

2025 Point-In-Time Count Report

Overview

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) conducts an annual urban Point-in-Time (PiT) Count to measure homelessness within the community. The PiT Count provides a snapshot of the number of individuals experiencing homelessness during a defined period and identifies where they spent the night. Completion of the PiT Count is a requirement for all communities receiving federal Reaching Home funding.

Data collected through the PiT Count supports evidence-based policy development and informs the design of programs that respond to the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in the region. The PiT Count also serves two key purposes: estimating the number of individuals experiencing homelessness at a specific point in time and tracking changes in this population over time.

The 2025 enumeration was conducted in the urban service area of Fort McMurray from October 15 to 16, with support from 31 staff members from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and local agencies serving the homeless population.

Enumeration Details

A street count was conducted on October 15, 2025, from 8:00 p.m to 11:00 p.m. Three routes were established: Thickwood/Timberlea, Downtown, and Gregoire/Waterways. In addition, a count of known encampments was conducted on October 16, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Point-in-Time Count is a community effort, and the locations listed in the table below contributed administrative data on the night of October 15, 2025.

Location	Category of Homelessness
Edmonton Remand Centre	Systems
Fort McMurray RCMP - Cell Block	Systems
Mark Amy Treatment Centre	Systems
Alberta Health - Northern Lights Regional Health Centre	Systems
Pastew Place Detox Centre	Systems
Ross Residence	Transitional
The Salvation Army – Emergency Shelter	Sheltered
The Salvation Army – Mat Program	Sheltered
Support Services Wood Buffalo – Centennial House	Transitional
Waypoints – Unity House	Sheltered
Waypoints – Second Stage Women’s Shelter	Sheltered
Wood Buffalo Wellness Society – Sâkhitowin Recovery Home	Transitional
Woods Homes – Stepping Stones Youth Services	Sheltered



Categories of Homelessness

The 2025 enumeration results have categorized down into five categories of homelessness.

Hidden: Often referred to as couch surfing, involves individuals living temporarily with others without stable housing. Characterized by individuals who do not have a guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing.

Sheltered: Refers to individuals who are currently living in emergency shelters, extreme weather shelters, and domestic violence shelters. These shelters are specifically designed to temporarily accommodate people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Public Systems: Includes individuals currently spending the night in public health facilities, corrections facilities, rehabilitation, or detox programs who have no fixed address or identify a shelter or drop-in facility as their address.

Transitional: Temporary housing that serves as a bridge between emergency shelter and supportive or independent housing and has limits on lengths of stay.

Unsheltered: Individuals sleeping in spaces not intended for human habitation, including parks, streets, vehicles, abandoned buildings, and encampments.

Key Findings

The 2025 Point-in-Time Count results identified **205** individuals experiencing homelessness on the night of the count. The following shows the RMWB results for each classification of homelessness as per the enumeration and administrative data.



3%
Hidden



43%
Sheltered



22%
Systems



21%
Unsheltered



11%
Transitional



Details of Where People Stayed During the Night of Count

- 3% - Hidden Homeless (couch surfing) were identified from the Street Count.
- 43% - Sheltered Homeless were identified from Emergency and Domestic Violence Shelters.
- 11% - Systems Homeless were identified from correctional and health facilities.
- 11% - Systems Homeless were identified from treatment and detox facilities.
- 10% - Unsheltered Homeless were identified as sleeping in encampments.
- 11% - Unsheltered Homeless were identified as sleeping public.
- 11% - Transitional Homeless were identified from Recovery Homes.

