



# POINT IN TIME CONNECTION RESULTS 2024

City of Hamilton

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Housing Services Division

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## INTRODUCTION

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count, known locally as the Point-in-Time Connection (PiTC), is a joint planning effort with City of Hamilton's Housing Services Division and the Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership (CHIL). The PiTC was only possible through the support of a wide range of community partners who assisted greatly in its planning and implementation. The Housing Services Division would like to specifically acknowledge and thank every survey participant whose contributions allow us to more deeply examine the impact of our ongoing work to end homelessness.

The partnership with, and leadership of, CHIL remain central in efforts to prioritize Indigenous-led solutions to homelessness. Recommendations and PiTC activities led by the Indigenous community were integral to ensuring that the PiTC was conducted in a safe and culturally appropriate way, acknowledging autonomy and self-determination as key pillars of engagement. In addition, to honour principles of Indigenous data sovereignty, CHIL is leading the analysis of Indigenous respondent data which will be shared in a separate report.

For the second time, Hamilton's PiTC enumeration and surveys were administered exclusively by homelessness-serving community partners and City Housing Services Division staff without the support of volunteers to conduct surveys. Building on this initiative, we continue to strive to centre the voices of unhoused residents to work toward ensuring that their needs are directly prioritized in approaches taken and decisions made in the context of local planning, policy, and investment.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners, and caretakers.

Coming Together to End Homelessness: Hamilton's Systems Planning Framework outlines our strategic local approach to preventing and ending homelessness, which must account for the systemic over-representation of Indigenous persons experiencing homelessness. The Housing Services Division is committed to ongoing coordination with urban Indigenous leadership to ensure that approaches to service coordination and provision are culturally appropriate, safe, and built on principles of relationship, trust and informed consent.

## SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

The City of Hamilton participated in 2024 Everyone Counts, locally known as the Point in Time Connection (PiTC), the fourth nationally coordinated PiTC in Canada. As required by the Federal government's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, the City of Hamilton:

- completed a comprehensive enumeration of population experiencing homelessness on the night of November 4, 2024;
- implemented a voluntary survey questionnaire to individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness between November 4, 2024 and November 8, 2024; and
- implemented a voluntary survey questionnaire to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness between November 4, 2024 and November 18, 2024.

The Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership organized and delivered an Indigenous led magnet event at Beasley Park on November 8, 2024, to provide an opportunity for Indigenous community members to participate in a more culturally safe and appropriate environment and be surveyed by Indigenous surveyors.

The City of Hamilton managed the data collection methods, including enumeration processes and templates, technical survey set up, surveyor training, surveyor administrative support, overall data management and overall results analysis.

The enumeration identified 1216 individuals as homeless in the City of Hamilton and 807 valid PiTC surveys were voluntarily completed with individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Hamilton, representing 66% of the enumerated population.

### Key Findings:

1. On the night of November 4, 2024, 1216 individuals were identified as homeless in the City of Hamilton represents a 31% increase from the previous Point in Time Connection in 2021.
2. Many individuals continue to inflow into homelessness and are newly experiencing homelessness.
3. A significant and increasing proportion of our homeless population are identified as recently, or throughout the year, living unsheltered or in encampments and not accessing emergency shelters.

4. Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness in the city of Hamilton.
5. In addition to those who identify as Indigenous, those who speak neither English or French, those who identify as a member of a racialized group, and those who are not Canadian citizens are also overrepresented.
6. Many individuals experiencing homeless rely on income sources provided by different levels of government yet identify income and cost reasons for losing housing and barriers to housing.
7. Many individuals are experiencing chronic homelessness and/or were identified as having complex needs.
8. The proportion of survey respondents who arrived in Hamilton within the last 12 months did not significantly change from the results of the 2021.

The PiTC remains an important local initiative and a demonstration of Hamilton's commitment to work collaboratively to prevent and end homelessness.

## BACKGROUND

The City of Hamilton participated in 2024 Everyone Counts, the fourth nationally coordinated Point-in-Time Count in Canada. Completion of the PiTC fulfilled requirements of the Federal government's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy.

Known locally as the Point-in-Time-Connection to better reflect our goal of connecting with and understanding the journeys of people who are experiencing homelessness, the PiTC has historically been used to help communities better understand the nature and extent of homelessness and the circumstances of the people experiencing homelessness. This information helps shape ongoing system and service responses. Point-in-Time Counts can assist in identifying how many people in a community experience homelessness at any given time; however, it is not an exhaustive count as many people experience more hidden forms of homelessness. Through the accompanying survey, the initiative provides information on the demographics and support needs of the local population experiencing homelessness.



## METHODS

The PiTC used the Canadian definition for a person experiencing homelessness as any individual who, on the night of enumeration or survey data collection, was unsheltered, emergency sheltered, or provisionally accommodated. In the City of Hamilton this was implemented as the following for 2024 data collection:

**Table 1: Homelessness Definitions and Local Inclusions.**

	<b>Living Situation</b>	<b>Local Definition</b>	<b>Counted (Enumeration)</b>	<b>Surveyed</b>
Unsheltered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People living in public or private spaces without consent or contract</li> <li>• People living in places not intended for permanent human habitation</li> </ul>	Individuals known to Housing-focused Street Outreach to be sleeping in or on sidewalks, parks, escarpment/ woods, vacant buildings, makeshift shelters, tents, garages, vestibules, and cars.	✓	✓
Emergency Sheltered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency overnight shelters for people who are homeless</li> <li>• Emergency shelter for people fleeing, a natural disaster or destruction of accommodation due to fires, floods etc.</li> <li>• Violence-Against-Women (VAW) shelters</li> </ul>	Individuals staying the night at emergency shelters, overnight drop-in programs, and violence against women shelters.	✓	✓

Provisionally accommodated	Interim housing for people who are homeless	Individuals without permanent housing accessing service transitional or short-term housing programs.	✓	✓
	Other individuals without permanent housing accessing service	Individuals without permanent housing accessing service at daytime drop-in programs.		✓ (as identified by survey screening only)

This operational definition of homelessness currently excludes most “hidden” homeless (e.g., staying temporarily with family or friends) that are not accessing services such as daytime drop-in programs daily. Indigenous Peoples may be underrepresented due to historical misuse and mistrust of data collection, different patterns of engagement of homeless services, as well as concerns about discrimination and stigma. Certain groups such as 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and people with disabilities are more likely to experience hidden homelessness and may be underrepresented in these results. This definition also excludes most individuals in health, crisis or treatment (including post-treatment) facilities identified as homeless, as well as individuals in correctional facilities who listed their previous residence as 'no fixed address' or a known shelter location.

**INDIGENOUS MAGNET EVENT**

The Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership organized and delivered an Indigenous led magnet event at Beasley Park on November 8, 2024, to provide an opportunity for Indigenous community members to participate in a more culturally safe and appropriate environment and be surveyed by Indigenous surveyors. The event brought together Indigenous frontline workers, and local Indigenous leaders, Knowledge Keepers, and Elders, to provide community members with immediate, tangible benefits for participating and a culturally safe space for Indigenous community members experiencing homelessness to share their experiences of homelessness in Hamilton.

In keeping with the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty, such as Ownership, Control, Access and Possession®, CHIL led the analysis of Indigenous respondent data, which will only be used by the City of Hamilton with the approval of the Indigenous Community Advisory Board. The analysis of Indigenous data will be shared via a separate report written by CHIL, which will be shared on the City of Hamilton website.

## ENUMERATION

The following section describes the homeless population enumeration and related data management methods.

**Inside Locations:** The enumeration was conducted of all individuals, including those under the age of 16, staying in city-administered emergency shelters including hotel overflow, transitional living programs (TLP) and short-term housing programs, overnight drop-in programs and provincially-administered violence against women shelters on the day of the enumeration – November 4, 2024. Daytime drop-in programs were excluded from the inside enumeration to reduce the potential for duplicate counting.

Occupancy data on the number of individuals staying in city-funded and administered emergency shelter sites, TLP, or overnight drop-in programs already using the Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS 4.0) for program data collection at the time of the count was extracted directly from HIFIS 4.0 using the using a local custom database query.

Occupancy data on the number of individuals staying in city-funded and administered emergency shelter sites, TLP/short-term housing, or overnight drop-in programs not yet using the Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS 4.0) for program data collection at the time of the count were provided by the participating programs using a standardized enumeration reporting form available in Appendix 1. Forms, with and instructional package, were distributed on October 30, 2024, and requested to be returned on November 5, 2024, by 2:00 pm. Occupancy data on the number of individuals staying in provincially-funded and administered Violence Against Women (VAW) shelter sites were provided by the participating VAW programs using the same standardized enumeration reporting form with the same reporting timeline. The standard template requested additional optional demographic information about the individuals being counted.

**Outside Locations:** Enumeration of the population experiencing unsheltered homelessness was taken from the ongoing daily tracking completed by the Housing Focused Street Outreach Team. The result used for the unsheltered homelessness

enumeration was the total sum of all individuals staying at each site that was deemed active. For a site to be considered active, it means that HFSO is regularly engaging with folks and is very confident the site is occupied near the time of enumeration. To ensure information was as accurate as possible, the HFSO team was consulted one week before providing the final number to ensure data collection was complete, that active sites were labelled as such, and that there were no inconsistencies with other reporting sources.

This number includes individuals staying in encampments (in structures, tents, and RV's), as well as known individuals staying in their personal vehicle. HFSO does not enter private property or abandoned buildings without explicit permission, and therefore encampments in these locations with no permissions granted were not included.

Given the transient nature of the population, this number will always be an approximation. This methodology is likely under-reporting the true value, as there continue to be individuals who opt to live in locations that are isolated from services, as well as individuals who are living out of a vehicle and change their location daily.

The number of people living outside is highly correlated with the seasons. During the winter months, the number of individuals sleeping outside drops substantially as individuals exhaust other options such as couch-surfing, utilizing vestibules, going to other cities with shelter space and entering abandoned buildings. As the enumeration was completed in November, there is the potential that the count will be lower than values seen in the spring and summer.

While the daily tracking of the individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness is more comprehensive than previously employed in the City of Hamilton, there is the potential that individuals counted using this method for enumeration had stayed in an indoor space on the actual night of enumeration and would therefore be counted more than once.

**Data Management:** All enumeration data was collated into a single document with current results as well as the results from 2021 to support the identification of data anomalies. Emailed submissions were reviewed within 24 hours of submission for completion and potential errors. The standardized data collection template was created in MS Excel and included detailed instructions, data definitions, and drop-down options to support data quality.

## SURVEY

The following section describes the survey implementation and related data management methods.

**Survey Tool:** The final survey included 15 core questions recommended by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) and required by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, as well as several of the optional sub-set questions from the same source. The optional questions were selected to enhance knowledge of specific, urgent community needs and trends and were decided through consultation the PiTC working group made up of staff from Housing Services and CHIL. Surveys were only available in English but access to translation services was available through the homeless serving system organizations. The final survey tool used is available in Appendix 2.

**Target Population:** The indoor survey target population was defined as any individual who was at least 16 years old or older and staying overnight in a program for people experiencing homelessness on any night between November 4, 2024 and November 8, 2024. The unsheltered/outdoor survey target population was defined as any individual who was at least 16 years old or older and identified by staff on the Housing-focused Street Outreach team as staying outdoors or unsheltered on any night during between November 4, 2024 and November 18, 2024. The Indigenous Magnet Event survey target population was defined as any individual who was at least 16 years old or older and identified by event staff as experiencing homelessness on November 8, 2024. Dependents over the age of 16 were eligible to participate even if they were accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**Sampling Strategy:** All target population persons were invited to participate in the survey using a standard script and survey consent process. Unsheltered locations were determined based on the following set of criteria:

- Known site occupation
- Sight size
- Geographic concentration
- Geographic distribution
- Historical consistency
- Site permanency

Survey participation was voluntary, and clients were explicitly informed that non-participation would not impact the services received from the program through the consent process. Clients invited to participate in the survey were offered a \$15 gift card

as an honorarium for participating. Clients who wished to discontinue their participation before answering all questions were still provided with a gift card. A unique identifier was generated using the client's first name initial, last name initial and date of birth. This information was only used to evaluate potential duplicate client survey completion at the time of survey processing. Voluntary survey completion could lead to sample bias within the results because of who chooses to participate and who does not.

**Staff Training:** The following trainings related to survey completion and data collection were provided to those involved with surveying participants:

- Two training sessions for site leads and six general training sessions for staff who would be administering the survey.
- Five training sessions on the survey tool and data collection expectations.

Training covered information on the survey approach including survey contents, best practices, safety, honorarium, respectful and trauma-informed approaches to asking sensitive questions, HIFIS Lite log in, HIFIS Lite survey entry, and HIFIS Lite survey saving.

## **Survey Administration**

**Inside Locations:** Indoor surveys were administered by designated staff at the participating programs. For inside locations, the survey was conducted with individuals staying in city-administered emergency shelters including hotel overflow, violence against women shelters, transitional living programs (TLP), and overnight and daytime drop-in programs. Each indoor site identified a key contact for communications, on-site training and guidance, and preliminary troubleshooting that City staff liaised with to ensure success of the PiTC. One program received additional support with survey administration from City of Hamilton Housing Services Division staff.

**Outside Locations:** Outdoor surveys were administered by Housing-focused Street Outreach along with City of Hamilton Housing Services Division staff at the identified and assigned locations. Survey administration and staff guidance and training for outdoor locations was coordinated by the PiTC coordinator with the Housing-focused Street Outreach Team.

**Indigenous Magnet Event:** Indigenous individuals and families experiencing homelessness were offered the opportunity to participate in the PiTC in a more culturally safe and appropriate environment through the Indigenous Magnet Event. At this event surveys were administered by Indigenous sector staff and community members were able to connect with local Indigenous leaders, Knowledge Keepers, and

Elders. Survey administration and event guidance and training at the event was coordinated by the Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership.

**General Survey Administration:** Surveys were directly entered into HIFIS Lite when possible, via City authorized HIFIS Lite user accounts using a user specific log-in. Any survey completed on paper because of technical issues or data collection limitations was stored in a locked secure cabinet with limited access until such time that it could be entered by City of Hamilton Housing Services Division staff. The HIFIS Lite survey tool was available for data entry November 4, 2024, to November 8, 2024, for inside location and November 4, 2024, to November 19, 2024, for outside locations. Survey access was extended for 2 programs to complete data entry until November 11, 2024, and one program to November 18, 2024.

Completion targets were identified and stratified by sector to support the assessment of coverage and representation of the completed surveys.

**Data Management:** Monitoring of survey completion, as technically feasible, was done through HIFIS Lite to support communications with the participating programs throughout the survey data collection period. Regular status updates were provided that included survey complete counts by sector as well as the minimum and aspirational targets as noted above.

Once the survey period was complete, the following data quality processes were initiated.

- Removal of abandoned surveys – Any survey with an explicit abandoned submission and abandoned reason as recorded in HIFIS Lite was reviewed for removal from the analysis file.
- Incompleteness – Any survey submitted that was deemed incomplete was removed from the dataset. Incomplete records will be identified as:
  - Any incomplete screening questions
  - Over 80% of any questions had blank responses
- Item non-response – Item non-response, meaning individual questions with “don’t know”, “declined to answer” or unclear/blank response, were included in all analysis results making the total number of responses (n = ###) for all single select questions consistent. All non-response was reported explicitly as “don’t know”, “declined to answer” and unclear/blank response within the results.

- Removal of screened out – Any survey with a completed submission status in HIFIS Lite but did not pass the screening questions (ensuring eligibility) were reviewed and removed from the analysis file.
- Duplicates – An identifier of client's first name initial, last name initial and year of birth was entered and used to identify potential duplicate records. Any duplicate identifiers were examined. The criteria below was used to further assess the potential duplicate records. If a record was identified as a duplicate the most recent record was removed from the analysis file, keeping the original.
  - Same identifier
  - Same age at first experiencing homelessness (Q5)
  - Same immigration status (Q6)
  - Same Indigenous identity (Q8)
  - Same racial identity (Q8b)
  - Same gender (Q12)

**Analysis:** Descriptive statistics and data visualizations were created using MS Excel. Question response categories with a count of less than 5 survey respondents were suppressed as <5. Suppressing small values in this report was done to reduce the risk that individuals could be identified based on their responses. Throughout the results (n = ###) denotes the total number of responses to that question for the presented results to illustrate if the question allowed respondents to report a single response only (i.e. n = 807), if the question allowed respondents to select multiple response option (i.e. n = greater than 807), or there was a skip pattern within the survey where the question was only asked of a subset of the survey respondents. Additional information is available in the question specific end notes.

## METHODS IMPROVEMENTS

Several changes to the enumeration and survey methods initiated for the 2021 Point in Time Connection were continued in 2024 due to their impact on coordinating a successful project, including:

- extending the survey period,
- no additional community volunteers recruited - surveying was conducted exclusively by community social-service agency and City of Hamilton staff,
- full training module shared and completed online,
- focus on sheltered sites (emergency shelter, drop-in, etc.), and
- targeted approach to connect with individuals and families in the community in known locations through the City's Housing Focused Street Outreach team as experiencing unsheltered homelessness, alongside partners from local Indigenous organizations,



- use of 24-hour online survey submission

Three changes in approach for the 2024 Point in Time Connection were:

- holding information sessions for individuals experiencing homelessness to learn about the project and how they can participate in advance of the survey period starting,
- city staff offered and attended two sites to complete surveys to programs that were struggling to meet targets, and providing additional time specifically for engaging with individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The Housing Focused Street Outreach team had an additional 9 days to conduct surveys with those living in encampments and other locations outside. This extended period was necessary to ensure that all known encampment sites were visited, and surveys were conducted with staff with relationships to community members living unsheltered.

## RESULTS

### ENUMERATION RESULTS

On the night of November 4, 2024, 1216 individuals were identified as homeless in the City of Hamilton. This represents a 31% increase from the previous PiTC in November 2021, which recorded a total of 927 individuals.

The increase is primarily being driven by increases in the counted populations accessing drop-in programs and the those living unsheltered.

**Table 2: Enumeration Results by Location Type in 2011 and 2024**

Location Type	2021 Capacity	2021 Count	2024 Capacity	2024 Count	Count (Percent) Change
Emergency Shelters	561	624	618	573	-51 (-8%)
Overnight Drop-in Programs	22	37	157	140	+103 (+278%)
VAW Shelters	105	102	122	115	+13 (+13%)
Transitional / Short-term Housing Programs	103	74	120	104	+30 (+41%)
Unsheltered	-	90	-	280	+190 (+111%)
Other	-	-	4	4	+4
<b>Total</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>1021</b>	<b>1216</b>	<b>+289 (+31%)</b>

### SURVEY RESULTS

Between November 4, 2024 and November 18, 2024, 807 valid PiTC surveys were voluntarily completed with individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Hamilton, representing 66% of the enumerated population.

**Table 3: Survey Completion by Location Type and Sectors in 2024**

Location Type and Sector	Preliminary Targets <sup>i</sup>	Count of Completed Surveys
Emergency Shelters: Men	146	155
Emergency Shelters: Women	40	44
Emergency Shelters: Youth	13	11
Emergency Shelters: Family	18	22
Emergency Shelters: Hotel (Family)	47	37
Overnight Drop-in Programs	94	116
VAW Shelters	73	43
Transitional / Short-term Housing Programs	72	29
Unsheltered	160	183
Indigenous Magnet Event	60	114
Other	47	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>807</b>

The following sections describe the survey result details for all questions.

#### **Where did you stay last night<sup>ii</sup>**

In response to “Where are you staying tonight? / Where did you stay last night?” most survey respondents reported in homeless shelter (54%), in an encampment (20%), or unsheltered in a public space (11%).

**Table 4: Summary of Survey Respondents Locations the Night Before the Survey**

Responses	Count	Percent
Homeless Shelter (e.g. Emergency, Family or Domestic Violence Shelter, Warming Centre, Drop-in)	439	54%
Encampment (e.g. Group of tents, Makeshift shelters or Other long-term settlement)	165	20%
Unsheltered in a Public Space (e.g. Street, Park, Bus Shelter, Forest or Abandoned Building)	92	11%
Transitional Shelter / Housing	36	4%
Someone Else's Place	32	4%
Hotel / Motel Funded by City or Homeless Program	22	3%
Vehicle (e.g. Car, Recreational Vehicle (RV), Truck, Boat)	10	1%
Hotel / Motel Self-Funded	>5	0.4%
Hospital	>5	0.2%
Jail, Prison, Remand Centre	>5	0.1%
Unsure	5	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Locations stayed for at least one night in the past year<sup>iii</sup>**

When asked about locations stayed at in the past year, at least one time, the most common responses reported include staying at homeless shelters (26%), unsheltered in a public space (17%), encampments (15%), someone else's place (13%), and hospitals (9%).

**Table 5: Locations Stayed in the Past Year (12 Months)**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Homeless Shelter (e.g. Emergency, Family or Domestic Violence Shelter, Warming Centre, Drop-in)	559	26%
Encampment (e.g. Group of tents, Makeshift shelters or Other long-term settlement)	327	15%
Unsheltered in a Public Space (e.g. Street, Park, Bus Shelter, Forest or Abandoned Building)	363	17%
Transitional Shelter / Housing	80	4%
Someone Else's Place	286	13%
Hotel / Motel Funded by City or Homeless Program	116	5%
Vehicle (e.g. Car, Recreational Vehicle (RV), Truck, Boat)	123	6%
Hospital	199	9%
Jail, Prison, Remand Centre	110	5%
Did Not Stay at Any of the Identified Locations in the Past Year	15	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2178</b>	<b>100%</b>

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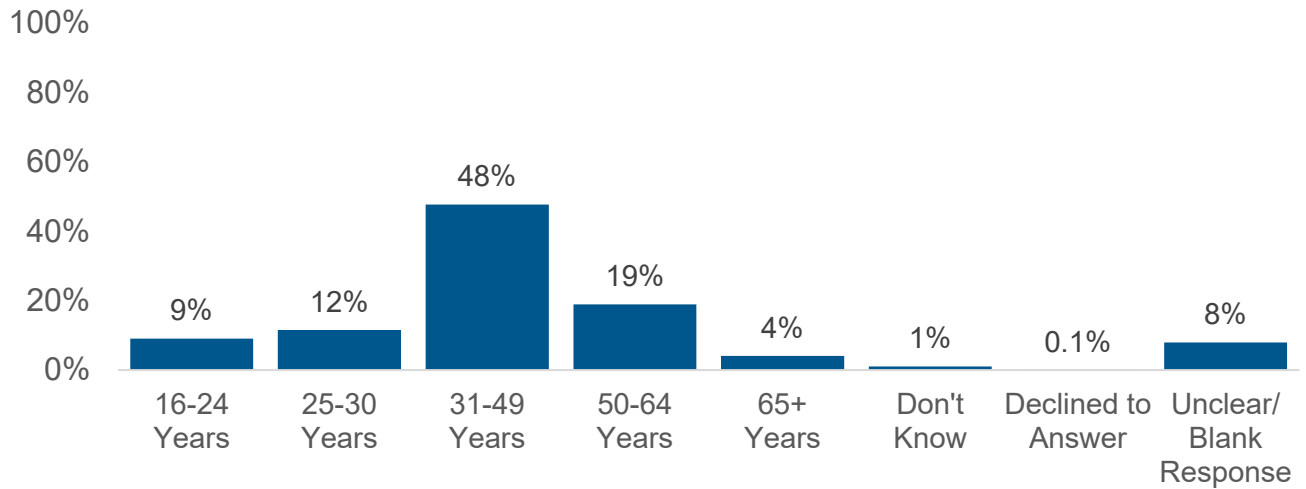
**PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

**Age<sup>iv</sup>**

Based on age groups determined from the results from the questions “How old are you? OR What year were you born?” most survey respondents reported being adults aged 31-49 years (385, 48%) or adults aged 50-64 years (153, 19%). Youth aged 16-24 years represented 9% (73) of the surveyed population and senior adults aged 65+ years represented 4% (33) of the surveyed population.

The average age of respondents was 41 years old. Respondents ranged in age from 16 as the youngest and 82 as the oldest.

**Figure 1: Age Group (Years) of Respondents (n = 807)**



**Gender identity**

In response to “What gender do you identify with” most survey respondents reported identifying as men (57%) or women (40%). Two percent (2%) of surveyed population reported identifying as an option other than man or woman including Non-binary (Genderqueer), Two-Spirit, Trans Woman, Trans Man, or a not listed option.

**Table 6: Gender Identity of Respondents**

Responses	Count	Percent
Man	457	57%
Woman	321	40%
Non-binary (Genderqueer)	11	1%
Two-Spirit	>5	0.2%
Trans Woman	>5	0.2%
Trans Man	>5	0.2%
Not Listed	>5	0.2%
Don't Know	>5	0.4%
Declined to Answer	6	1%
Unclear/ Blank Response	>5	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Sexual Orientation**

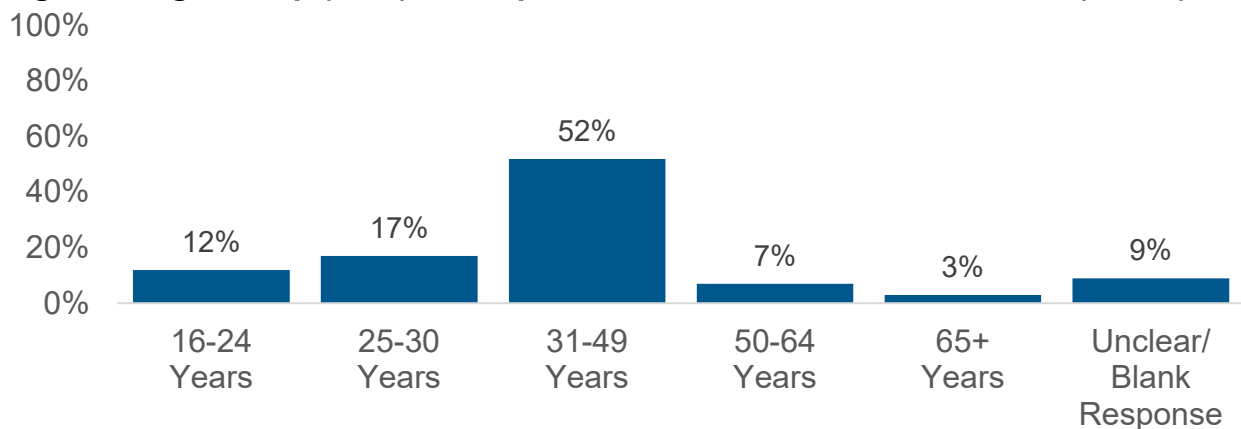
In response to “How do you describe your sexual orientation” most survey respondents reported their sexual orientation as straight/ heterosexual (85%) with the next most common responses being bisexual (7%) and pansexual (2%).

**Table 7: Sexual Identity of Respondents**

Responses	Count	Percent
Straight / Heterosexual	684	85%
Bisexual	58	7%
Pansexual	15	2%
Gay	10	1%
Queer	7	1%
Lesbian	5	1%
Questioning	>5	0.2%
Not Listed	>5	0.1%
Don't Know	7	1%
Declined to Answer	17	2%
Unclear / Blank Response	>5	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of those who identified as 2SLGBTQIA+<sup>v</sup> (97), most 2SLGBTQIA+ respondents were between the ages of 31-49 (50, 52%).

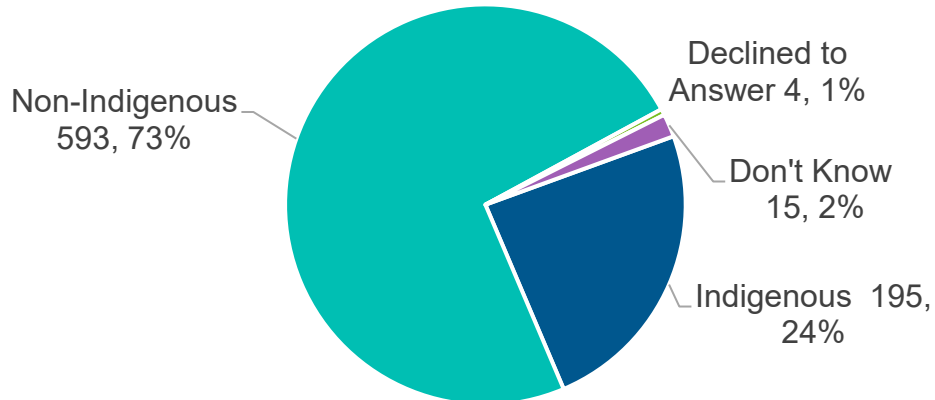
**Figure 2: Age Group (Year) of Respondents Identified as 2SLGBTQIA+ (n = 97)**



**Indigenous Identity and Community<sup>vi</sup>**

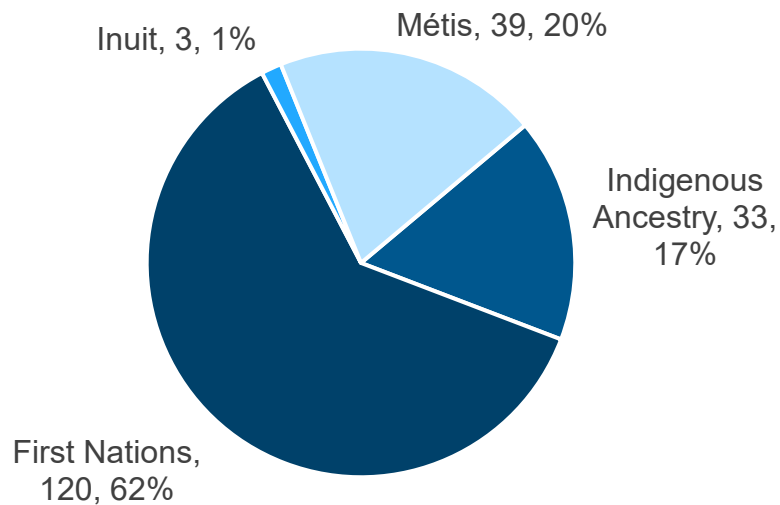
In response to “Do you identify as First Nations (with or without status), Métis, or Inuit?” most survey respondents reported non-Indigenous identity (73%). Twenty-four percent (195, 24%) of the surveyed population reported Indigenous identity or ancestry. Of the respondents who identified as Indigenous, 8% (64) identified as Indigenous only (not shown).

**Figure 3: Indigenous Identify (n = 807)**



Of respondents who reported Indigenous identity or ancestry, the majority identified as First Nations (62%), Metis (20%), Indigenous Ancestry (17%) and Inuit (1%). Respondents reported identifying with 49 different Indigenous communities, with Six Nations of the Grand River being the most common response (34) (not shown).

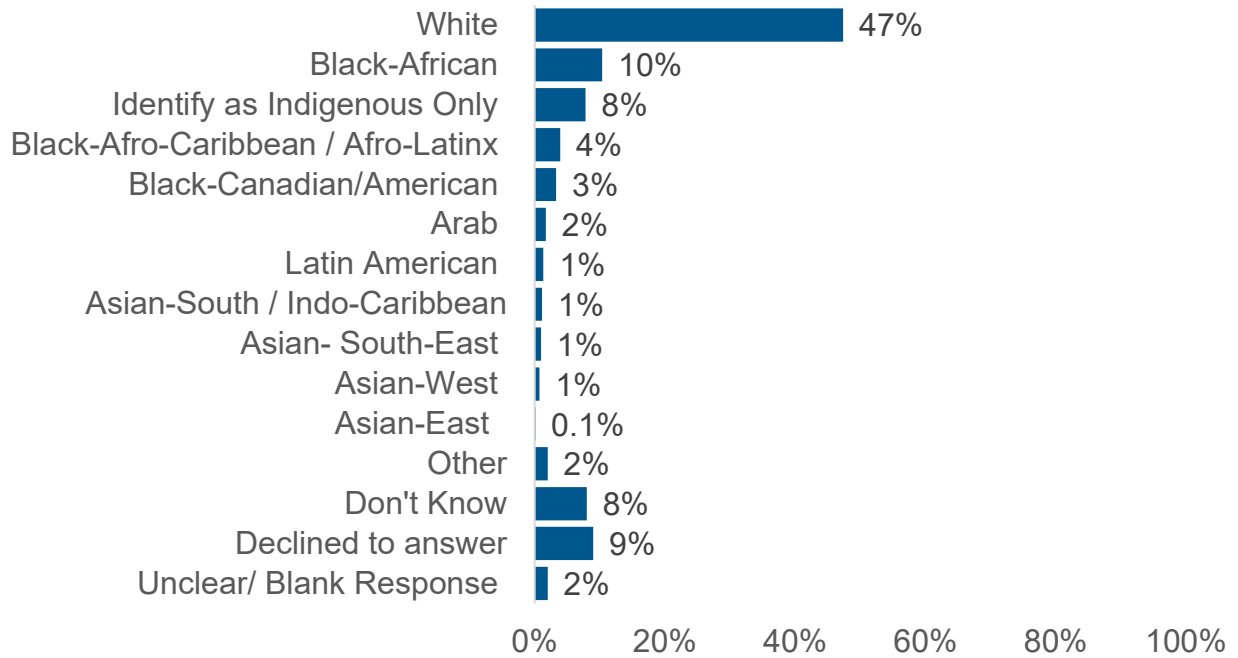
**Figure 4: Indigenous Identify Details (n = 195)**



**Racial Identity<sup>vii</sup>**

In response to “Do you identify with any of the racial identities listed below?” most survey respondents reported identifying as white (388, 47%), Black-African (85, 10%), or Indigenous only (64, 8%). Thirty-three percent (267, 33%) of all respondents identified as a member of a racialized group.

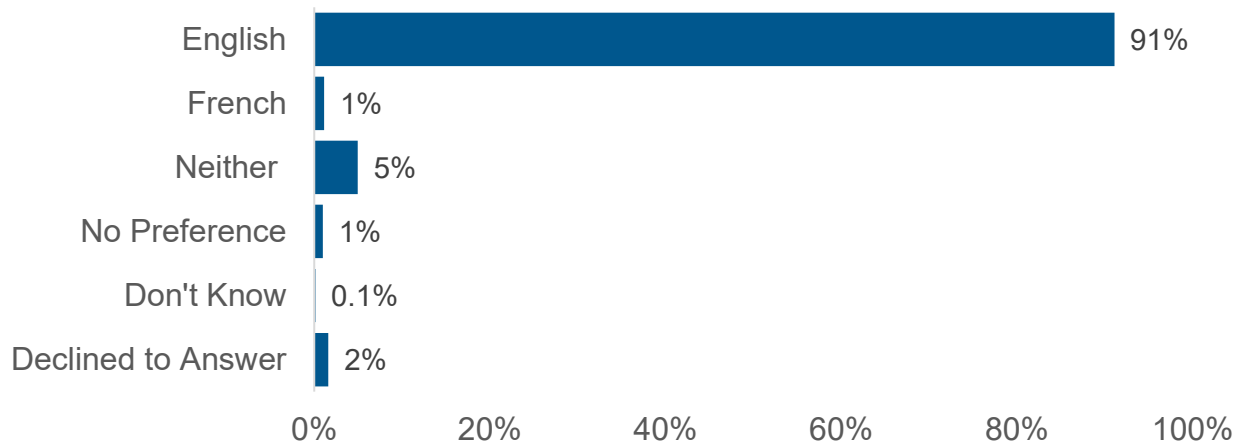
**Figure 5: Racial Identity of Respondents (n = 816)**



**Language**

In response to the question, “In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?”, most respondents identified English (735, 91%) followed by other language other than English or French (40, 5%) and French (9, 1%).

**Figure 6: Preferred Language of Respondents (n = 807)**



**Family Homelessness<sup>viii</sup>**

In response to “Do you have family members or anyone else who is staying with you tonight? / Did any family members or anyone else stay with you last night?” most survey respondents reported being single people staying alone (68%). Family units of more than one person and/or pets represented 21% of the surveyed population.



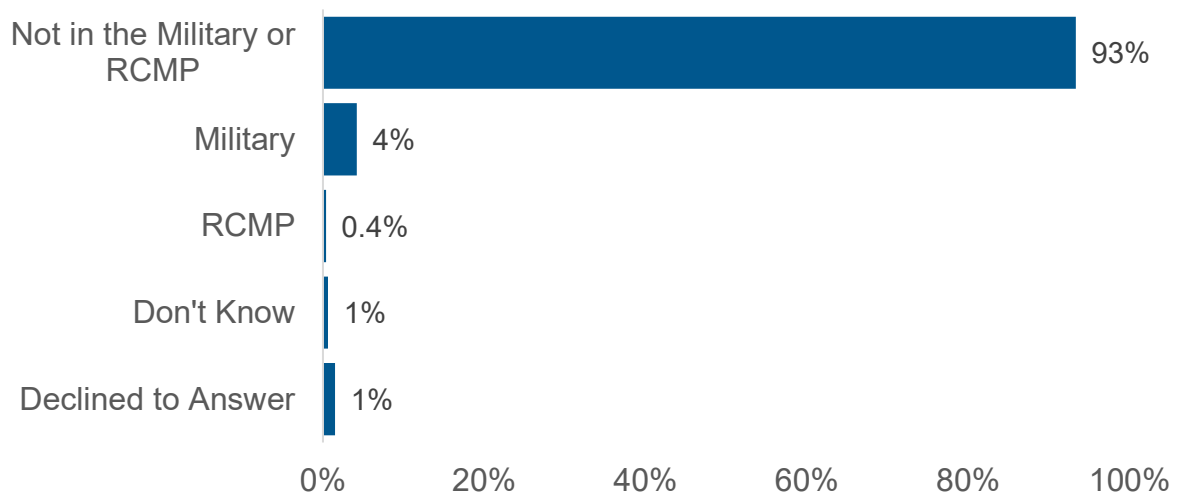
**Figure 8: Persons Staying with Respondents on Night of PiTC Survey (n = 1121)**

Responses	Count	Percent
Single	637	68%
Yes- Family Head	166	15%
Yes- Child/Dependent	179	16%
Yes- Partner	66	6%
Yes- Other Adults	49	4%
Yes- Pet	6	1%
Decline to Answer	18	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1121</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Veteran Homelessness**

In response to “Have you ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP?” 5% (37) of respondents reported that they had served.

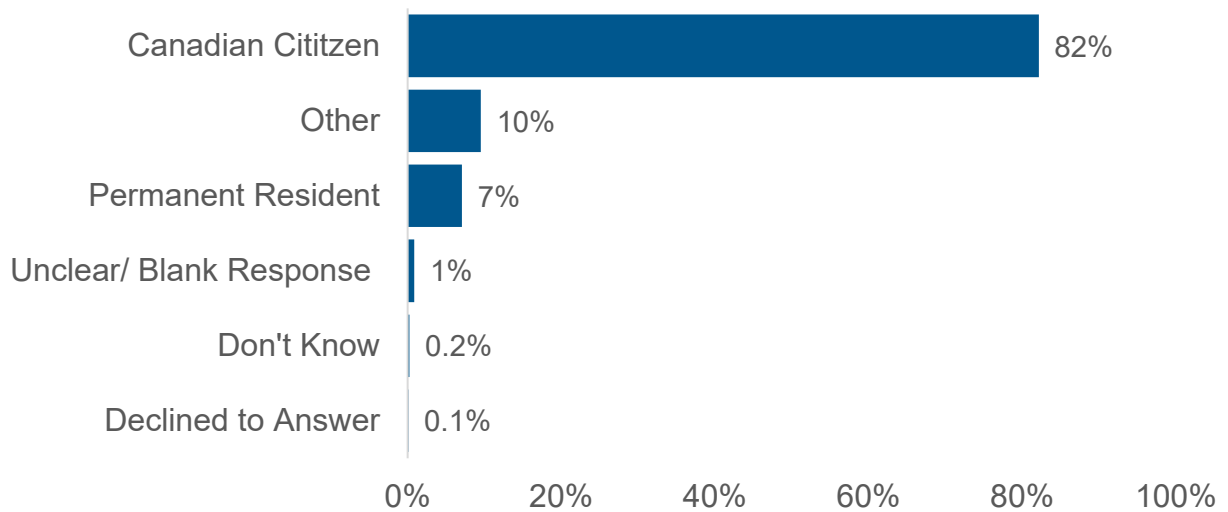
**Figure 7: Respondents Reporting Service in the Canadian Military or RCMP (n = 807)**



**Citizenship and Migration**

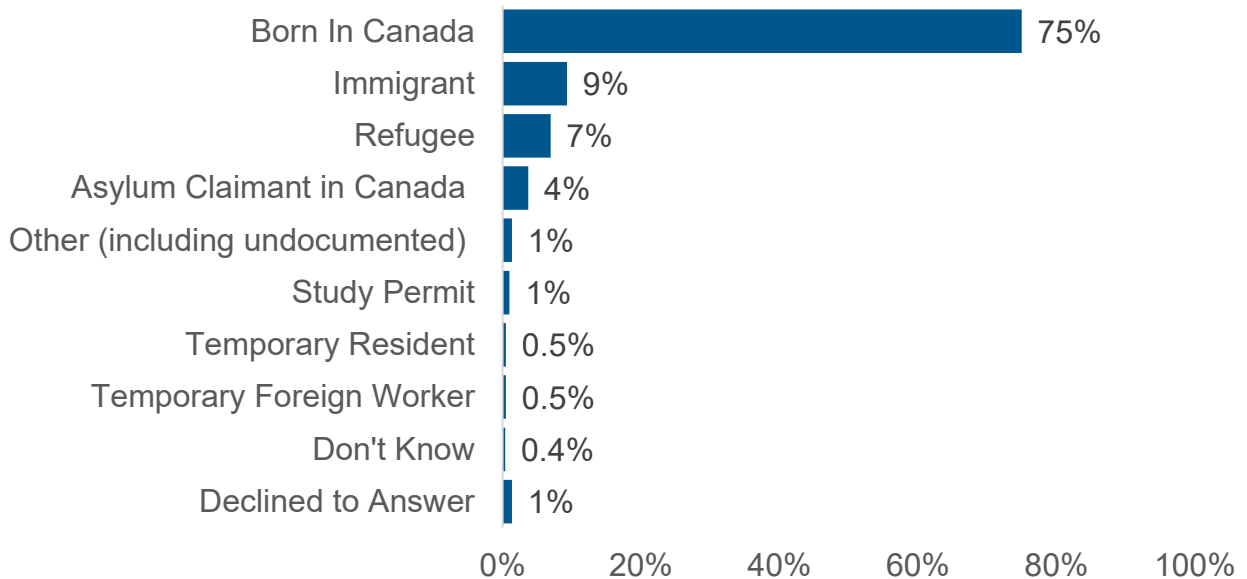
In response to “Are you a Canadian Citizen?” majority of the respondents reported that they are a Canadian citizen (663, 82%).

**Figure 10: Respondents' Citizenship Status (n = 807)**



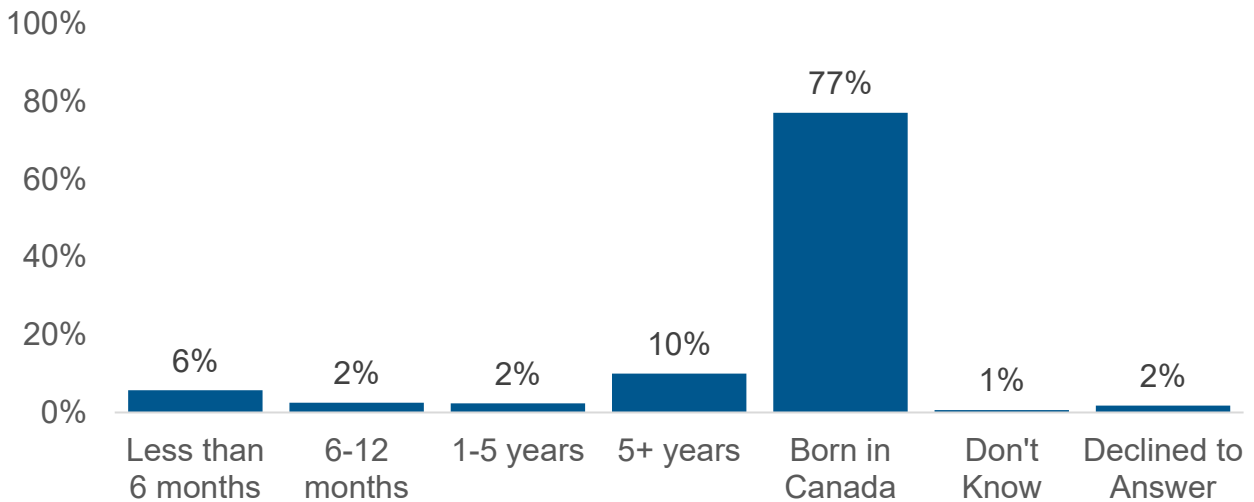
In response to "Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee, asylum claimant, or through another process?" 23% (188) reported coming into Canada. This includes individuals identifying mostly as immigrants (75, 9%), refugees (56, 7%) and asylum claimant in Canada (30, 4%).

**Figure 8: Respondents Coming to Canada (n = 807)**



In response to "How long have you been in Canada?" as 10% (81) reported that they have been in Canada for 5+ years. Six percent (46, 6%) of respondents reported being in Canada less than 6 months.

**Figure 9: Respondents Length of Time in Canada (n = 807)**



**Length of Time in Hamilton and Main Reason for Coming Here<sup>ix</sup>**

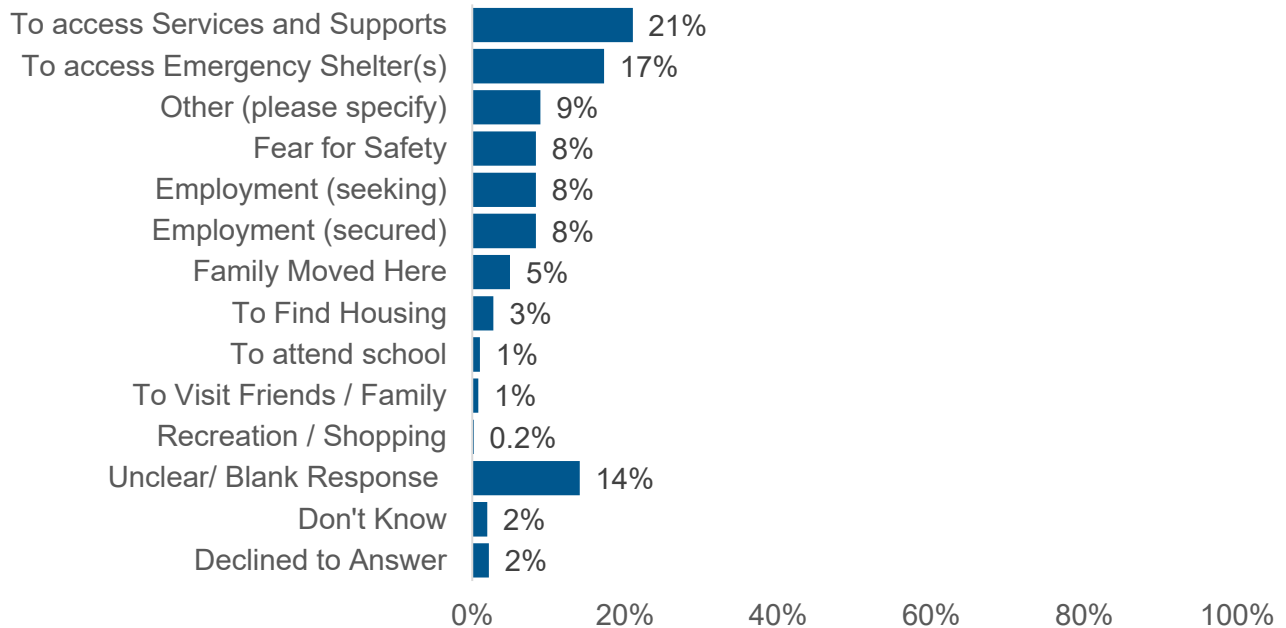
In response to “How long have you been in Hamilton?” most survey respondents reported always being here (37%) or being here for more than 5 years (24%). Seventeen percent (17%) of the surveyed population reported being in the City of Hamilton for less than 6 months.

**Table 9: Length of Time in Hamilton (n = 807)**

Responses	Count	Percent
Less than 6 months	140	17%
6-12 months	56	7%
1-5 years	84	10%
5+ years	194	24%
Always been here	302	37%
Don't Know	15	2%
Decline to Answer	12	1%
Unclear/ Blank Response	>5	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>100%</b>

For those who reported that they have not always been here. in response to “What is the main reason you came to Hamilton?” the most commonly reported responses were family moved here (106, 21%) and to access emergency shelters (87, 17%).

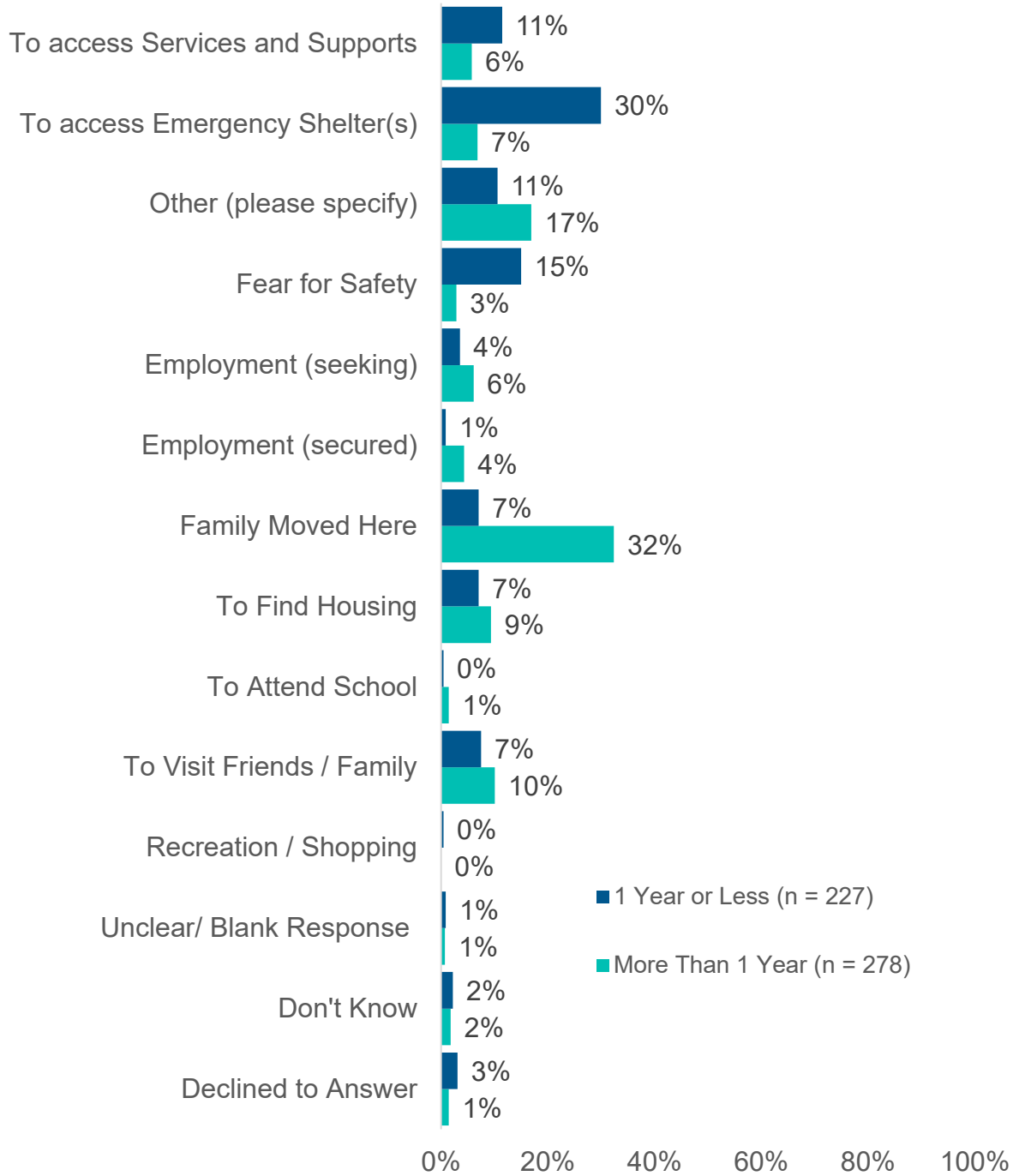
**Figure 11: Reason for Coming to Hamilton (n = 505)**



A higher proportion of respondents who have been in the City of Hamilton for one year or less reported that they came here for access to emergency shelters (68, 30%), and services and supports (26, 11%) compared to respondents who have been in the City of Hamilton for more than one year (19, 7% and 16, 6% respectively).

A higher proportion of respondents who have been in the City of Hamilton for more than one year reported that they came here because their family moved here (90, 32%) or to visit family or friends (28, 10%) compared to respondents who have been in the City of Hamilton one year or less (16, 7% and 17, 6% respectively).

**Figure 12: Reason for Coming to Hamilton**

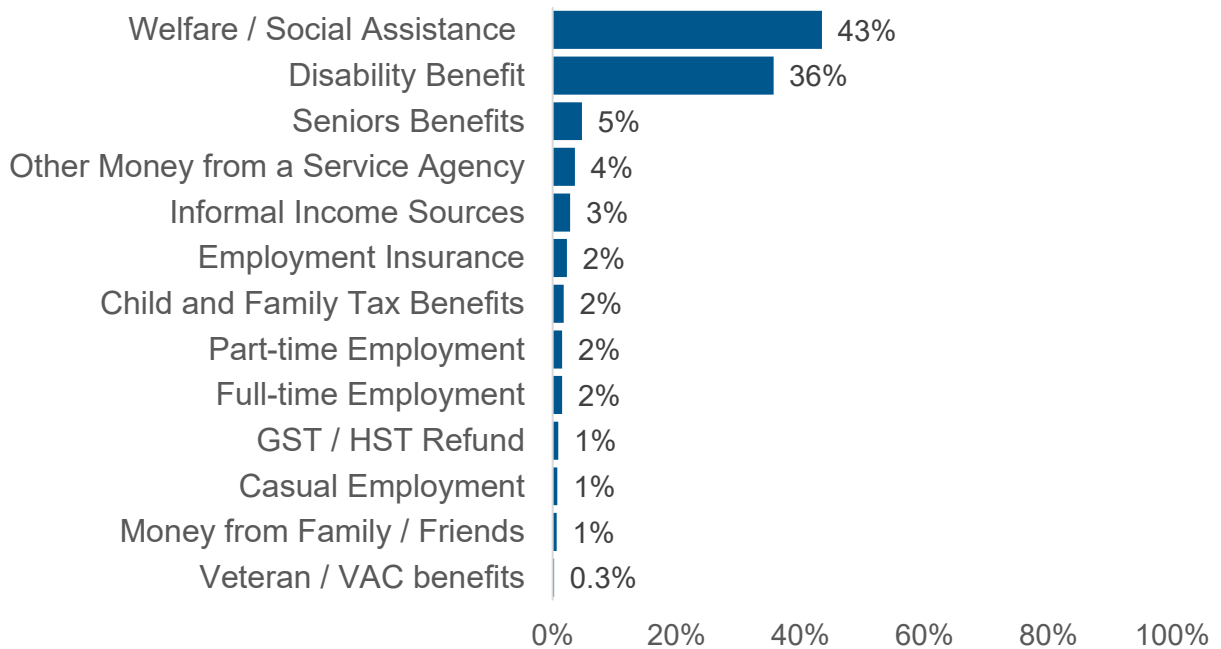


Overall, of the respondents who reported moving to Hamilton, the top Canadian communities' respondents reported as their location prior to coming to Hamilton were Toronto (45), Brantford (16), Burlington (15), Mississauga (14) and Oakville (13). Internationally, the most common countries were Nigeria (19), Kenya (14) and Uganda (10).

### Sources of Income<sup>x</sup>

In response to “What are your sources of income”, 5% (38) of the survey respondents identified that they have no income. Most respondents with a reported income source identified government assistance or benefits as income sources (87%) including welfare/ social assistance i.e. Ontario Works (OW) (339, 43%), disability benefits i.e. Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) (278, 36%), seniors' benefits (37, 5%), child and family tax benefits (14, 2%), HST and GST refunds (7, 1%), and veteran/ VAC benefits (2, 0.3%).

**Figure 13: Respondents Sources of Income (n = 780)**



### Health Status<sup>xi</sup>

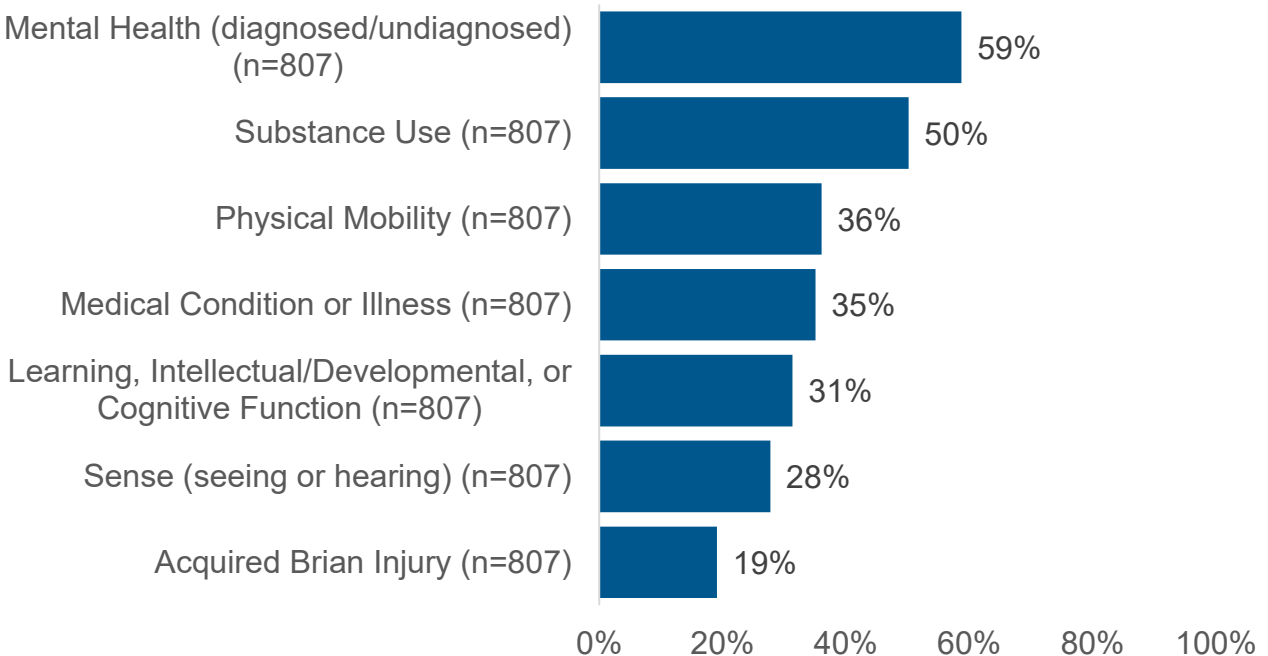
Respondents were asked if they had difficulties related to any of the following types of health challenges:

- Illness or medical condition (e.g. diabetes, tuberculosis (TB) or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV))
- Physical mobility (e.g. spinal cord injury, arthritis, or limited movement or dexterity)

- Learning, intellectual/ developmental, or cognitive function (e.g. fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or dementia)
- Acquired brain injury (e.g. due to an accident, violence, overdose, stroke, or brain tumor)
- Mental health [diagnosed/undiagnosed] (e.g. depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar, or schizophrenia)
- Substance Use (e.g. alcohol or opiates)
- Senses, such as seeing or hearing (e.g. blindness or deafness)

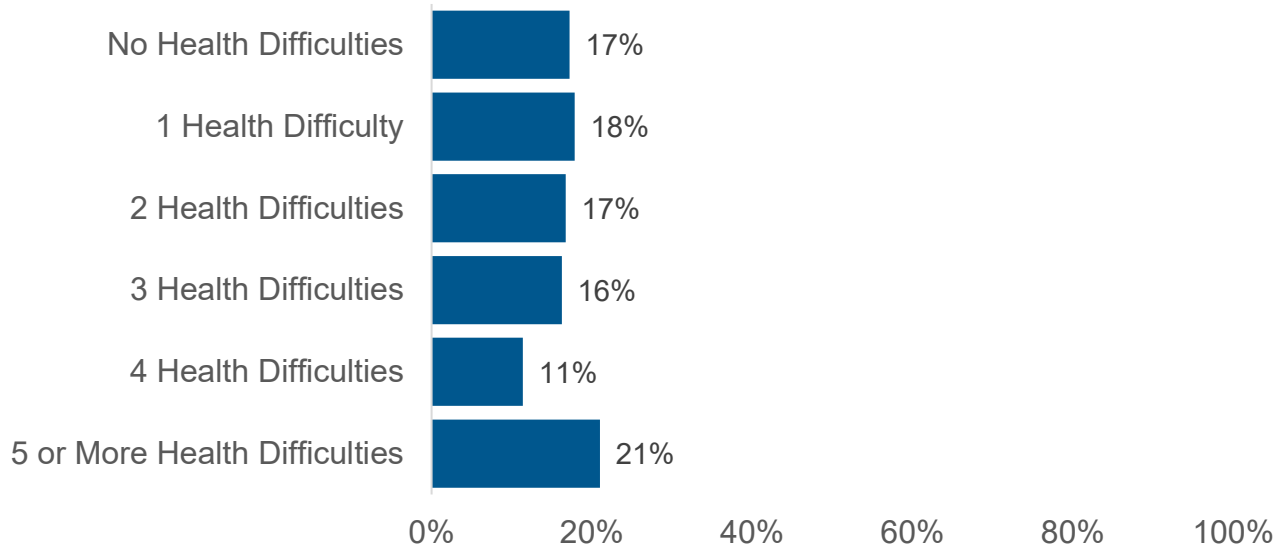
Half or more of respondents reported having difficulties relating to mental health (474, 59%) or substance use (405, 50%).

**Figure 14: Health Challenges Identified by Respondents**



A total of 668 (83%) respondents identified having at least one difficulty related to a health challenge. One-third (258, 32%) of respondents reported 4 or more health difficulties.

**Figure 15: Multiple Types of Health Difficulties Identified by Respondents (n = 807)**

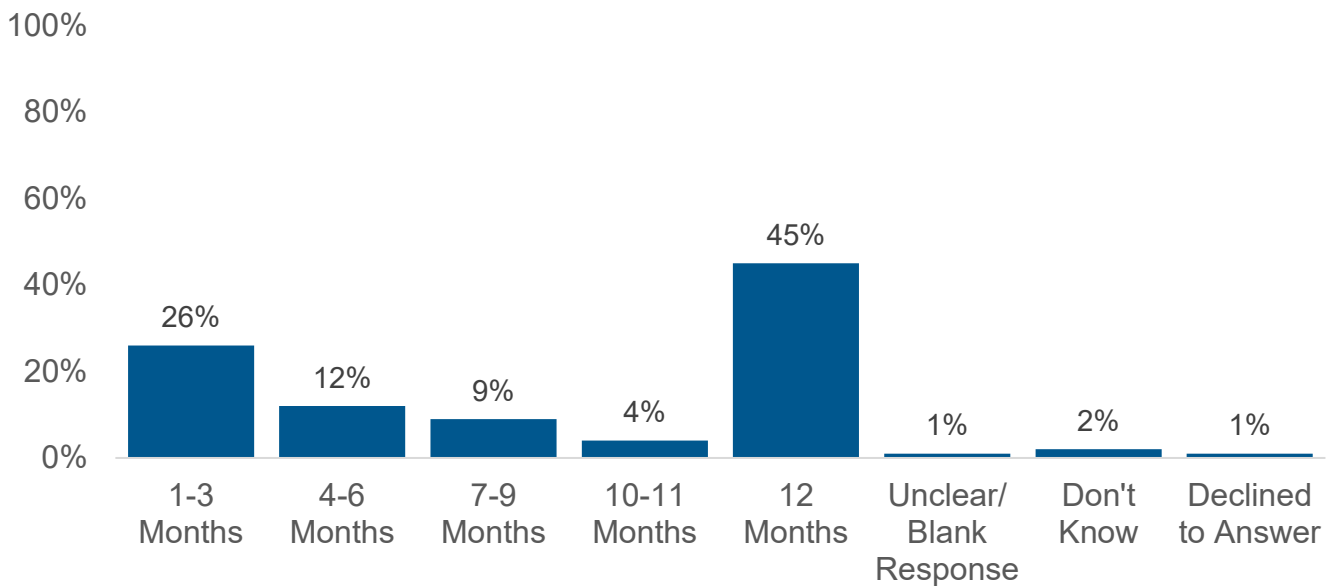


## HOMELESSNESS HISTORY

### Time Spent Homeless

In response to "In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the past year (the last 12 months)" almost half (364, 45%) identified being homeless for every day of the year. Twenty-six percent (211, 26%) were homeless for 1-3 months.

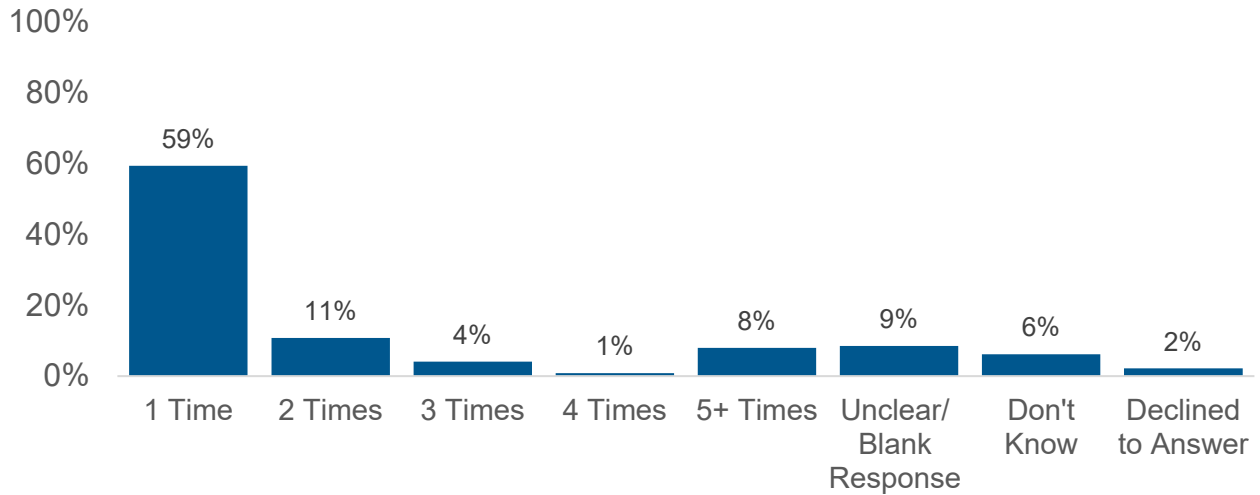
**Figure 16: Respondents Length of Time Homeless in the Past Year (12 months) (n = 807)**





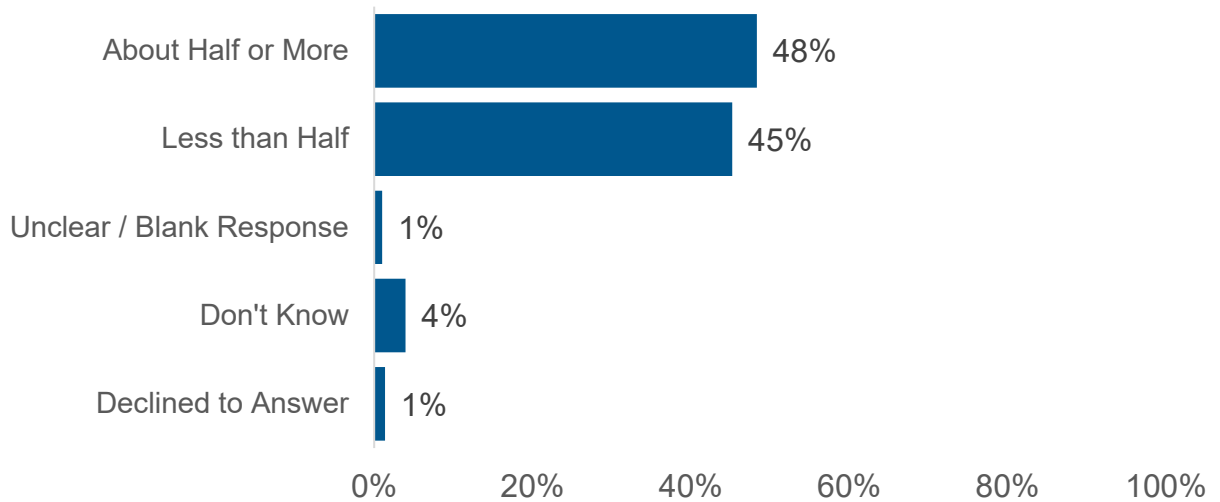
In response to “In total, how many different times have you experienced homelessness over the past year (the last 12 months)?” most respondents indicated only 1 time (479, 59%).

**Figure 17: Total Number of Different Times Spent Homeless in the Past 1 Year (n = 807)**



In response to “In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the past 3 years?”, 48% (390) of survey respondents reported about half or more of the time.

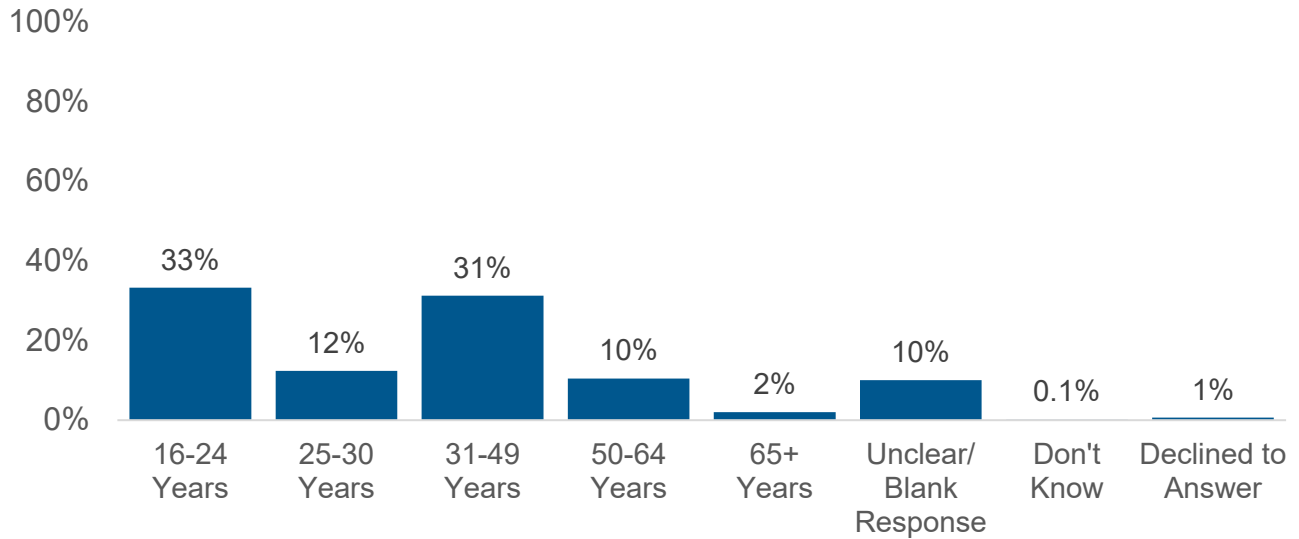
**Figure 18: Length of Time Spent Homeless in the Past 3 Year (n = 807)**



### Age of First Homelessness Experience

In response to "How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?" one-third of the survey respondents reported being between 16-24 years old (268, 33%) and another third reported being between 31-49 years old (252, 31%).

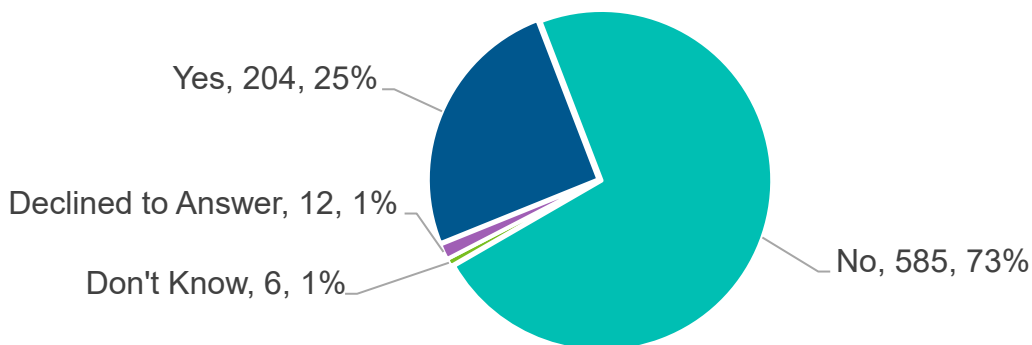
**Figure 18: Respondents Age of First Homeless Experience (n = 807)**



### Experience with Foster Care<sup>xii</sup>

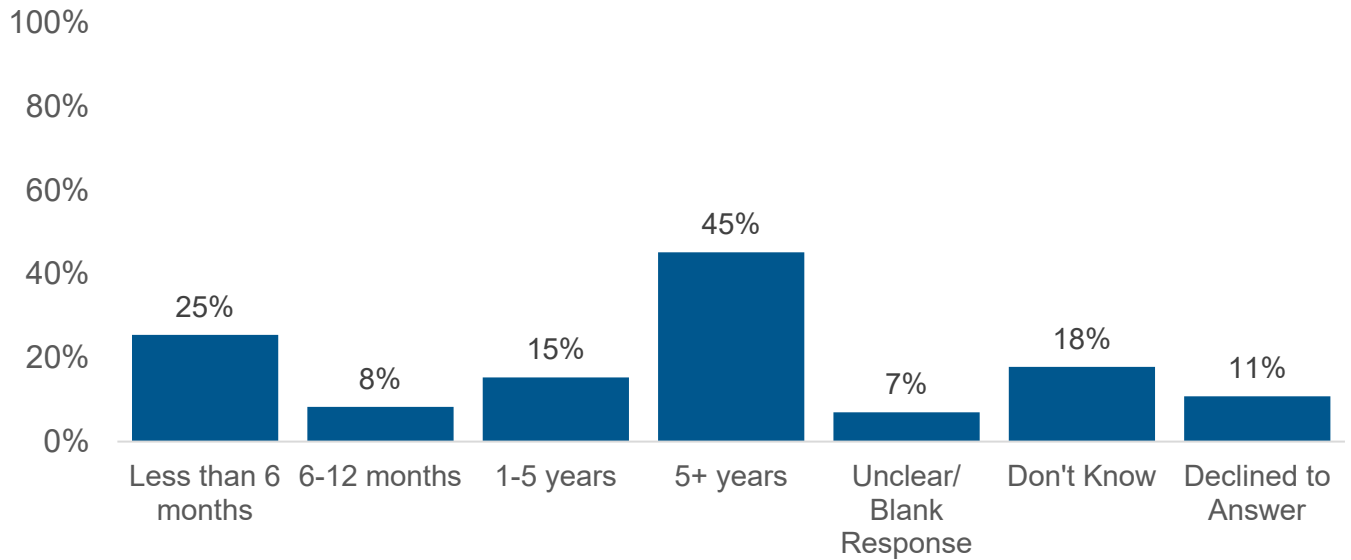
In response to "As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or in a youth group home" one-quarter of respondents reported that they were in foster care (25%).

**Figure 20: Respondents with Foster Care Experience (n = 807)**



Of those who reported experiences with foster care, 45% (71) reported that they became homeless 5 or more years after foster care experiences. Twenty-five percent (41, 25%) reported becoming homeless less than 6 months after foster care ended.

**Figure 21: Respondents Leaving Foster Care and Experiencing Homelessness (n = 204)**



**Reasons for Homelessness/Housing Loss and Experiences of Eviction<sup>xiii</sup>**

In response to “What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?” many survey respondents reported housing or financial issues (31%) or interpersonal conflict (31%).

**Table 10: Reasons for Losing Housing Most Recently (n = 1078)**

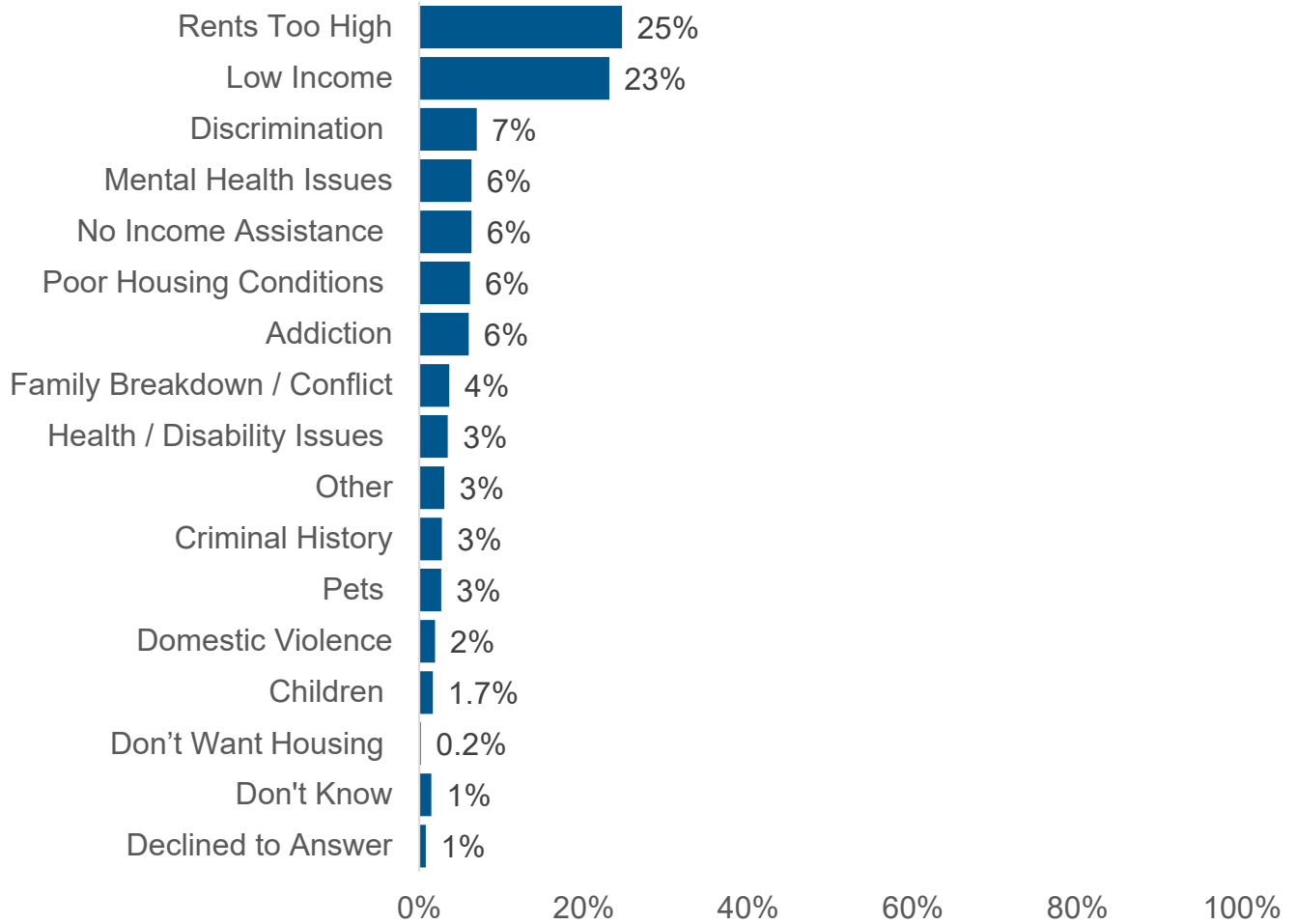
<b>Responses</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Housing and Financial Issues</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>31%</b>
Housing and Financial Issues: Not Enough Income for Housing (e.g. rental increase, loss of benefit, income or job)	239	22%
Housing and Financial Issues: Unfit / Unsafe Housing condition	65	6%
Housing and Financial Issues: Building Sold or Renovated	26	2%
Housing and Financial Issues: Owner Moved In	9	1%
<b>Interpersonal Conflict</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>31%</b>
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	124	12%
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	51	5%
Conflict with: Landlord	93	9%
Conflict with: Roommate	51	5%
<b>Experienced Abuse</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>8%</b>
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	52	5%
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	9	1%
Experienced Abuse by: Landlord	18	2%
<b>Experienced Discrimination</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>5%</b>
Experienced discrimination by: Spouse / Partner	6	1%
Experienced discrimination by: Parent / Guardian	5	0.5%
Experienced discrimination by: Landlord	40	4%
<b>Health or Corrections</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>12%</b>
Health or Corrections: Physical Health Issue / Disability	15	1%
Health or Corrections: Mental Health Issue	26	2%
Health or Corrections: Substance Use Issue	41	4%
Health or Corrections: Hospitalization or Treatment Program	11	1%
Health or Corrections: Incarceration (Jail or Prison)	42	4%
<b>Other</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>13%</b>
Other: Complaint (e.g. Noise / Damage)	10	1%
Other: Left the community / Relocated	33	3%
Other: Death or departure of family member	41	4%
Other: Pet(s)	>5	0.3%
Other: Not listed	48	4%
Other: Illegal/Unlawful Eviction without Notice	20	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1078</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Barriers to Finding Housing<sup>xiv</sup>**

In response to “What challenges or problems have you experienced when trying to find housing?” many respondents reported reasons related to income and costs. This includes financial barriers (976, 48% including rents too high (504, 25%), low income (472, 23%)), no income assistance (127, 6%). Other reported reasons included discrimination (140, 7%), mental health issues (127,6%), poor housing conditions (123,

6%) and addiction (120, 6%). A small number of survey respondents reported (0.2%) reported that they do not want housing.

**Figure 22: Respondents Barriers to Finding Housing (n = 2045)**




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## SERVICE USE PATTERNS

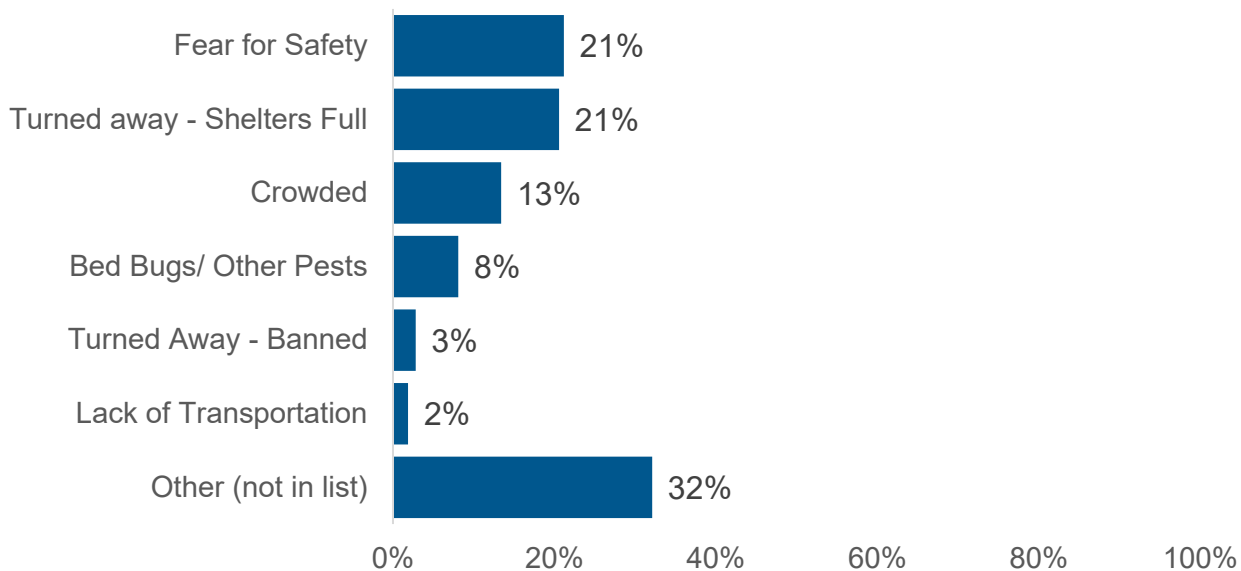
### Shelter Use in the Last Year (12 months)<sup>xv</sup>

In response to a question that identifies if survey respondents had stayed in a homeless shelter (e.g. emergency, family, or domestic violence shelter) in the past year, less than half of the survey respondents (207, 26%) reported that they had not.

In response to “If you haven’t stayed in a homeless shelter in the past year, what are the main reasons?” survey respondents identified fear or safety reasons (68, 21%), being turned away because the shelters are full (66, 21%) or crowding (43, 13%) as the

most common listed reasons. Many other (not listed) reasons were also reported (103, 32%). These reasons include having a pet, being in a couple family, staying somewhere else, having to follow shelter rules, preferences to be outside, theft of personal items, drugs and other.

**Figure 23: Respondents' Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter (n = 321)**

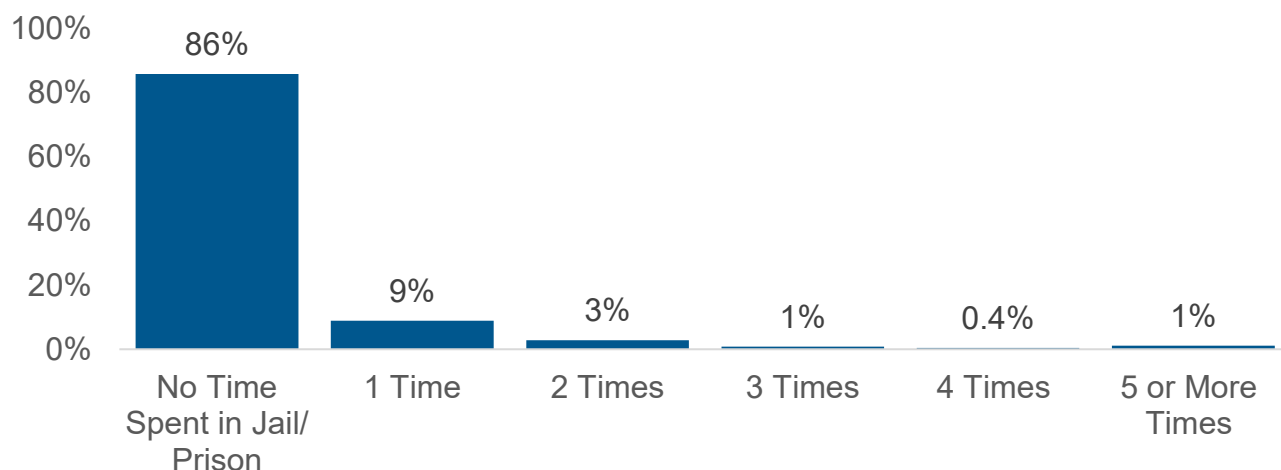


### **Interactions With the Criminal Justice System**

In response to “In the past year (12 months) have you interacted with police?” a total of 296 respondents (37%) indicated that they had interacted with police (e.g. tickets, arrests, or searches) (not shown).

In response to “In the past year (12 months) have you been to prison/jail?” 86% reported that they had not. A total of 114 respondents (14%) indicated that they had been in jail or prison, a cumulative total of 267 times.

**Figure 24: Reported Number of Times in Jail or Prison (n = 807)**

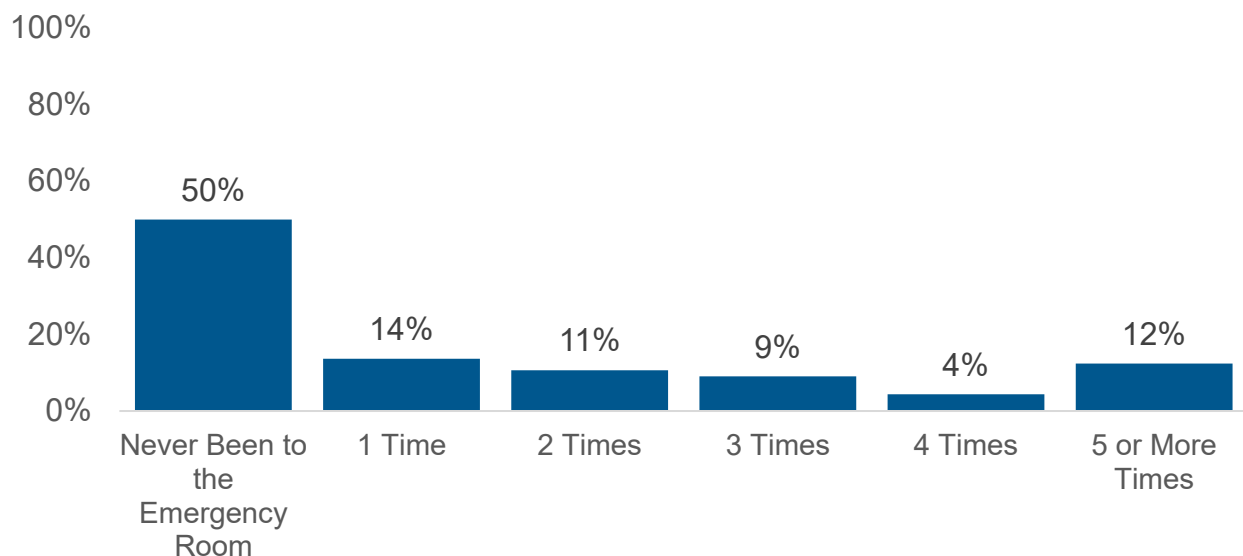


In response to “Total days you have spent in prison/jail?” one-third of the respondents who reported time in a correctional facility reported 1-7 days in jail or prison (34, 31%). Fourteen percent (15, 14%) reported more than 6 months (180 days) (not shown).

**Interactions with the Healthcare System**

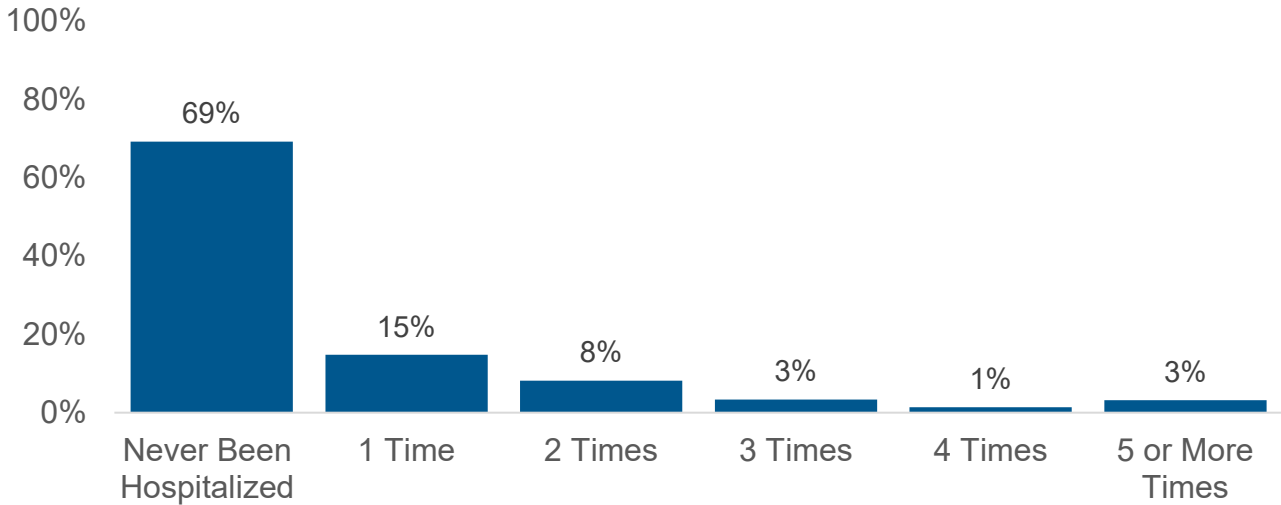
In response to “In the past year (12 months) have you been to an emergency room?” a total of 404 respondents (50%) indicated that they visited the emergency room. Fourteen percent (110, 14%) indicated that they had visited the emergency room only one time within the year and 36% (294) indicated that they had visited multiple times in the past year.

**Figure 25: Number of Visits to the Emergency Room in the Past Year (n = 807)**



In response to “In the past year (12 months) have you been hospitalized?” a total of 249 respondents (31%) indicated that they had been hospitalized. Fifteen percent (119, 15%) indicated that they had been hospitalized only one time within the year and 16% (130) indicated that they had been hospitalized multiple times in the past year.

**Figure 26: Number of Times Hospitalized in the Past Year (n = 807)**



In response to “Total days you have spent in hospital?” half of the respondents who reported time in a hospital reported 1-7 days there (126, 54%). Seven percent 7% (17) reported more than 30 days (not shown).



## CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

The PiTC is an important local initiative and demonstration of Hamilton's commitment to work collaboratively to prevent and end homelessness. As Service System Manager and Designated Community Entity for the provincial and federal funding respectively, the Housing Services Division remains committed to working in partnership with urban Indigenous leadership to build a coordinated housing and homeless-serving system in deep collaboration with community partners to ensure everyone in Hamilton has a home.

The 2024 enumeration results are assessed as counting all identified required core homelessness population types and sources.

**Key Finding #1: On the night of November 4, 2024, 1216 individuals were identified as homeless in the City of Hamilton represents a 31% increase from the previous Point in Time Connection in 2021.** On the night of November 4, 2024, 1216 individuals were identified as homeless in the City of Hamilton. The 2024 PiTC enumeration results identified an increase in counted homelessness in the City of Hamilton since 2021 (927). Ongoing system pressures and continuous inflows to homelessness suggest that this is an absolute increase in individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Hamilton, particularly among those accessing drop-in spaces and living unsheltered or encamped. However, the increase could be shaped, in part, by other reasons, including:

- An increase in funded low-barrier spaces such as drop-in programs allowing for greater coverage of the counted population.
- Improvements in methods of identifying and collating information about the about individuals living unsheltered allowing for greater coverage of the counted population.

The 2024 PiTC survey results are assessed to be based on a broad sample of participants from all sectors. The Indigenous Magnet Event and the focus on data collection from people experiencing unsheltered homelessness were highly successful in reaching these targeted and priority populations in 2024.

**Key Finding #2: Many individuals continue to inflow into homelessness and are newly experiencing homelessness.** There is an ongoing need for programs that offer housing stability, homelessness prevention, and early intervention supports.

Twenty-six percent (26%) our survey respondents identified being homeless for 1-3 months in the past year. One-third (33%) of survey respondents reported being between

the ages of 16-24 when they first experienced homelessness. One-third (31%) of survey respondents reported interpersonal conflict with partners, parents/guardians, landlords, and roommates as a reason for losing housing.

The City of Hamilton should continue to focus on programs and strategies that stop new inflows to homelessness (i.e. homeless prevention, housing stability) as well as providing supports to people who find themselves newly homeless (e.g. early intervention). Based on the age of first experiencing homelessness and the reasons for homelessness, the survey results suggest that supports aimed at youth, adults, and interpersonal conflict resolution should be considered.

**Key Finding #3: A significant and increasing proportion of our homeless population are identified as recently, or throughout the year, living unsheltered or in encampments and not accessing emergency shelters.** Ongoing efforts to prevent homelessness, expand the shelter system capacity, and support the quality and safety of local programs should be continued.

A significant proportion of our homeless population are identified as recently (31%), or throughout the past year (32%), living unsheltered or in encampments and there is a reported increase in the proportion of survey respondent staying in encampments at the time of the survey in 2024 (20%) compared to 2021(6%). Twenty-six percent (26%) of the surveyed population reported that they had not accessed an emergency shelter in the past year. The top reasons for not accessing a shelter were fear for safety (21%), being turned away because of a full/at-capacity program (21%), and crowding (13%).

The City of Hamilton should continue to focus on preventing homelessness, expanding the shelter system (e.g. 192 beds and the outdoor temporary shelter), and investing in permanent housing as this will continue to address program turn aways and crowding. The City of Hamilton should also continue to focus on initiatives that improve the perceived safety of local programs (e.g. shelter standards, complaints processes) and consider if recommendation from the Shelter Safety Study<sup>xvi</sup> are applicable locally.

**Key Finding 4#: Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness in the city of Hamilton.** The proportion of survey respondents identified as Indigenous or as having Indigenous ancestry is almost unchanged from the results of the 2021 PiTC. There remains a clear need to develop and provide culturally appropriate supports to address Indigenous homelessness.

The survey results continue to illustrate that compared to the general population of the City of Hamilton, as per the Statistic Canada 2021 Census results, a high proportion of the homeless population identify as Indigenous

- 2%<sup>xvii</sup> of the population of the City of Hamilton in 2021
- 24% of the surveyed homeless population 2024

The City of Hamilton should continue to take leadership from CHIL and invest in developing and providing culturally appropriate supports to address Indigenous homelessness.

Further, the City of Hamilton recognizes Indigenous homelessness as a colonial legacy. Trends and analysis of Indigenous PiTC data can be found in Appendix B to Council report HSC25006.

**Key Finding #5: In addition to those who identify as Indigenous, those who speak neither English or French, those who identify as a member of a racialized group, and those who are not Canadian citizens are also overrepresented.** In addition to broad population-based approaches, efforts to support targeted and culturally appropriate programming should continue.

The survey results illustrate that compared to the general population of the City of Hamilton, as per the Statistic Canada 2021 Census results, a high proportion of the homeless population:

- speak neither English nor French
  - 2% of the population of the City of Hamilton in 2021
  - 5% of the surveyed homeless population 2024
- identify as a racialized/visible minority group
  - 25% of the population of the City of Hamilton in 2021
  - 33% of the surveyed homeless population 2024
- are not Canadian citizens
  - 8% of the population of the City of Hamilton in 2021
  - 18% of the surveyed homeless population 2024

Aligned City of Hamilton population comparisons were not identified as being available for the 2SLGBTQIA+ population size, the veteran population size, and the population experiencing health difficulties.

Comparisons were only identified where information was readily available and there may be other population groups over or underrepresented in within the homeless

population. The City of Hamilton should continue to focus on developing, supporting, and funding targeted and culturally appropriate supports.

With respect to other population groups, the survey results continue to show that majority population groups within the general population of the City of Hamilton are the same as the majority population groups within the homeless population.

Also, compared to the general population of the City of Hamilton, as per the Statistic Canada 2021 Census results, a high proportion of the homeless population are:

- adults age 25-64
  - 67% of the population of the City of Hamilton in 2021
  - 79% of the surveyed homeless population 2024
- identify as men
  - 49% of the population of the City of Hamilton in 2021 (includes men, as well as some non-binary persons)
  - 57% of the surveyed homeless population 2024 (men only)

To have a significant impact on homelessness, the City of Hamilton also needs to continue broad population-based approaches.

**Key Finding #6: Many individuals experiencing homeless rely on income sources provided by different levels of government yet identify income and cost reasons for losing housing and barriers to housing.** Efforts to advocate for increases to assistance rates and support programs that aim to improve access to income and benefits should be continued.

A significant proportion of our homeless population rely on government assistance or benefits as their sources of income (87%). Many survey respondents reported not enough income as a reason for losing housing (22%). Many survey respondents reported also reported high rents (25%) and low income (24%) to barriers to finding housing.

The City of Hamilton should continue to advocate for improved social assistance and benefits supports for people experiencing homelessness and continue to provide or support programs that aim to improve access to income and benefits (i.e. income support applications, tax filing supports).

**Key Finding #7: Many individuals are experiencing chronic homelessness and/or were identified as having complex needs.** There is an ongoing need for programs that offer intensive and multi-sector supports.

Almost half of survey respondents identified being homeless for every day of the past year (45%) or half or more of the past three years (48%). Individuals experiencing homelessness also report interactions with the criminal justice system, the healthcare system and child protective services.

- 37% interacted with the police in the past year
- 14% had been in jail in the past year
- 50% had visited the emergency room
- 15% had been hospitalized
- 32% had 4 or more identified health difficulties
- 25% had experiences with foster care

The City of Hamilton should continue to focus on programs and strategies (e.g. intensive case management) that address the complex needs of the those who are experiencing ongoing chronic homelessness and continue to advocate for and seeking out funding for permanent supportive housing. The City of Hamilton should continue to coordinate services across systems and sectors locally and build relationships across sectors.

**Key Finding #8: The proportion of survey respondents who arrived in Hamilton within the last 12 months did not significantly change from the results of the 2021 PiTC.** The 2024 survey included a new question about reasons for moving to Hamilton. Responses to this question found a higher proportion of respondents who have been in Hamilton for one year or less reported that they migrated to access emergency shelters compared to respondents who have been in the Hamilton for more than one year. Efforts to coordinate service availability across neighbouring communities should be continued.

Close to two-thirds (61%) of the surveyed population reported being in the City of Hamilton for more than 5 years or always being here. Twenty-four percent (24%) reported being in the City of Hamilton for 12 months or less. There has not been a significant shift in this compared to 2021 (21%). A higher proportion of respondents who have been in the City of Hamilton for 12 months or less reported that they came here for access to emergency shelters (68, 30%), and to access services and supports (26, 11%) compared to respondents who have been in the City of Hamilton for one year or more (19, 7% and 16, 6% respectively). Overall, of the respondents who reported moving to Hamilton, the top Canadian communities' respondents reported as their location prior to coming to Hamilton were Toronto (45), Brantford (16), Burlington (15), Mississauga (14) and Oakville (13).

The City of Hamilton should continue to work collaboratively with neighbouring municipalities to coordinate service and supports for individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as provincial and federal counterparts to ensure funding reflects population growth in Hamilton.

## **Conclusion**

The 2024 PiTC enumeration and survey results highlight both progress and ongoing challenges in addressing homelessness in Hamilton. While there has been a notable increase in the identified homeless population, this may reflect improved data collection and expanded coverage rather than solely an increase in homelessness. The overrepresentation of Indigenous People experiencing homelessness highlights the need for continued investments in Indigenous-led supports and services. The findings underscore the need for continued efforts in homelessness prevention, early intervention, and the development of culturally appropriate supports, particularly for marginalized groups. There is an ongoing need for broad population-based approaches as well as targeted programming, increased shelter capacity, and multi-sector support services for individuals with complex needs.

## APPENDIX 1 – STANDARDIZED ENUMERATION FORM

### Standardized Enumeration Reporting Form

#### Purpose

The City of Hamilton is participating in a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count as a coordinated community effort to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night (the enumeration). It is intended to identify the locations where they spent the night: in shelters, transitional housing, or unsheltered locations and can be used to track progress in reducing homelessness and identify changes in the location that individuals experiencing homelessness spend the night.

This standard template will be used to collate and report the enumeration information required for the 2024 PITCount from city-funded and administered programs not yet using the Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS 4.0) and programs providing supports to individual experiencing domestic violence. Please use the instruction below and the information on the data definitions tab to guide your completion of this form.

**Enumeration Date:** November 4th, 2024

**Submission Due:** November 5th, 2024 - 2pm (day after the official PitCount)

#### Instructions

To complete the enumeration form, enter the requested information for your agency for the night of the **PitCount, November 4th, 2024**.

##### Required information

Open the **Basic Information Tab**

Enter the **"Type of Agency"**: Click on the blue cell and use the drop down button to select the appropriate type of agency for your location

Enter the **"Agency Name"** : Click on the blue cell and use the drop down button to select your agency

Enter a number for **"Occupancy"** in the grey cell (B4)

Enter a number for **"Capacity"** in the grey cell (B5)

Enter a number for **"Turn Aways"** in the grey cell (B6)

##### Optional details

Open the **Demographic Information Tab**

Enter a number in the **"Total Number of Individual Adults and Single Youth"** in the grey cell (D2)

Enter a number in the **"Total Number of Family Units (as applicable)"** in the grey cell (D3)

Complete the all grey cells in the table with counts of all individuals who were present the night of the enumeration by demographic category. Use the totals column to review and verify the information entered.

Save the file and email the completed excel file as an attachment to **Anna Muscedere** at [anna.muscedere@hamilton.ca](mailto:anna.muscedere@hamilton.ca).

For further explanations on each total that is needed to be submitted, please review the data definitions tab or contact **Anna Muscedere** at [anna.muscedere@hamilton.ca](mailto:anna.muscedere@hamilton.ca).

**Due:** November 5th, 2024 - 2pm (day after the official PitCount)

Basic Information	
Type of Agency	
Agency Name	
Occupancy Total number of individuals who were present the night of the enumeration.	
Total Capacity Total number of beds available at your location including City-funded, other funded, and non-funded beds.	
Turn Aways Total numbers of individuals turned away because the program was at capacity on the night of enumeration.	



<b>Demographic Information</b>	
<b>Individual Adults and Single Youth</b> Total number of single adults or unaccompanied youth who were present on the night of enumeration.	
<b>Family Units (as applicable)</b> Total number of family units, defined as a group of people seeking shelter, service, and/or housing together as a group, who were present on the night of enumeration.	

Complete the table below with counts of all individuals who were present the night of the enumeration by demographic category. Enter a number in all grey cells. Use the total column (P) to verify and validate your entries.

Gender Enter the total number of individuals by gender in row 8.	Woman/Girl Total number of individuals who identify as women/girls who were present on the night of the enumeration:		Man/Boy Total number of individuals who identify as men/boys who were present on the night of the enumeration:		Non-Binary Total number of individuals who identify as non-binary who were present on the night of the enumeration:		Trans Woman Total number of individuals who identify as trans women who were present on the night of the enumeration:		Trans Man Total number of individuals who identify as trans men who were present on the night of the enumeration:		Not Listed Total number of individuals who identify as genders not listed who were present on the night of the enumeration:		Unknown Total number of individuals with unknown gender who were present on the night of the enumeration:		Total							
	0-15 yrs old	16-24 yrs old	25-30 yrs old	31-49 yrs old	50-64 yrs old	65+ yrs old	0-15	16-24	25-30	31-49	50-64	65+	0-15	16-24		25-30	31-49	50-64	65+			
																				0		
<b>Gender &amp; Age</b> Enter the total number of individuals by gender and age group.	0-15 yrs old	16-24 yrs old	25-30 yrs old	31-49 yrs old	50-64 yrs old	65+ yrs old	0-15	16-24	25-30	31-49	50-64	65+	0-15	16-24	25-30	31-49	50-64	65+		0		
<b>Gender &amp; Sub-Population</b> Enter the total number of individuals by gender and population group.	Indigenous Peoples	Refugee Claimant	Asylum Seekers	Indigenous Peoples	Refugee Claimant	Asylum Seekers	Indigenous Peoples	Refugee Claimant	Asylum Seekers	Indigenous Peoples	Refugee Claimant	Asylum Seekers	Indigenous Peoples	Refugee Claimant	Asylum Seekers	Indigenous Peoples	Refugee Claimant	Asylum Seekers		0		
																					0	
																					0	

<b>Definitions</b>	
<b>Basic Information</b>	
<b>Type of Agency</b>	Choose from the drop down options the type of agency you are reporting for.
<b>Agency Name</b>	Choose from the drop down options the name of the agency you are reporting for.
<b>Occupancy</b>	Enter the total number of individuals who were present the night of the enumeration. Include people who spent any time at your location overnight on the night of November 4, 2024. Occupancy can only be higher than reported capacity if your program allows turnover throughout the night (e.g. rotational spaces).
<b>Capacity</b>	Enter the total number of beds available at the location. Include City-funded, other funded, and non-funded beds. Include beds that may be unavailable due to maintenance or cleaning. For drop-in programs please report the max capacity for your location at any one time.
<b>Turn Aways</b>	Enter the total number of individuals that were turned away due to capacity on the night of the enumeration.
<b>Demographic Information</b>	
<b>Individual Adults and Single Youth</b>	Total number of single adults or unaccompanied youth who were present on the night of enumeration.
<b>Family Units (as applicable)</b>	Total number of family units, defined as a group of people seeking shelter, service, and/or housing together as a group, who were present on the night of enumeration. Use only as applicable if your program does not serve families please enter 0.
<b>Gender - Woman/Girl</b>	Client self-identifies as being a woman or girl (for children).
<b>Gender - Man/Boy</b>	Client self-identifies as being a man or boy (for children).
<b>Gender - Non-binary</b>	Client self-identifies as not being exclusively a man or a woman.
<b>Gender - Trans woman</b>	Client self-identifies as being a trans woman.
<b>Gender - Trans man</b>	Client self-identifies as being a trans man.
<b>Gender - Not listed</b>	Client self-identifies as being something other than woman, man, or transgender.
<b>Gender - Unknown</b>	Client gender is unknown.
<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	Client self-identifies as First Nations: Off-reserve, First Nations: On-reserve, Inuit, Metis or Non-Indigenous Peoples.
<b>Refugee Claimant</b>	Client has arrived in Canada and seeks the protection of Canada. They have received either an Acknowledgement of Claim Document (AOC) or a Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD) from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
<b>Asylum Seekers</b>	Client has arrived in Canada and seeks the protection of Canada. They are currently in the process of completing their documentation to receive an Acknowledgement of Claim Document (AOC) or a Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD) from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

**APPENDIX 2 - SURVEY**



### Point-in-Time Count Survey Sample Consent Script

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm a volunteer for the **Hamilton Point in Time Connection - housing and homelessness needs survey**. The survey takes about 10-20 minutes to complete.

**Have you answered a survey with a person with this name tag/lanyard [YES] / [NO]**

We are conducting a survey so we can better understand the history and needs of people who are experiencing homelessness or unstable housing.

- This survey is being administered to people experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness throughout our community and in other communities across the country. We expect more than twenty thousand people to participate in total.
- **Participation is voluntary and your full name will not be recorded.** We will ask for your first and last initial to help us identify people who may have completed the survey more than one time.
- This survey asks about personal experiences. You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the survey at any time**.
- **Your responses will be confidential, anonymous, and stored securely.**
- Your responses will **help inform programs and services** that prevent and end homelessness. They will also be shared with our federal partners to contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada.
- **As a thank you for your time, we're offering a \$15 gift card** as a token of appreciation.
- Your decision of whether to participate in this survey, and the answers you provide **will not impact the services you are offered** or receive in the community.
- If you require supports to complete this survey, please let us know.

**Are you willing to participate in the survey? [YES] / [NO]**

What are your first and last initials: \_\_\_ \_\_\_

#### Closing Script

Thank you for taking time to answer the survey. The information you shared is important and appreciated. As a reminder, your answers will remain anonymous. At the end of the survey period, the responses will be analyzed at all three levels of government to better understand homelessness locally and across Canada. As a thank you for your participation, please accept this \$15 gift card as compensation for your time and knowledge shared.

**UNSHELTERED SURVEY**

**Survey Number: 0000**

Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
AM/PM

Time:

Interviewer:

Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

[Start of survey script]

**C. Where are you staying tonight? / Where did you stay last night?**

a. DECLINE TO ANSWER b. OWN APARTMENT/HOUSE	<b>[THANK &amp; END SURVEY]</b>
c. SOMEONE ELSE’S PLACE d. HOTEL/MOTEL SELF-FUNDED e. HOSPITAL f. TREATMENT CENTRE g. JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE	<p><b>C1. Do you have access to a permanent residence where you can safely stay as long as you want?</b></p> a. Yes <b>[THANK &amp; END]</b> b. No (not permanent AND/OR not safe) <b>[BEGIN SURVEY]</b> c. Don’t Know <b>[BEGIN SURVEY]</b> d. Decline to answer <b>[THANK &amp; END]</b>
h. HOMELESS SHELTER (e.g. emergency, family or domestic violence shelter) i. HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDED BY CITY OR HOMELESS PROGRAM j. TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING k. UNSHELTERED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (e.g. street, park, bus shelter, forest, or abandoned building) l. ENCAMPMENT (e.g. group of tents, makeshift shelters, or other long-term outdoor settlement) m. VEHICLE (e.g. car, van, recreational vehicle (RV), truck, boat) n. UNSURE: INDICATE PROBABLE LOCATION ____ (b. - m.)	<b>[BEGIN SURVEY]</b>

Note: You will receive a \$15 gift card as a thank you for your participation

**BEGIN SURVEY**

**1. Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year? (check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> HOMELESS SHELTER (e.g. emergency, family or domestic violence shelter) <input type="checkbox"/> HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDED BY CITY OR HOMELESS PROGRAM <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING <input type="checkbox"/> UNSHELTERED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (e.g. street, park, bus shelter, forest, or abandoned building) <input type="checkbox"/> ENCAMPMENT (e.g. group of tents, makeshift shelters, or other long-term outdoor settlement) <input type="checkbox"/> VEHICLE (e.g. car, van, recreational vehicle (RV), truck, boat) <input type="checkbox"/> SOMEONE ELSE’S PLACE BECAUSE YOU HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO	<input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL OR OTHER HEALTH FACILITY <input type="checkbox"/> JAIL, PRISON, OR OTHER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> DON’T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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**1b. If you haven’t stayed in a homeless shelter in the past year, what are the main reasons? (Do not read categories; check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> TURNED AWAY - SHELTERS ARE FULL <input type="checkbox"/> TURNED AWAY - BANNED <input type="checkbox"/> LACK OF TRANSPORTATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FEAR FOR SAFETY <input type="checkbox"/> BED BUGS & OTHER PESTS <input type="checkbox"/> CROWDED	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DON’T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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2. **Do you have family members or anyone else who is staying with you tonight? / Did any family members or anyone else stay with you last night?** (Indicate survey number for partners. Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate age for each child/dependent]	<input type="checkbox"/> PET(S) <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT (Can include other family or friends)																
AGE	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 12.5%;">1</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">2</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">3</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">4</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">5</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">6</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">7</th> <th style="width: 12.5%;">8</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 40px;"></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8										
<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER																	

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

<input type="radio"/> AGE _____ <b>OR</b> YEAR BORN _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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è **For this survey, “homelessness” means any time when you have been without a permanent and secure place to live, and includes sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others without having your own permanent housing (e.g. couch surfing).**

4. **In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR (the last 12 months)?** (Does not need to be exact. Best estimate.)

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS   WEEKS   MONTHS	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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4b. **In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the PAST 3 YEARS?** (Does not need to be exact. Best estimate.)

<input type="radio"/> LESS THAN HALF	<input type="radio"/> ABOUT HALF OR MORE	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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4c. **In total, how many different times have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR (the past 12 months)?** (Best estimate.)

<input type="radio"/> NUMBER OF TIMES _____ (Includes this time)	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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5. **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
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6. **Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee, asylum claimant (i.e. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada), or on another type of visa?**

<input type="radio"/> YES, IMMIGRANT ----- >	<b>If YES: How long have you been in Canada?</b>
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<input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE ----- > <input type="radio"/> YES, ASYLUM CLAIMANT IN CANADA ----- > <input type="radio"/> YES, TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER ----- > <input type="radio"/> YES, OTHER WORK PERMIT ----- > <input type="radio"/> YES, STUDY PERMIT ----- > <input type="radio"/> YES, TEMPORARY RESIDENT ----- > <input type="radio"/> YES, OTHER (including undocumented) ----- > <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	<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
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**6b. Are you a Canadian Citizen?**

<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO, PERMANENT RESIDENT <input type="radio"/> NO, OTHER	<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"/> <b>Where did you live before you came here?</b> <input type="radio"/> CITY: _____   PROVINCE/TERRITORY/COUNTRY: _____ <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	<input type="radio"/> ALWAYS BEEN HERE <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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**7b. What is the main reason you came to (*community name*)? (Do not read categories; select one)**

<input type="radio"/> TO ACCESS EMERGENCY SHELTER(S) <input type="radio"/> TO ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS <input type="radio"/> FAMILY MOVED HERE <input type="radio"/> TO VISIT FRIENDS/FAMILY <input type="radio"/> TO FIND HOUSING	<input type="radio"/> EMPLOYMENT (SEEKING) <input type="radio"/> EMPLOYMENT (SECURED) <input type="radio"/> TO ATTEND SCHOOL <input type="radio"/> FEAR FOR SAFETY	<input type="radio"/> RECREATION/SHOPPING <input type="radio"/> OTHER: _____ <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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**8. Do you identify as First Nations (with or without status), Métis, or Inuit? (If yes, please specify)**

*(COMMUNITY NOTE: The wording of this question can be adapted to what makes sense in your community, for example by listing specific First Nations)*

<input type="radio"/> YES, FIRST NATIONS <input type="radio"/> YES, INUIT	<input type="radio"/> YES, MÉTIS <input type="radio"/> INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY	<input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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**8b. In addition to your response in the question above, do you identify with any of the racial identities listed below? (Show or Read list. Select all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> IDENTIFY AS INDIGENOUS ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK-AFRICAN (e.g., Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian)
<input type="checkbox"/> ARAB (e.g., Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni)	<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK-AFRO-CARIBBEAN OR AFRO-LATINX (e.g., Jamaican, Haitian, Afro-Brazilian.)
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN-EAST (e.g., Chinese, Korean, Japanese)	<input type="checkbox"/> LATIN AMERICAN (e.g., Brazilian, Mexican, Chilean, Cuban)
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN- SOUTH-EAST (e.g., Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian)	<input type="checkbox"/> WHITE (e.g. European, French, Ukrainian, Euro-Latinx)
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN-SOUTH OR INDO-CARIBBEAN (e.g., Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian)	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED (PLEASE SPECIFY): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN-WEST (e.g., Iranian, Afghan)	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK-CANADIAN/AMERICAN	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

**8c. Which Indigenous community are you from?**

COMMUNITY/RESERVE NAME \_\_\_\_\_  DON'T KNOW  DECLINE TO ANSWER

**9. Have you ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP?**

(Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, and Air Force, Regular and Reserve, Army Rangers including completing basic training)

YES, MILITARY  BOTH MILITARY AND RCMP  DON'T KNOW  
 YES, RCMP  NO  DECLINE TO ANSWER

**10. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or in a youth group home (COMMUNITY**

**NOTE: include any other Provincial child welfare programs)?** (Note: This question applies specifically to child welfare programs.)

YES  NO  DON'T KNOW  DECLINE TO ANSWER

**10b. Approximately how long after leaving foster care/group home did you become homeless?**

LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS  DON'T KNOW  DECLINE TO ANSWER

**11. Have you been experiencing difficulties related to any of the following?:**

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	DECLINE TO ANSWER
ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION (e.g. diabetes, tuberculosis (TB) or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV))	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
PHYSICAL MOBILITY (e.g. spinal cord injury, arthritis, or limited movement or dexterity)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LEARNING, INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL, OR COGNITIVE FUNCTION (e.g. fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or dementia)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY (e.g. due to an accident, violence, overdose, stroke, or brain tumour)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MENTAL HEALTH [diagnosed/undiagnosed] (e.g. depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar, or schizophrenia)	0	0	0	0
SUBSTANCE USE (e.g. alcohol or opiates)	0	0	0	0
SENSES, SUCH AS SEEING OR HEARING (e.g. blindness or deafness)	0	0	0	0

12. **What gender do you identify with?** (Show list or read list.)

<input type="radio"/> MAN	<input type="radio"/> TRANS WOMAN	<input type="radio"/> NOT LISTED: _____
<input type="radio"/> WOMAN	<input type="radio"/> TRANS MAN	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="radio"/> NON-BINARY (GENDERQUEER)	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

13. **How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian?** (Show list or read list.)

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

14. **What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?** (Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays. Follow up for the reason if the respondent says "eviction" or that they "chose to leave".)

<p><b>HOUSING AND FINANCIAL ISSUES</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NOT ENOUGH INCOME FOR HOUSING (e.g. loss of benefit, income, or job)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> UNFIT/UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING SOLD OR RENOVATED</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OWNER MOVED IN</p>	<p><b>CONFLICT WITH:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE/PARTNER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PARENT/GUARDIAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LANDLORD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (_____)</p>	<p><b>EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION BY:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE/PARTNER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PARENT/GUARDIAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LANDLORD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (_____)</p>
<p><b>OTHER</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> COMPLAINT (e.g. noise/damage)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LEFT THE COMMUNITY/RELOCATED</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DEATH OR DEPARTURE OF FAMILY MEMBER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PET(S)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER REASON</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE/PARTNER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PARENT/GUARDIAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LANDLORD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (_____)</p>	<p><b>HEALTH OR CORRECTIONS</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL HEALTH ISSUE/DISABILITY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANCE USE ISSUE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR</p>

		TREATMENT PROGRAM
	<input type="checkbox"/>	INCARCERATION (jail or prison)
<input type="checkbox"/>	DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>
		DECLINE TO ANSWER

**14b. Was your most recent housing loss related to an eviction?**

YES                       NO                       DON'T KNOW                       DECLINE TO ANSWER

**14c. How long ago did that happen (that you lost your housing most recently)? (Best estimate)**

LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS | YEARS     DON'T KNOW     DECLINE TO ANSWER

**15. What are your sources of income?** (Reminder that this survey is anonymous. **Read list** and check all that apply)

Formal or Informal Work	Benefits	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS
<input type="checkbox"/> PART TIME EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT (Name of PROV. DISABILITY BENEFIT)	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER MONEY FROM A SERVICE AGENCY
<input type="checkbox"/> CASUAL EMPLOYMENT (e.g. contract work)	<input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFITS (e.g. CPP/OAS/GIS)	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL INCOME SOURCES (e.g. bottle returns, panhandling, sex work)	<input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE (Prov. Benefit)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> VETERAN/VAC BENEFITS	<input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME
	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY BENEFITS	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
	<input type="checkbox"/> GST/HST REFUND	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

**16. In the past year (12 months) have you:** (Ask respondents to give their best estimate)

BEEN TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM	Y ___ N ___	# _____ Times
BEEN HOSPITALIZED	Y ___ N ___	# _____ Times
→DAYS YOU HAVE SPENT HOSPITALIZED		_____ Days Total
INTERACTED WITH POLICE ( <i>Tickets, arrests, searches</i> )	Y ___ N ___	# _____ Times
BEEN TO PRISON/JAIL	Y ___ N ___	# _____ Times
→DAYS YOU HAVE SPENT IN PRISON/JAIL		_____ Days Total

**17. What challenges or problems have you experienced when trying to find housing?** (Select all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> LOW INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES	<input type="checkbox"/> DISCRIMINATION
<input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME ASSISTANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T WANT HOUSING
<input type="checkbox"/> RENTS TOO HIGH	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> CRIMINAL HISTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> NO BARRIERS TO HOUSING
<input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> PET(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

**18. In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?**

<input type="radio"/> ENGLISH	<input type="radio"/> NO PREFERENCE	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> FRENCH	<input type="radio"/> NEITHER (please specify) _____	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

[End of survey script]

## QUESTION SPECIFIC DATA NOTES AND REFERENCES

<sup>i</sup> Based on 60% completion at each location based on funded-capacity, not adjusted for locations serving families.

<sup>ii</sup> All respondents who were screened out (e.g. started the survey but were not identified meeting the homeless definition) based on this question are removed and will not appear as a valid response.

<sup>iii</sup> The total count exceeds 807 responses because this was a multi-select question, allowing respondents to choose multiple options.

<sup>iv</sup> The results of this question are based on reported age.

<sup>v</sup> 2SLGBTQIA+ includes any survey respondents who self-identify in the survey as Bisexual, Pansexual, Gay, Lesbian, Queer or Questioning.

<sup>vi</sup> Respondents could not select more than one Indigenous identity option for this question. This created data entry challenges when respondents reported identification with multiple groups. The results of this data collection should be interpreted as respondents who identified as at least one of First Nations (with or without status), Métis, or Inuit.

<sup>vii</sup> The total count exceeds 807 responses because this was a multi-select question, allowing respondents to choose multiple options.

<sup>viii</sup> The total count exceeds 807 responses because this was a multi-select question, allowing respondents to choose multiple options. Respondents who responded they have family members staying with them but did not report any family member information were reported as single. The number of families that were surveyed is represented by the number of family heads that completed the survey. The inclusion of pets in this question response only includes responses where pets were explicitly reported as family members and therefore a low number. Other survey questions also address the issue of pets within the homeless population.

<sup>ix</sup> Respondents were asked to provide the main reason why they came to Hamilton based on their response to the question, 'How long have you been in Hamilton?' Those who indicated they have always been in Hamilton, declined to answer, or responded with 'don't know' were not able to provide a reason.



<sup>x</sup> The total count of sources of income exceeds 807 responses because this was a multi-select question, allowing respondents to choose multiple options. If respondents indicated in the previous question to having “no income”, “declined to answer” or “don’t know” they were not able to choose sources of income.

<sup>xi</sup> The health difficulties series of questions were asked and recorded as individual questions. Respondents did not have to answer each one of these experiences and can have more than one apply to themselves.

<sup>xii</sup> Respondents only provided the length of time after leaving foster care and experiencing homelessness if they answered 'yes' to having experience with foster care in the previous question.

<sup>xiii</sup> The total count exceeds 807 responses because this was a multi-select question, allowing respondents to choose multiple options. Additional instructions for this question included “Housing” does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays. Follow up for the reason if the respondent says “eviction” or that they “chose to leave.” Responses are grouped by subcategories as defined by the question response options. Some response noted originally as “other” were recategorized into existing categories as aligned.

<sup>xiv</sup> The total count exceeds 807 responses because this was a multi-select question, allowing respondents to choose multiple options.

<sup>xv</sup> This section presents the results of two survey questions. The first question asked respondents whether they had stayed in a homeless shelter within the past 12 months. Of the 807 total respondents, 207 reported that they had not stayed in a homeless shelter, 18 indicated that they were unsure, and 6 declined to answer. The remaining 576 respondents stated that they had stayed in a homeless shelter during that time. Respondents were able to report other, not listed, options as their response.

<sup>xvi</sup> Kerman, N., Kidd, S. A., & Stergiopoulos, V. (2024). The shelter safety study: An examination of violence and service restrictions in Toronto’s shelter system. Toronto: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

<sup>xvii</sup> This is a known underrepresentation of the overall Indigenous population. The true number of Indigenous people is likely higher.