

REPORT ON HOMELESSNESS

MEDICINE HAT
POINT-IN-TIME COUNT
2025

Prepared by:



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are situated on Treaty 7 and neighbour to Treaty 4 territory, traditional lands of the Siksika (Blackfoot), Kainai (Blood), Piikani (Peigan), Stoney-Nakoda, and Tsuut'ina (Sarcee), as well as the Cree, Sioux, and the Saulteaux bands of the Ojibwa peoples. We also honour and acknowledge that we are on the homelands of the Métis Nation District 2 Battle River Territory.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Medicine Hat Community Housing Society honours the individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity who courageously shared their stories and lived experiences.

We are deeply grateful to the volunteers who gave their time and energy to make the 2025 Point-In-Time (PiT) Count possible; this work would not have been achievable without their care and commitment. We also extend our appreciation to those working in the homeless-serving sector for their ongoing compassion and dedication to supporting community members facing homelessness and housing instability.

“*People who are homeless are not social inadequates. They are people without homes.*”

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WHAT IS A PIT COUNT?

A Point-In-Time (PiT) Count is a coordinated, one-night initiative that brings together the homeless-serving sector, community stakeholders, and volunteers to better understand homelessness at the local level.

Over a 24-hour period, communities work collaboratively to count individuals experiencing both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. The information collected provides a snapshot of homelessness in the community and helps inform strategies aimed at preventing and ultimately ending homelessness.

Communities across Canada participate in the nationally coordinated Everyone Counts PiT Count annually. Each community was required to select a date between October 1 and November 30, 2025, to conduct its Count, building on the experiences and lessons learned from previous years.

Beginning in 2024, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC) updated the PiT Count framework. Under the revised approach, the enumeration component is conducted annually, while the survey component is required once every three years, with the next mandatory survey scheduled for 2027.

WHY A PIT COUNT?

PiT enumerations allow communities to track progress in reducing homelessness and to identify shifts in where individuals are staying overnight. When conducted, the survey component gathers important information about the demographics, experiences, and needs of people affected by homelessness. This data supports community organizations and all levels of government in developing responsive programs, policies, and services.

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MEDICINE HAT PIT COUNT

The 2025 PiT Count in Medicine Hat took place over a 24-hour period beginning October 22, 2025.

The Count included a street count, an administrative count, and a survey. Although conducting a survey was not required until 2027, Medicine Hat was able to complete one in 2025 thanks to the strong participation of volunteers and team members from local homeless-serving organizations. On the night of the Count, more than 40 volunteers canvassed the streets and less populated areas throughout the city to enumerate individuals experiencing homelessness.



136

**INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS IN MEDICINE HAT
ON OCTOBER 22, 2025**

05

TYPOLOGY OF HOMELESSNESS

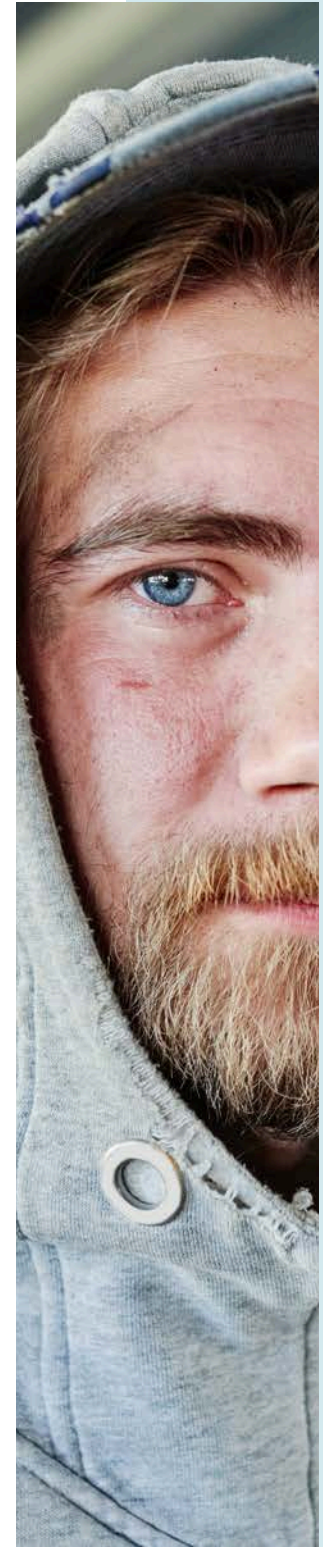
Sheltered Homelessness: Refers to people who are unable to find stable, secure, and permanent housing, and who access emergency shelters and system supports. These types of shelters include emergency overnight shelters, as well as shelters for individuals and families experiencing or affected by family violence.

Unsheltered Homelessness: Refers to people who are unhoused and who do not access emergency shelters or other accommodations, except in extreme weather conditions. Individuals in this situation typically stay in places not intended for human habitation, such as sidewalks, parks, vacant buildings, vehicles, garages, shacks, or tents.

Hidden Homelessness: Hidden homelessness refers to people who do not have stable, secure, or permanent housing and who are not accessing emergency shelters or sleeping unsheltered. Instead, they stay temporarily with friends, family, or in other unstable or insecure arrangements. This situation is often described as “couch surfing” or being provisionally accommodated and may include staying in cars, motels, or in overcrowded or unsafe conditions.

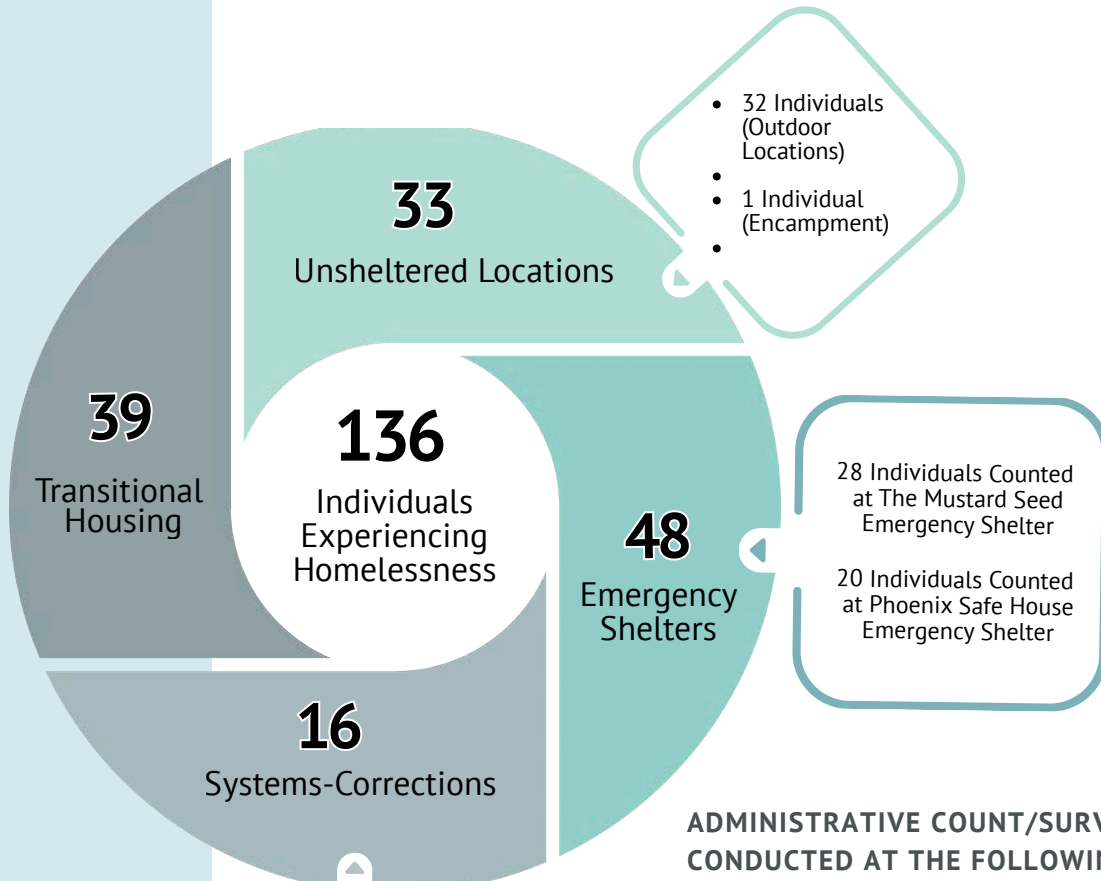
Observed Homelessness: Refers to people who are visibly staying in unsheltered locations, such as parks, streets, or encampments, and who are recorded during Point-in-Time (PiT) counts when they cannot be interviewed.

***It should be noted that Medicine Hat does not participate in observed homelessness. In an effort to collect comprehensive, real-time data, Medicine Hat has chosen not to record “observed homelessness” so as not to skew the data with undercounting and/or overcounting. ***



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PIT COUNT OVERALL FINDINGS:



0 Individuals with NFA were counted at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNT/SURVEY WERE CONDUCTED AT THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES:

- The Mustard Seed Emergency Shelter
- Phoenix Safe House Emergency Shelter
- Medicine Hat Regional Hospital
- Medicine Hat Remand Centre
- LYNX Recovery House
- Musasa House Second Stage Shelter

STREET ENUMERATION/SURVEYS WERE CONDUCTED IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE CITY:

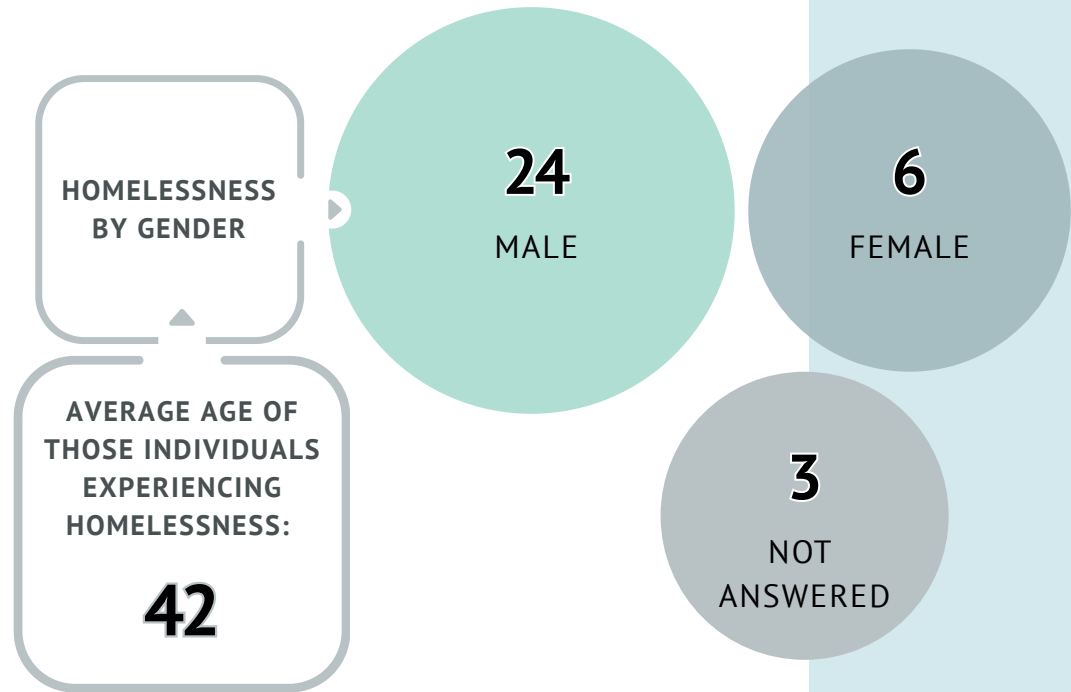
- River Side
- Along the South Saskatchewan River
- Downtown Core (Streets, Avenues, Alleys)
- Veteran’s Park, BATUS Park, and Town Square
- SE/SW Hill, Central Park and trail systems
- Kin Coulee Park and trail system
- Kingsway, North & South Railway
- Saratoga, Strathcona, Lions, and Police Point Parks
- Flats Area
- MH Mall, Carry Dr. Trail

Daytime High 14C
Overnight Low 0C

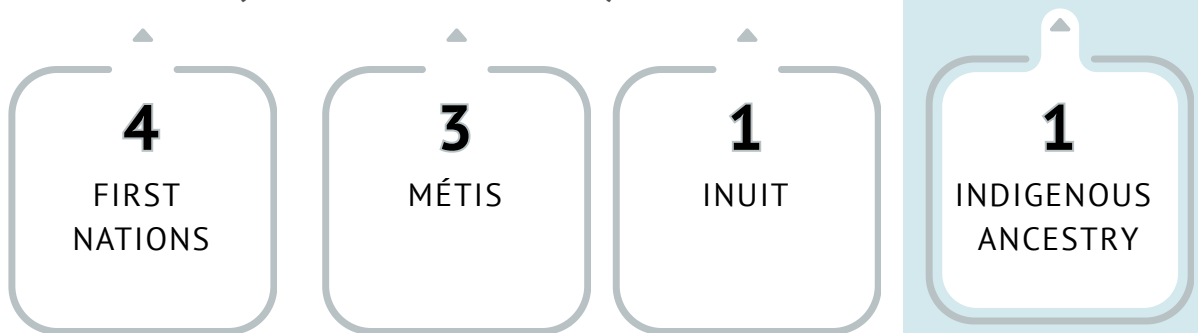
Zero precipitation leading up to the day of the Count.

07

UNSHELTERED LOCATION FINDINGS:



Of the 33 individuals enumerated during the Pit Count, 9 identified as First Nations (with or without status), Métis, or Inuit.



OF THE 33 INDIVIDUALS ENUMERATED REPORTED EXPERIENCING:

- 16 ILLNESS/MEDICAL CONDITION
- 15 PHYSICAL MOBILITY ISSUES
- 12 LEARNING/DEVELOPMENTAL/COGNITIVE FUNCTION
- 10 SENSES: EYESIGHT/HEARING IMPAIRMENT
- 12 BRAIN INJURY
- 23 MENTAL HEALTH
- 26 SUBSTANCE USE

SHELTERED LOCATION FINDINGS:

LYNX RECOVERY HOUSE
 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- 12 males
- 3 females
- 3 identified as Métis
- 2 identified as having Indigenous ancestry
- 1 veteran

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THE MUSTARD SEED
 ADULT EMERGENCY SHELTER

- 11 males
- 1 female
- 16 gender not identified
- 2 identified as Métis
- 2 turnaways



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The Mustard Seed
Emergency Adult Shelter

39

Transitional
Housing

103
 Individuals
 Experiencing
 Sheltered
 Homelessness

20

Phoenix Safe
House

PHOENIX SAFE HOUSE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
EMERGENCY SHELTER



- 12 female adults
- 1 adult gender queer /gender non-conforming
- 7 children under 18 years
- 1 turnaway

MUSASA HOUSE

SECOND STAGE
TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING

24

- 8 female adults
- 16 children under 18 years
- 1 identified as Métis
- 2 identified as having Indigenous ancestry

16

Systems-
Corrections

Note: Demographic information on the 16 individuals with NFA in Medicine Hat Remand was not provided by Corrections.

OCCUPANCY MAXIMUMS PER FACILITY:

- 30 - The Mustard Seed Emergency Shelter
- 30 - Phoenix Safe House
- 30 - Musasa House
- 16 - LYNX Recovery House
- 87 - Medicine Hat Remand Centre

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KEY DATA OBSERVATIONS:

While the 2025 PiT Count identified a significant number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Medicine Hat on October 22, MHCHS recognizes the true scale of homelessness and housing instability is likely higher than reflected in the count. As PiT Counts provide a point-in-time snapshot, data collected may not fully capture the dynamic nature of homelessness and housing need. MHCHS supplements this with real-time data insights, enabling a more comprehensive and ongoing understanding of community demand.

A total of 136 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in Medicine Hat, representing an increase from the 104 individuals enumerated during the 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count.

OCTOBER 10, 2024

2024 PIT DATA

104 individuals were experiencing homelessness

| | |
|-------------|----|
| UNSHELTERED | 35 |
| SHELTERED | 42 |
| SYSTEMS | 27 |

SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

2022 PIT DATA

120 individuals were experiencing homelessness

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| UNSHELTERED | 31 |
| SHELTERED | 48 |
| TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SYSTEMS | 32 |
| SYSTEMS | 9 |

Notable shifts were observed between 2024 and 2025 based on day-of observations from volunteer teams, including those from the homeless-serving sector, Health, and Corrections. Individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness were no longer concentrated in previously identified downtown locations; instead, they were more widely dispersed throughout the community. This change in geographic distribution likely affected enumeration efforts and contributed to lower-than-anticipated unsheltered counts.

Of the 136 individuals identified, 76 completed a voluntary survey, providing meaningful insight into their experiences of homelessness, how they came to lose housing, and what supports they feel are needed in the community.

Survey responses show that insufficient income, lack of affordable housing, and relationship breakdown continue to be the most common reasons people experience homelessness. These findings reflect ongoing challenges related to rising costs of living, limited housing options, and the need for stronger supports to help individuals maintain stable housing.



“ *None of us are home until
all of us are home.* ”

-PROJECT HOME