

2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Count

OVERVIEW - Point in Time Homelessness Enumeration

The Point in Time homelessness enumeration is a count of individuals experiencing homelessness during a specific period. With funding from Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada and in partnership with the 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness (Calgary, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Red Deer and Wood Buffalo), the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, carried out a Point in Time (PiT) Count in the urban service area (Fort McMurray) on October 9th and 10th, 2024.

The PiT is a short, anonymous survey that is conducted during a specific 24-hour period window. However, this was extended by 2.5 hours to allow surveying at the Soup Kitchen a local meal preparation program located at North Life Church.

The information collected through the PiT Count Survey will assist with policy development and program design that is appropriate and relevant to the needs of those experiencing homelessness in the region.

Training - An in-person training session was held on October 1, 2024, from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM at the Jubilee building. Training covered safety protocols, survey completion, and addressed any volunteer questions or concerns. A total of 41 volunteers who consisted of RMWB, and homeless serving agency staff assisted with the PiT Count.

Survey Locations - Surveys were completed during the magnet event (Homeless Connect) that was held on October 9, 2024, at McDonald Island from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Surveys and enumerations were completed at Emergency Shelters, the Domestic Violence Shelter, Treatment Centres and Transitional Housing on the night of October 9, 2024.

A street count was conducted on October 9, 2024, from 7:00 PM to 12:00 Midnight. Three walking routes were developed: 1) Thickwood/Timberlea route; 2) Downtown route; 3) Gregoire/Waterways route. In addition, surveys were conducted on the morning of October 10th in encampments, the Drop In Center and Soup Kitchen at North Life Church.

As a token of appreciation, individuals who participated in the surveys inclusive of those screened out received an “everyone counts” lanyard and a \$5.00 gift card for Tim Horton’s or McDonalds.

Screening Questions - Screening questions were utilized to determine whether individuals were experiencing homelessness. If they were identified as experiencing homelessness they were then asked if they would like to voluntarily continue with the PiT Count Survey and verbal consent was obtained to proceed. All survey respondents were made aware that participation was voluntary, and they could opt out at any time and/or decline to answer any question.

Talley Sheets – were used to track individuals who declined to participate or appeared to be homeless and were observed only. A total of 29 individuals were observed.





KEY FINDINGS



152

People Identified as Homeless



120

PiT Count Surveys Completed



19

Children & ¹Other Adults



100

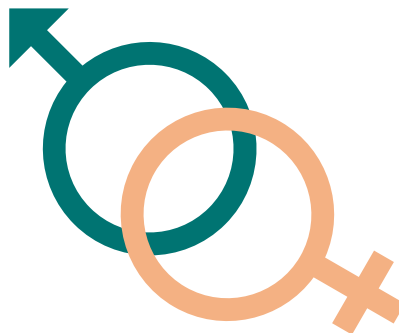
Shelter Enumerations Completed

63% Male

90% Identified sexual orientation as heterosexual

43

Average age of respondents



37% Female

7% Identified as other sexual orientation

31

Average age of first homeless experience



82%

Were Canadian Citizens



17%

Identified as Immigrants



3%

Served in the Canadian Military or RCMP

¹ Other adults are defined as those 18 and above who stayed with the survey respondent on the night of the count.





Categories of Homelessness

There are four categories to classify homelessness. The following shows the RMWB results for each category as per the survey responses of 132 inclusive of hidden homeless (couch surfing).



Emergency Shelter

Homeless shelter, hotel/motel, domestic violence shelter.

Hidden Homeless

staying with friends (couch surfing) with no permanent home to return to.

Unsheltered

Public space, street, park, abandoned building, encampments, vehicle including car, van, truck, RV.

Transitional Housing

Temporary accommodations to bridge people between homelessness and permanent housing.

Details of Where People Stayed During the Night of Count

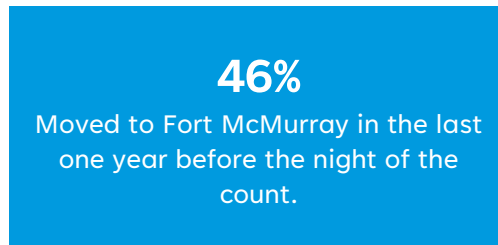
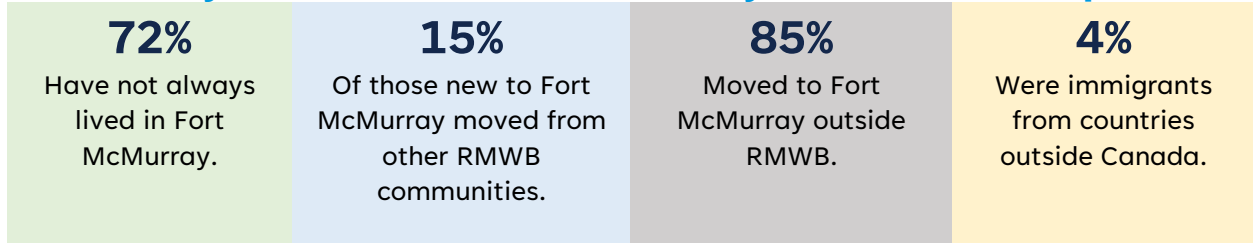
- 50% - Homeless shelter, hotel/motel, domestic violence shelter (e.g. Salvation Army Mat Program, Salvation Army Men's shelter, and Waypoints Unity house).
- 9% - Hidden homeless/Someone else's place (couch surfing).
- 20% - Unsheltered in a public space (e.g. street, park, abandoned building, and vehicle).
- 7% - Transitional housing (e.g. Waypoints second Stage housing, and Centennial House).
- 5% - Treatment center program (e.g. Mark Amy and Pastew Place).
- 7% - Encampment.
- 2% - Unsure of where to stay.

The average number of consecutive days individuals experienced homelessness in the past 12 months was **198 days** or roughly **7 months**.

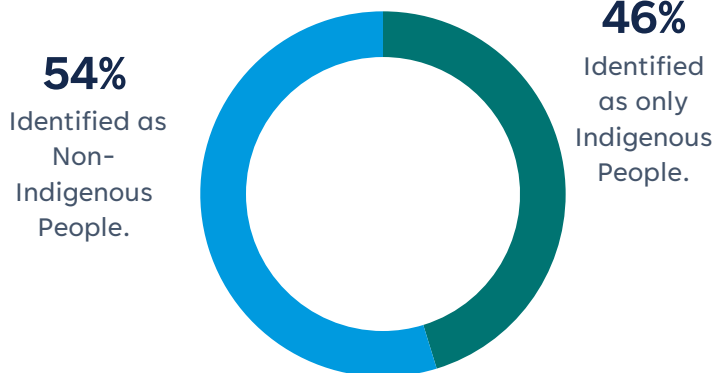




Residency Patterns in Fort McMurray's Homeless Population



Racial Identity



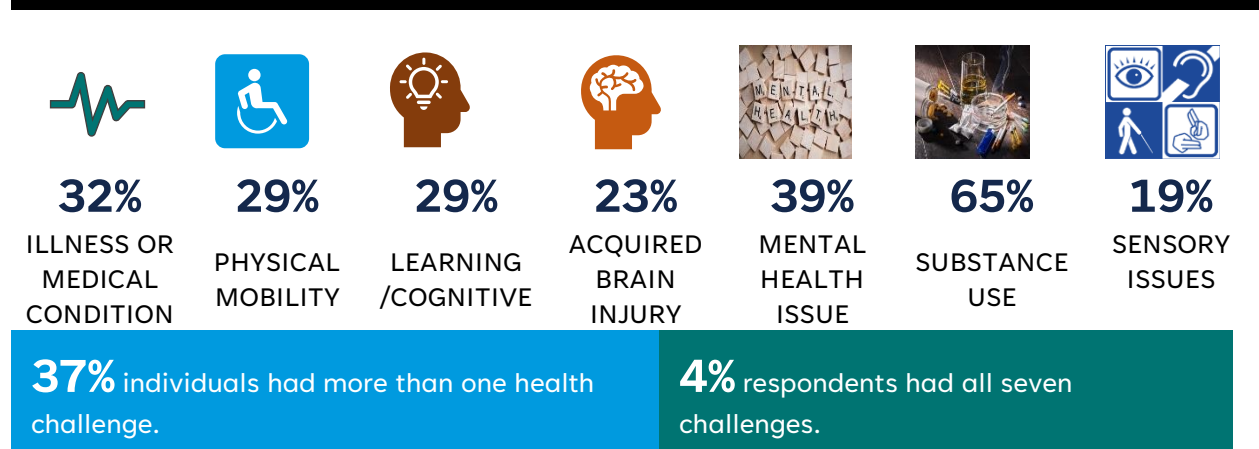
FOSTER CARE

- **28%** of respondents indicated they were in foster care as a child or youth.
- **26%** of those in foster care became homeless within a year of leaving.

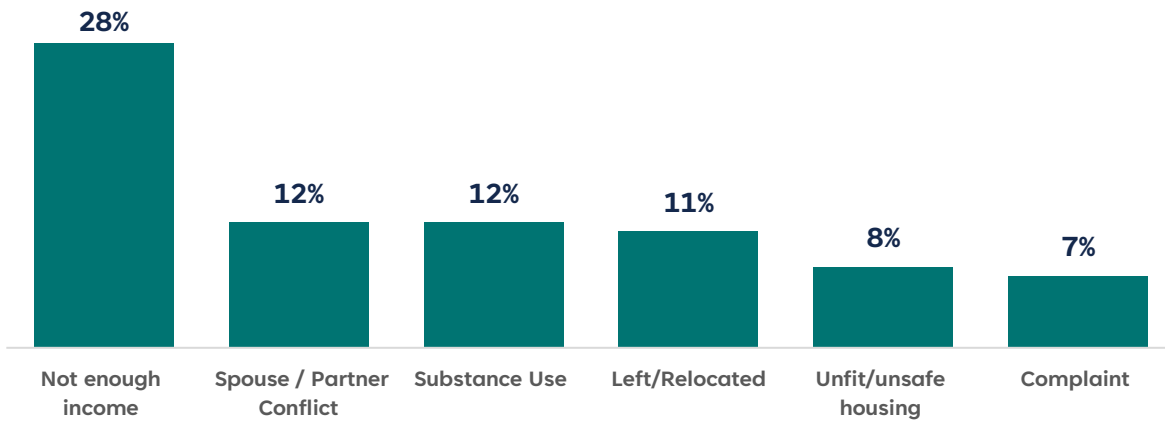




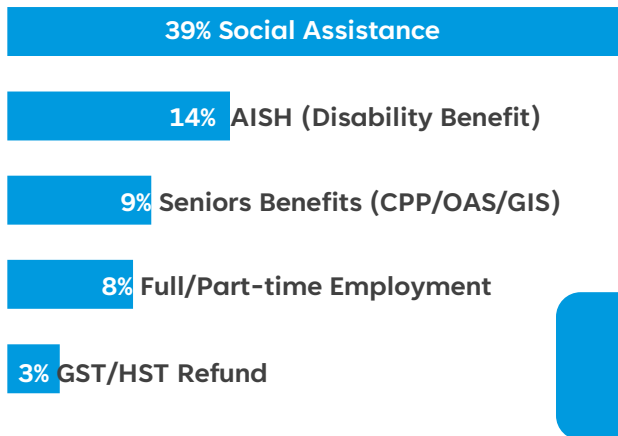
Health Challenges Identified by Respondents



Top Six Reasons for Most Recent Housing Loss



Major Income Sources



31% respondents reported no income.

