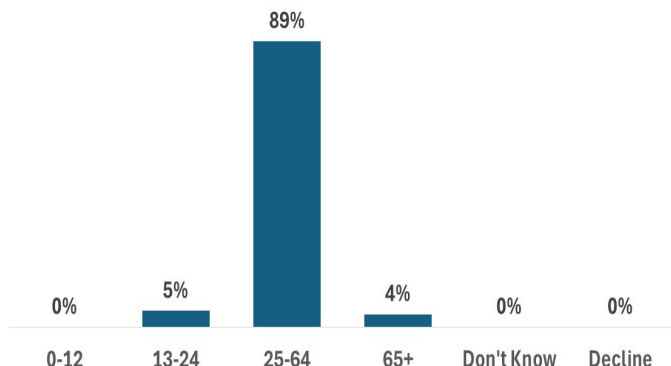
Figure 2: Age

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in La Ronge identify as First Nations (74%), followed by 10% identifying as Métis, and 1% reporting as Inuit.

Figure 3: Indigenous Identity
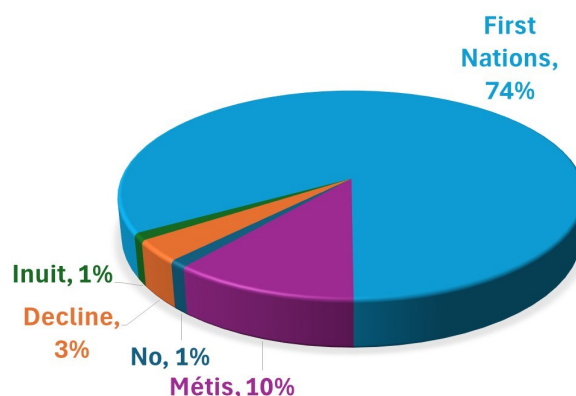
Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained five screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location
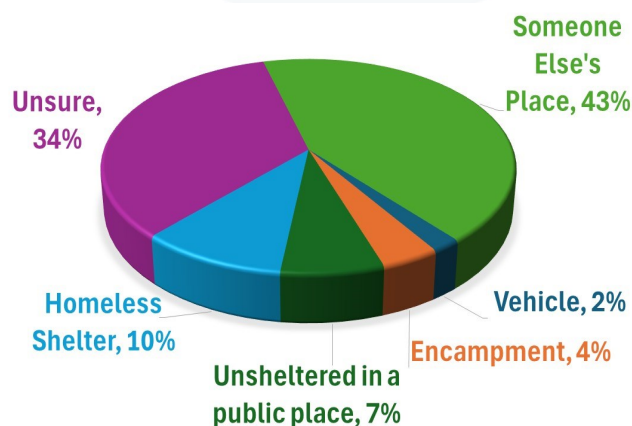
Chronicity

53% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness anywhere from 6 – 12 months over the past year, 7% said they were unsure.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year
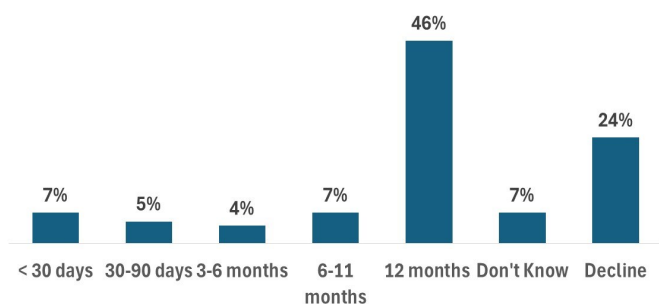
When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 51% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 16% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.

Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years
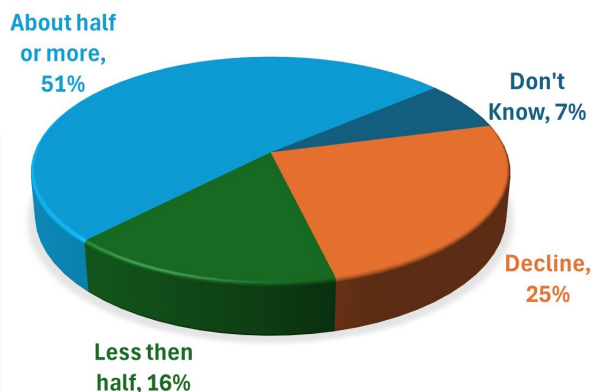
Age First Homeless

About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in La Ronge often began in their youth, with 50% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 0– 30 years old.

Figure 7: Age first homeless
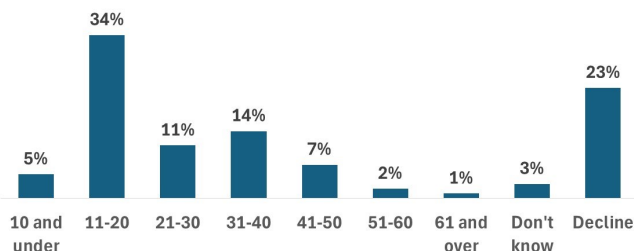
Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

As shown in Figure 8, over one quarter of individuals surveyed were had lost their housing over one year ago, with 6% of those homeless for over 5 years.

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss
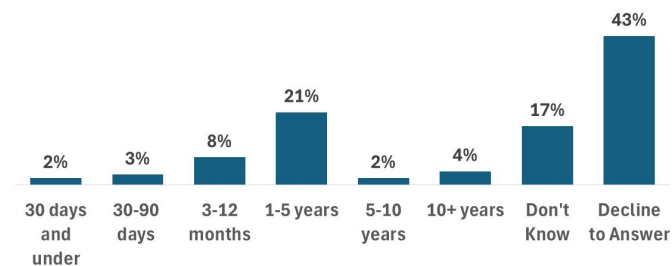
Length of Time in La Ronge

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked how long they had been in La Ronge. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. Over one third of individuals reported they had always been in La Ronge

Figure 9: Time spent in La Ronge
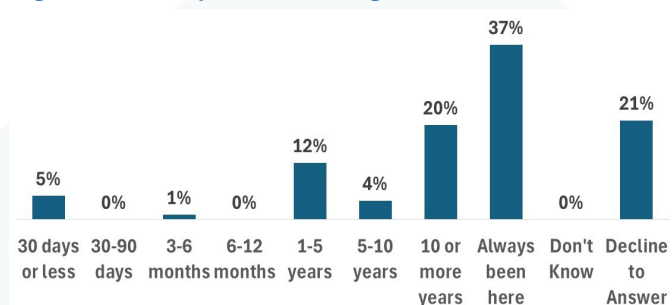
Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (71%) identified as straight/heterosexual, while 20% declined to answer.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation
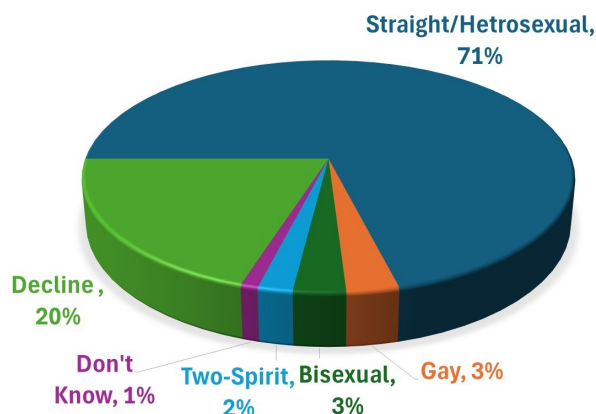
Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in La Ronge is not enough income for housing (40%), followed by other reasons (21%) and conflict with spouses (20%). Other notable causes include abuse by spouse/partner (16%) and substance abuse issues (13%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as conflict with landlord (5%), and incarceration (3%).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason
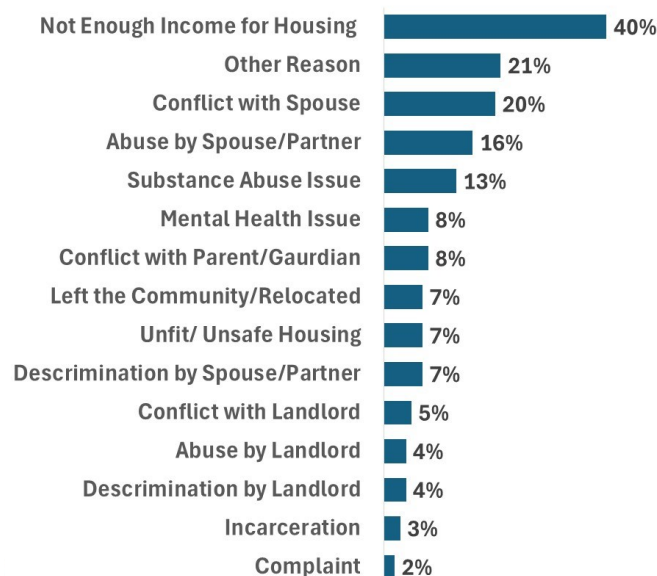
Reason	%
Not Enough Income for Housing	40%
Other Reason	21%
Conflict with Spouse	20%
Abuse by Spouse/Partner	16%
Substance Abuse Issue	13%
Mental Health Issue	8%
Conflict with Parent/Gaurdian	8%
Left the Community/Relocated	7%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing	7%
Descrimination by Spouse/Partner	7%
Conflict with Landlord	5%
Abuse by Landlord	4%
Descrimination by Landlord	4%
Incarceration	3%
Complaint	2%

Foster Care

While a majority of individuals surveyed did not grow up in foster care, 33% had experience with the foster care system.

Figure 12: Foster care

Yes, 33%
No, 43%
Decline to Answer, 23%
Don't Know, 1%
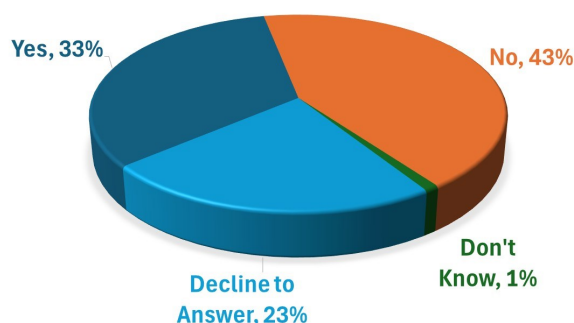
Origin and Citizenship

The survey data showed that no individuals that was part of the homeless population in La Ronge was an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.

Income

The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (59%), while 7% indicated they had no income. Other sources of income included GST (34%), child and family benefits (17%), and other (12%). Smaller portions rely on disability benefit (6%), employment insurance (4%), part-time employment (4%), and seniors benefit (3%). It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (5%), they were still experiencing homelessness.
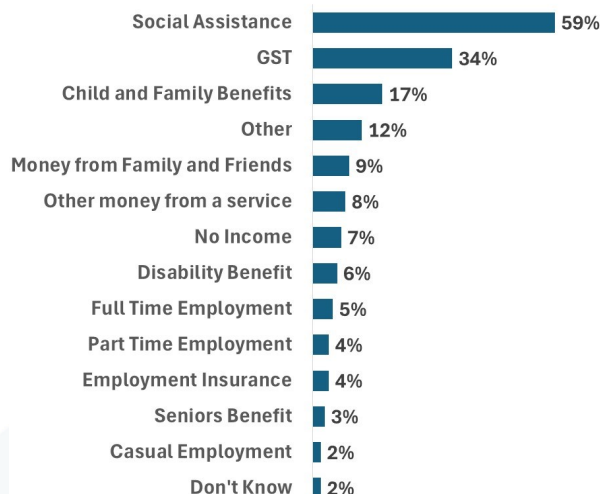
Figure 13: Main source of income

Source	%
Social Assistance	59%
GST	34%
Child and Family Benefits	17%
Other	12%
Money from Family and Friends	9%
Other money from a service	8%
No Income	7%
Disability Benefit	6%
Full Time Employment	5%
Part Time Employment	4%
Employment Insurance	4%
Seniors Benefit	3%
Casual Employment	2%
Don't Know	2%

Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. 72% of the respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 28% noting that they had children relying on them.

Figure 14: Dependents

Children, 28%
Pets, 6%
Other Adults, 18%
Partner, 20%
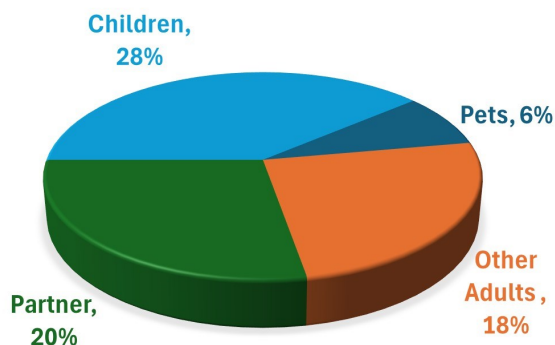
Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that 9 of the respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in La Ronge has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this northern Saskatchewan community. With 100 individuals (approximately 4% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 85% of individuals surveyed indicated they were Indigenous (74% First Nations, 10% Métis, and 1% Inuit), highlighting the continued impacts of systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities.

- **Economic challenges:** The primary cause of housing loss was insufficient income for housing (40%), with 59% of respondents relying on social assistance as their main income source. Notably, 5% of those experiencing homelessness reported having full-time employment, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee housing security in the community.

- **Early onset:** 45% of respondents first experienced homelessness between the ages of 11-30, pointing to the need for youth-focused prevention strategies.

- **Chronic homelessness:** 53% of individuals counted were experiencing chronic homelessness, suggesting long-term barriers to stable housing that require comprehensive intervention strategies.

This initial PiT Count, led by the Tri-Community Homeless Shelter, in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of La Ronge residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and northern homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, La Ronge will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: Includes people who have been continuously homeless for one year or more, or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's nancial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

2024

Meadow Lake, SK

Point-In-Time Count Report

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

2024 Count Summary

On October 9th, 2024, Meadow Lake participated in its first ever Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in Meadow Lake?

- 40 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Meadow Lake on October 9th, 2024.
- 35 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 58% of people surveyed were experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 46% were unsure where they'd be staying
- 20% were in an encampment
- 17% were staying at someone else's place

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 57% Male
- 43% Female
- 6% Youth
- 69% First Nations
- 26% Métis
- 6% have no Indigenous ancestry

Introduction

On October 9th, 2024, the first Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by the Meadow Lake Homeplate, and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in Meadow Lake based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On October 9th, 2024, 40 people (0.8% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in Meadow Lake (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 35 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys.

Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of Meadow Lake	Enumerated on October 9, 2024	% of Population Homeless
5,322	40	0.8%

Gender

57% of survey respondents identified as men and 43% as women, indicating a disproportionate gender distribution among the homeless population in Meadow Lake (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Gender
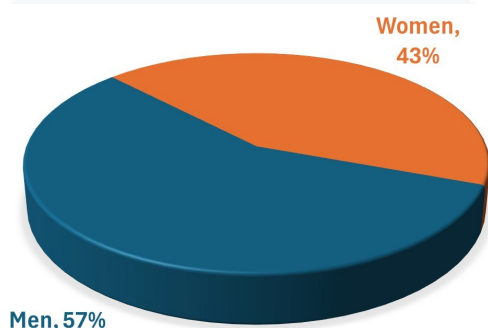
Women, 43%
Men, 57%

Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in Meadow Lake are adults aged 25–64 (89%), and 6% youth (13–24).

Figure 2: Age
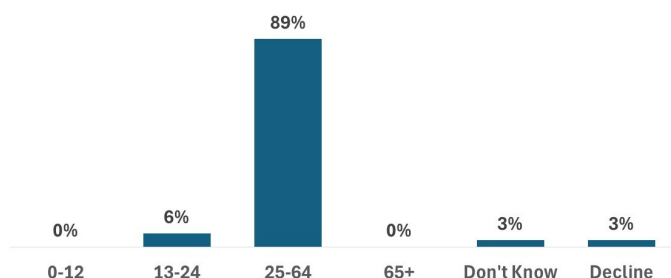
0-12	13-24	25-64	65+	Don't Know	Decline
0%	6%	89%	0%	3%	3%

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in Meadow Lake identify as First Nations (69%), followed by 26% identifying as Métis, and 6% with no Indigenous identity.
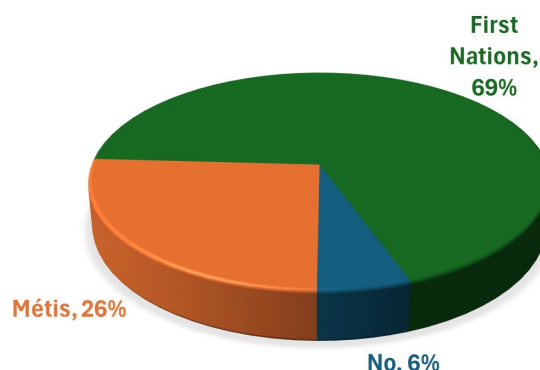
Figure 3: Indigenous Identity

First Nations, 69%
Métis, 26%
No, 6%

Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained five screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location

Encampment, 20%
Unsure, 46%
Someone Else's Place, 17%
Unsheltered in a public place, 9%
Homeless Shelter, 6%
Vehicle, 3%
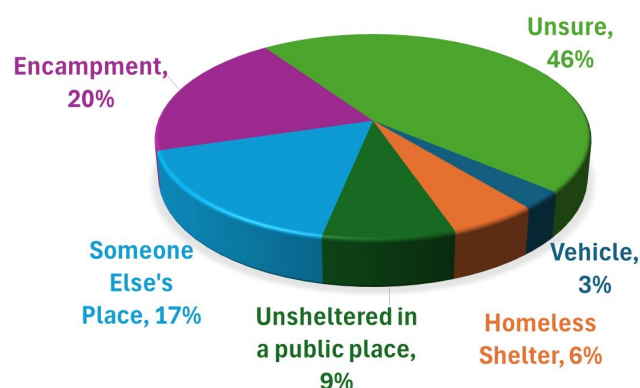
Chronicity

77% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness anywhere from 6 – 12 months over the past year.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year

	< 30 days	30-90 days	3-6 months	6-11 months	12 months	Don't Know	Decline
	6%	3%	9%	31%	46%	3%	0%
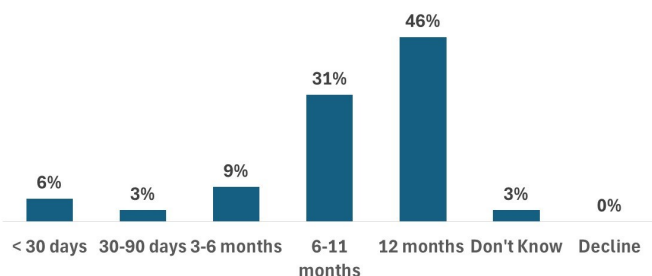
When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 69% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 14% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.

Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years

About half or more, 69%
Decline, 3%
Don't Know, 14%
Less then half, 14%
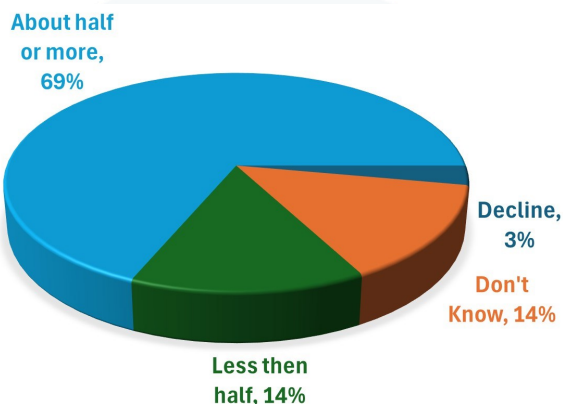
Age First Homeless

About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in Meadow Lake often began in their youth, with 48% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 11 – 30 years old.

Figure 7: Age first homeless

	10 and under	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61 and over	Don't know	Decline
	0%	34%	14%	20%	20%	9%	0%	3%	0%
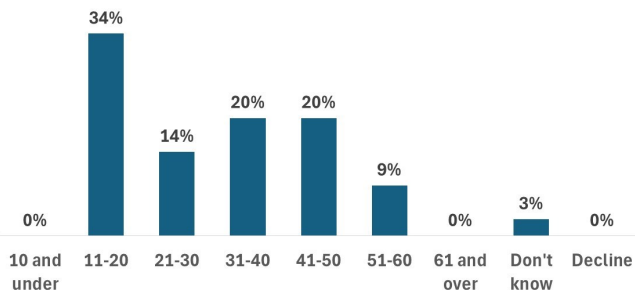
Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

As seen in Figure 8, almost one half of individuals had lost housing over one year ago with 26% having lost secure housing at least 5 years ago.

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss

	30 days and under	30-90 days	3-12 months	1-5 years	5-10 years	10+ years	Don't Know	Decline to Answer
	6%	9%	11%	23%	26%	9%	17%	0%
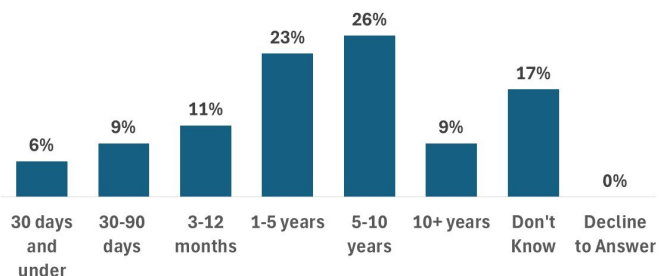
Length of Time in Meadow Lake

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked how long they had been in Meadow Lake. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. Over one third of individuals reported they had always been in Meadow Lake

Figure 9: Time spent in Meadow Lake

	30 days or less	30-90 days	3-6 months	6-12 months	1-5 years	5-10 years	10 or more years	Always been here	Decline to Answer	Don't Know
	3%	6%	0%	3%	6%	6%	23%	34%	14%	6%
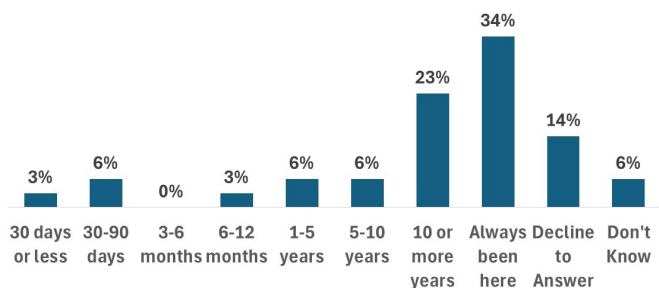
Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (94%) identified as straight/heterosexual, while 6% identified as bisexual.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation

Straight/Hetrosexual, 94%
Bisexual, 6%

Métis Nation Saskatchewan
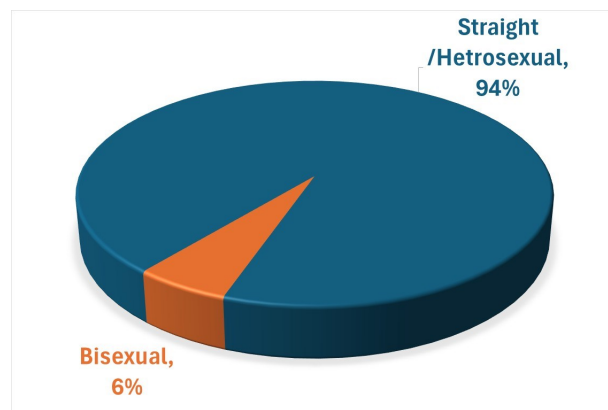
Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in Meadow Lake is not enough income for housing (26%), followed by conflict with spouses (26%) and substance abuse issues (20%). Other notable causes include other reasons (17%) unfit/unsafe housing (11%) and conflict with parent/guardian (9%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as conflict with landlord (3%), abuse by landlord (3%), and complaints (3%).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason

Reason	%
Not Enough Income for Housing	26%
Conflict with Spouse	26%
Substance Abuse Issue	20%
Other Reason	17%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing	11%
Conflict with Parent/Gaurdian	9%
Other	9%
Abuse by Spouse/Partner	6%
Left the Community/Relocated	6%
Descrimination by Spouse/Partner	6%
Incarceration	6%
Physical Health Issue	3%
Conflict with Landlord	3%
Abuse by Landlord	3%
Descrimination by Landlord	3%
Complaint	3%
Owner Moved in	3%
Abuse by Parent/Gaurdian	3%
Descrimination by Parent/Gaurdian	3%

Foster Care

As shown in Figure 12, experiencing foster care can have an effect on future homelessness. In Meadow Loke, 49% had experience with the foster care system as a youth.

Figure 12: Foster care

No, 49%
Yes, 51%
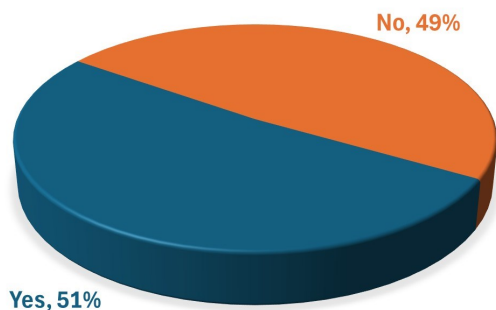
Origin and Citizenship

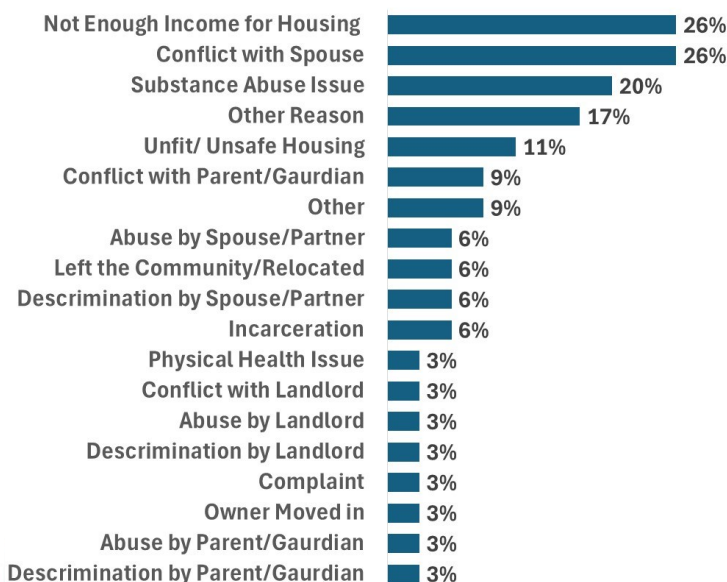The data showed that none of the individuals of the surveyed homeless population in Meadow Lake was an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.

Income

The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (37%), while 17% indicated they had no income. Other sources of income included other (23%), money from family and friends (14%), and GST (11%). Smaller portions rely on disability benefit (11%), seniors benefit (9%), casual employment (6%), and child and family benefits (6%). It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (11%), they were still experiencing homelessness.
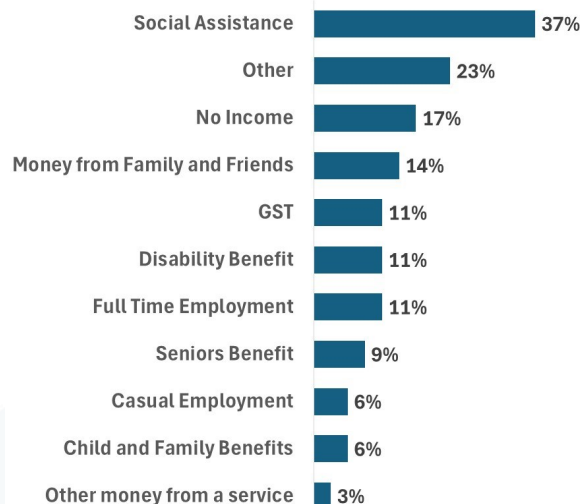
Figure 13: Main source of income

Source	%
Social Assistance	37%
Other	23%
No Income	17%
Money from Family and Friends	14%
GST	11%
Disability Benefit	11%
Full Time Employment	11%
Seniors Benefit	9%
Casual Employment	6%
Child and Family Benefits	6%
Other money from a service	3%

Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. 38% of the respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 9% noting that they had children relying on them.
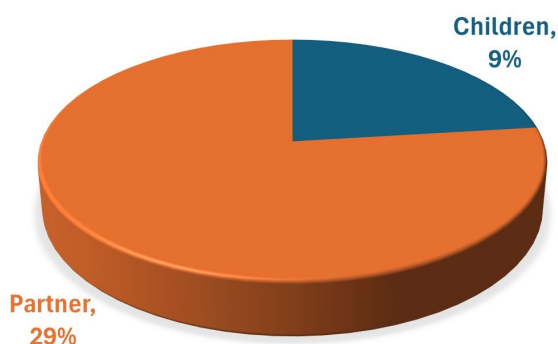
Figure 14: Dependents

Children, 9%
Partner, 29%

Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that two of the respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in Meadow Lake has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this central Saskatchewan community. With 40 individuals (approximately 0.8% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 95% of individuals surveyed indicated they were Indigenous (69% First Nations and 26% Métis), highlighting the continued impacts of systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities.

- **Economic challenges:** The primary cause of housing loss was insufficient income for housing (26%), with 37% of respondents relying on social assistance as their main income source. Notably, 11% of those experiencing homelessness reported having full-time employment, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee housing security in the community.

- **Early onset:** 48% of respondents first experienced homelessness between the ages of 11-30, pointing to the need for youth-focused prevention strategies.

- **Chronic homelessness:** 77% of individuals counted were experiencing chronic homelessness, suggesting long-term barriers to stable housing that require comprehensive intervention strategies.

This initial PiT Count, led by the Meadow Lake Homeplate in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of Meadow Lake residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and central homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, Meadow Lake will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: An individual must have spent a total of at least six months (180 days) as homeless over the past year or have had recurrent episodes in the past three years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months staying in unsheltered locations, in emergency shelters, or staying temporarily with friends or family members. (Statistics Canada (2023))

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's nancial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

2024

Melfort, SK

Point-In-Time Count Report

2024 Count Summary

On October 1st, 2024, Melfort participated in its first ever Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in Melfort?

- 42 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Melfort on October 1, 2024.
- 30 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 20% of people surveyed experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 63% were staying at someone else's place
- 20% were staying in a homeless shelter
- 17% were staying in an unsheltered public place

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 27% Male
- 67% Female
- 17% Youth
- 70% First Nations
- 20% Métis
- 3% have Indigenous ancestry

Introduction

On October 1st, 2024, the first Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in Melfort, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by the Nipawin Oasis Community Centre, and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in Melfort based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On October 1st, 2024, 42 people (0.7% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in Melfort (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 30 individuals experiencing homelessness were surveyed.
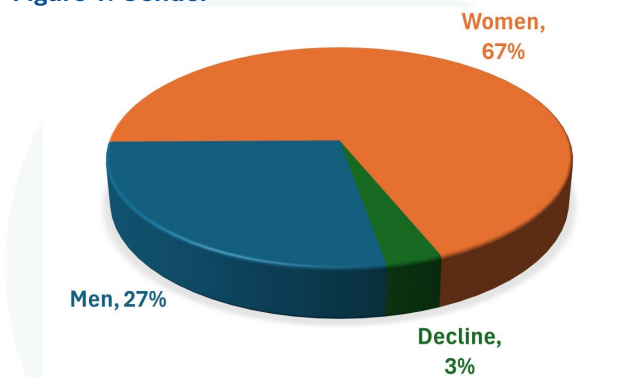
Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of Melfort	Enumerated on October 1, 2024	% of Population Homeless
5,955	42	0.7%

Gender

27% of survey respondents identified as men and 67% as women, indicating a disproportionate gender distribution among the homeless population in Melfort (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Gender

Women, 67%
Men, 27%
Decline, 3%

Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in Melfort are adults aged 25–64 (83%), with 17% youth (13–24), and 0% aged 65 or over.
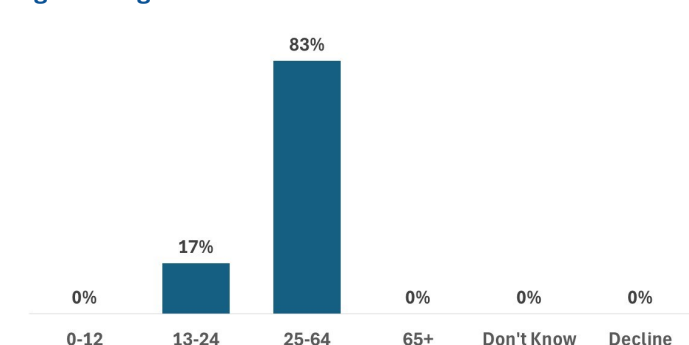
Figure 2: Age

| 0-12 | 13-24 | 25-64 | 65+ | Don't Know | Decline |
| 0% | 17% | 83% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in Melfort identify as First Nations (70%), followed by 20% identifying as Métis, and 7% with no Indigenous identity.

Figure 3: Indigenous Identity

First Nations, 70%
Métis, 20%
Indigenous Ancestry, 3%
No, 7%

Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained five screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location

Someone Else's Place, 63%
Homeless Shelter, 20%
Unsheltered in a public place, 17%
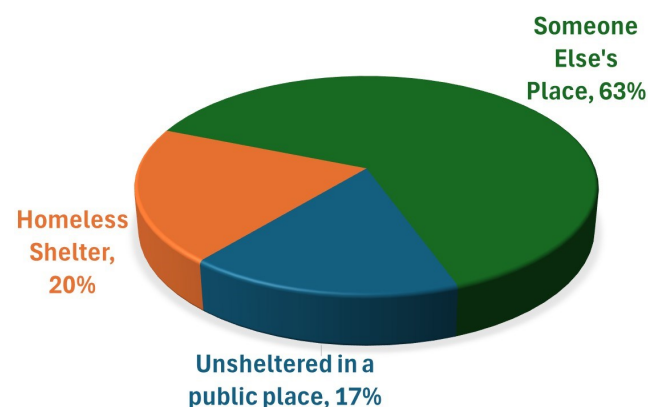
Chronicity

50% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness anywhere from 6 – 12 months over the past year, 3% said they were unsure.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year
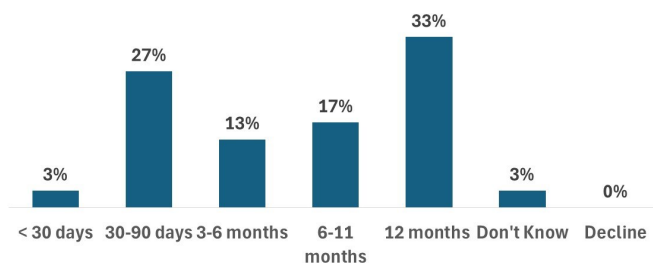
When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 37% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 37% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.

Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years
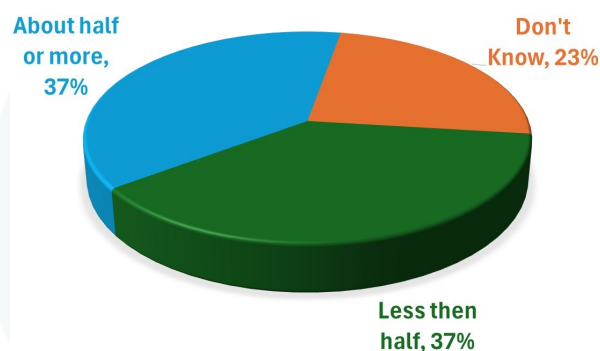
Age First Homeless

About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in Melfort often began in their youth, with 76% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 0 – 30 years old.

Figure 7: Age first homeless
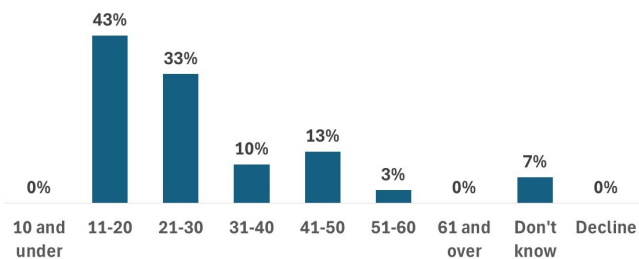
Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

As seen in Figure 8, 20% of individuals surveyed lost their housing more than one year, with 42% losing housing with in the last 3-12 months.

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss
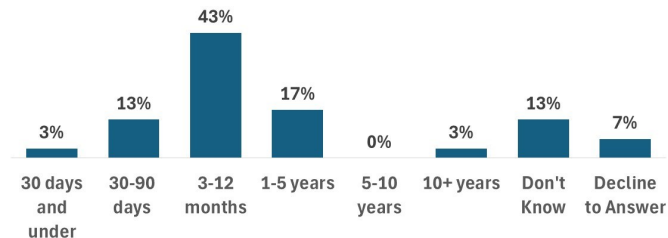
Length of Time in Melfort

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked how long they had been in Melfort. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. Only 7% of individuals reported they had always been in Melfort.

Figure 9: Time spent in Melfort
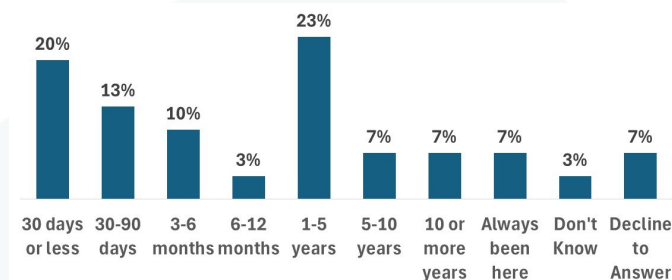
Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (73%) identified as straight/heterosexual, while 17% declined to answer.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation

Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in Melfort is not enough income for housing (40%), followed by conflict with spouses (33%) and abuse by spouse/partner (33%). Other notable causes include relocated (30%) mental health issues (27%) and unfit/unsafe housing (20%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as conflict with parent/guardian (3%), incarceration (3%), and complaint (3%).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason

Reason	%
Not Enough Income for Housing	40%
Conflict with Spouse	33%
Abuse by Spouse/Partner	33%
Left the Community/Relocated	30%
Mental Health Issue	27%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing	20%
Other	17%
Substance Abuse Issue	17%
Abuse by Landlord	13%
Descrimination by Landlord	13%
Descrimination by Spouse/Partner	7%
Conflict with Landlord	7%
Other Reason	7%
Abuse by Other	7%
Descrimination by other	7%
Conflict with Parent/Gaurdian	3%
Incarceration	3%
Abuse by Parent/Gaurdian	3%

Foster Care

While a majority of individuals surveyed did not grow up in foster care, 43% had experience with the foster care system.

Figure 12: Foster care

No, 60%
Yes, 43%
Decline to Answer, 7%
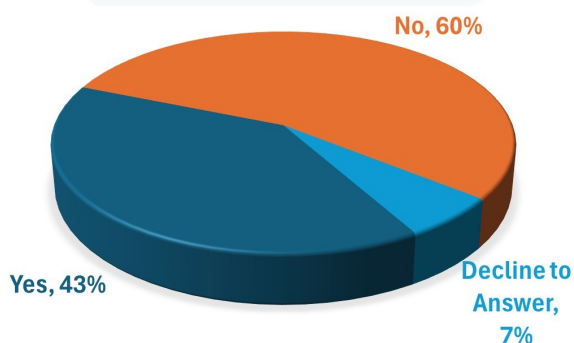
Origin and Citizenship

The survey data showed that no individual that was part of the homeless population in Melfort was an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.

Income

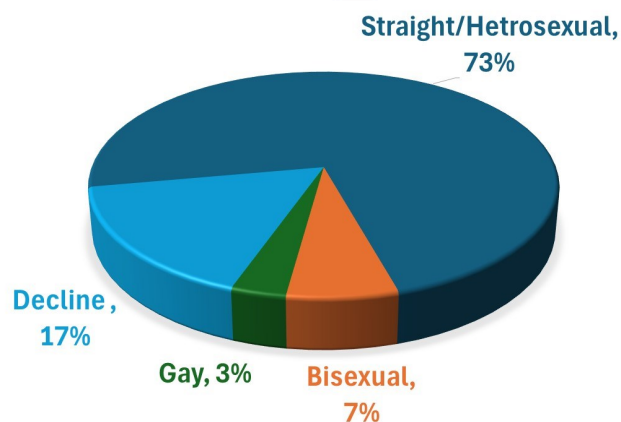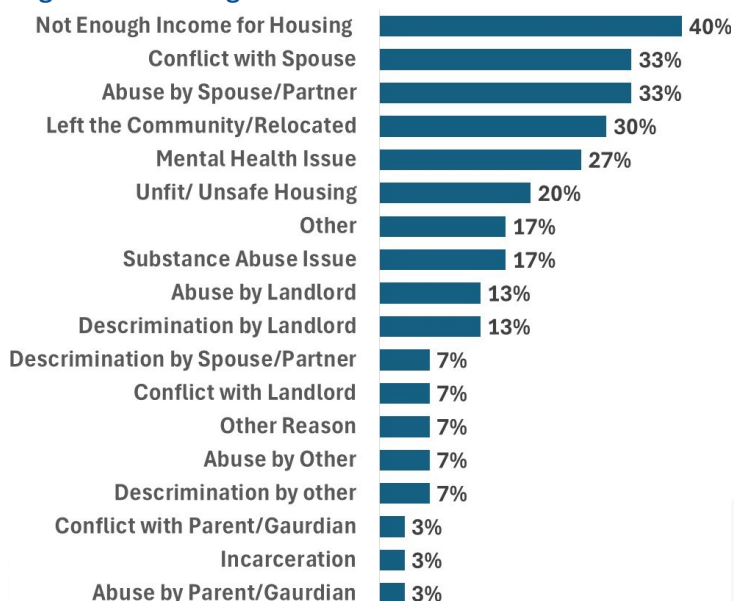The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (47%), while 10% indicated they had no income. Other sources of income included GST (30%), child and family benefits (27%), and money from friends (20%). Smaller portions rely on disability benefit (10%), part time employment (3%), and other money from a service (3%). It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (3%), they were still experiencing homelessness.

Figure 13: Main source of income

Source	%
Social Assistance	47%
GST	30%
Child and Family Benefits	27%
Money from Family and Friends	20%
No Income	10%
Disability Benefit	10%
Part Time Employment	3%
Full Time Employment	3%
Don't Know	3%
Other money from a service	3%
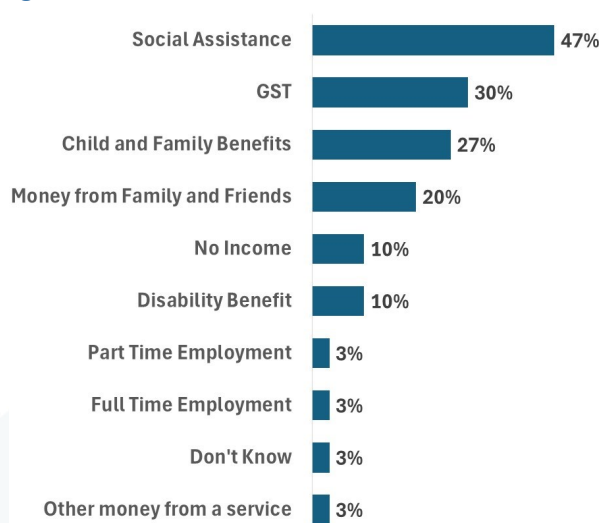
Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. 56% of the respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 33% noting that they had children relying on them.
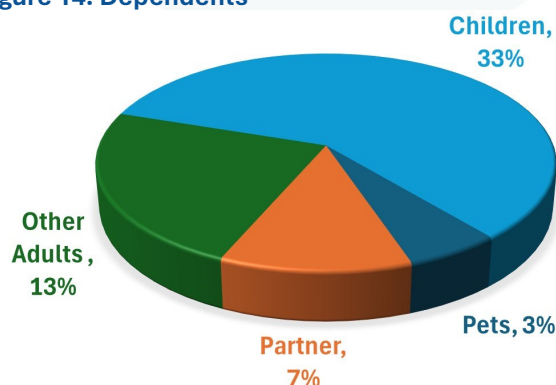
Figure 14: Dependents

Children, 33%
Other Adults, 13%
Partner, 7%
Pets, 3%

Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that none of the respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in Melfort has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this central Saskatchewan community. With 42 individuals (approximately 0.7% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 93% of individuals surveyed indicated they were Indigenous (70% First Nations, 20% Métis, and 3% reporting Indigenous ancestry), highlighting the continued impacts of systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities.

- **Gender:** With women representing a 40% greater share of the homeless population in Melfort it indicates that gender specific resources and aid may be required.

- **Economic challenges:** The primary cause of housing loss was insufficient income for housing (40%), with 47% of respondents relying on social assistance as their main income source. Notably, 3% of those experiencing homelessness reported having full-time employment, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee housing security in the community.

- **Early onset:** 76% of respondents first experienced homelessness between the ages of 11-30, pointing to the need for youth-focused prevention strategies.

This initial PiT Count, led by the Nipawin Oasis Community Centre in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of Melfort residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and central homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, Melfort will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: An individual must have spent a total of at least six months (180 days) as homeless over the past year or have had recurrent episodes in the past three years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months staying in unsheltered locations, in emergency shelters, or staying temporarily with friends or family members. (Statistics Canada (2023))

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's nancial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

2024

Moose Jaw, SK

Point-In-Time Count Report

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

2024 Count Summary

On October 1st, 2024, Moose Jaw participated in a Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in Moose Jaw?

- 120 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Moose Jaw on October 1, 2024.
- 76 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 21% of people counted experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 41% were unsure
- 25% were staying at a homeless shelter
- 20% were staying at someone else's place

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 62% Male
- 32% Female
- 13% Youth
- 20% First Nations
- 11% Métis
- 53% have no Indigenous ancestry

Introduction

On October 1st, 2024, a Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by Square One, and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in Moose Jaw based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On October 1st, 2024, 120 people (0.4% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in Moose Jaw (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 76 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys.
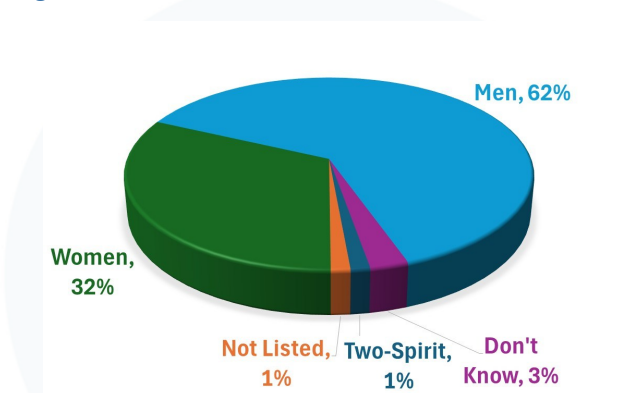
Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of Moose Jaw	Enumerated on October 8, 2024	% of Population Homeless
33,665	120	0.4%

Gender

62% of respondents identified as men and 32% as women, indicating a disproportionate gender distribution among the homeless population in Moose Jaw (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Gender

Men, 62%
Women, 32%
Not Listed, 1%
Two-Spirit, 1%
Don't Know, 3%

Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in Moose Jaw are adults aged 25–64 (78%), with 13% youth (13–24), and 7% aged 65 or over.

Figure 2: Age

0-12	13-24	25-64	65+	Don't Know	Decline
0%	13%	78%	7%	0%	0%
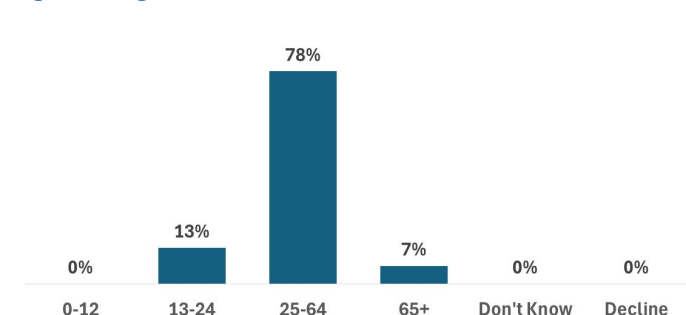
Indigenous Identity

The data shows the population of Indigenous people among the homeless. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in Moose Jaw do not identify as Indigenous (53%), followed by 20% identifying as First Nation, and 11% as Métis.

Figure 3: Indigenous Identity
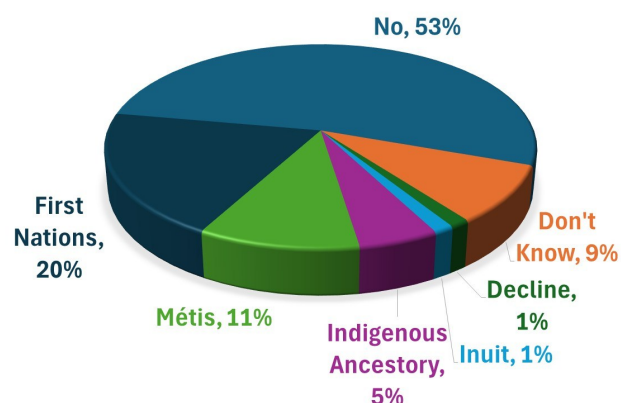
No, 53%
First Nations, 20%
Métis, 11%
Indigenous Ancestory, 5%
Inuit, 1%
Decline, 1%
Don't Know, 9%

Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained five screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location

Homeless Shelter, 25%
Unsure, 41%
Someone Else's Place, 20%
Unsheltered in a public place, 5%
Hotel/Motel, 4%
Vehicle, 3%
Encampment, 3%
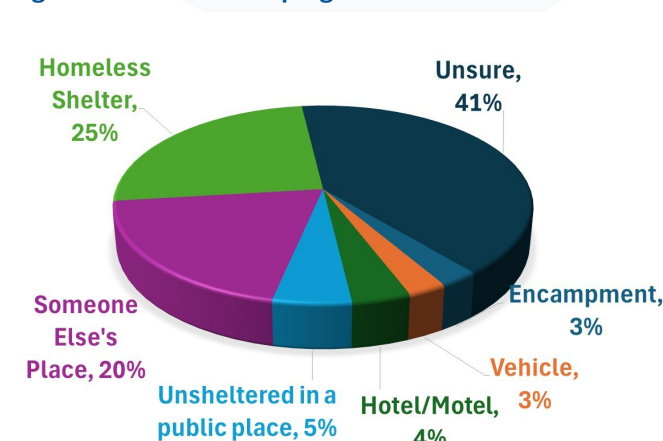
Chronicity

40% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness anywhere from 6 – 12 months over the past year, 16% said they were unsure.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year

When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 38% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 47% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.

Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years
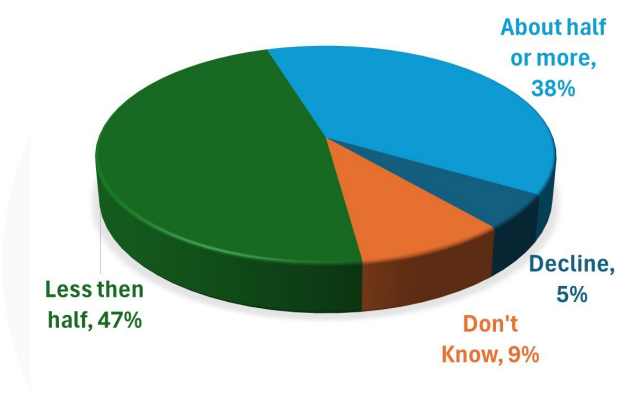
Age First Homeless

About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in Moose Jaw often began in their youth, with 53% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 11 – 30 years old.

Figure 7: Age first homeless
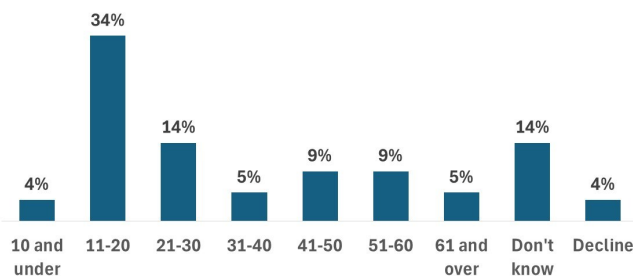
Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

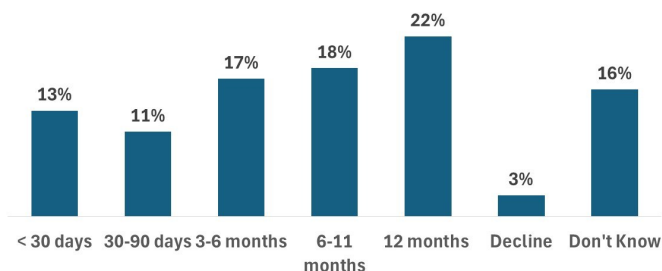As seen in Figure 8, 21% of survey respondents indicated that they had been homeless for at least a year, while homelessness was more recent for a majority (51%).

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss
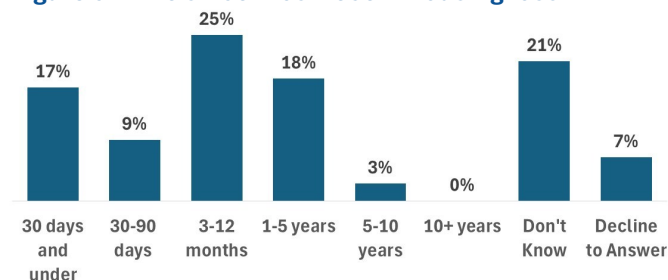
Length of Time in Moose Jaw

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked how long they had been in Moose Jaw. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. 26% of individuals reported they had always been in Moose Jaw

Figure 9: Time spent in Moose Jaw
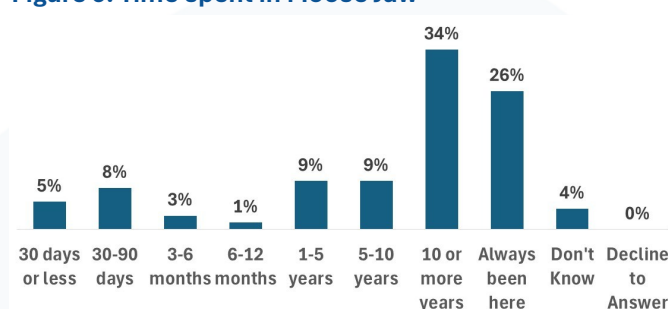
Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (83%) identified as straight/heterosexual.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation
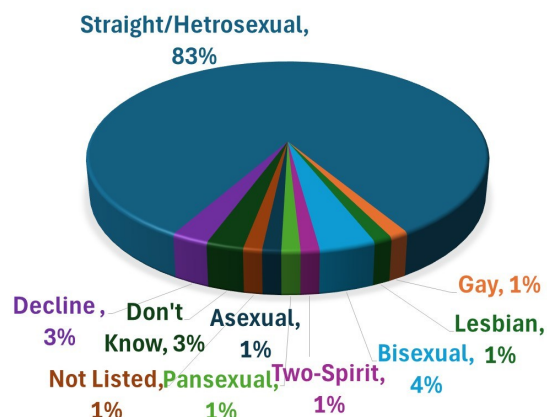
Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in Moose Jaw is not enough income for housing (22%), by abuse by spouse/partner (14%) and conflict with spouse (12%). Other notable causes include unfit/unsafe housing (11%), other reason (11%) and substance abuse issues (9%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as complaint (4%), mental health issues (3%), and incarceration (3%)

Income

The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (53%), while 11% indicated they had no income. Other sources of income included disability benefit (17%), seniors benefit (7%), GST (5%), and other (5%). Smaller portions rely on employment insurance (4%), money from family and friends (4%), and child and family benefits (3%). It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (3%), they were still experiencing homelessness.

Figure 11: Housing loss reason

Not Enough Income for Housing	22%
Abuse by Spouse/Partner	14%
Conflict with Spouse	12%
Don't Know	12%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing	11%
Other Reason	11%
Substance Abuse Issue	9%
Left the Community/Relocated	8%
Descrimination by Spouse/Partner	5%
Conflict with Landlord	5%
Other	5%
Building sold	5%
Complaint	4%
Mental Health Issue	3%
Incarceration	3%

Figure 13: Main source of income

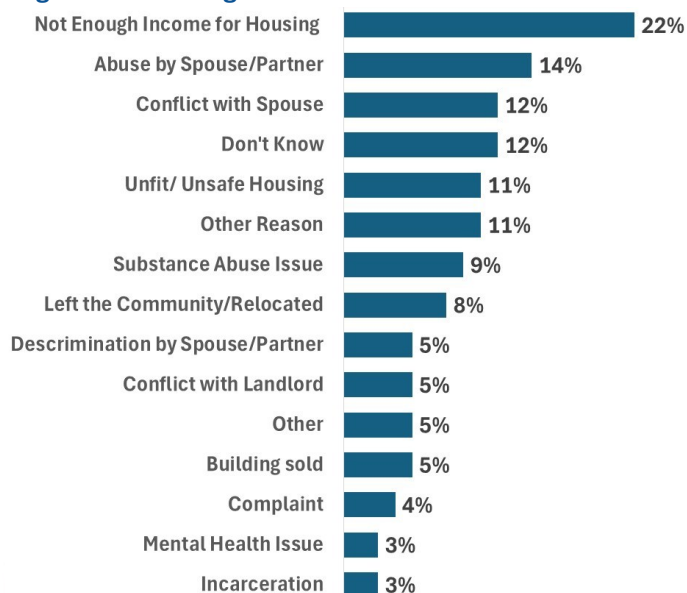|	
Social Assistance	53%
Disability Benefit	17%
No Income	11%
Seniors Benefit	7%
GST	5%
Other	5%
Employment Insurance	4%
Money from Family and Friends	4%
Child and Family Benefits	3%
Full Time Employment	3%
Casual Employment	3%

Foster Care

While a majority of individuals surveyed did not grow up in foster care, 34% had experience with the foster care system.
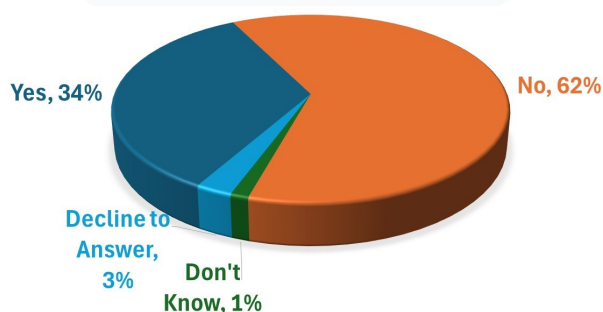
Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. 26% of the respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 8% noting that they had children relying on them.

Figure 12: Foster care

Yes, 34%
No, 62%
Decline to Answer, 3%
Don't Know, 1%

Figure 14: Dependents

Partner, 12%
Pets, 1%
Other Adults, 5%
Children, 8%

Origin and Citizenship

The survey data showed that no individual that was part of the homeless population in Moose Jaw was an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.
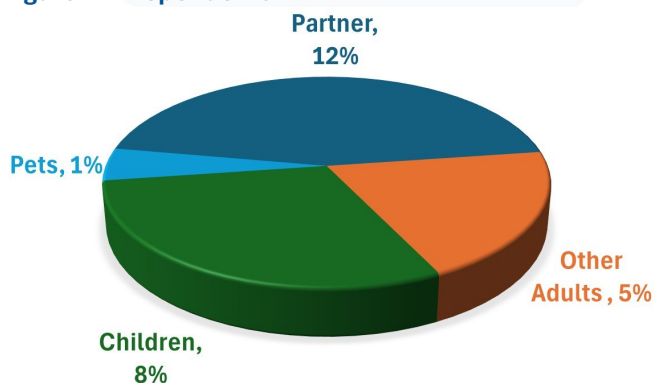
Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that 5 of the respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Métis Nation Saskatchewan

Conclusion

The 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in Moose Jaw has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this southern Saskatchewan community. With 120 individuals (approximately 0.4% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.
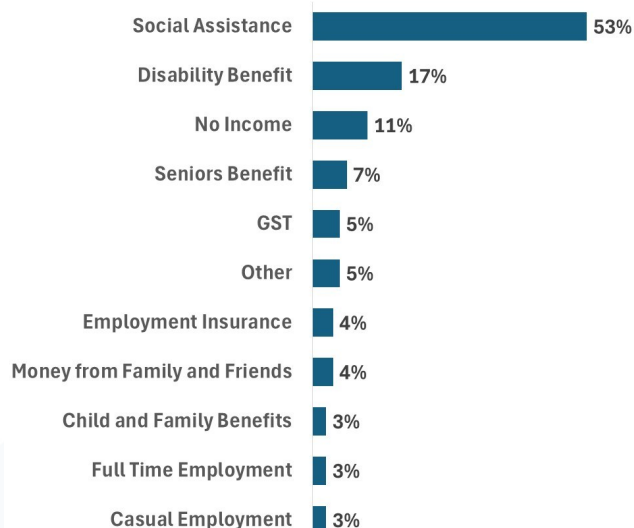
Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Gender:** With men representing a 30% greater share of the surveyed homeless population in Moose Jaw, it indicates that gender specific resources and aid may be required.

- **Dependents:** The data shows that 26% of the respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 8% noting that they had children relying on them indicating a need for resources that not only support the individual but families as-well.

- **Economic challenges:** The primary cause of housing loss was insufficient income for housing (22%), with 53% of respondents relying on social assistance as their main income source. Notably, 3% of those experiencing homelessness reported having full-time employment, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee housing security in the community.

- **Early onset:** 48% of respondents first experienced homelessness between the ages of 11-30, pointing to the need for youth-focused prevention strategies.

This initial PiT Count, led by Square One in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of Moose Jaw residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and southern homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, Moose Jaw will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: An individual must have spent a total of at least six months (180 days) as homeless over the past year or have had recurrent episodes in the past three years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months staying in unsheltered locations, in emergency shelters, or staying temporarily with friends or family members. (Statistics Canada (2023))

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's nancial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

2024

Nipawin, SK

Point-In-Time Count Report

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

2024 Count Summary

On October 1st, 2024, Nipawin participated in its first ever Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in Nipawin?

- 98 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Nipawin on October 1, 2024.
- 98 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 62% of people counted experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 84% were staying at someone else's place
- 7% were staying in an unsheltered public place
- 5% were unsure

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 52% Male
- 41% Female
- 28% Youth
- 74% First Nations
- 17% Métis
- 6% have no Indigenous ancestry

Introduction

On October 1st, 2024, the first Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in Nipawin, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by the Nipawin Oasis Community Centre, and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in Nipawin based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On October 1st, 2024, 98 people (2% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in Nipawin (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 98 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys.
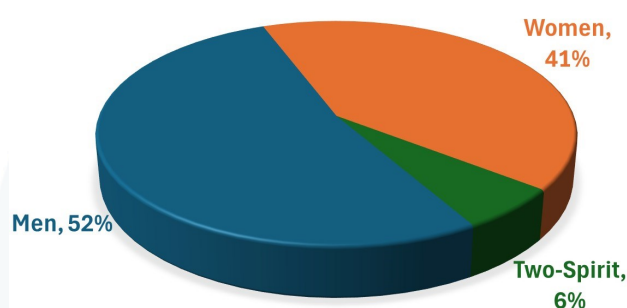
Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of Nipawin	Enumerated on October 1, 2024	% of Population Homeless
4,570	98	2.1%

Gender

52% of survey respondents identified as men and 41% as women, indicating a disproportionate gender distribution among the homeless population in Nipawin (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Gender

Women, 41%
Men, 52%
Two-Spirit, 6%

Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in Nipawin are adults aged 25–64 (71%), followed by youth (13–24) at 28%.

Figure 2: Age
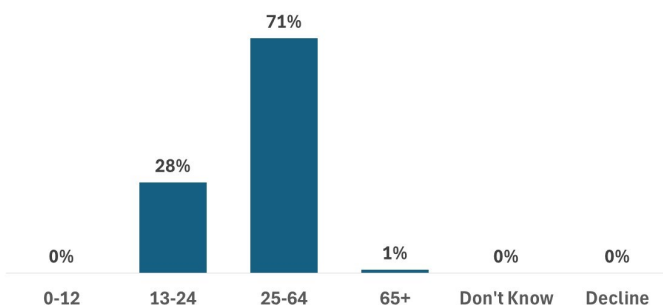
0-12	13-24	25-64	65+	Don't Know	Decline
0%	28%	71%	1%	0%	0%

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in Nipawin identify as First Nations (74%), followed by 17% identifying as Métis, and 6% with no Indigenous identity.
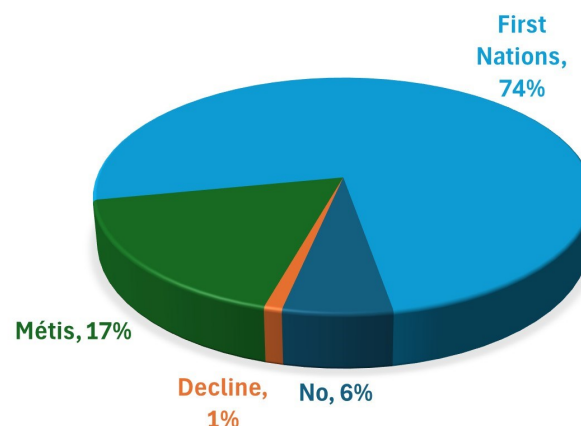
Figure 3: Indigenous Identity

First Nations, 74%
Métis, 17%
Decline, 1%
No, 6%

Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained five screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location

Someone Else's Place, 84%
Unsheltered in a public place, 7%
Unsure, 5%
Encampment, 2%
Vehicle, 1%
Homeless Shelter, 1%

Chronicity

62% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness anywhere from 6 – 12 months over the past year, 5% said they were unsure.
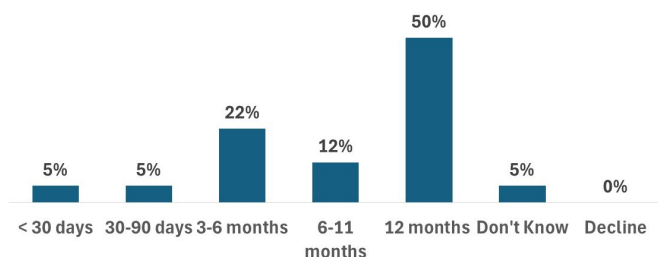
Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year

When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 67% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 23% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.

Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years
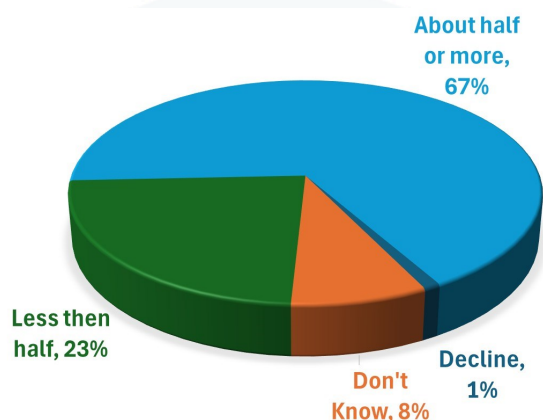
Age First Homeless

About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in Nipawin often began in their youth, with 74% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 0 – 30 years old.

Figure 7: Age first homeless
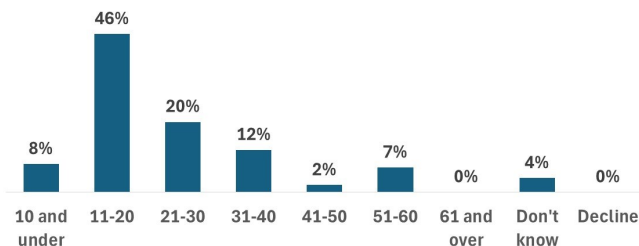
Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

As seen in Figure 8, almost half of the individuals surveyed lost their housing at least a year ago, with 4% having spent over 10 years homeless.

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss
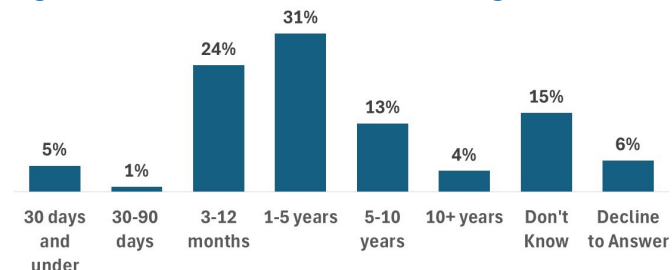
Length of Time in Nipawin

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked how long they had been in Nipawin. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. 13% of individuals reported they had always been in Nipawin

Figure 9: Time spent in Nipawin
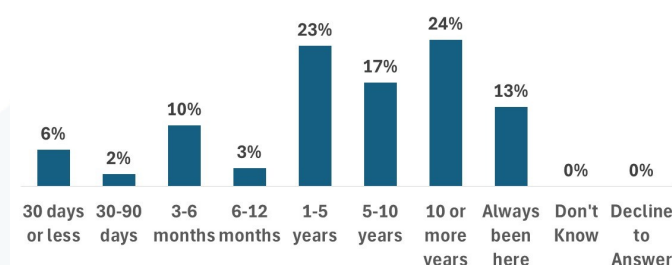
Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (82%) identified as straight/heterosexual, with 11% identifying as bisexual.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan
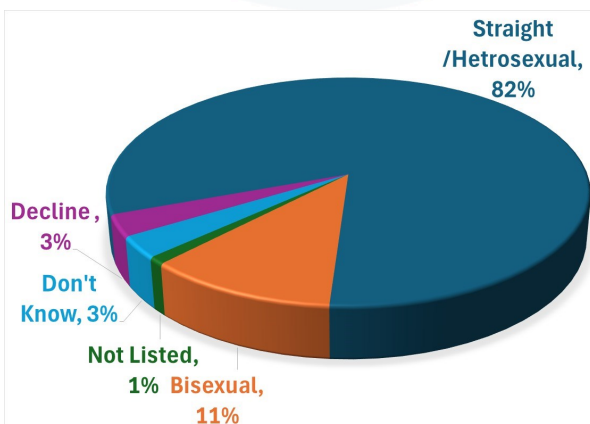
Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in Nipawin is not enough income for housing (35%), conflict with parent/guardian (12%) and conflict with spouse (11%). Other notable causes include conflict with landlord (9%), other reason (7%) and unfit/unsafe housing (6%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as physical health issues (3%), building sold (3%), and abuse by spouse/partner (2%).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason

Reason	Percentage
Not Enough Income for Housing	35%
Conflict with Parent/Gaurdian	12%
Conflict with Spouse	11%
Conflict with Landlord	9%
Other	7%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing	6%
Complaint	6%
Physical Health Issue	3%
Building sold	3%
Abuse by Spouse/Partner	2%
Other Reason	2%
Abuse by Parent/Gaurdian	2%
Descrimination by Parent/Gaurdian	2%
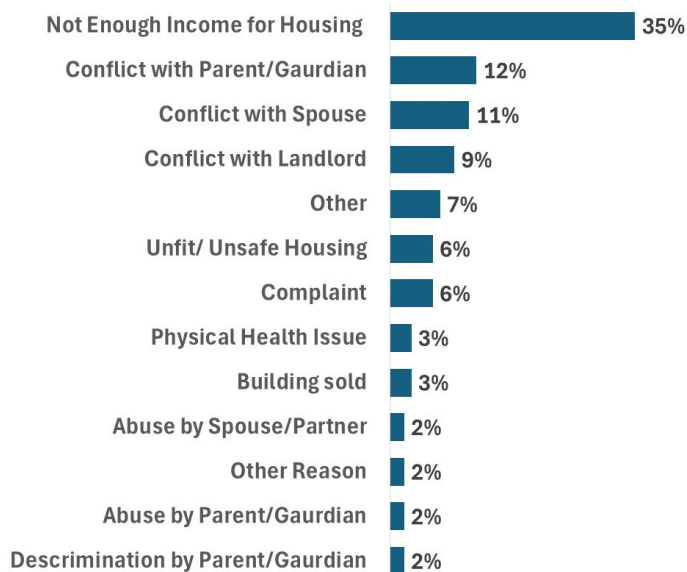
Foster Care

While a majority of individuals surveyed grew up in foster care, 47% had no experience with the foster care system.
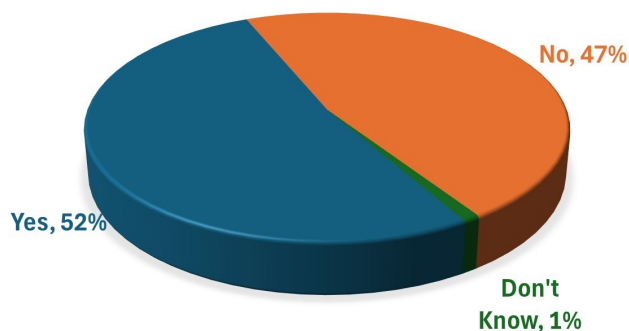
Figure 12: Foster care

No, 47%
Yes, 52%
Don't Know, 1%

Origin and Citizenship

The survey data showed that no individual that was part of the homeless population in Nipawin was an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.

Income

The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (49%), while 20% indicated they had no income. Other sources of income included GST (8%), disability benefit (8%), and money from family and friends (8%). Smaller portions rely on other (6%), casual employment (5%), and child and family benefits (4%). It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (6%), they were still experiencing homelessness.
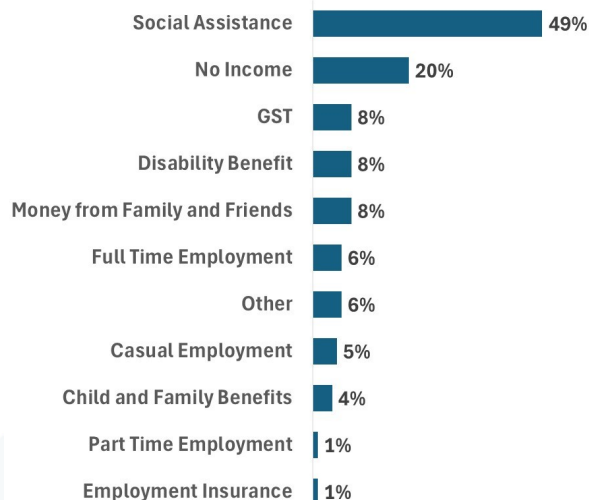
Figure 13: Main source of income

Source	Percentage
Social Assistance	49%
No Income	20%
GST	8%
Disability Benefit	8%
Money from Family and Friends	8%
Full Time Employment	6%
Other	6%
Casual Employment	5%
Child and Family Benefits	4%
Part Time Employment	1%
Employment Insurance	1%

Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. 58% of the respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 16% noting that they had children relying on them.

Figure 14: Dependents

Pets, 4%
Partner, 18%
Children, 16%
Other Adults, 20%
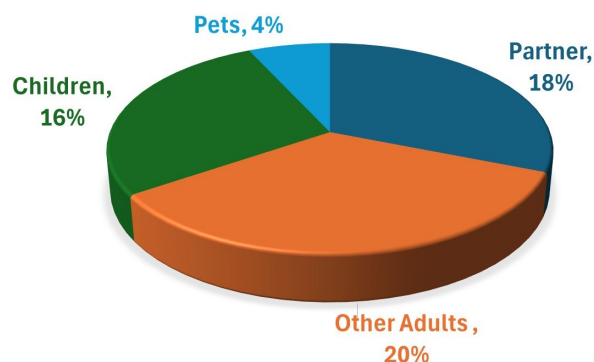
Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that none of the respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in Nipawin has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this central Saskatchewan community. With 98 individuals (approximately 2% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 91% of individuals surveyed indicated they were Indigenous (74% First Nations, and 17% Métis), highlighting the continued impacts of systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities.

- **Early onset:** 66% of respondents first experienced homelessness between the ages of 11-30, pointing to the need for youth-focused prevention strategies.

- **Shelter:** With only 1% of the respondents indicating that they had stayed at a homeless shelter (at least once) over the last year. The data indicates a shortage in options for those experiencing homelessness in Nipawin.

- **Economic challenges:** The primary cause of housing loss was insufficient income for housing (35%), with 49% of respondents relying on social assistance as their main income source. Notably, 6% of those experiencing homelessness reported having full-time employment, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee housing security in the community.

- **Dependents:** The data shows that 54% of the respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 16% noting that they had children relying on them indicating a need for resources that not only support the individual but families as-well.

This initial PiT Count, led by the Nipawin Oasis Community Centre in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of Nipawin residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and central homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, Nipawin will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: An individual must have spent a total of at least six months (180 days) as homeless over the past year or have had recurrent episodes in the past three years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months staying in unsheltered locations, in emergency shelters, or staying temporarily with friends or family members. (Statistics Canada (2023))

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's nancial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

2024

North Battleford, SK

Point-In-Time Count Report

2024 Count Summary

On October 1st, 2024, North Battleford participated in its first ever Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in North Battleford?

- 98 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in North Battleford on October 1st, 2024.
- 192 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 43% of people counted experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 66% were at someone else's place
- 12% were staying in a hotel/motel
- 10% were staying in a homeless shelter

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 50% Male
- 47% Female
- 14% Youth
- 77% First Nations
- 10% Métis
- 9% have no Indigenous ancestry

Introduction

On October 1st, 2024, the first Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by the Battlefords Indian and Métis Friendship Centre, and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in North Battleford based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On October 1st, 2024, 98 people (0.7% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in North Battleford (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 192 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys.
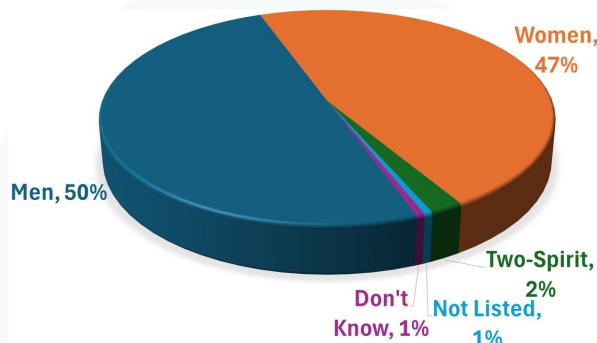
Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of North Battleford	Enumerated on October 1, 2024	% of Population Homeless
13,836	98	0.7%

Gender

50% of survey respondents identified as men and 47% as women, indicating a near even gender distribution among the homeless population in North Battleford (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Gender

Women, 47%
Men, 50%
Two-Spirit, 2%
Not Listed, 1%
Don't Know, 1%

Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in North Battleford are adults aged 25–64 (82%), with 14% youth (0–24), and 4% aged 65 or over.
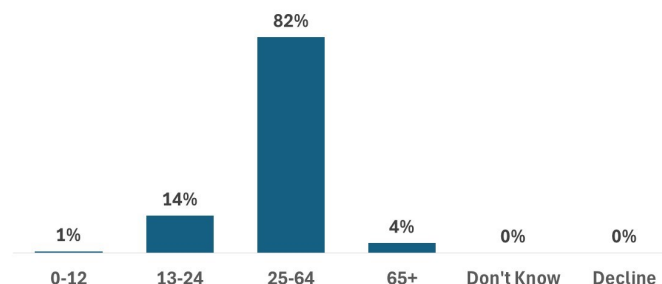
Figure 2: Age

0-12	13-24	25-64	65+	Don't Know	Decline
1%	14%	82%	4%	0%	0%

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in North Battleford identify as First Nations (77%), followed by 10% identifying as Métis, and 9% with no Indigenous identity.
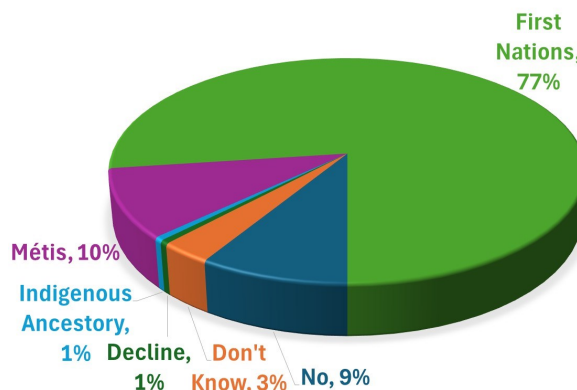
Figure 3: Indigenous Identity

First Nations, 77%
Métis, 10%
Indigenous Ancestry, 1%
Decline, 1%
Don't Know, 3%
No, 9%

Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained ve screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location

Someone Else's Place, 66%
Hotel/Motel, 12%
Homeless Shelter, 10%
Unsure, 7%
Unsheltered in a public place, 4%
Encampment, 1%
Vehicle, 1%

Chronicity

62% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness anywhere from 6 – 12 months over the past year, 2% said they were unsure.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year

- < 30 days: 11%
- 30-90 days: 7%
- 3-6 months: 17%
- 6-11 months: 14%
- 12 months: 48%
- Decline: 1%
- Don't Know: 2%

When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 45% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 48% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.

Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years

- About half or more, 45%
- Less then half, 48%
- Decline, 1%
- Don't Know, 6%

Age First Homeless

About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in North Battleford often began in their youth, with 61% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 0 – 30 years old.

Figure 7: Age first homeless

- 10 and under: 2%
- 11-20: 29%
- 21-30: 30%
- 31-40: 16%
- 41-50: 11%
- 51-60: 5%
- 61 and over: 3%
- Don't know: 4%
- Decline: 0%
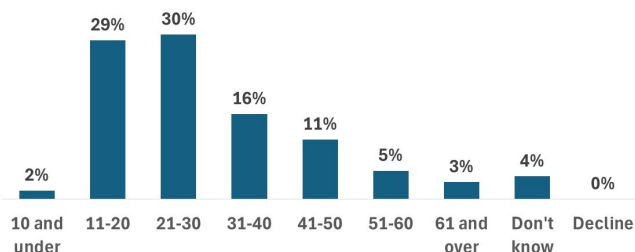
Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

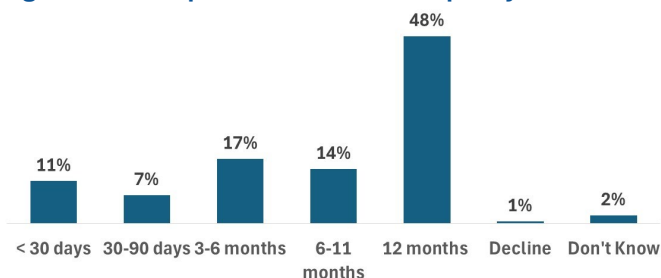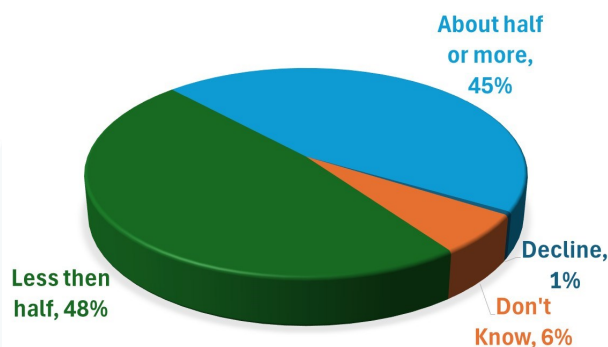As seen in Figure 8, over one third of individuals had lost their housing over one year ago, with 5% not having secure housing for over 10 years.

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss

- 30 days and under: 9%
- 30-90 days: 7%
- 3-12 months: 21%
- 1-5 years: 31%
- 5-10 years: 7%
- 10+ years: 5%
- Don't Know: 17%
- Decline to Answer: 3%
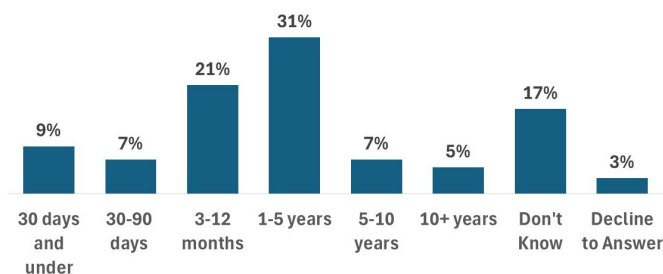
Length of Time in North Battleford

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked how long they had been in North Battleford. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. 49% of individuals reported they had always been in North Battleford

Figure 9: Time spent in North Battleford

- 30 days or less: 3%
- 30-90 days: 4%
- 3-6 months: 4%
- 6-12 months: 5%
- 1-5 years: 20%
- 5-10 years: 5%
- 10 or more years: 8%
- Always been here: 49%
- Don't Know: 3%
- Decline to Answer: 1%
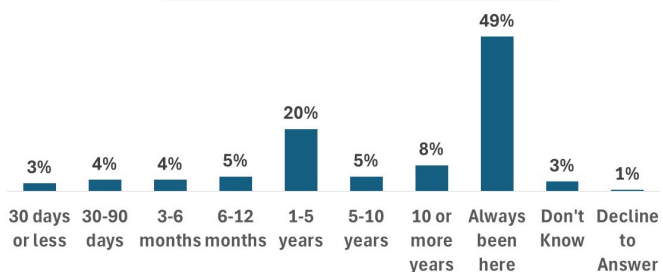
Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (87%) identified as straight/heterosexual, while 6% identified as bisexual.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation

- Straight/Hetrosexual, 87%
- Decline, 5%
- Don't Know, 2%
- Gay, 1%
- Bisexual, 6%
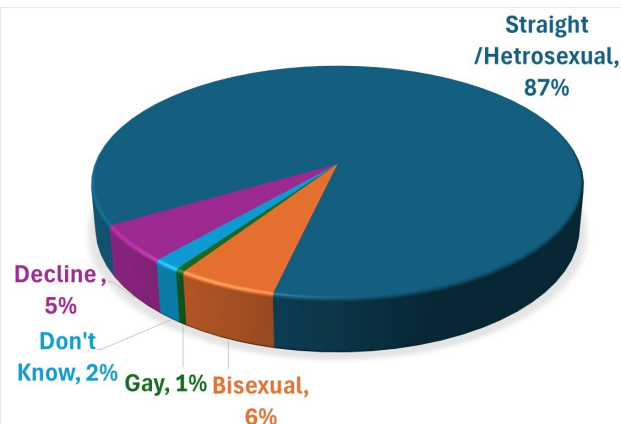
Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in North Battleford is not enough income for housing (33%), conflict with spouse (13%) and relocated (9%). Other notable causes include unsafe housing (8%), conflict with parent/guardian (7%) and conflict with landlord (6%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as substance abuse (4%), building sold (4%), and incarceration (4%).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason

Not Enough Income for Housing	33%
Conflict with Spouse	13%
Left the Community/Relocated	9%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing	8%
Conflict with Parent/Gaurdian	7%
Conflict with Landlord	5%
Other Reason	5%
Substance Abuse Issue	4%
Building sold	4%
Incarceration	4%
Don't Know	3%
Other	2%
Complaint	2%
Descrimination by Spouse/Partner	2%
Hospilization or Treatment	2%

Foster Care

42% of individuals experiencing homelessness in North Battleford have experience with the foster care system.

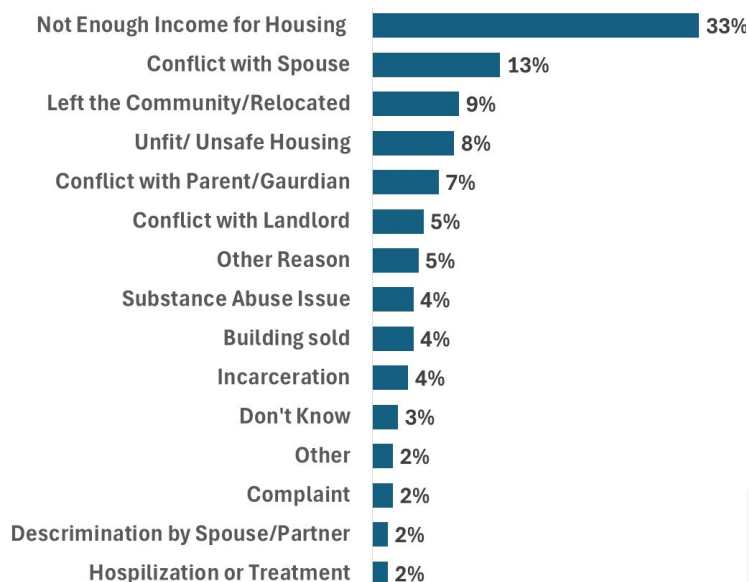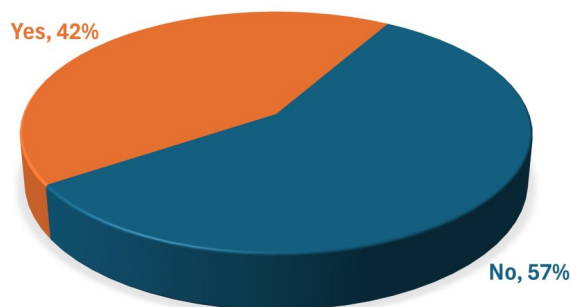### Figure 12: Foster care

Yes, 42%
No, 57%

Origin and Citizenship

The survey data showed that 98% of individuals that were part of the homeless population in North Battleford were not asylum seekers, refugees, or immigrants.

Income

The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (45%), while 14% indicated they had no income. Other sources of income included disability benefit (10%), GST (8%), part time employment (7%), and casual employment (7%). Smaller portions rely on seniors benefit (5%), money from family or friends (4%), and other (4%). It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (8%), they were still experiencing homelessness.

Figure 13: Main source of income

Social Assistance	45%
No Income	14%
Disability Benefit	10%
GST	8%
Full Time Employment	8%
Part Time Employment	7%
Casual Employment	7%
Seniors Benefit	5%
Money from Family and Friends	4%
Other	4%
Child and Family Benefits	3%
Employment Insurance	1%
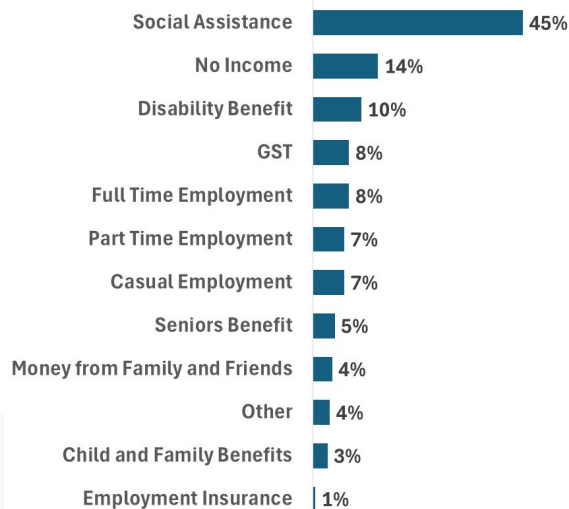
Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. 13% of the respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 7% noting that they had children relying on them.

Figure 14: Dependents

Children, 7%
Partner, 5%
Other Adults , 1%
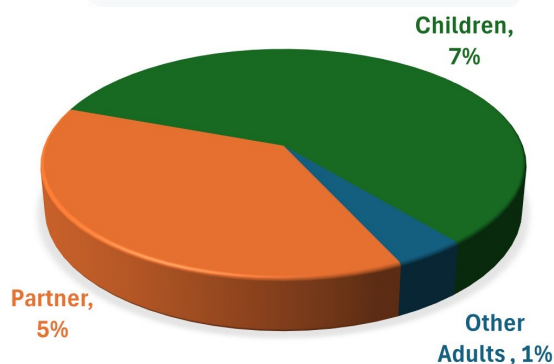
Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that three respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in North Battleford has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this central Saskatchewan community. With 98 individuals (approximately 0.7% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 88% of individuals surveyed indicated they were Indigenous (77% First Nations, 10% Métis, 1% with Indigenous ancestry), highlighting the continued impacts of systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities.

- **Economic challenges:** The primary cause of housing loss was insufficient income for housing (33%), with 45% of respondents relying on social assistance as their main income source. Notably, 8% of those experiencing homelessness reported having full-time employment, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee housing security in the community.

- **Chronic homelessness:** 62% of individuals counted were experiencing chronic homelessness, suggesting long-term barriers to stable housing that require comprehensive intervention strategies.

- **Local population:** Nearly half of respondents reported having always lived in North Battleford, indicating that homelessness in the community primarily affects long-term residents rather than transient populations.

- **Early onset:** 59% of respondents first experienced homelessness between the ages of 11-30, pointing to the need for youth-focused prevention strategies.

This initial PiT Count, led by the Battlefords Indian Metis Friendship Centre in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of North Battleford residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and central homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, North Battleford will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: An individual must have spent a total of at least six months (180 days) as homeless over the past year or have had recurrent episodes in the past three years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months staying in unsheltered locations, in emergency shelters, or staying temporarily with friends or family members. (Statistics Canada (2023))

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

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Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

2024

Pinehouse, SK
Point-In-Time Count Report

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

2024 Count Summary

On October 10th, 2024, Pinehouse participated in its first ever Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in Pinehouse?

- 162 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Pinehouse on October 10, 2024.
- 133 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 76% of people counted experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 67% were staying at someone else's place
- 27% were staying at an encampment
- 2% were staying in a vehicle

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 58% Male
- 41% Female
- 23% Youth
- 27% First Nations
- 66% Métis
- 5% have Indigenous ancestry

Introduction

On October 10th, 2024, the first Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in Pinehouse, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by the Kineepik Métis Local, and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in Pinehouse based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On October 10th, 2024, 162 people (16% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in Pinehouse (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 133 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys.
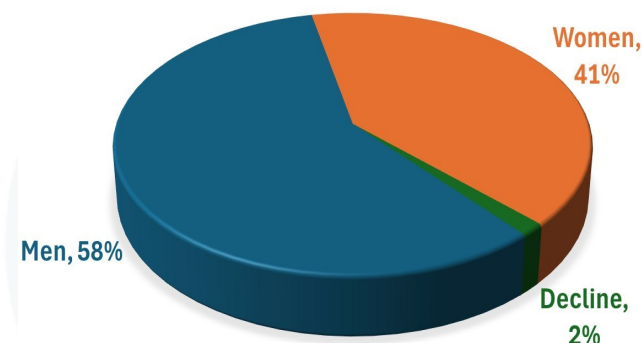
Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of Pinehouse	Enumerated on October 10, 2024	% of Population Homeless
1,013	162	16%

Gender

58% of survey respondents identified as men and 41% as women, indicating a disproportionate gender distribution among the homeless population in Pinehouse (See Figure 1).
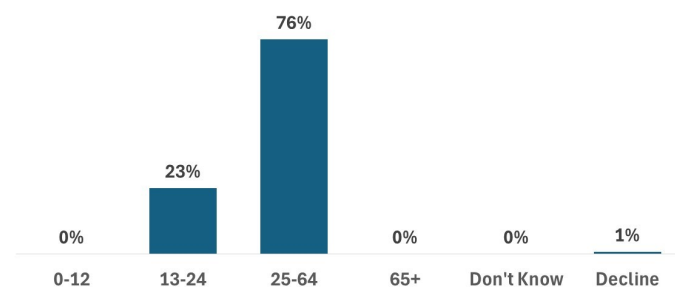
Figure 1: Gender

Women, 41%
Men, 58%
Decline, 2%

Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in Pinehouse are adults aged 25–64 (76%), followed by those aged 13–24 (23%).

Figure 2: Age

0-12	13-24	25-64	65+	Don't Know	Decline
0%	23%	76%	0%	0%	1%

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in Pinehouse identify as Métis (66%), followed by 10% identifying as First Nations, and 5% with Indigenous identity.
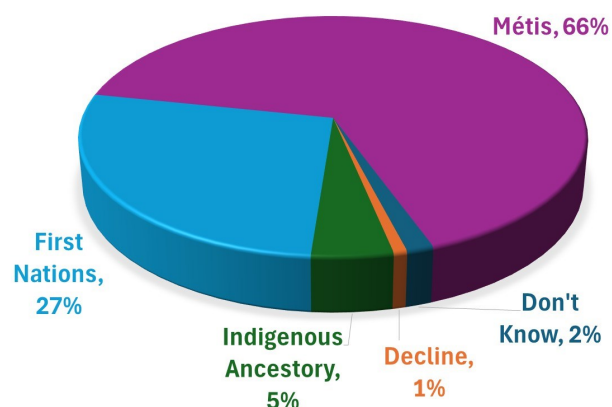
Figure 3: Indigenous Identity

Métis, 66%
First Nations, 27%
Indigenous Ancestry, 5%
Decline, 1%
Don't Know, 2%

Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained five screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location

Someone Else's Place, 67%
Encampment, 27%
Vehicle, 2%
Homeless Shelter, 2%
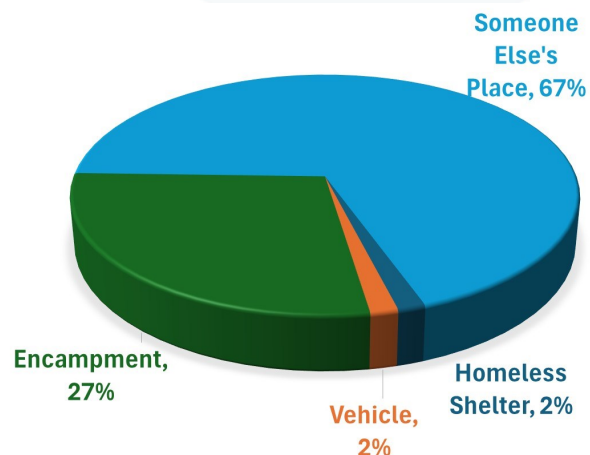
Chronicity

76% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness anywhere from 6 – 12 months over the past year.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year

< 30 days	30-90 days	3-6 months	6-11 months	12 months	Decline	Don't Know
0%	5%	7%	2%	74%	10%	2%

When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 64% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 25% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.

Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years

About half or more, 64%
Less then half, 25%
Don't Know, 2%
Decline, 9%

Age First Homeless

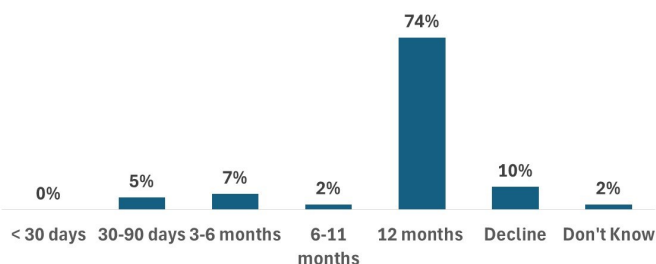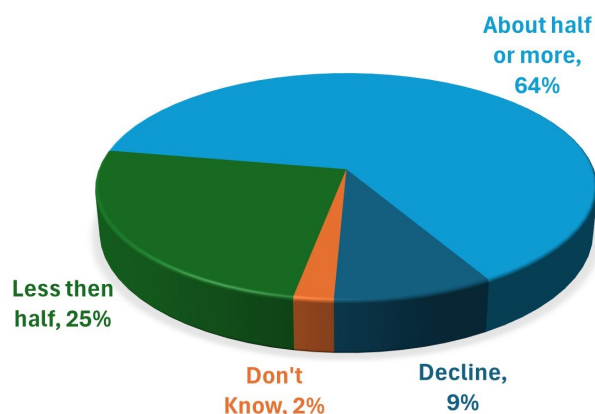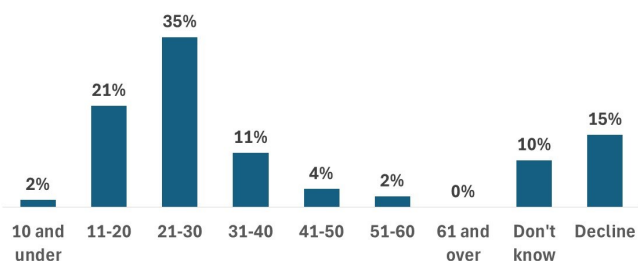About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in Pinehouse often began in their youth, with 58% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 11 – 30 years old.

Figure 7: Age first homeless

10 and under	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61 and over	Don't know	Decline
2%	21%	35%	11%	4%	2%	0%	10%	15%

Time Since most Recent Housing Loss

As seen in Figure 8, nearly one third of individuals surveyed lost their housing at least one year ago, while 10% were uncertain about when their homelessness began.

Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss

30 days and under	30-90 days	3-12 months	1-5 years	5-10 years	10+ years	Don't Know	Decline to Answer
0%	2%	8%	19%	10%	2%	10%	44%
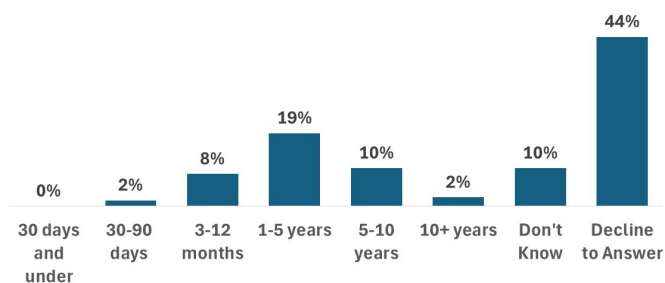
Length of Time in Pinehouse

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked how long they had been in Pinehouse. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. 69% of individuals reported they had always been in Pinehouse

Figure 9: Time spent in Pinehouse
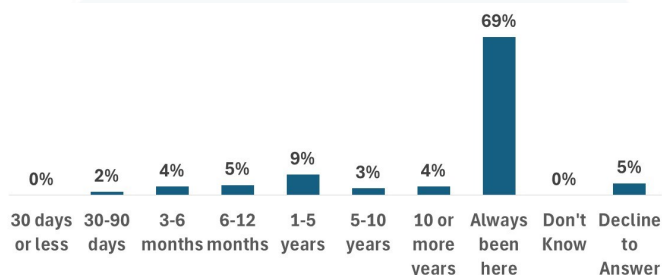
30 days or less	30-90 days	3-6 months	6-12 months	1-5 years	5-10 years	10 or more years	Always been here	Don't Know	Decline to Answer
0%	2%	4%	5%	9%	3%	4%	69%	0%	5%

Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (88%) identified as straight/heterosexual, while 8% declined to respond.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation

Straight /Hetrosexual, 88%
Decline , 8%
Bisexual, 2%
Lesbian, 2%
Gay, 2%

Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in Pinehouse is not enough income for housing (29%), substance abuse (29%) and other reason (22%). Other notable causes include conflict with parent/guardian (11%), conflict with spouse (8%) and relocated (7%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as complaint (3%), owner moved in (2%), and building sold (2%).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason

Not Enough Income for Housing — 29%
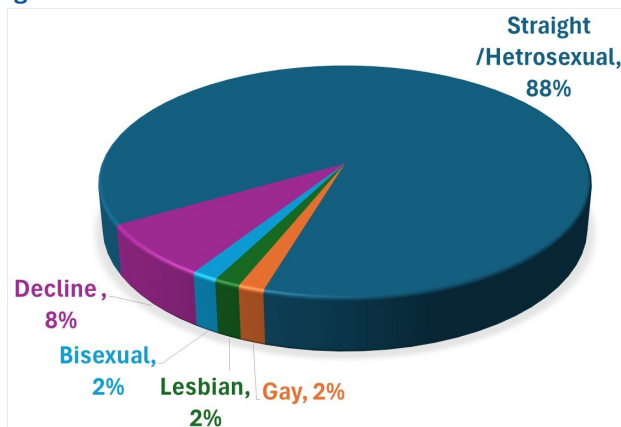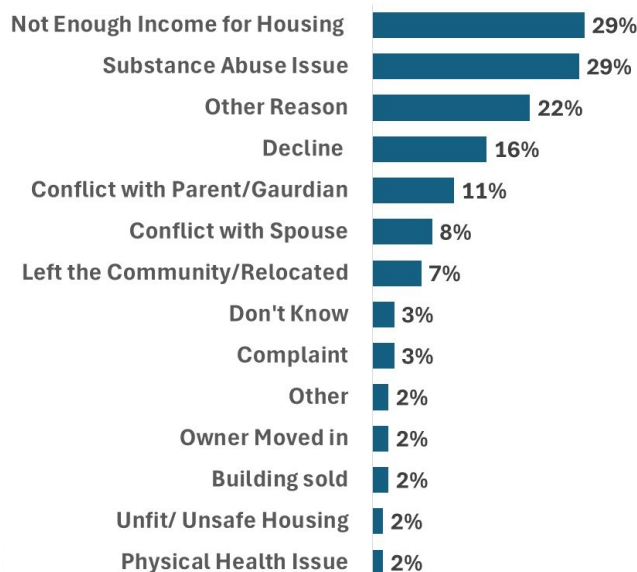Substance Abuse Issue — 29%
Other Reason — 22%
Decline — 16%
Conflict with Parent/Gaurdian — 11%
Conflict with Spouse — 8%
Left the Community/Relocated — 7%
Don't Know — 3%
Complaint — 3%
Other — 2%
Owner Moved in — 2%
Building sold — 2%
Unfit/ Unsafe Housing — 2%
Physical Health Issue — 2%

Foster Care

While a majority of individuals surveyed did not grow up in foster care, 24% had experience with the foster care system.

Figure 12: Foster care

No, 71%
Yes, 24%
Decline to Answer, 4%
Don't Know, 1%

Origin and Citizenship

The survey data showed that no individuals that are part of the homeless population in Pinehouse were an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.

Income

The primary source of income for respondents was GST (24%), while 34% indicated they had no income. Other sources of income included social assistance (22%), child and family benefit (13%), and employment insurance (5%). Smaller portions rely on other (5%), part time employment (4%), and casual employment (4%). It is important to note that while some respondents had full-time employment (22%), they were still experiencing homelessness.

Figure 13: Main source of income

No Income — 34%
GST — 24%
Social Assistance — 22%
Full Time Employment — 22%
Child and Family Benefits — 13%
Employment Insurance — 5%
Other — 5%
Part Time Employment — 4%
Casual Employment — 4%
Decline — 2%
Money from Family and Friends — 1%
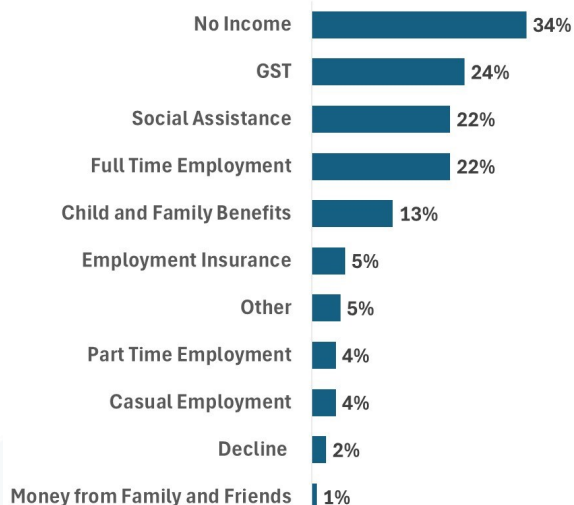
Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. 45% of the respondents had a dependent of some sort, with 26% noting that they had children relying on them.
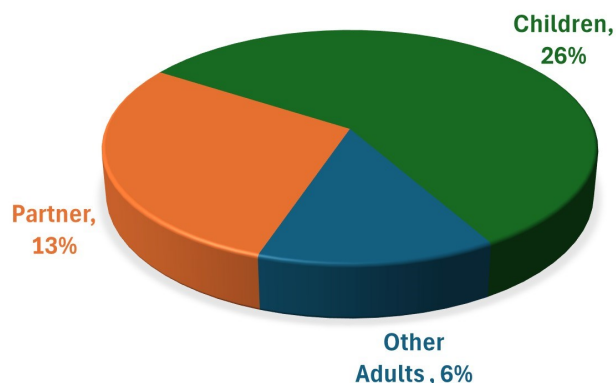
Figure 14: Dependents

Children, 26%
Partner, 13%
Other Adults , 6%

Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that two of the respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Northern Village of Pinehouse

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in Pinehouse has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this northern Saskatchewan community. With 162 individuals (approximately 16% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 98% of individuals surveyed indicated they were Indigenous (66% Métis, 27% First Nations, and 5% reporting Indigenous ancestry), highlighting the continued impacts of systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities.

- **Shelter:** With 67% of the respondents indicating that they had stayed at someone else's place (at least once) over the last year and only 2% reported staying at a homeless shelter. This indicates a shortage in options for those experiencing homelessness in Pinehouse.

- **Substance use challenges:** 29% of the respondents reported that substance use issues were the cause for their housing loss. This being tied with not having enough income for housing as the number one reason for housing loss highlights the critical nature of this issue.

- **Local population:** 69% of respondents reported having always lived in Pinehouse, indicating that homelessness in the community primarily affects long-term residents rather than transient populations.

- **Homelessness frequency:** With Pinehouse having a population of 1,013 (2021), a significant portion of the population (16%) are homeless.

This initial PiT Count, led by the Kineepik Métis Local in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of Pinehouse residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and northern homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, Pinehouse will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: An individual must have spent a total of at least six months (180 days) as homeless over the past year or have had recurrent episodes in the past three years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months staying in unsheltered locations, in emergency shelters, or staying temporarily with friends or family members. (Statistics Canada (2023))

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's nancial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or

racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.

2024

Yorkton, SK

Point-In-Time Count Report

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

2024 Count Summary

On October 8th, 2024, Yorkton participated in its first ever Point in Time (PiT) Count, an initiative led by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to capture information on the community's current homeless population. This inaugural effort is part of a broader project that encompasses many towns and small cities in Saskatchewan that have never conducting a count of the homeless population.

Initiatives like the PiT Count provide crucial data to inform policy decisions, planning, and the development of strategies to address homelessness in the province. The PiT Count is a coordinated effort to illustrate the state of homelessness in Saskatchewan and is conducted in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

This data is vital for understanding homelessness at a local and provincial level, guiding efforts to create meaningful change. This first MN-S led PiT Count adds to a larger provincial and national conversation about ending homelessness, and demonstrates MN-S's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring no one is left behind.

How Many People Were Counted in Yorkton?

- 21 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Yorkton on October 8th, 2024.
- 30 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys between October 1 and November 30, 2024.
- 46% of people surveyed were experiencing chronic homelessness.

Where Were People Sleeping?

- 37% were staying at a homeless shelter
- 30% were staying at someone else's place
- 13% were unsure

Who Was Experiencing Homelessness?

- 60% Male
- 23% Female
- 23% Youth
- 60% First Nations
- 17% Métis
- 20% have no Indigenous ancestry

Introduction

On October 8th, 2024, the first Point in Time (PiT) Count of homelessness was conducted in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. The PiT Count was lead by the City of Yorkton, and yielded rich information about individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

A PiT Count serves an important function: it provides a current snapshot of the community's homeless population. Over time, future PiT Counts will show how homelessness might change over time, and help gauge the effectiveness of efforts to address homelessness in the community.

This analysis examines the key factors contributing to homelessness in Yorkton based on survey data from the local individuals experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, information from the PiT Count is used to inform solutions to ending homelessness in the community.

Methods

The data for this analysis was collected through an enumeration (a count of how many people are experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations), and a survey aimed at understanding the scope and characteristics of homelessness. Survey administration occurred between October 1 and November 30, 2024. The survey captured responses from individuals experiencing homelessness, addressing factors such as demographics, housing history, and sources of income.

Once collected, the data was organized, analyzed, and interpreted by the Northern Research Group (NRG), ensuring a thorough examination of trends and key findings. NRG applied a systematic approach to categorize responses and identify patterns, providing actionable insights to inform community-driven solutions for homelessness.

Count Results - Demographics

The Count

On October 8th, 2024, 21 people (0.1% of the total population) were counted as experiencing homelessness in Yorkton (See Table 1), and between October 1 and November 30, 2024, 30 individuals experiencing homelessness completed surveys.
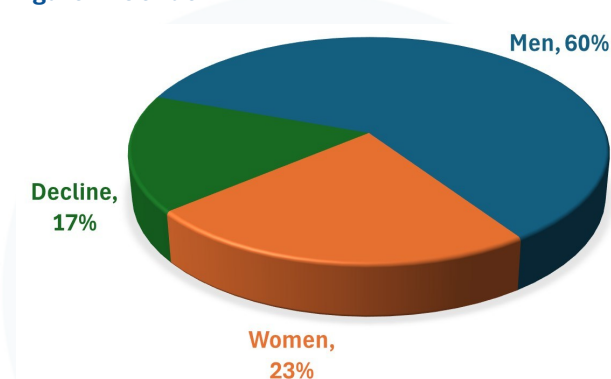
Table 1: Count of Homeless Individuals

Population of Yorkton	Enumerated on October 8, 2024	% of Population
16,280	21	0.1%

Gender

60% of survey respondents identified as men and 23% as women, indicating a disproportionate gender distribution among the homeless population in Yorkton (See Figure 1).
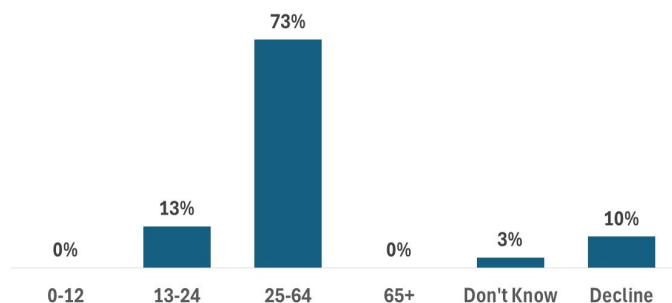
Figure 1: Gender

Men, 60%
Decline, 17%
Women, 23%

Age

Of individuals surveyed in 2024, the largest group experiencing homelessness in Yorkton are adults aged 25–64 (73%), with 13% youth (13–24), and 0% aged 65 or over.

Figure 2: Age

0-12	13-24	25-64	65+	Don't Know	Decline
0%	13%	73%	0%	3%	10%

Indigenous Identity

The data shows the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the homeless population. The majority of respondents experiencing homelessness in Yorkton identify as First Nations (60%), followed by 20% with no Indigenous identity, and 17% identifying as Métis.

Figure 3: Indigenous Identity
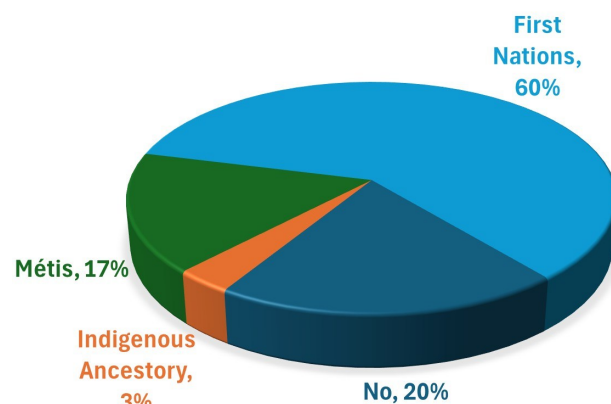
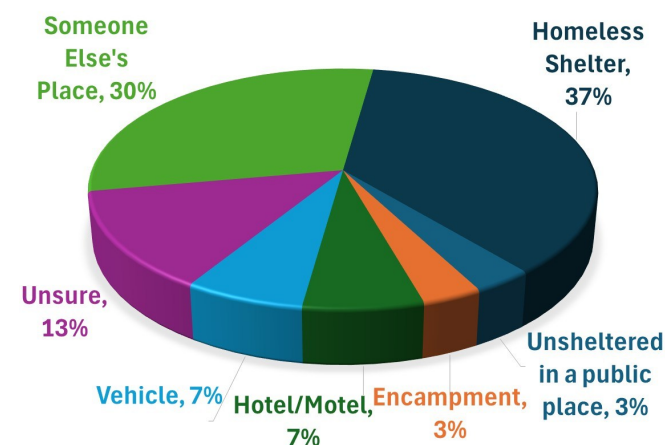First Nations, 60%
Métis, 17%
Indigenous Ancestry, 3%
No, 20%

Count Results - Survey Data

Count survey contained five screening questions and 15 additional questions (See Appendix A). Results based on survey data are included in this section.

Shelter Type/Sleeping Location

Individuals who completed the 2024 Count survey were asked "Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?" as a screening question. The type of shelter people used most frequently is detailed in Figure 4.
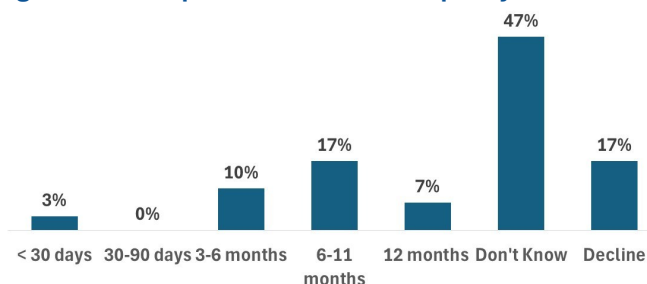
Figure 4: Shelter / Sleeping Location

Someone Else's Place, 30%
Homeless Shelter, 37%
Unsure, 13%
Vehicle, 7%
Hotel/Motel, 7%
Encampment, 3%
Unsheltered in a public place, 3%

Chronicity

23% of individuals surveyed indicated that they experienced homelessness anywhere from 6 – 12 months over the past year, 47% said they were unsure.

Figure 5: Time spent homeless in the past year

Bar chart values: < 30 days 3%, 30-90 days 0%, 3-6 months 10%, 6-11 months 17%, 12 months 7%, Don't Know 47%, Decline 17%

When looking over a longer period, Figure 6 shows that 67% of respondents reported being homeless for about half or more of the past three years, while 7% experienced homelessness for less than half of that time.
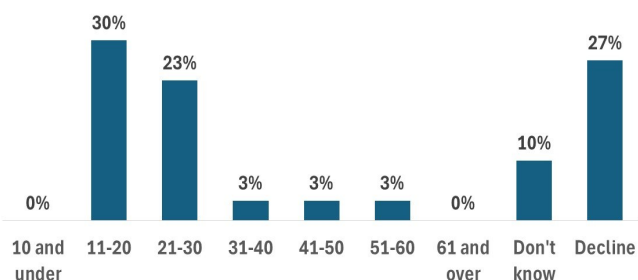
Figure 6: Time spent homeless past 3 years

Pie chart: About half or more, 67%; Don't Know, 17%; Decline, 10%; Less then half, 7%
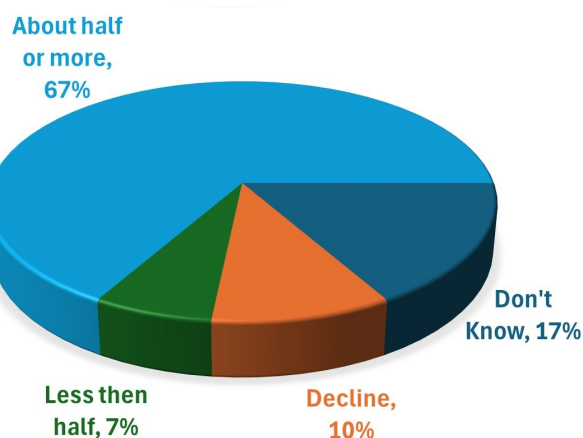
Age First Homeless

About one half of the individuals surveyed indicated that their homelessness in Yorkton often began in their youth, with 53% of respondents first experience homelessness between the ages of 11 – 30 years old.
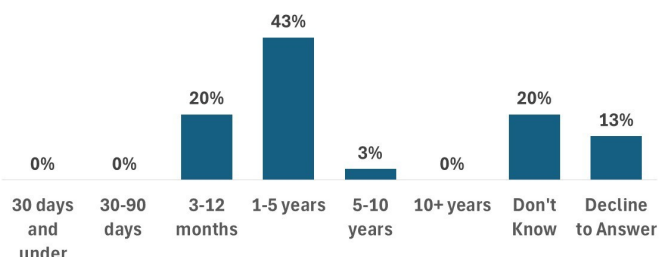
Figure 7: Age first homeless

Bar chart values: 10 and under 0%, 11-20 30%, 21-30 23%, 31-40 3%, 41-50 3%, 51-60 3%, 61 and over 0%, Don't know 10%, Decline 27%

Time Since Most Recent Housing Loss

As seen in Figure 8, 43% of survey respondents had lost secure housing from 1-5 years ago, while 20% had lost their housing within the past year.
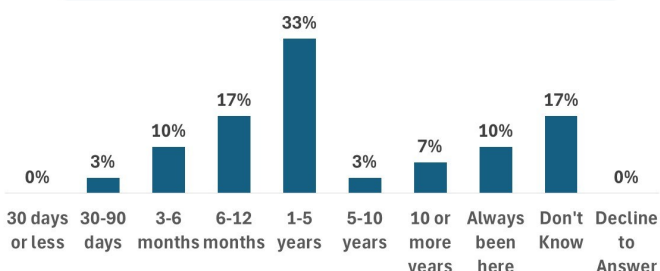
Figure 8: Time since most recent housing loss

Bar chart values: 30 days and under 0%, 30-90 days 0%, 3-12 months 20%, 1-5 years 43%, 5-10 years 3%, 10+ years 0%, Don't Know 20%, Decline to Answer 13%

Length of Time in Yorkton

Individuals who answered the 2024 Count were asked How long they had been in Yorkton. Figure 9 provides an overview of responses for the length of time in the community. 10% of individuals reported they had always been in Yorkton.

Figure 9: Time spent in Yorkton

Bar chart values: 30 days or less 0%, 30-90 days 3%, 3-6 months 10%, 6-12 months 17%, 1-5 years 33%, 5-10 years 3%, 10 or more years 7%, Always been here 10%, Don't Know 17%, Decline to Answer 0%
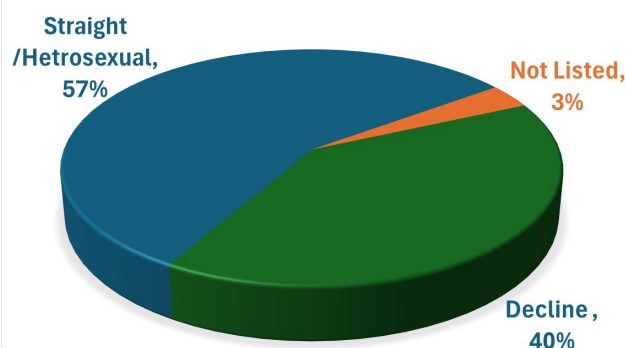
Sexual Orientation

Data reveals that the majority of respondents (57%) identified as straight/heterosexual, while 40% declined to respond.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation

Pie chart: Straight /Hetrosexual, 57%; Not Listed, 3%; Decline , 40%
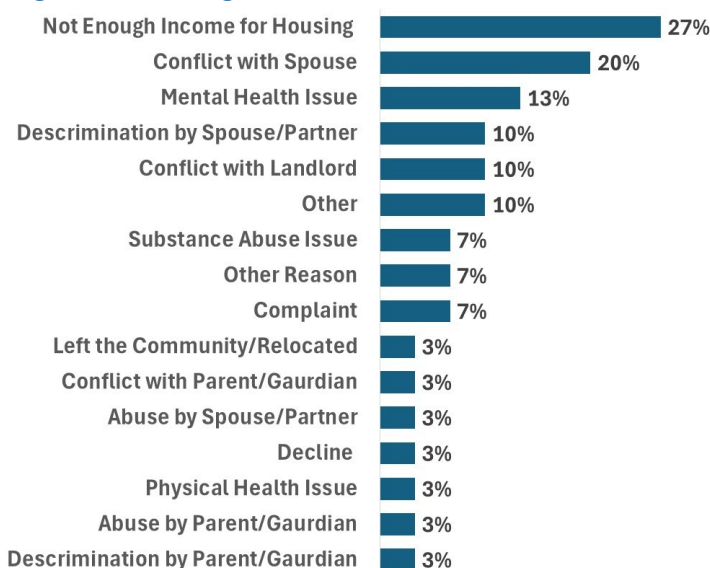
Métis Nation Saskatchewan

Housing Loss

Results showed that the primary cause of homelessness for respondents in Yorkton is not enough income for housing (27%), conflict with spouse (20%) and mental health issues (13%). Other notable causes include discrimination by spouse/partner (10%), conflict with landlord (10%) and other (7%). Smaller proportions reported issues such as relocated (3%), conflict with parent/guardian (3%), and abuse by spouse/partner (3%).

Figure 11: Housing loss reason

Reason	%
Not Enough Income for Housing	27%
Conflict with Spouse	20%
Mental Health Issue	13%
Descrimination by Spouse/Partner	10%
Conflict with Landlord	10%
Other	10%
Substance Abuse Issue	7%
Other Reason	7%
Complaint	7%
Left the Community/Relocated	3%
Conflict with Parent/Gaurdian	3%
Abuse by Spouse/Partner	3%
Decline	3%
Physical Health Issue	3%
Abuse by Parent/Gaurdian	3%
Descrimination by Parent/Gaurdian	3%

Foster Care

While a majority of individuals surveyed did not grow up in foster care, 30% had experience with the foster care system.
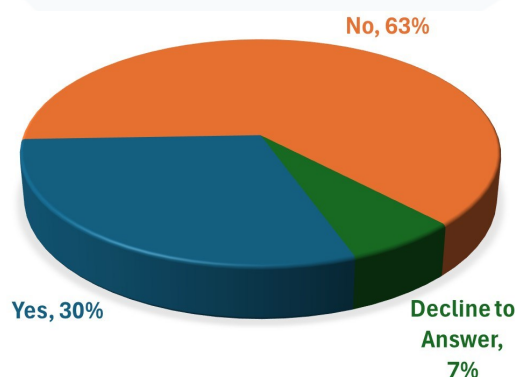
Figure 12: Foster care
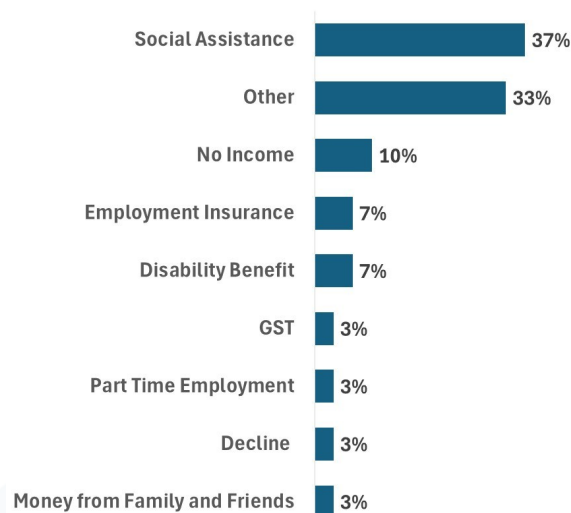

No, 63%
Yes, 30%
Decline to Answer, 7%

Origin and Citizenship

The survey data showed that one individual that was part of the homeless population in Yorkton was an asylum seeker, refugee, or immigrant.

Income

The primary source of income for respondents was social assistance (37%), while 10% indicated they had no income. Other sources of income included other (33%), employment insurance (7%), disability benefit (7%), and GST (3%). Smaller portions rely on part time employment (3%), and money from family and friends (3%).

Figure 13: Main source of income

Source	%
Social Assistance	37%
Other	33%
No Income	10%
Employment Insurance	7%
Disability Benefit	7%
GST	3%
Part Time Employment	3%
Decline	3%
Money from Family and Friends	3%

Families

Challenges are compounded when individuals experiencing homelessness have dependents, particularly children. 14% of respondents reported that they had a dependent.

Figure 14: Dependents
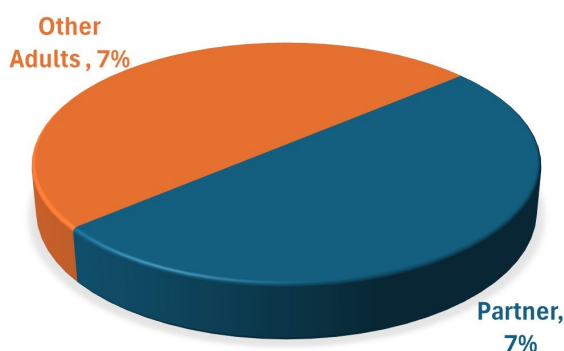
Other Adults, 7%
Partner, 7%

Veterans

Data gathered on veterans' status indicates that none of the respondents reported having a history of service in the military or RCMP.

Métis Nation Saskatchewan

Conclusion

The inaugural 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in Yorkton has provided critical baseline data about homelessness in this southern Saskatchewan community. With 21 individuals (approximately 0.1% of the total population) identified as experiencing homelessness, this count offers valuable insights into a previously undocumented issue.

Several key findings stand out from this first count:

- **Indigenous overrepresentation:** 80% of individuals surveyed indicated they were Indigenous (60% First Nations, 17% Métis, and 3% reporting Indigenous ancestry), highlighting the continued impacts of systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities.

- **Chronic homelessness:** 46% of individuals counted were experiencing chronic homelessness, suggesting long-term barriers to stable housing that require comprehensive intervention strategies.

- **Early onset:** 53% of respondents first experienced homelessness between the ages of 11-30, pointing to the need for youth-focused prevention strategies.

- **Gender:** With men representing a 37% greater share of the homeless population in Yorkton it indicates that gender specific resources and aid may be required.

This initial PiT Count, led by the city of Yorkton in collaboration with MN-S, establishes a foundation for tracking changes in homelessness over time and evaluating the effectiveness of future interventions. The data gathered will be essential for developing targeted, community-specific solutions that address the unique needs of Yorkton residents experiencing housing instability.

As part of MN-S's broader initiative to document homelessness across Saskatchewan communities, this count contributes to provincial and national understanding of rural and southern homelessness. By continuing to conduct regular counts and expanding data collection efforts, Yorkton will be better positioned to develop evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce homelessness and improve housing security for all community members.

Count Definitions

Chronic Homelessness: An individual must have spent a total of at least six months (180 days) as homeless over the past year or have had recurrent episodes in the past three years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months staying in unsheltered locations, in emergency shelters, or staying temporarily with friends or family members. (Statistics Canada (2023))

Dependents: Individuals who rely on the respondent for financial, emotional, or physical support. This includes children, partners, or other adults.

Episodic Homelessness: Includes people who have been homeless for less than a year and have had fewer than four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (Human Services, 2012).

Sheltered: Includes people who are accessing emergency shelters available at minimal or no cost. Shelters include emergency shelters for people who are homeless and emergency shelters for people affected by domestic violence (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Homelessness: The "situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or

racism and discrimination." (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012)

Indigenous: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who identified as First Nations, Metis, Inuit or as having indigenous ancestry have been categorized as indigenous.

Point-in-Time Count: A method used to measure homelessness by conducting a survey or count on a specific day to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness at that time.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes people who are technically homeless because their current housing offers no prospect of permanence. Individuals in this group may be staying in residential treatment facilities, health facilities, group homes, jail/prison, transitional housing/second stage/short-term supportive housing, rooming houses, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Unsheltered: Includes people who lack housing and are not accessing emergency shelter. Individuals in this group may be staying on the street, in abandoned buildings, stairwells, sheds, parks, tents, vehicles, etc. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

Youth: Individuals captured in the Point in Time Count who are 18-24 years old have been categorized as youth. Individuals under age 18 are also included as youth where data is available.