

PRINCE ALBERT HOMELESSNESS COUNT 2018



Living Skies Centre
for Social Inquiry



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION		p.4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		p.5
INTRODUCTION		p.6
1.0 UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS		p.7
2.0 POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS		p.8
3.0 MEASURING HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS		p.10
3.1	Definitions	p.10
3.2	Counting The Hidden Homeless	p.11
3.3	Methodological Issues	p.13
3.4	Applications	p.14
3.5	Hidden Homeless Discussion	p.15
4.0 PREPARATION		p.16
5.0 METHODOLOGY		p.17
5.1	Homeless Hot-Spotting	p.18
5.2	Street Count	p.20
5.3	Sheltered Count	p.21
5.4	Hidden Homelessness Estimate	p.21
6.0 RESULTS		p.23
6.1	Street Count Results	p.23
6.2	Sheltered Count Results	p.23
6.3	Combined Results of Street and Sheltered Count	p.24
6.3.1	<i>Demographics of Street and Sheltered Count</i>	p.24
6.3.2	<i>Accompanied by Family</i>	p.25
6.3.3	<i>Homelessness Initial Age, Duration and Frequency</i>	p.25
6.3.4	<i>Homeless Shelter Stay in Past Year</i>	p.25
6.3.5	<i>Reasons for Homelessness</i>	p.26
6.3.6	<i>Sources of Income</i>	p.26
6.3.7	<i>Exposure to Violence</i>	p.27
6.3.8	<i>Barriers to Housing</i>	p.27
6.4	Hidden Homelessness Estimate Results	p.28
6.4.1	<i>Housing Organization Data</i>	p.28
6.4.2	<i>Human Service Organization Data</i>	p.30
6.5	Predicting Homelessness	p.33
7.0 FINDINGS		p.35
8.0 LIMITATIONS		p.36
REFERENCES		
APPENDICES		



*To the many people in Prince Albert who have no place to call home,
may this report contribute towards a community effort
to help you find a place...that you can call home.*

*To all the human service professionals who helped with this count,
thank you for your time, energy and expertise.*

- Chad



PRINCE ALBERT HOMELESSNESS COUNT 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND	The Community Advisory Board for Prince Albert’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy requested a point-in-time winter homelessness count to better understand homelessness in Prince Albert. Results will be added to a national database used to track homelessness in communities across Canada.
DEFINITIONS	<p>Absolute Homeless - Individual has absolutely no place to stay—is on street, roaming around the community.</p> <p>Sheltered Homeless - Individual has no home of their own but is staying in some sort of shelter or facility at night.</p> <p>Hidden Homeless - Individual has no home of their own but is staying with friends, relatives or strangers (does NOT include lengthy seasonal visits).</p>
METHODS	<p>Homeless Hot-Spotting – the researcher and community partners, observed homeless locations and numbers on three separate nights leading up to the count. This helped identify suitable areas for the street count enumeration and survey.</p> <p>Street Count – On April 18, 2018, between 7pm and 2am, two teams drove/walked around Prince Albert and approached individuals on the street to participate in the count. In total, 30 homeless individuals were screened in and interviewed.</p> <p>Sheltered Count –Nine different human service agencies with clients staying in their facilities (voluntarily or mandated) on the night of April 18, 2018, gathered data from their clients using a survey provided by the researcher. In total, 47 homeless individuals were interviewed during the sheltered count.</p> <p>Agency Estimate – 3 housing organizations and 9 human service organizations reviewed their client data to provide estimates of homelessness type, duration, and demographics of individuals affected by homelessness.</p>
FINDINGS	<p>On the night of April 18, 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 77 individuals self-reported to be homeless. • 30 were staying on the street; 47 were staying in a shelter facility. • More females (53%) than males (47%) were involved in the count. • 92% of homeless respondents were Indigenous. • Most respondents were between the ages of 25 to 44. • Reasons for homelessness: addiction, inability to pay rent, family conflict. • Barriers to support: no housing, attitude, no references, no identification. <p>Based on results from the agency estimate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 1% and 10% of housing organization tenants host friends or family members affected by hidden homelessness. • On average, between 13% and 25% (in some cases = 100%) of human service organization clients are affected by homelessness. • The most common form of homelessness in Prince Albert is hidden homelessness. <p>Predictions based upon study findings suggest that at any given time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 (low) to 30 (high) individuals are affected by absolute homelessness. • 47 (low) to 198 (high) individuals are affected by sheltered homelessness. • 82 (low) to 347 (high) individuals are affected by hidden homelessness.

PRINCE ALBERT HOMELESSNESS COUNT 2018

INTRODUCTION

To gain a better understanding of homelessness in the community, the Community Advisory Board for Prince Albert's Homelessness Partnering Strategy commissioned the **Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry** to conduct a point-in-time homelessness count (PIT count). Held on April 18, 2018, this count involved the enumeration and survey of individuals on the street as well as those spending the night in various facilities throughout the community. The results of this count will not only be used for **local planning and development, but will be submitted to the National Homelessness Partnering Strategy for inclusion in a Canada-wide observation of homelessness¹.**

In addition to the PIT count, a hidden homelessness estimate was added as a supplementary component to the 2018 count. Based upon past methodological experience in Prince Albert (Nilson, Okanik & Watson, 2015), lessons found in the homelessness count literature, and local consultations with community organizations, the design of this hidden homelessness estimate provides a range of proximity that suggests a reasonable estimate of hidden homelessness in Prince Albert.

One purpose of this report is to describe the process by which Prince Albert's 2018 homelessness count was designed and implemented. Another purpose of this report is to present on the results and findings of both the PIT homelessness count and the agency estimate.

The first section of this report provides a brief understanding of homelessness, including the various contexts and definitions of the issue. The second section describes the rationale, design, benefits and limitations of point-in-time methodologies for research on homelessness. Within that section is an extensive look at estimates of hidden homelessness. Following this is an overview of the preparatory work that has gone into the planning and readiness of this PIT count. The fourth section of this report introduces the four-part methodology used to identify homelessness in Prince Albert. This is followed by a presentation of results and findings. The closing section of this report offers limitations to the methodology described herein.

¹For more information, see www.homelesshub.ca.



1.0 UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS

In Canada, there is no official definition of homelessness (Echenberg & Jensen, 2008). Quite often, defining homelessness involves selecting who is to be included in homeless counts—which often is affected by target groups for funding and service delivery (Peressini, McDonald & Hulchanski, 1996). Therefore, defining homelessness is a difficult and politicized task.

Depending on the purpose and use of the term ‘homelessness’, there are many different definitions associated with the homeless population. For example, some common terms used to define homeless populations are: **literally homeless, marginally homeless, sheltered/unsheltered homeless, visible homeless, outdoor/ street homeless, hidden homeless, relative homelessness, those at risk of homelessness**, etc. (Peressini, McDonald & Hulchanski, 1996; City of Calgary, 2006; City of Toronto, 2009; Belanger, Awosoga & Weasel Head, 2013; Turnham, Wilson & Burt, 2004; Echenberg & Jensen, 2008).

A concise definition of homelessness should be adopted for a homeless count, as it will be used to shape the methodology chosen for the count (Echenberg & Jensen, 2008; City of Calgary, 2009). Chopin and Wormith (2008) offer a comprehensive definition of homelessness that breaks down homelessness into four different categories of experiences: absolute homelessness; sheltered homelessness; hidden homelessness; and, those at risk of becoming homeless.

Absolute homelessness refers to individuals who do not have conventional housing and do not use shelters or safe houses. Individuals experiencing absolute homelessness may live on the street, in tents, or find shelter in buildings that are often not suitable for human habitation. Chopin and Wormith (2008) distinguish the sheltered homeless from the absolute homeless. Some researchers, however, include these first two categories under the umbrella of “absolute homelessness”; that is, homeless individuals on the street and those in shelters (Echenberg & Jensen, 2008; Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012; Mantel & Yung, 2000). According to Chopin and Wormith (2008), *sheltered homelessness* refers to the homeless sub-population that does not have permanent housing but makes use of shelters, emergency accommodation, transitional houses or safe houses.

Hidden homelessness refers to individuals who do not have permanent housing, but can stay with others such as family or friends in their residences to avoid being on the street. This is sometimes called ‘couch surfing.’ Finally, those *at risk* of becoming homeless are those who are on the brink of losing their housing, due to a host of reasons, such as: overpriced or inadequate housing, the termination of a relationship, etc. (Chopin & Wormith, 2008).

2.0 POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

One of the more commonly-used methods of estimating the extent of homelessness in a community is a point-in-time (PIT) count (Chopin & Wormith). Point-in-time homeless counts involve a simple enumeration of individuals on the street or in shelters, who self-identify as being homeless (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012; Chopin & Wormith, 2008; Findlay et al., 2012). Many PIT counts also involve a short survey (City of Toronto, 2009; Nilson, Okanik & Watson, 2015) or a comparative analysis of the data gathered in other years of the PIT count (City of Vancouver, 2012; Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2011; Sorenson, 2012).

Most PIT counts involve a team of researchers, community stakeholders and volunteers approaching potential respondents on the street or in shelter facilities. In their approach, the enumerators ask respondents for their informed consent to ask a number of questions concerning their social, economic, housing, and personal situations. Data are captured in surveys and brought back to the research team (Chopin & Wormith, 2008; Nilson, Okanik & Watson, 2015).

During the survey process, a number of different variables are explored. The most common variables include the number of unsheltered homeless people; the number of homeless individuals in emergency shelters; and demographic variables (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012; Chopin & Wormith, 2008; City of Calgary, 2006; City of Toronto, 2009; City of Toronto, 2006; City of Vancouver, 2012; Findlay et al., 2012; Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness, 2014; Kutzner & Ameyaw, 2010; Vracar, 2013; Wellington County, 2014).

In addition to the number of homeless individuals, other variables can also be drawn from emergency shelters (which could include prison or holding cells, detox, hospitals or short-term housing facilities), such as: information on the type of bed that is occupied—emergency or transitional; the involvement of child welfare and the capacity and occupancy of that shelter (City of Calgary, 2006). Similarly, previous counts range in their exploration of demographic variables—from relatively few—to several demographic variables, including, but not limited to: age; gender; sexual orientation; level of education and ethnicity; citizenship/newcomer status; employment status; income sources; community of origin or military status (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012; City of Toronto, 2009; Turner, 2015).

There are a number of important benefits to conducting PIT counts. One benefit is that they capture data from individuals in shelters and on the street. This provides a broader cross-section of information on homelessness in the community (Eberle, Kraus, Pomeroy & Hulchanski, 2001). Another advantage of the PIT method is the smaller reference period it allows. According to Mantel & Young (2000), a reference period is the time in which data are collected (e.g., March 22 between 8pm and 2am). Having a smaller reference period means that there are fewer opportunities to encounter duplicate entries (Echenberg & Jansen, 2008). A third benefit is that PIT counts create opportunities for multiple community partners to become involved in developing an understanding and ownership over homelessness (Laflamme, 2001).

Despite the PIT count's status as a standard practice in the literature on homeless counts, there are limitations to the method that should be explored. **As PIT counts provide only a 'snapshot' of the current status of the homeless population, they cannot be used to give a sense of the full homelessness situation in a city** (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012). At best, PIT counts give the minimum number of homeless individuals in a city (City of Vancouver, 2012). Since PIT counts only capture a 'snapshot' of the full experience of homelessness in a city, they also cannot be used to differentiate between short-term and long-term homelessness (Chopin & Wormith, 2008). Nonetheless, Condon & Newton (2007) note that the long-term homeless are likely to be over-represented in PIT counts, as they are more likely, **on any one day**, to be counted in a PIT count. According to Chopin & Wormith (2008) PIT counts do not capture any seasonal variations or other cyclical variations that impact the number of individuals enumerated in a homeless count.

3.0 MEASURING HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS

Counting the hidden homeless is not an easy task. As this brief literature scan shows, scientists have not yet arrived at a truly accurate counting of the number of hidden homeless in any given country, developed or not. Literature shows that there are many issues that come into play even when counting homeless that are readily visible (e.g. absolute/sheltered). When one tries to combine the count or estimation of the visible homeless with the potentially greater number of “hidden” homeless, estimations and counts tend to vary.

This brief literature scan will attempt to identify some of the issues surrounding the accurate count, or at least estimation of, hidden homelessness. We will first start with issue of definition, and look at the multiple definitions of hidden homelessness. We will then cover the various ways in which the hidden homeless can be counted or estimated—and explore methodological advantages and disadvantages. We will finally explore some interesting ways in which, despite the difficulties, scholarship has explored causes and effects of hidden homelessness.

3.1 DEFINITIONS

Who are the hidden homeless? The easiest answer is that the hidden homeless are those homeless that are not readily visible. What does that really mean? Why might the homeless not be seen? As opposed to the visible homeless, the hidden homeless are not readily visible because for various reasons, they are not on the street like the visible homeless, and/or they do not use shelters or services for their homelessness. On these basic points about the hidden homeless, most of the literature agrees.

However, there is wide variation on what people qualify to be hidden homeless. Some early definitions of the hidden homeless were based upon the fact that some homeless people “double-up” or “couch surf” by staying with friends or family so that they have a roof over their heads (McCallum, Ross & Esser-Stuart, 1993; Vacha & Marin, 1993). Such people’s condition of homelessness can be sporadic in nature—they might live for a while with a family member, then move onto the street, perhaps spend a week in a shelter, then double up with a friend or another family member. Refining this definition slightly, hidden homelessness has also been characterized as those people staying with someone else temporarily but who do not have a permanent address or security of tenure (Eberle, Kraus & Serge, 2009). In some definitions, people staying with family are excluded from the categorization of hidden homelessness. In fact, the United States does not recognize those staying with family as hidden homeless.

However, the definition of hidden homeless can be expanded beyond people simply finding a place to stay. Another specific definition of the hidden homeless are those people living among but not directly with the members of a residential population of a community (Agans, Jefferson et. al., 2014). Such people are those who may be living in such non-residential situations as cars, covered carports, porches, toolsheds, tents, campers, encampments and other situations where they are not housed as “regular” residential members of the community. Notice that this definition excludes the concept of doubling-up or couch surfing, as it implies that those who double up indeed are living with members of a residential population.

One attempt to make a typology of homelessness (Echenberg & Jensen, 2012) classifies homeless into absolute homeless (living on street or in emergency shelters), hidden or concealed homeless (living in cars, with family and friends or in an institution) and relative homeless (living in substandard housing or at risk of losing home). The classification further subdivides homeless into those who are roofless (living in emergency shelter or on the street), those who are houseless (living in non-emergency shelters or institutions), those living in insecure housing (and therefore under threat of violence or eviction), and those living in inadequate housing (living in overcrowded or unfit conditions). These expansive definitions of the homeless, and by extension the hidden homeless, may include people that for all intents and purposes may have roofs over their heads but whose living situations are precarious, unhealthy and even dangerous.

There have also been attempts and recommendations to widen the definition of hidden homelessness, or at least take some care to look at demographic groupings that might be more vulnerable to homelessness and undercounting. Some researchers include abused women or women-led families fleeing domestic violence situations because they are often homeless or inadequately housed and they often go uncounted (Miller & Du Mont, 2000). Another undercounted population is youth, simply because homeless youth are a highly mobile population that is diffused throughout communities and tends to move back and forth between the streets and habitations and institutions (Ringwalt, Greene et. al., 1998).

On the other side of the coin, there are arguments that certain populations might be overrepresented in the homeless population in general, and the hidden homeless population in particular. One study found that immigrant populations are overrepresented in the hidden homeless and a growing problem among immigrant communities. Family and cultural networks allow immigrant homeless to remain hidden and therefore not a recognized issue (Enns, 2005). Another study that focused on First Nations homelessness in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan found that lack of housing opportunities on the reserve led First Nations homeless to urban areas where they were still homeless but also able to access a variety of services (Peters & Robillard, 2007).

Of course, widening the definition of hidden homelessness to accommodate many groups runs the danger of rendering the idea of hidden homeless less useful for research and for discovery of meaningful solutions. An important issue in defining homeless and hidden homeless is the legal ramifications that can surround such definitions; and there are some arguments that the definition of the hidden homeless is becoming too broad and needs to be specific and targeted (Reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 2007). Taking notice of vulnerable populations that are often overlooked or overrepresented is a worthwhile goal, but should not come at the expense of understanding why hidden homelessness exists and what targeted remedies might be available.

3.2 COUNTING THE HIDDEN HOMELESS

There have been numerous studies outlining both the ways that the hidden homeless are counted and the issues surrounding the various methodologies. In general, hidden homeless are often counted through direct identification or indirect identification. Since it is nearly impossible to account for every single hidden homeless person, several researchers estimate from sample populations derived using both methods of identification.



Direct identification of hidden homeless consists of getting personal confirmation of a person's homeless status. Ways of identification include direct counts of homeless through surveys of random samples of a population, and interviews. In other words, direct contact is made in some way with a person who may be affected by hidden homelessness. For example, one early and seminal study researched the lifetime and 5-year prevalence of homelessness by random digit dialing of 1,507 adults in the 48 contiguous United States in 1990. Asked if they had ever been homeless and if so, where had they slept, 14% of respondents had been homeless in their lifetime and 4.6% of respondents had been homeless in the previous five years (Link, Susser et. al., 1994).

Another study sampled 6,496 adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 to determine the 12-month prevalence of homeless episodes among adolescents. The researchers used audiotaped and personal interviews so that the youth would feel some semblance of privacy and to make it easier for youth that have reading difficulties. The data revealed that 7.6% of those youth spent the night in a place other than home during the previous year, with 3.3% spending the night in a youth or public shelter, 2.2% in a public space or area, 2.2% outside, 1.1% with a stranger, 1% in an abandoned building and 0.4% underground. It also determined that boys were more likely than girls to report a homeless episode (Ringwalt, Greene & McPheeters, 1998). Both of these studies show that homelessness can affect a large percentage of a sampled group, but they do not easily allow for extrapolation to the population.

Other studies have tried to focus on indirect identification, and this seems to have been somewhat more effective in estimating the number of hidden homeless. Vacha and Marin (1993) used a survey of 470 clients of Spokane Neighborhood Centers to ask if they were currently sheltering or had sheltered homeless. They found 82 of the 470 clients were current shelter providers accounting for 156 hidden homeless, and an additional 191 had sheltered hidden homeless in the past. Similarly, MacCallum, Ross and Esser-Stuart (1993) used a random sample phone survey of 498 Alabama households to determine the extent of doubled-up housing arrangements, finding that 80 of those households had hosted a hidden homeless person in the previous year, and 20 of those 80 households had sheltered a family with children. More recently, a study in metro Vancouver, British Columbia gathered data via random-sample telephone surveys to identify host households, then followed up with qualitative interviews of the host households. Based on 1,027 surveys, 35 potential host households were targeted for follow-up. After applying their agreed-upon definition of hidden homelessness, the number of households was reduced to eight hosting twelve hidden homeless (Eberle, Kraus & Serge, 2009).

The previous studies were notable because they also included an effort to estimate and extrapolate the number of hidden homeless in a population. In the Alabama study, the data was used to estimate that potentially 215,000 Alabama households had hosted hidden homelessness and that 53,000 of those households had hosted children that might have otherwise been on the streets. In the Vancouver study, the data was extrapolated to estimate that there were 9,196 hidden homeless in Vancouver at the time of the survey, and that the estimated number of hidden homeless in Vancouver in the previous year was 23,593.

One very interesting and original method of discovering homeless population characteristics, services use and geographic distribution, was carried out by Metraux, Manjelievskaia et. al. (2016). They conducted an examination of the records of 143 decedents classified as homeless

at time of death by the Homeless Death Review Team of the City of Philadelphia’s Medical Examiner’s Office. They were able to categorize the decedents into three groups based on use of shelters and contact with homeless outreach services. Their categories consisted of those who used homeless shelters for 30 or more days in their lifetime, those who used shelters between 1-30 days over their lifetime, and those who had no record of shelter stays or contact with outreach services. The latter group was considered a proxy for the hidden homeless, and since 51% of the decedents fit that category, it indicated that a substantial number of Philadelphia’s homeless population experienced hidden homelessness, and that a substantial number of homeless persons are unlikely to be included in homelessness counts and surveys.

3.3 METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

Sampling households has been a common estimation method to try to get a sense of the homeless (and hidden homeless) population. Yet one of the methodological issues that is repeatedly brought up by critics, particularly those that advocate for the homeless, is that most estimations undercount the general homeless population, and definitely undercount the hidden homeless population.

In the United States, this disparity is demonstrated by two widely-quoted studies. The Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated the 1984 homeless population of the United States to be 250,000 – 350,000 people, while a figure released by the National Coalition for the Homeless that same year estimated the homeless population of the United States to be about 3 million people. Many counts rely on information provided by agencies about the number of clients they serve. However, provider agencies may be missed, rural and suburban homeless might not be counted, regional variations might not be adjusted for, and there may be discrepancies in time (with some agencies giving spot estimates and others estimates over a period of time)—and most of all, these methods miss the hidden homeless (Cryder-Coe, Salamon & Molnar, 1991).

This problem is not confined to the United States, as many Canadian estimates use the capacity of the country’s homeless shelters to arrive at their figures, but in doing so, only estimate a portion of the homeless. Some cities in Canada have used regression analysis based on past data or on interviews in key locations, but all of them acknowledge that their estimates are conservative and all of them also acknowledge the problems that time poses (Echenberg & Jensen, 2012).

There have been some efforts to overcome these underestimations. For example, a study in 2014 by Agans, Jefferson et.al. (2014) used a stratified sample of neighborhood networks in which they asked respondents over telephone to provide a total number of homeless that they observed on the property of their neighbors, and then used a multiplicity estimator that considered that multiple respondents would report some of the same homeless people. They then used that data to estimate a total of 18,622 homeless in the city and county of Los Angeles. The authors reported that their estimation exceeded standard household weighted estimates which showed 10,800 homeless individuals for the same time period. Furthermore, reliability testing showed that their method produced more reliable and accurate estimates.

Time, as already mentioned, introduces another methodological issue that can yield very different numerical estimates of both visible and hidden homelessness (Miller & Du Mont,

2000). Some studies, like this one, are “point-in-time” studies, which yield a snapshot of homelessness at the particular time the study takes place. Other studies are period prevalence counts, which count homelessness over a period of time. One problem with a point-in-time method is that such counts fail to capture intermittent homelessness. Another problem is that point-in-time studies tend to overestimate the chronically homeless. While period prevalence counts can capture intermittent homeless and allow more accurate counts of the chronically homeless, such studies are harder to conduct because of the time and expense to maintain the study over a longer time. Both types of counts tend to underestimate the homeless population because both can miss the hidden homeless (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2008).

Other methodological issues can stem from study design and issues with the people doing the counts. A 1992 critique of New York City’s S-Night, a count of homeless by the US Census Bureau in 1990, makes clear that personnel who were responsible for counting the homeless often violated Census Bureau procedures by not interviewing those who were homeless but instead doing spot counts by eye, or using inappropriate approaches to potential interviewees (Hopper, 1992). Sometimes, these departures from procedure were due to enumerators’ biases, fears or other issues with homeless because of their actions, appearances and even smells. In addition, factors beyond researchers’ control can also occur. The same critique highlights that some observers placed to monitor Census Bureau enumerators were not allowed by New York City police to do their jobs, and that press and even a gang of teenagers were responsible for disruptions to the process.

3.4 APPLICATIONS

Regardless of the problems of both counting homeless and getting accurate estimates of the hidden homeless, studies that look at hidden homelessness, both as cause and effect, can yield very interesting results. For example, a 2016 study by Low, Hallett & Mo (2016) studied how doubled-up homeless families differ from low-income housed families in terms of demographics, academics, and behavior problems. They found that students from families of migrant workers were more likely to be doubled-up, and that such students had significantly lower GPAs. Students who had recently transitioned from permanent housing into doubled-up housing had lower GPAs than those students who had been doubled-up for a year or more. Doubled-up students were more likely to not graduate on their first attempt, were more likely to be expelled, and were more likely to have had a school attendance review board meeting held on their behalf. In addition, female students in doubled-up situations fared worse than males.

Another study identified 21 hidden homeless through snowball sampling and conducted interviews with them to qualitatively ascertain themes (Watson, Crawley & Kane, 2016). Results suggested that hidden homeless suffer from a lack of social support and quality social interactions, and therefore experience a weakened social environment that increases stress, probability of chronic disease, social exclusion, and difficulties in managing the daily struggles of life. Over half of the interviewees were beneficiaries of government help, yet could not access safe and secure permanent housing. The authors argued that agencies must collaborate to meet current needs as well as focus on long-term successes for such clients, and to increase their outreach and build successful programs to tackle hidden homelessness.

Finally, an interesting study was conducted to correlate traumatic brain injury (TBI) with hidden homelessness (Hada, Long et.al, 2017). The authors found that hidden homeless are more likely to be younger, experience less social support, have problems with job stability and, have lower educational levels. Such hidden homeless are also more likely to experience a TBI, as well as substance abuse, and psychiatric hospitalizations prior to a TBI, and anxiety and depression after a TBI.

3.5 HIDDEN HOMELESS DISCUSSION

Counting the hidden homeless creates a unique set of opportunities but also carries a lot of risk. Many of the difficulties associated with counting the visible homeless population also apply to counting the hidden homeless—yet designation as hidden homeless adds other problems. Definitions become very important in classifying who is experiencing hidden homelessness and who is not. As reported above, there are many definitions of hidden homelessness ranging from narrow to broad in scope. Researchers who wish to count the hidden homeless must decide upon a reasonable definition that will meet their needs, and that definition may not only lead to methodological issues and design considerations, but may also have legal and political ramifications—not to mention consequences on the final counts or estimations.

Once a definition is agreed upon, identifying the hidden homeless under that definition can be problematic and will entail considerations of methods, such as whether to do counts, surveys, interviews or some other method. Also important is consideration of the time period of study and whether it will be a point-in-time study or a longer-term period prevalence study. In addition, counts can succeed or suffer based upon the personnel employed to run and carry out the day-to-day demands of the study, and therefore training considerations must be considered.

Finally, researchers must also realize that no agreed-upon methods have yet yielded definitive counts of the hidden homeless, and most studies acknowledge that they have most likely undercounted the hidden homeless. However, that does not mean that meaningful identification, counting and research of the hidden homeless is not possible, as many interesting studies have been conducted despite the myriad difficulties.

4.0 PREPARATION

To undertake the 2018 homelessness count in Prince Albert, there were a number of preparations required of the Community Advisory Board, as well as the research team. Some of these preparations were standard practices in PIT homelessness counts, whereas others were suggested by the National Homelessness Partnering Strategy. The following bullets summarize activities undertaken in preparation of the homeless count described herein.

- Selection of a PIT count team and PIT coordinator.
- Identify key tasks to accomplish for the PIT count (see appendices).
- Identify project assets and funder requirements for the PIT count (see appendices).
- Complete a scan of homelessness count methodologies implemented in other jurisdictions (see appendices).
- Conduct consultations with homelessness stakeholders on location, engagement strategies, data collection, and count logistics.
- Mobilize a *Point-in-Time Count Consultative Group* to support the PIT Count Coordinator, engage homelessness stakeholders, and maximize effectiveness of the PIT count.
- Develop *Terms of Reference* for the PIT Count Committee (see appendices).
- Review optional, mandatory, and local questions for the street and shelter surveys (see appendices).
- Develop a volunteer waiver for members of the PIT count team (see appendices).
- Create a list of training topics to cover with PIT count team (see appendices).
- Recruit volunteers to the PIT count team.
- Engage shelter facilities in the sheltered count methodology planning.
- Create a Hot-Spotting Map to monitor homelessness areas prior to the count (see appendices).
- Finalize Street Count Survey and Sheltered Count Survey.
- Plan logistics and gather supplies for the PIT count.
- Take training in HIFIS (Homeless Individuals and Families Information System) data entry and storage.
- Meet with shelter agencies participating in the count.
- Conduct PIT homelessness count.
- Consult with community partners to participate in the hidden homelessness estimate.
- Coordinate collection of data from housing and human service organizations.
- Gather shelter data from partner agencies.
- Enter data onto Excel and HIFIS.
- Analyse data from street count, sheltered count, and hidden homelessness estimate.
- Prepare report and dissemination materials.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this homeless count had four primary influences. One is the practices of other **Canadian city homeless counts**. The second is leading research recommendations described in the literature. The third is the national *Homeless Partnering Strategy* point-in-time recommendations and training provided by Employment and Social Development Canada. The final influence is consultations with Prince Albert human service providers who are engaged with individuals affected by homelessness.

With respect to the latter's influence on this methodology, the research team held consultations with several key stakeholders from the housing and human service sectors engaged with Prince Albert's homeless population. This consultation process helped determine the date and timing of the count; what relevant information to request from the homeless community; hot-spotting of areas where homeless people are likely to be found; the determination of what community facilities to include/participate in the sheltered homeless count; as well as the organization, skills, and training necessary for the street count team. The consultation process was also helpful in determining suitable organizations to approach for participation in the hidden homelessness estimate.

Overall, the most important asset to both the PIT count and hidden homelessness estimate has been the various housing and human service organizations that took the time to contribute their expertise, knowledge and data. Table 1 shows the different roles of each agency involved in this homelessness count.

Table 1. **Organizations and their Roles in 2018 Prince Albert Homelessness Count**

AGENCY	METHODS CONSULT	HOT SPOTTING	SHELTERED COUNT	HIDDEN ESTIMATE
Access Place	•	•		
Bridges to Employment				•
Cold Weather Shelter (YWCA)	•		•	
Homeward Bound (YWCA)	•			
Indian Métis Friendship Centre	•			
MACSI			•	
Mobile Crisis Unit	•	•	•	•
Native Co-ordinating Council				•
Northern Spruce Housing	•			
Our House (YWCA)	•	•	•	
PA Outreach (Van)	•	•		
Prince Albert Community Housing				•
Prince Albert Detox			•	
Prince Albert Housing Authority				•
Prince Albert Police Service	•	•	•	
Prince Albert Metis Women’s Association	•			•
Prince Albert Safe Shelter			•	
Regional Newcomer Centre (YWCA)				•
River Bank Development Corporation	•			•
Social Services – Child Protection	•			
Social Services – Income Assistance	•			•
Valley Hill Youth Treatment Centre	•		•	
West Flat Community Centre	•			•
Won-Ska Cultural School		•		
YWCA Prince Albert	•		•	

The resulting methodology has four components. These include hot-spot mapping before the count, a street count, a sheltered count, and a hidden homeless agency estimate. The following sub-sections explain the design and implementation of each part of the methodology.

5.1 HOMELESS HOT-SPOTTING

To identify areas in Prince Albert that are common for observing homelessness, the research team reached out to community partners whose staff are familiar with locations of vulnerable individuals, or whose staff are mobile during the evening hours. The latter group included Mobile Crisis Unit, Prince Albert Police Service, and an anonymous taxi company. Along with the research team, these community partners tracked *observed* homelessness on three different nights leading up to the count. The purpose of this hot-spotting exercise was to develop an informed sense of where individuals affected by homelessness may be reachable during the actual PIT count. While hot-spotting, observers were asked to watch for certain behaviours and/or characteristics that are associated with homelessness (e.g., backpack, wondering aimlessly, sitting/sleeping, seen in various locations).

On three evenings leading up to the PIT count, the research team and community partners conducted 10 different hot-spotting sessions. These sessions involved driving around Prince

Albert and tracking observed homelessness throughout the evening hours. Observers were asked not to approach or communicate with individuals they observe to be homeless. Table 2 summarizes the hot-spotting observations of each observer. The numbers in the columns represent the total number of individuals observed to be homeless, for each night, by observer.

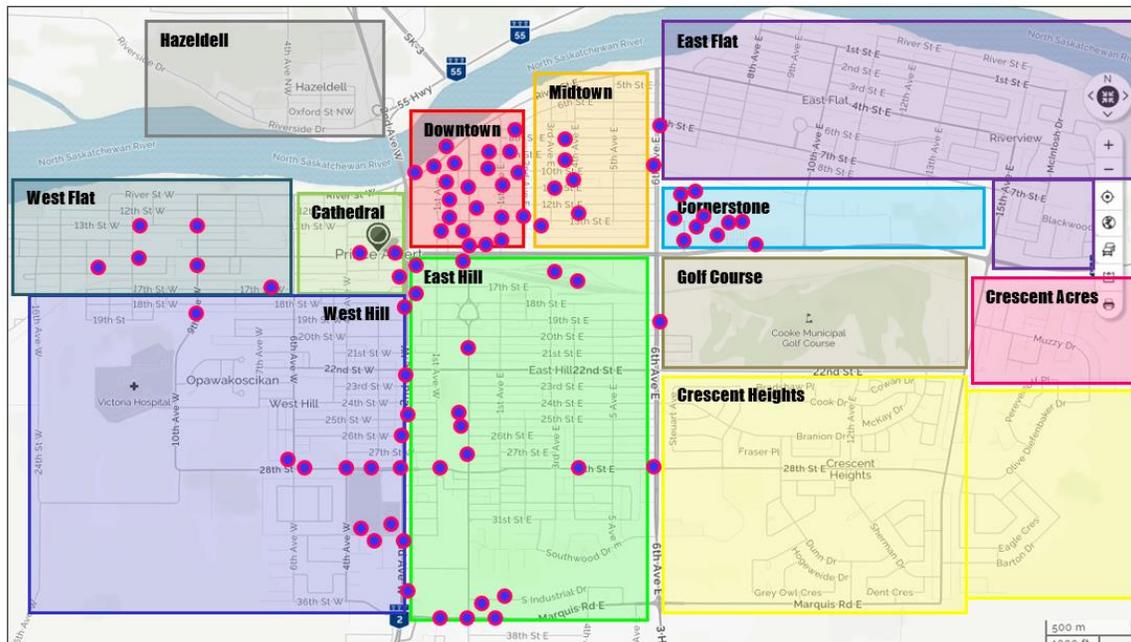
Table 2. Homeless Hot-Spotting Observations by Observer and Date (N = 82)

OBSERVER	APRIL 13	APRIL 15	APRIL 16
Prince Albert Police Service	-	15	3
Mobile Crisis Unit	12	3	4
taxi company	-	7	2
research team	19	9	8

To track information during the hot-spotting effort, the research team created a map of Prince Albert that included 12 different zones. While hot-spotting, the research team and community partners identified locations of homelessness by placing dots on the map, and captured the number of individuals in each zone by placing numbers in the table (see appendices). The result was a more informed understanding of the intensity and geography of observed homelessness in Prince Albert.

As Figure 1 shows, a majority of the homelessness observations were made in the *downtown* zone, with several observations spread throughout a few of the other zones.

Figure 1. Observed Homelessness Prior to the PIT Count



Where intensity is concerned, the research team and community partners tracked the number of observations made each time they went out to observe homelessness. As Table 3 shows, the most common area for observing homelessness was “downtown” followed by “east hill”, “west hill” and “cornerstone”.

Table 3. Numbers of Observed Homelessness by Zone During Hot Spotting (N = 82)

ZONE	N
Downtown	22
Midtown	6
Cathedral	3
West Flat	6
East Flat	2
Cornerstone	10
Golf Course	1
West Hill	11
East Hill	20
Crescent Heights	1
Crescent Acres	0
Hazeldell	0

The information gathered during the hot-spotting exercise helped the research team prepare for the PIT count on April 18. This information also provides some very general understandings of the extent to which homelessness is observable in Prince Albert.

5.2 STREET COUNT

To both enumerate and survey homeless individuals on the street, the research team drove and walked throughout different zones on the night of April 18, 2018. Between 7pm and 2am, two sets of survey teams scanned different parts of the city. One survey team included a female First Nations Elder, two female human service providers, and a male research lead. The other survey team included a male human service provider, female human service provider, and male First Nation Elder. Throughout the evening, the two teams kept in regular contact via cell phone.

To capture data, the survey teams administered voluntary surveys to individuals who provided informed consent to be surveyed for the PIT count. If individuals chose not to be in the survey, or were not able to participate in the survey (e.g., sleeping), and still appeared to be homeless, some basic demographic information was captured on a tally sheet.

The questions on the *Street Count Survey* (see appendices) were largely influenced by the national survey provided by *Employment and Social Development Canada*. In addition to questions required by the national effort, the survey also contained local questions added by the research team. Overall, the survey collects information on respondent demographics, reasons for homelessness, their sources of income, barriers to support, and whether they had been exposed to violence. While some of the questions were open-ended, a majority were fixed-item response.

To identify potential interview participants, the research team approached individuals who were walking around or sitting in the homelessness hot-spots identified through the consultation and mapping process. To eliminate bias, all individuals in these hotspots were approached by the research team—regardless of whether they were wearing a designer suit or donned a backpack and roughed up clothing. The following opening remarks were recited to individuals on the

street: “Hello there, we’re conducting research on homelessness in Prince Albert and wanted to see if we could chat with you. Your participation is voluntary, and we don’t want your name or anything identifiable. Do you have a few short minutes to answer some questions?”

Prior to the survey process, respondents were asked a number of screening questions. If they identified that they had a permanent residence to return to that night, they were screened out of the survey. Another screening question to ensure that people would not be interviewed more than once was also included. Once screened into the survey process, respondents were asked 16 different questions. Following the interview, participants were offered a snack and bottle of water or soda. Questions were asked and responses were recorded by a member of the research team. On average, interviews lasted 5 to 7 minutes per individual.

5.3 SHELTERED COUNT

On the same night of the street count, a sheltered homelessness count was conducted by agencies that were sheltering (voluntary or mandated) individuals who were without a home at the time of their stay with that agency. During the count, those agencies included YWCA Prince Albert, Prince Albert Police Service, Mobile Crisis Unit, Cold Weather Shelter, Our House, Prince Albert Safe Shelter, Brief and Social Detox, MACSI (Metis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan), and Valley Hill Youth Detox Centre.

Using a census count design (Mantel & Yung, 2000), the research team developed a *Sheltered Count Survey* (see appendices). This instrument solicited the same information from the homeless population as the street count, however, was designed for service providers to complete with or on behalf of their clients (depending on literacy skills and coherence).

Agency staff were briefed by the lead researcher prior to the sheltered count. They were asked to complete the count the night of April 18, 2018. Staff were requested to inform clients that their participation in the count was voluntary, and that no identifiable information would be gathered on the forms.

Screening questions were included to ensure that individuals who may have already completed the survey with the street count research team were not duplicated in the data. Variables measured through the *Sheltered Count Survey* were identical to those in the *Street Count Survey*.

5.4 HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS ESTIMATE

In an effort to establish some understanding of hidden homelessness in Prince Albert, a hidden homeless estimate was conducted. This part of the methodology involved outreach to human service organizations for data on observed hidden homelessness among their clients. In particular, two different instruments were created (see appendices). One was given to housing organizations exclusively, and the other was given to both housing organizations and other human service organizations.

The *Housing Organization Hidden Homeless Report Form* asked housing organizations to provide hidden homeless estimates based upon observations of their tenants—regardless of whether or not couch-surfing was permitted in their buildings. Housing organizations were also asked to

provide general information on the age cohort, ethnic group, and duration of hidden homelessness they believed to be observing.

The second instrument used in the hidden homeless estimate was the *Agency Hidden Homeless Report Form*. This form asked organizations to identify a set pool of clients (e.g., new intakes in August = 50), and from within that pool, identify some anonymous information about their clients who were hidden homeless, including: age, gender, and ethnicity, as well as frequency, duration, and suspected reasons of homelessness.

6.0 RESULTS

Results from the PIT count are presented in three different subsections. The first subsection examines some of the basic results that are exclusive to the street count. Similarly, the second section presents results that are exclusive to the sheltered count. The third subsection presents combined results from the street and sheltered count. The fourth section presents results of the agency estimate.

6.1 STREET COUNT RESULTS

During the street count, 33 individuals were approached to be surveyed. Of these individuals, 3 were screened out because they were not homeless, and 30 were screened in and agreed to participate in the survey. Although the two research teams covered all zones in the city, interviews with the 30 participating respondents only took place in the downtown zone (see Table 4).

Table 4. Number of Street Count Interview Locations by Zone (*N* = 30)

ZONE	<i>N</i>
Downtown	30
Midtown	0
Cathedral	0
West Flat	0
East Flat	0
Cornerstone	0
Golf Course	0
West Hill	0
East Hill	0
Crescent Heights	0
Crescent Acres	0
Hazeldell	0

6.2 SHELTERED COUNT RESULTS

During the night of the count, 7 of the 9 shelter agencies were able to provide completed surveys from individuals reporting to be homeless (the other 2 had no homeless with them the night of the count). The two shelter agencies returning the most surveys were YWCA Prince Albert (*n* = 10) and Our House (*n* = 17). The remaining agencies returned anywhere from 2 to 9 completed surveys. In total, 47 surveys were completed during the sheltered count (see Table 5).

Table 5. Agency Reporting of Sheltered Homelessness (N = 47)

AGENCY	N
Prince Albert Police Service	0
Mobile Crisis Unit	2
YWCA Prince Albert	10
Cold Weather Shelter	3
Our House	17
Prince Albert Safe Shelter	7
Brief and Social Detox	6
Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan	0
Valley Hill Youth Treatment Centre	2
TOTAL	47

6.3 COMBINED RESULTS OF STREET AND SHELTERED COUNT

Outside of the aforementioned data points, the remaining variables captured by the *Street Count Survey* and *Sheltered Count Survey* were identical. For ease of readability, the remaining results of the 2018 PIT homelessness count will be presented together.

6.3.1 Demographics of Street and Sheltered Count

Results from the street and sheltered count reveal that individuals affected by homelessness range in age from under 18 up to 65 or older—with most falling between the age of 25 and 44. A high proportion of homeless individuals in the counts identified as First Nation. In both counts, there were slightly more females affected by homelessness than males. Almost no respondents had a military/RCMP background, and none recently immigrated to Canada (see Table 6).

Table 6. Demographics of Street/Sheltered Count Respondents (N = 77)

VARIABLE	VARIANT	N (%)
Gender	male	36 (46.75%)
	female	41 (53.25%)
Age	18 or under	5 (6.49%)
	19 to 24	10 (12.98%)
	25 to 34	24 (31.16%)
	35 to 44	20 (25.97%)
	45 to 54	11 (4.28%)
	55 to 64	6 (7.8%)
	65 or older	1 (1.3%)
Ethnicity	Indigenous	71 (92.21%)
	Non-Indigenous	6 (7.79%)
Military/RCMP Background	yes	2 (2.60%)
	no	75 (97.40%)
Immigrant to Canada (past 5 years)	yes	0 (-)
	no	76 (98.7%)
	missing	1 (1.29%)

6.3.2 Accompanied by Family

During the PIT count, respondents were asked if anyone else was with them on the street or in the shelter. A majority (90%) were alone while 7 reported being accompanied by a family member. Of those who were accompanied by others, street count respondents were accompanied by their partners or other adults, and shelter count respondents were accompanied by their children (see Table 7).

Table 7. Respondents Accompanied by Family (N = 77)

VARIANT	N (%)
Yes	7 (0.09%)
No	70 (90.0%)

6.3.3 Homelessness Initial Age, Duration and Frequency

Data gathered during the point-in-time count revealed there to be considerable variation in the initial age, duration, and frequency of homelessness. As Table 8 shows, there are no solid trends among respondents in the street or sheltered count.

Table 8. Age, Frequency & Duration of Homelessness (N = 77)

VARIABLE	VARIANT	N (%)
How old were you when you first became homeless?	0 to 17 years	26 (33.77%)
	18 to 24 years	15 (19.48%)
	25 to 34 years	17 (22.08%)
	35 to 44 years	6 (7.79%)
	45 to 54 years	1 (1.30%)
	55 to 64 years	5 (6.49%)
	65 to 67 years	1 (1.30%)
	68 years and over	1 (1.30%)
In past year, how much of the time have you been homeless	0 to 2 months	14 (18.18%)
	3 to 5 months	12 (15.58%)
	6 to 12 months	42 (54.55%)
	missing	9 (11.68%)
In past year, how many different times have you experienced homelessness?	once	26 (33.77%)
	twice	16 (20.78%)
	three or more times	24 (31.17%)
	missing	11 (14.28%)

6.3.4 Homeless Shelter Stay in Past Year

When it comes to a homeless shelter stay among respondents, a majority (76.6%) of respondents had accessed a homeless shelter in the past year (see Table 9).

Table 9. Respondent Stayed in a Homeless Shelter Within Past Year (N = 77)

	N (%)
yes	59 (76.62%)
no	15 (19.48%)
decline	0 (0%)
missing	3 (3.89%)

6.3.5 Reasons for Homelessness

During both the street count and sheltered count, respondents were asked to provide their own explanations for why they were experiencing homelessness. As Table 10 shows, the most common reason for respondents to become homeless is addiction followed by inability to pay rent and family conflict with a spouse or partner.

Table 10. Respondent-Reported Reasons for Why They Are Homeless (N = 77)

REASON	N (%)
illness or medical condition	4 (5.19%)
addiction or substance use	23 (29.87%)
job loss	6 (7.79%)
evicted: unable to pay rent	17 (22.08%)
domestic abuse: spouse or partner	6 (7.79%)
domestic abuse: parent or guardian	1 (1.30%)
family conflict: spouse or partner	17 (22.08%)
family conflict: parent or guardian	4 (5.19%)
left care (e.g. foster care)	8 (10.38%)
incarcerated	5 (6.49%)
unsafe housing conditions	7 (9.09%)
don't know	6 (7.79%)

6.3.6 Sources of Income

When asked to identify their source(s) of income, respondents from the street count identified income assistance, informal self-employment, employment, and money from others. Slightly over half of all respondents in the sheltered count identified income assistance as a source of income. In total, 8 respondents in the overall PIT count reported having no source of income (see Table 11).

Table 11. Respondent-Reported Sources of Income (N = 77)

INCOME SOURCE	N (%)
employment	6 (7.79%)
informal self-employment*	1 (1.30%)
employment insurance	1 (1.30%)
income assistance	42 (54.55%)
disability benefit	6 (7.79%)
seniors benefit	1 (1.30%)
child and family tax benefit	2 (2.60%)
money from friends/family	1 (1.30%)
other	2 (2.60%)
no income	16 (20.78%)
decline	3 (3.89%)

* self-employment income (e.g. panhandling, bottle return, boosting)

6.3.7 Exposure to Violence

One of the local questions asked of survey respondents was whether they had ever been exposed to violence while being homeless. Results show that within both the street count (57%) and the sheltered count (43%), several respondents had been exposed to violence (see Table 12).

Table 12. Respondent Reports Being Exposed to Violence (N = 77)

	Street Count (N = 30)	Sheltered Count (N = 47)	TOTAL (N = 77)
yes	17 (56.66%)	20 (42.55%)	37 (48.05%)
no	8 (26.66%)	8 (17.02%)	16 (20.77%)
missing	5 (16.66%)	19 (40.4%)	24 (31.16%)

6.3.8 Barriers to Housing

During both the sheltered and street count, respondents were asked to identify what they felt were the biggest barriers of support to services in the community. Table 13 summarizes a variety of barriers given by respondents. Some of these are systemic in nature—such as service limitations; others are situational (e.g. no transportation); societal (e.g. stigma); and some are personal (e.g. poor attitude).

Table 13. Respondent Reports of Barriers to Service Supports

BARRIERS IDENTIFIED BY RESPONDENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lengthy intake processes that need lots of personal information. • Many services require sobriety. • Services require address, identification, and housing. • Having to pay child support. • Limited evening and weekend hours. • My own attitude and resistance to help. • Not knowing what help is available. • Self-procrastination and not showing up for appointments. • Lack of available shelters. • Low mental health support. • Limited availability of support for men. • No services for male victims of abuse. • Discrimination and stigma. • Low recognition and understanding of mental health. • Most services are geared toward Aboriginal people. • Lack of good references to find my own place. • Cannot get children back until I have my own housing—which I cannot find. • Income assistance is not enough to live on. • So many drugs and alcohol to get mixed up in around PA. • Hard to access transportation to appointments. • Fear of running into my ex-partners at services or in the community. • Limited options to stay when you don't know anyone in the community. • It is hard to ask for help. • Life is too chaotic to stay in a program for long. • Having no stable address makes things difficult. • Not having a driver's license makes finding work a challenge. • Cannot get onto the training allowance unless have filed income tax. • Hard to communicate to service providers without a phone. • Nobody likes to help a drunk. • Long waitlists for housing. • Low subsidies for rent. • Hard to maintain my addiction treatment in this city. • No access to treatment when we want it. • We all help each other out on the street, like a family—which also makes it hard to climb out of this lifestyle because its one never-ending party.

6.4 HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS ESTIMATE RESULTS

As described in the methodology, the estimation of hidden homelessness involved two points of data collection. Data from housing organizations were gathered using the *Housing Organization Hidden Homeless Report Form*. Data from other human service organizations were gathered using the *Agency Hidden Homeless Report Form*.

6.4.1 Housing Organization Data

During this study, homelessness estimate data were provided by three separate housing organizations. These include River Bank Development Corporation, Prince Albert Housing Authority, and Prince Albert Community Housing Society. The instrument asked respondents some background questions on the organizations. All three organizations reported that they routinely monitor the presence of hidden homelessness within their units, and that even though couch-surfing is not allowable, they witness it periodically. The tool also asked housing organizations to identify the number of units managed by their organization, and the number of tenants they suspected were currently housing hidden homeless individuals. As Table 14 shares, all three organizations observed at least 10 different tenants hosting individuals affected by hidden homelessness.

Table 14. **Observed Tenants Hosting Hidden Homeless in Housing Organization Units**

ORGANIZATION	N of Units	N of Hidden Homeless	% of Units Hosting Hidden Homelessness
A	97	10	10.3%
B	953	12	1.3%
C	92	14	15.2%

Some additional information from the housing organizations reveals variation in the demographics of individuals affected by hidden homelessness. While some housing organizations observed mostly males and Indigenous persons to be in this cohort, others observed different gender and ethnic groups to be affected by hidden homelessness (see Table 15).

Table 15. **Observed Hidden Homeless Demographics from Housing Organizations**

VARIABLE	VARIANT	ORGANIZATION		
		A	B	C
Gender	mostly male		•	
	mostly female			
	both	•		•
Age	18 or under	•		
	19 to 24	•		•
	25 to 34	•	•	•
	35 to 44	•	•	•
	45 to 54	•		
	55 to 64	•		•
	65 or older	•		•
Ethnicity	Indigenous	•	•	•
	Non-Indigenous	•		•

6.4.2 Human Service Organization Data

After reaching out to 14 human service organizations, data for the *Agency Hidden Homeless Reporting Tool* was returned by 9 organizations. These organizations include, Prince Albert Mobile Crisis, Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services – Income Assistance, CFSPA Bridges to Employment, Native Coordinating Council, Prince Albert Community Housing Society, River Bank Development Corporation, Prince Albert Metis Women’s Association, YWCA Regional Newcomer Centre, and West Flat Citizens Group.

The purpose of this exercise was to get a sense of the extent to which agencies are able to report on homelessness, and more so, provide a preliminary glimpse of hidden homelessness in Prince Albert. As Table 16 shows, between June and September 2018, several agencies were able to report that some of their Prince Albert-based clients had been affected by homelessness.

Table 16. **Completed Homeless Report Forms from Human Service Organizations**

ORGANIZATION	CLIENT POOL	N OF HOMELESS CLIENTS	RATIO OF HOMELESSNESS
1	14	2	14%
2	40	2	5%
3	246	23	9%
4	50	50	100%*
5	92	14	15%
6	12	1	8%
7	237	92	38%
8	931	101	11%
9	7	0	0%
Average			22% (13%)^

* This organization supports new immigrants/refugees to Canada. All of their clients are homeless until they are able to access housing.

^ 13% represents the total ratio when Organization #4 is withdrawn from the total calculation.

Demographics of Homeless Agency Clients

Demographic data from the agency estimates show that similar to results from the street and sheltered count, there is very little difference in the gender of homeless clients. A large proportion of homeless individuals are First Nation, and more tend to be between the ages of 25 and 34 (see Table 17).

Table 17. Demographics of Homeless Clients in the Overall Agency Estimate*

VARIABLE	VARIANT	# OF HOMELESS OBSERVED (N = 287)
Gender	male	97
	female	72
	<i>missing</i>	116
Age	under 18	4
	19 to 24	28
	25 to 34	61
	35 to 44	49
	45 to 54	21
	55 to 64	15
	65 or older	5
	<i>missing</i>	104
	Ethnicity	First Nations
Métis		37
Caucasian		5
other		5
<i>missing</i>		108

* The whole numbers in Table 17 are presented to simply show the originating number used to calculate proportions of each demographic. They do not represent individual homeless people, but rather the summed value of all agencies participating in the estimate. Readers must not assume that the figures refer to different clients, as there is likely overlap in clients among the agencies.

Homelessness Type, Frequency and Duration Among Agency Clients

Similar to the results generated from the street and sheltered count, data gathered through the agency estimate confirmed there to be a broad range of individuals in Prince Albert who are affected by homelessness. With respect to type of homelessness, a majority of the homelessness reported by service agencies was 'hidden homelessness'. Concerning the frequency of homelessness, the sample shows similar figures between those who are *chronically* and those who are *periodically* homeless. Finally, data on the duration of homelessness indicate that a higher proportion of clients of service agencies are homeless for several months, followed by years and weeks (see Table 18).

Table 18. Type, Frequency and Duration of Homelessness Among Agency Clients*

VARIABLE	VARIANT	OBSERVED CLIENTS (N = 287)	%
Type of Homelessness	absolute	15	5.2%
	sheltered	99	34.5%
	hidden	173	60.3%
Frequency of Homelessness	periodically	50	63.3%
	chronically	29	36.7%
	unknown	100 [^]	na
	missing	108 [^]	na
Duration of Homelessness	several days	49	29.4%
	several weeks	23	13.9%
	several months	71	42.8X%
	several years	23	13.9X%
	unknown	44 [^]	na
	missing	77 [^]	na

* The whole numbers in Table 18 are presented to simply show the originating number used to calculate proportions of each demographic. They do not represent individual homeless people, but rather the summed value of all agencies participating in the estimate. Readers must not assume that the figures refer to different clients, as there is likely overlap in clients among the agencies.

[^] Figure not included in the percent calculation.

Reasons for Homelessness Among Agency Clients

The aggregate data for each agency reveals that, among the pool of clients reported on for this count, the most common reasons for homelessness include low income, bad reputation, addictions, family breakdown, no affordable housing, and lack of life skills (see Table 19).

Table 19. Reasons for Homelessness Among Homeless Count Participants

REASON	N OF OBSERVED CLIENTS (N = 287)	% OF CLIENTS AFFECTED BY REASON
low/no income	125	43.6
inappropriate spending	24	8.4
evicted	21	7.3
bad reputation	48	16.7
no available reference	24	8.4
family breakdown	42	14.6
addiction	47	16.4
mental health issue	18	6.3
health/disability issue	23	8.0
no identification	32	11.1
institutional dependence	6	2.1
lack of affordable housing	64	22.3
poor housing conditions	14	4.9
lack of life skills	27	9.4
chooses to be homeless	3	1.0
unknown	27 [^]	na
other –released from jail	3	1.0

[^] Figure not included in the percent calculation.

6.5 PREDICTING HOMELESSNESS

One of the key reasons behind the commission of this study was to get a numerical sense of homelessness in Prince Albert. The findings shared herein show that 30 individuals self-identified to be absolutely homeless during the street count, while 47 reported to be affected by sheltered homelessness. At a bare minimum, the research team is comfortable in concluding that at least 77 people were homeless in Prince Albert on the night of April 18, 2018.

However, taking what we have learned in this study, there is an opportunity to improve our estimates by combining the findings of each part of the methodology. If we accept that the proportions of absolute (5.2%), sheltered (34.5%), and hidden homelessness (60.3%) reported in the agency estimate are accurate (see Table 18), then using very basic predictive analytics, the 30 confirmed absolute homeless and 47 confirmed sheltered homeless individuals from the April 18th point-in-time count, will allow us to estimate a potentially more accurate quantification of homelessness in Prince Albert.

As Table 20 illustrates, using proportions of absolute homelessness (AH), sheltered homelessness (SH) and hidden homelessness (HH), we can estimate a range of total homelessness (TH) in Prince Albert. When we forecast our estimations using absolute homelessness ($N = 30$, 5.2%) as the base, we produce a highest estimated total homelessness of 575. If we forecast our estimations using sheltered homelessness ($N = 47$; 34.5%) as the base, we produce our lowest total homelessness estimate of 136. However, if we combine our sheltered and street count data to form our base ($N = 77$, 39.7%), we produce a natural total homelessness estimate of 194.

Table 20. Three Different Models for Estimating Homelessness in Prince Albert*

RANGE	MODEL	REMAINING N
Lowest Predicted Value	If 34.5% of TH is SH (n = 47) → TH = 136	HH = 82; AH = 7
Natural Predicted Value	If 39.7% of combined AH + SH (n = 77) → TH = 194	HH = 116
Highest Predicted Value	If 5.2% of TH is AH (n = 30) → TH = 575	HH = 347; SH = 198

* TH = Total Homelessness; AH = Absolute Homelessness; SH = Sheltered Homelessness; HH = Hidden Homelessness.

7.0 FINDINGS

On the night of April 18, 2018, a point-in-time homelessness count conducted in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, provided a glimpse of the extent, nature and context of homelessness in the community. In total, 77 individuals self-identified as being homeless. Some respondents were interviewed during a street count (n = 30), whereas others (n = 47) were surveyed within one of nine different agency shelters participating in the sheltered count.

Data from the PIT count analysis reveal that slightly more females (53%) than males (47%) participated in the count. A majority (92%) of respondents were Indigenous. The most common age cohorts among count participants include those between 25 to 34 and those between 35 to 44.

Concerning history, duration, and frequency of homelessness, results varied among count participants. Respondents from both cohorts in the PIT count had been homeless anywhere from the last few months to 10 years. A majority, however, had reported being homeless for between 6 and 12 months. Also, within the past year, 33% of respondents had not stayed in a homeless shelter (e.g., Our House).

When it comes to explaining why they were homeless, respondents of the PIT count pointed to addiction, inability to pay rent, family conflict, and eviction. Sources of income among respondents mostly included informal self-employment, employment, and money from others. In a special examination of exposure to violence, almost half (48%) of respondents reported being a victim of violence while experiencing homelessness.

The barriers to housing identified by respondents in the PIT count included lack of money, addiction issues, no landlord references, limited access to affordable housing, no services for males, no transportation, stigma, and personal attitude—to name a few.

Results from the Agency estimate are supportive of those generated by the PIT count. Observation data from housing organizations in the community suggest that anywhere from 1% to 12% of tenants housed friends or family affected by hidden homelessness. Data from human service organizations indicates a homelessness ratio of between 13% and 25%.

Demographic data from the estimate methodology show that most clients affected by homelessness are between the ages of 19 and 44, and are either First Nation or Metis. The most common type of homelessness affecting clients of human service organizations was 'hidden homelessness'. Some of the expected reasons for homelessness include low income, bad reputation, eviction, addiction, no identification, lack of life skills, and lack of affordable housing.

8.0 LIMITATIONS

Although the research team has taken the necessary steps to produce an evidence-based homeless count in Prince Albert, there are a number of limitations which may impact the overall quality of findings:

- The research team tried to articulate the differences between absolute, sheltered and hidden homelessness; however, without scalable criteria for homelessness, there is always room for subjective judgements of enumerators, and even from clients themselves.
- The study does not include sheltered data from the hospital or Prince Albert's many correctional facilities. Therefore, the sheltered count estimates reported herein may be underestimated.
- While the research team requested that agency enumerators only include Prince Albert-based clients in this homelessness count, the high rate of transience in Prince Albert may have made this task difficult.
- During the street count, the research team traveled to almost every homeless hot-spot in Prince Albert, as identified by homelessness stakeholders and the hot-spotting exercises. Despite this effort, there are likely several homeless individuals who were not found the night of the count. Many individuals affected by absolute homelessness hide so that others cannot find them.
- During the agency estimate portion of the study, organizations struggled with gathering data on homelessness. This was largely because they did not regularly track this variable in their internal databases. As a result, organizations had to manually go through each of their client files within a specific time period (defined by their pool). As a result of this process, there is a chance that the chosen pool does not accurately represent all clients in their organization.
- Although this research involves interviews with individuals affected by absolute and sheltered homelessness, the scope and budget of this project did not allow for interviews with individuals affected by hidden homelessness. Therefore, data on hidden homelessness are limited by the extent to which housing and human service professionals know their client's histories and circumstances.

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APPENDICES



SHELTERED SCREENING TOOL

SHELTERED LOCATION: _____ TIME: _____

Hello, my name is _____ and I am supporting the Prince Albert Homelessness Count. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

- Participation is voluntary and your name will not be recorded.
- You can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada, and will help with research to improve services.

A. Have you answered this survey already tonight?
 [YES: skip to "D"] [NO: Continue with "B"]

B. Are you willing to participate in the survey?
 [YES: Continue to "C"] [NO: Say thanks and answer "D"]

C. Where are you staying tonight? [DO NOT READ CATEGORIES]

a. Decline to Answer b. Own Apartment/House c. Someone Else's Place d. Motel/Hotel e. Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre	f. Emergency Shelter, Domestic Violence Shelter g. Transitional Shelter h. Public Space (E.G., Sidewalks, Squares, Parks, Forests, Bus Shelter) i. Vehicle (Car, Van, Rv, Truck) j. Makeshift Shelter, Tent or Shack k. Abandoned/Vacant Building l. Other Unsheltered Location Unfit for Human Habitation m. Respondent Doesn't Know [Likely Homeless]
THANK AND TALLY - NOTE RESPONSE TO "D"	BEGIN SURVEY - NOTE RESPONSE TO C

D. REASON NOT SURVEYED (circle):

declined – already responded – screened out – observed

E. Are you staying here tonight?

<input type="radio"/> YES [BEGIN SURVEY & NOTE f. OR g. ON SURVEY, AS APPROPRIATE]	<input type="radio"/> NO [ASK RESPONDENT TO SPECIFY LOCATION]
---	--



SHELTERED SURVEY

Facility/Program Name: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM
 Interviewer: _____ Contact #: _____

C. [Surveyor: Circle overnight location]

f. EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER g. TRANSITIONAL SHELTER	Other location: _____
--	-----------------------

BEGIN SURVEY

1. What family members are staying with you tonight? [Indicate survey numbers for adults. Check all that apply]

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

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

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

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

3. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

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

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

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS WEEKS MONTHS	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	----------------------------------	---

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

<input type="radio"/> NUMBER OF TIMES _____ [Includes this time]	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	----------------------------------	---

6. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year? [Give local examples of homeless shelters]

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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7. How long have you been in (*community name*)?

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS -----> <input type="radio"/> ALWAYS BEEN HERE <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	Where did you live before you came here? <input type="radio"/> COMMUNITY _____ PROVINCE _____ OR COUNTRY _____ <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	--

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

<input type="radio"/> YES, IMMIGRANT -----> <input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE -----> <input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT -----> <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	If YES: How long have you been in Canada? <input type="radio"/> LENGTH: _____ DAYS WEEKS MONTHS YEARS OR DATE: ____/____/____ DAY / MONTH / YEAR <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---	---



9. Do you identify as Indigenous or do you have Indigenous ancestry? This includes First Nations with or without status, Métis, and Inuit. [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. While experiencing homelessness, have you been exposed to violence (circle)?

Yes	No
-----	----

16. What do you feel are the biggest barriers of support to services in the community?

UNSHELTERED SCREENING TOOL

Interviewer Name: _____ Time: _____

Location (circle): downtown - midtown - cathedral – west flat – east flat – cornerstone – golf course – west hill – east hill – crescent heights – crescent acres – hazeldell

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer for the **Prince Albert Homelessness Count**. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

- Your participation is voluntary and your name will not be recorded.
- You can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada and will help with research to improve services.

A. Have you answered this survey already tonight?

[YES: skip to "D"] [NO: Continue with "B"]

B. Are you willing to participate in the survey?

[YES: Continue to "C"] [NO: Say thanks and answer "D"]

C. Where are you staying tonight? [DO NOT READ CATEGORIES]

<p>a. Decline to Answer</p> <p>b. Own Apartment/House</p> <p>c. Someone Else's Place</p> <p>d. Motel/Hotel</p> <p>e. Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre</p>	<p>f. Emergency Shelter, Domestic Violence Shelter</p> <p>g. Transitional Shelter</p> <p>h. Public Space (E.G., Sidewalks, Squares, Parks, Forests, Bus Shelter)</p> <p>i. Vehicle (Car, Van, Rv, Truck)</p> <p>j. Makeshift Shelter, Tent or Shack</p> <p>k. Abandoned/Vacant Building</p> <p>l. Other Unsheltered Location Unfit for Human Habitation</p> <p>m. Respondent Doesn't Know [Likely Homeless]</p>
THANK AND TALLY - NOTE RESPONSE TO "D"	BEGIN SURVEY - NOTE RESPONSE TO C

D. REASON NOT SURVEYED (circle):

declined – already responded – screened out – observed

UNSHeltered SURVEY

1. What family members are staying with you tonight? [Indicate survey numbers for adults. Check all that apply]

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

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

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

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

3. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

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

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

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS WEEKS MONTHS	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	----------------------------------	---

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

<input type="radio"/> NUMBER OF TIMES _____ [Includes this time]	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	----------------------------------	---

6. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year? [Give local examples of homeless shelters]

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

7. How long have you been in (community name)?

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS ----->	Where did you live before you came here?
<input type="radio"/> ALWAYS BEEN HERE	
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	
<input type="radio"/> COMMUNITY _____ PROVINCE _____	
<input type="radio"/> OR COUNTRY _____	
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	

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

<input type="radio"/> YES, IMMIGRANT ----->	If YES:	How long have you been in Canada?
<input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE ----->		
<input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT ----->		
<input type="radio"/> NO		
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> LENGTH: _____ DAYS WEEKS MONTHS YEARS	
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	<input type="radio"/> OR DATE: ____/____/____ DAY / MONTH / YEAR	
	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	
	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	



9. Do you identify as Indigenous or do you have Indigenous ancestry? This includes First Nations with or without status, Métis, and Inuit. [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]

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

10. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?
 [Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. While experiencing homelessness, have you been exposed to violence (circle)?

Yes	No
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16. What do you feel are the biggest barriers of support to services in the community?

AGENCY HIDDEN HOMELESS REPORTING TOOL

This form was designed to help provide an estimate of the homeless population currently engaged with the human service support network in Prince Albert. Please complete this form for each homeless client that your agency/organization provides services to (regardless if they are in the same family). Then, save a copy and submit this form to your director. Please do not record client names on this form. For questions contact Dr. Chad Nilson at 306-953-8384 or LSCSI@hotmail.com.

AGENCY: _____ PROGRAM/UNIT: _____
Current Relevant Caseload for your Organization: _____ (i.e., the overall pool from which your homeless clients are drawn from)

****PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER HOMELESS CLIENT (IF HAVE MANY, USE ATTACHED EXCEL FILE INSTEAD)****

TYPE OF HOMELESSNESS

HOMELESS TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SELECT ONE (X)
Absolute Homeless	individual has absolutely no place to stay—is on street, roaming around the community	
Sheltered Homeless	individual has no home of their own but is staying in some sort of shelter or facility at night	
Hidden Homeless	individual has no home of their own but is staying with friends, relatives or strangers (does NOT include lengthy seasonal visits)	

TIMING OF HOMELESSNESS

SELECT ONE (X)	
Frequency	<input type="checkbox"/> periodically homeless (once in a while) <input type="checkbox"/> chronically homeless (all the time) <input type="checkbox"/> unknown
INSERT NUMBER OF APPROPRIATE DAYS/WEEKS/MONTHS/YEARS CLIENT HAS BEEN HOMELESS (X)	
Duration	<input type="checkbox"/> days <input type="checkbox"/> weeks <input type="checkbox"/> months <input type="checkbox"/> years

DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHIC	SELECT ONE (X)
Age	<input type="checkbox"/> under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 19-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 <input type="checkbox"/> 65 +
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> male <input type="checkbox"/> female <input type="checkbox"/> other
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> First Nation <input type="checkbox"/> Métis <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> Other



SUSPECTED REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

SELECT THOSE THAT APPLY (X)		
<input type="checkbox"/> low/no income	<input type="checkbox"/> family breakdown	<input type="checkbox"/> institutional dependence
<input type="checkbox"/> inappropriate spending	<input type="checkbox"/> addiction	<input type="checkbox"/> lack of affordable housing
<input type="checkbox"/> evicted	<input type="checkbox"/> mental health issues	<input type="checkbox"/> poor housing conditions
<input type="checkbox"/> bad reputation	<input type="checkbox"/> health/disability issues	<input type="checkbox"/> lack of life skills
<input type="checkbox"/> no available reference	<input type="checkbox"/> no identification	<input type="checkbox"/> chooses to be homeless
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown

HOUSING ORGANIZATION HIDDEN HOMELESS REPORTING FORM

This form was designed to help provide an estimate of the hidden homeless population currently detectable by housing organizations in Prince Albert. Housing organizations in our community may be aware of tenants or units that house (either periodically or permanently) individuals affected by hidden homelessness. By definition, *hidden homelessness* is a condition in which individuals do not have their own place to call “home”, yet avoid staying on the street or in a homeless shelter by ‘couch surfing’, etc. Hidden homelessness does not include intimate partners or friends who periodically stay over after a party or for visits on the weekend.

The information gathered by this form will remain confidential. All data will be reported in the aggregate, therefore making it impossible to determine the level of hidden homelessness detected by individual housing organizations. For questions please contact Dr. Chad Nilson at 306-953-8384 or LSCSI@hotmail.com.

ORGANIZATION: _____ **UNIT TYPES:** _____
(family, single, both)

TOTAL # OF UNITS: _____ **CURRENT AVAILABLE UNITS:** _____ **CURRENT # OF TENANTS:** _____

1) As a matter of practice, do you routinely monitor the level of hidden homelessness in your facilities?

___ **yes** ___ **no**

2) Whether they are allowed to or not, do some of your tenants house individuals who are considered “hidden homeless” (as per the definition above)?

___ **yes** ___ **no** [if “no”, skip to question 6]

3) If you answered “yes” to question #2, can you estimate the total number of hidden homeless individuals staying with your tenants? (**#**): _____

4) If you answered “yes” to question #2, how frequent do you observe hidden homeless individuals staying with your tenants?

___ **very rarely** ___ **off and on** ___ **quite a bit** ___ **all the time**

5) If you answered “yes” to question #2, please circle the demographics that most reflect the hidden homeless individuals staying with your tenants (you can circle more than one if need to):

Age: under 18 19-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65 or older

Gender: male female other

Ethnicity: First Nation Métis Caucasian Other

6) Does your organization have a waiting list for units? ___ **yes** ___ **no**

7) How many people are currently on that waiting list? **#:** _____



8) How many people on that waiting list do you believe are affected by hidden homelessness? #: ____

---please see next page---

9) Do you have any additional feedback or observations to offer on hidden homelessness in Prince Albert and area?

Thank you for your time and feedback. Please send completed form to Dr. Chad Nilson at

LSCSI@hotmail.com



**2018 Prince Albert PIT Homelessness Count
PROJECT WORK PLAN**

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE
Project Planning	<p>a) Identify key project stakeholders.</p> <p>b) Develop expectations of PIT Count Consultative Group.</p> <p>c) Identify project assets and funder requirements.</p> <p>d) Liaise with funder.</p> <p>e) Organize objectives and overall PIT count strategy.</p>	January 2018
Methodological Scan	f) Review literature on PIT counts, including resources provided by Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) and the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).	February 2018
Stakeholder Consultations	<p>g) Consult with homelessness stakeholders on opportunities for data collection, engagement strategies and agency participation in the count.</p> <p>h) Consult with Aboriginal community leaders on engaging First Nations and Métis people in the PIT Count.</p> <p>i) Consult with human service providers on suitable locations and a date for conducting a sheltered and unsheltered homeless count.</p>	March 2018
Mobilize PIT Count Committee	<p>j) Identify suitable, strategic and interested stakeholders to sit on the PIT Count Consultative Group.</p> <p>k) Provide orientation to the Consultative Group on the count and how they can contribute.</p>	April 2018
Mapping Process	l) Use information from community consultations to map out suitable zones for full coverage unsheltered homeless count, as well as known location periodic counts.	April 2018
Develop Data Collection Instruments	<p>m) Work with CAB, PIT Count Consultative Group and resources from both HPS and COH to determine interview questions to be used in unsheltered and sheltered surveys.</p> <p>n) Finalize and produce instruments and tally sheets for PIT count.</p>	April 2018
Recruit Volunteers	o) Identify suitable qualifications for volunteers. Reach out to community in search of interested volunteers available to participate in the PIT Count.	April 2018
Train Volunteers	p) Train volunteers on safety, proper approaches to potential participants, interview techniques, area scanning, confidentiality and consent, data capture, closing an interview and reporting.	April 2018

Practice PIT Count	q) To test the homelessness hot-spotting information, and to familiarize the team with PIT logistics, conduct a mock count based only upon “observed” homelessness at least 1 week before the actual PIT Count.	April 2018
Coordinate PIT Count	r) Coordinate the actual PIT count logistics, implementation and overall delivery of data.	April 2018
Data Collection	s) Conduct on-the-ground data collection during the PIT count.	April 2018
Data Entry	t) Enter data from the PIT count onto Excel (RBDC records), SPSS (research team) and HIFIS (HPS).	May 2018
Data Analysis	u) Analyze data from the PIT count.	May 2018
Report Preparation	v) Prepare a report, based upon findings from the count.	June 2018
Dissemination	w) Provide presentations and communications of results to community stakeholders.	June 2018

2018 Prince Albert Point-in-Time Homelessness Count April 5 – PIT COUNT CONSULTATIVE GROUP AGENDA

AREA	TOPIC
Introductions	River Bank Development Corporation
	Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry
	Group Members
Background and Purpose	Design of PIT count
	Role of PIT count coordinator
	Role of PIT Consultative Group
PIT Count Resources	Consultative Group Terms of Reference
	Hot Spotting Map & Instructions
	Survey Questions
Consultations	PIT Count - Locations
	PIT Count - Approaches
	Hidden Homeless – Questions
	Hidden Homeless – Methodological Options



Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry

Program Evaluation & Social Science Research

Box 582 Prince Albert, SK S6V 5R8 CANADA

ph: (306) 953-8384 email: lscsi@hotmail.com Fax: (306) 953-8257

April 2, 2018

RE: HOMELESS HOT SPOTTING

I am the 2018 Homelessness Point in Time Count Coordinator for Prince Albert. In April we will be conducting an evening count of homelessness. To identify some key hotspot areas, I am asking certain organizations who are mobile in the evening hours to conduct some hot spotting for me. If at all possible, could one of your team members keep the attached map with them during the evening hours (after 8pm) and complete it when they observe homelessness.

To complete the hot spotting tool, start by entering the date and time duration on the top corner of the page. Then, place dots on locations where homelessness is observed. Then place a checkmark in the table below the map to track actual number of individuals seen in each area. Please mark individuals only once in the table, but more than once in the map. For example, if you see one person in one area earlier in the evening, then see the same individual in a different zone later in the evening, mark 1 dot for each of the 2 locations, but only make a checkmark for that individual in the first zone. In other words, the map tracks locations and the table tracks numbers.

Key indicators of homelessness include: sleeping outside, wondering around aimlessly, continuous mobility in the city, hanging around closed entities for long periods of time, habituating in abandoned or condemned properties, etc. You do not need to interact with individuals you observe to be homeless. Simply place a dot on the map and a checkmark in the table below to account for the number of individuals you observe to be homeless. Thank you so much for supporting this important community-wide effort.

Sincerely,



Dr. Chad Nilson, PhD, M.A., M.S., B.S., Dip.

Research and Evaluation Consultant

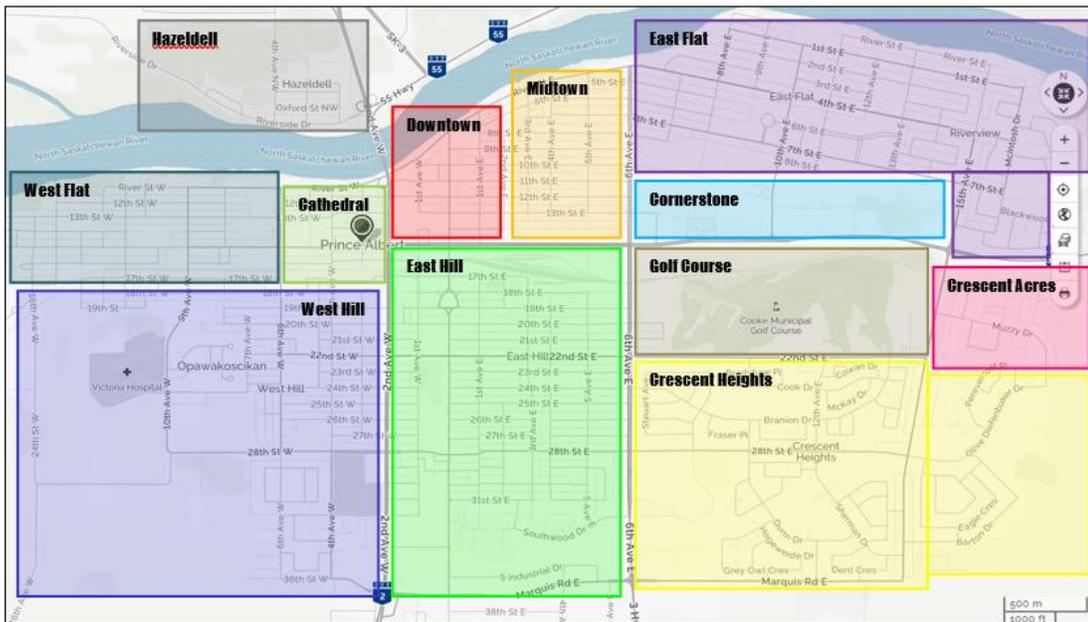


Society becomes better when people actively create knowledge. It becomes stronger when people use that knowledge collectively.



2018 Prince Albert Point-in-Time Homeless Count

HOT SPOTTING MAP



Mark an X for every individual you see who you feel may be homeless		
Downtown		Golf Course
Midtown		West Hill
Cathedral		East Hill
West Flat		Crescent Heights
East Flat		Crescent Acres
Cornerstone		Hazeldeh

2018 Prince Albert Point-in-Time Homelessness Count River Bank Development Corporation

METHODOLOGICAL SCAN

To conduct an effective point-in-time (PIT) count of homelessness, it is important to consider how past counts have been executed. Within this, it is important to examine the planning, development and preparations of past counts. To allow for this, a methodological scan provides a comparative overview of the key methods, approaches and findings of PIT counts in other jurisdictions. While there are certainly a number of methodological differences to consider when examining PIT counts across different community sizes, there is still a lot to learn from examining PIT counts in small, medium and large centres.

The scan has been designed to showcase some of the major themes, lessons learned and methodological practices of PIT counts across Canada. In particular, this scan found valuable information on the role of community partners in the count, volunteers, volunteer training, planning, survey design, methodology, census/sampling and incentives. Table 1 provides a summary of key findings in the scan. Lessons learned through this scan will help to shape the methodology of the 2018 Prince Albert PIT Homelessness Count.

Table 1. **Methodological Scan Table**

THEME	LESSONS LEARNED	SOURCES
Community Partners	a) in order to conduct an effective count it is essential to have the support of community partners (e.g. shelters, police, social agencies) b) community involvement supports researchers, reduces barriers, recruits volunteers, and increases access to information, data and homeless individuals c) community partners help determine a mapping strategy for the count, which helps identify the number of volunteers needed and the shelters who can participate in the count	Mantel & Yung (2000); Kutzner & Ameyaw (2010); Ladlamme (2001); Dunton, Albanese & D’Alanno (2014); City of Vancouver (2012); Calgary Homeless Foundation (2012)
Volunteers	a) consultations with homelessness stakeholders can help determine the number of volunteers needed b) having experience working with individuals affected by homelessness is an important asset c) the size of the city and the homeless density should be used to determine the number of zones	City of Calgary (2009); Gaetz (2014); Mantel & Yung (2000); Nilson (2016)
Volunteer Training	a) it is important for volunteers to participate in training so that they understand procedures and can effectively administer the survey b) safety plans and procedures for volunteers are important—including how to react to threats and who not to approach during the count	City of Vancouver (2012); Findlay, Holden, Patrick & Wormith (2012)

Planning	<p>a) proper counts require proper planning—including stakeholder consultation, volunteers, methods, instruments, date, process, data collection, data storage, analysis, dissemination.</p> <p>b) a shorter reference period for a PIT count will minimize double-counting</p> <p>c) having PIT counts mid-week and not on social assistance pay days will minimize the temporary decrease in street populations surrounding weekends and paydays</p> <p>d) PIT counts are often held in the late evening to minimize disturbance from those people moving around for jobs, services, entertainment, etc.</p>	<p>Nilson, Okanik & Watson (2015); City of Calgary (2009); Gaetz (2014); Laflamme (2001); Calgary Homeless Foundation</p>
Survey Design	<p>a) PIT counts often are combined with a survey that asks additional questions of individuals affected by homelessness</p> <p>b) counting homeless is not enough, there is a lot to learn from surveys with homeless individuals</p> <p>c) surveys should also allow for open-ended questions to enrich the data gathered during the count</p> <p>d) most counts focus on absolute and sheltered homelessness because of the difficulty in estimating hidden homelessness</p> <p>e) common variables in PIT counts include demographics, reasons for homelessness, services required, duration of homelessness, income source, military status, dependencies, legal issues, use of shelters, risk factors for homelessness, shelter type, barriers to housing, food security, etc.</p>	<p>Girard (2006); Kutzner & Ameyaw (2010); Calgary Homeless Foundation (2012); Chopin & Wormith (2008); City of Calgary (2006); City of Toronto (2009); City of Vancouver (2012); Findlay, Holden, Patrick & Wormith (2012); Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (2014); Kutzner & Ameyaw (2010); Kamloops Homeless Count Working Group (2012); Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (2012); San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board (2013); Sorensen (2012); Turner (2015); Nilson (2016)</p>
Methodology	<p>a) most counts often involve a methodological scan of other PIT counts, consultation with service providers, a short survey, comparative analysis to data from past years</p> <p>b) some counts involve tally sheets used to account for individuals who appeared to be homeless but did not complete the survey (e.g. refused, sleeping)</p> <p>c) it is important to enumerate both absolute and sheltered homeless to maximize count validity</p> <p>d) screening or filter questions help avoid including individuals who are either not members of the target population or who have already been enumerated</p> <p>e) it is important to recognize the limitations of PIT counts—they are only mere snapshots of the actual homeless population and represent</p>	<p>Kamloops Homeless Count Working Group (2012); Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (2012); San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board (2013); Sorensen (2012); Turner (2015); Calgary Homeless Foundation (2012); Chopin & Wormith (2008); City of Calgary (2006); Sorensen (2012); Rea & Parker (2005); Chopin & Wormith (2008); Nilson (2016)</p>

	only the bare minimum number of homeless individuals; they also do not account for the largest cohort: hidden homelessness	
Census and Sampling	<p>a) a census includes all homeless individuals in a particular zone and does not require estimates; a sample is a partial enumeration of the entire homeless population</p> <p>b) both census and sampling can be used, however most shelter counts involve a census while absolute counts involve sampling</p>	Mantel & Young (2000); Dunton, Albanese & D’Alanno (2014); City of Vancouver (2012); Laflamme (2001)
Incentives	<p>a) it is often a challenge to determine what an appropriate incentive is for survey respondents—it is important that the incentive itself does not influence the research itself (e.g. answers, voluntariness)</p> <p>b) offering monetary honorarium may place the researchers at risk and unduly induce a homeless individual to participate in the research</p> <p>c) more common incentives include cigarettes, snacks, gift cards, gift packs, etc.</p>	Paradis (2000); Grant & Sugarman (2004); Nilson, Okanik & Watson (2015); Findlay, Holden, Patrick & Wormith (2012)

Prince Albert Homelessness Count 2018
Hidden Homelessness Consultations

Please submit to LSCSI@hotmail.com

1) To what extent does your organization keep track of data on hidden homelessness?

2) What indicators for measuring hidden homelessness do you feel would be best to explore?

3) What is best way to engage individuals affected by the hidden homelessness?

4) Once we are able to engage individuals affected by hidden homelessness, what types of questions/information would be valuable to ask them?

5) What do you foresee as some of the challenges in conducting a hidden homelessness count?

6) Do you have any other suggestions/comments?



**2018 Prince Albert PIT Homelessness Count Consultative Group
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

MISSION

To advise and support the planning and implementation of a successful point-in-time count of homelessness in order to better understand the extent of absolute, sheltered, and hidden homelessness in Prince Albert, SK.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
Support the PIT Count Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide insight, suggestions and help in developing PIT count plan - provide guidance in planning methodology, forming PIT count team, and executing PIT count
Engage Homelessness Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - help the PIT count coordinator build relations with key stakeholders - help to recruit participation of volunteers in street count - help to encourage community service agencies in sheltered count
Maximize Effectiveness of PIT Count	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide information on homeless hotspots, mobility and behaviour patterns of individuals affected by homelessness - review PIT count process to identify successes, challenges and learning for subsequent counts.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the 2018 Prince Albert PIT Count Consultative Group shall consist of representatives from a variety of key homelessness stakeholder groups. These include housing, policing, shelters, social services, neighbourhood, income support, First Nations, Métis and intersectoral groups, to name a few.

TERM

Members of the 2018 Prince Albert PIT Count Consultative Group shall be invited to volunteer on the committee as advisory members. The committee shall maintain existence for the entirety of the PIT count, including production and dissemination of a final research report.

MEETINGS

The 2018 Prince Albert PIT Count Consultative Group shall meet at least once before the PIT count and at least once after the PIT count. The chair of the group, at the request of the PIT Count Coordinator, may call additional meetings.



DECISION-MAKING

The decision-making framework for the 2018 Prince Albert PIT Count Consultative Group shall be one of consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, the group shall take a vote with a majority rules (50%+1) where quorum is present. At least 50% of the membership is required for quorum.

REPORTING

Reporting of the 2018 Prince Albert PIT Count Consultative Group shall be conducted by a group member, who will then in turn report on progress to the Prince Albert Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Advisory Board.

VOLUNTEER WAIVER

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT - PRINCE ALBERT, SK

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

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

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

INITIAL HERE

TO: RIVER BANK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, LIVING SKIES CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INQUIRY and any individual, corporation, association, institution, or organization that is associated with the **2018 Prince Albert PIT Homelessness Count** as an organizer, promoter, sponsor or advertiser and the respective agents, officials, officers, community partners and employees of all of the aforesaid; (hereafter all collectively referred to as the “Event Partners”).

ASSUMPTION OF RISKS

By signing below, I warrant that I am fit to safely participate in any and all activities I am involved in during the course of the **2018 Prince Albert PIT Homelessness Count** (hereafter referred to as the “Event”). I am aware that my participation and involvement in the Event may expose me to some unexpected and high-level risks, dangers or hazards, including risk of personal injury, property damage and loss resulting therefrom. Such risks, dangers and hazards, given the nature of the Event, may be outside of the scope of an expected or reasonable level of risk that a volunteer may be subject to in the course of participating in an event. By signing below, I freely and fully agree to assume any and all of these risks, dangers and hazards, even if caused by the negligence of the Event Partners, including the failure of the Event Partners to protect and safeguard me from the risks, dangers and hazards and the possibility of any personal injury, death, property damage and loss resulting therefrom.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY

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



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

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

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

FURTHER VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- I acknowledge that as a volunteer, I am not covered under any Workers' Compensation Plan attached to River Bank Development Corporation or the Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry.
- I agree to carry out my assigned volunteer tasks in a reasonable and safe manner.
- The personal information on this form will only be collected and shared under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). The purpose of collecting this information includes: determining eligibility for volunteer opportunities, programs, services, and recognition, to facilitate the Event registration process, to administer and evaluate volunteers and programs, statistical purposes and to activate the Volunteer Accident Insurance coverage. This information may be shared with other volunteers and personnel of the Event Partners only insofar as it is necessary to plan and implement the **2018 Prince Albert PIT Homelessness Count**. If you have any questions regarding the collection of information, please contact **Brian Howell, River Bank Development Corporation**.

KEY TASKS
2018 PRINCE ALBERT PIT COUNT

KEY TASKS	TASK	BENEFIT
	Methodological scan of PIT counts	Informs PIT methods
	Mobilize PIT Count Consultative Group	Outlines stakeholders
	Stakeholder consultations	Informs count strategy
	Map of key target areas for PIT count	Identifies locations
	Finalize and prepare surveys	Confirms readiness
	Work plan	Outlines strategy
	Timeline	Communications plan
	Recruit volunteer teams	Provides resources
	Train volunteers	Prepares volunteers
	Practice PIT count	Prepares team
	Actual PIT count	Provides data
	Data analysis and data management strategy	Provides solid methods
	PIT count data entered onto HIFIS	Data stored properly
Analyze and report on results	Information on homeless	
Dissemination of findings	Public awareness	



**2018 Prince Albert PIT Count
PROJECT ASSETS & FUNDER REQUIREMENTS**

PROJECT ASSETS		
ASSETS	AGENCY	BENEFIT
	Prince Albert PIT Count Consultative Group	support and direction for PIT count
	Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry	Past PIT count experience
	PA Outreach Inc.	Past PIT count experience
	River Bank Development Corporation	experience in project management
	<i>shelter agencies:</i> PA Safe Shelter, YWCA, Our House, Cold Weather Shelter, Prince Albert Police Service, MACSI, PA Mobile Crisis, PAPHR Brief and Social Detox, Valley Hill Youth Treatment Centre	administer sheltered homeless survey
	<i>homelessness stakeholders:</i> Access Place, YWCA, Community Mobilization Prince Albert, Indian and Metis Friendship Centre, MACSI, Mobile Crisis, Prince Albert Metis Women's Association, PA Outreach Inc., Prince Albert Police Service, Prince Albert Safe Shelter, Regional Intersectoral Partnership, River Bank Development Corporation, PAPHR Brief and Social Detox, Social Services – income assistance, Valley Hill Youth Treatment Centre, and West Flat Community Centre.	engagement, information and direction

KEY FUNDER REQUIREMENTS	REQUIREMENTS	BENEFIT
	Use 12 core questions in HPS survey	Maintains consistent national data
	Follow 8 core standards of PIT counts found in HPS guide	Maintains consistent national methods



2018 Prince Albert Point-in-Time Homelessness Count TRAINING TOPICS

AREA	TOPIC
Background	purpose of PIT counts and their role in addressing homelessness
	about homelessness in Prince Albert
	overview of count methodology
	the survey tools
	count logistics
Role	role of volunteer enumerators in the count
	role of PIT count coordinator
	role of PIT count consultative group
Actions	approaching potential respondents
	obtaining consent
	sensitivity
	asking questions
	confidentiality and privacy
	safety
	dealing with difficult respondents
	recording data
Simulations	approaching individuals
	conducting interviews
	mock count