



2021  
Brantford Brant

# Point-in-Time Count Report



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# Acknowledgements



*People experiencing homelessness  
are not the problem;  
They are experiencing homelessness  
because of the problem.*

The City of Brantford, on behalf of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and our local Reaching Home Community Advisory Board, gratefully acknowledges and thanks all of the agencies and agency staff for supporting the April 2021 PiT Count. The work we are doing together will help to inform and highlight the growing need for our community to create ongoing solutions to the critical reality that everyone should have a place to call home.

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## A special thank-you to the following community agencies/entities for your support:

- Brantford-Brant Paramedics
- Brant County Health Unit
- Brantford General Hospital
- Brantford Native Housing
- Brantford Police Service
- Brantford Public Library
- Brantford Regional Indigenous Support Centre (BRISC)
- County of Brant
- Grand River Community Health Centre
- Housing Resource Centre
- Indigenous Community Advisory Board (ICAB)
- Laurier University
- Nova Vita
- Rosewood House
- Salvation Army
- St. Andrew's Church
- St. Leonard's Community Services (Youth Resource Centre)
- St. Vincent De Paul
- Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services
- Why Not Youth Centre

Lastly, to the members of the Point-in-Time Count Committee, we thank-you! Without your insight and dedication the 2021 PiT Count wouldn't continue to be an action item.

# Executive Summary

Between April 28 and April 30, 2021, trained staff from the homeless serving sector, alongside cross-sector service agencies and community partners, participated in Brantford-Brant's Point-in-Time Homeless count and survey. This event counted at least 238 individuals who experienced homelessness on the night of April 28, and surveyed 158 individuals regarding their invaluable set of personal histories, experiences, and needs.

This year's Point-in-Time (PiT) count transpired during a unique time in our collective history – during the global COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of the count, Brantford-Brant was under a strict stay-at-home order, with limited capacity to facilitate community magnet events that would encourage individuals experiencing all forms of homelessness to participate. Locally, shelters had modified capacity levels to ensure safe social distancing for clients, and an Isolation Facility housed numerous individuals vulnerable to COVID-19. As a result of COVID-19 safety measures, PiT participation may have been affected.

The PiT Count is more than a tool to enumerate the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on a specific night. It supports communities to gather invaluable insight to the nature and extent of homelessness. This survey supports the collection of demographics, history, and service needs. This information helps inform the strategic direction of decision-makers, planners, and service providers in order to meaningfully prevent, reduce, and end homelessness.

## Understanding the Findings

The PiT Count findings should be understood as an underestimation due to the modifications made to ensure a safe PiT event, individuals' right to privacy (those who choose not to participate) and others experiencing "hidden" homelessness that can be difficult to capture. On the night of April 28:

- At least 38 individuals were unsheltered
- At least 114 were emergency sheltered
- At least 16 were couch-surfing
- At least 3 were provisionally accommodated in public institutions
- At least 20 were accommodated in transitional housing
- At least 47 were observed as homeless and did not disclose where they were staying



# Introduction

Homelessness is a widespread social concern in many communities in Canada. *Reaching Home: Canada's National Homelessness Strategy* defines homelessness as,

*"The situation of an individual or family who does not have a permanent address or resident; the living situation of the individual or family who does not have stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it." (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2020)*

Homelessness has many different faces and can encompass a range of different circumstances. An individual who is homeless may reside in an unsheltered location such as under a bridge, an emergency shelter, a motel, or even be living temporarily as a "hidden" homeless person by couch surfing. Statistics Canada estimates that 25,000-35,000 people maybe experiencing homelessness on a given night (Stobel et al., 2021). Homelessness is often a result of systemic barriers such as lack of affordable housing, mental health concerns, racism, and discrimination.

The City of Brantford and the County of Brant, like many other Canadian communities, continues to work to address community homelessness. The Brantford-Brant Homelessness System of Care is comprised of a holistic network of agencies dedicated to providing service to those experiencing homelessness such as the emergency shelter providers, healthcare facilities, Indigenous services, mental health supports, and other social service providers.

Understanding the composition of the homeless population and the specific community needs is imperative to combating homelessness. This allows for targeted resource allocation, policy development, and program creation. The Point-in-Time Count is one of the research tools used to gain insight on the homeless population in order to better serve them.

## What is a Point in Count?

A Point-in-Time (PiT) Count is an enumeration method that seeks to identify the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night at a specific point in time. A PiT Count is required by all Reaching Home Communities under Canada's National Homelessness Strategy and is conducted every two years before April 30. The two primary components of the event are:

1. to count (enumerated) the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on single night; and
2. to administer a nation-wide survey to the homeless population to better understand their stories, experiences, and needs

All communities use a similar PiT Count approach which includes a core set of survey questions. A consistent methodology is encouraged that helps guide communities in gathering essential information in an unbiased and non-judgmental manner. All information collected in the PiT Count is anonymous and cannot be traced back to any specific person. PiT homeless data only represents people staying in participating facilities and those who are approached by interviewer and consent to participating in the survey. Therefore, PiT Count data should be considered a minimum estimate however the information collected provides local and national governments with invaluable data to inform decision makers, planners, and service providers to help end homelessness in Canada.

# Methodology

The PiT Count methodology followed the national guidelines for conducting a PiT Count during the COVID-19 pandemic. Brantford-Brant conducted both the surveys and the enumeration from April 28, 2021- April 29, 2021. All enumeration data was pulled and confirmed with emergency shelter or transitional housing staff for the night of April 28, 2021. The PiT Count was modified due to COVID-19 and did not include any large magnet events or a Registry Week.

The methodology had several moving parts and was approved by the 2021 PiT Committee. This included shelter count/surveys, unsheltered count surveys, a systems count, and an administrative data pull at all participating service providers to document the number of stays for April 28, 2021.

The PiT Count Advisory Committee was comprised of Indigenous and non-Indigenous representatives from homeless serving agencies. All participants were provided with a \$15 gift card honorarium for their time and expertise. Participants were also offered a compassionate package that had items such as toiletries, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), clothing, and snacks.

## Data Collection

The City of Brantford Housing Stability Department and Brantford Native Housing Staff provided a virtual training to adhere to COVID-19 safety regulations. This three-hour training covered topics such as:

- The social dynamics of homelessness;
- Indigenous perspectives on homelessness;
- PiT Count 101;
- Consent conversations;
- COVID-19 safety procedures; and
- How to conduct mobile data entry into Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)

As part of this process, all staff signed confidentiality agreements to ensure that conversation with individuals participating in the survey remained private.

Staff supporting the PiT Count entered non-identifying information into HIFIS Lite; a smaller application version of the Government of Canada's Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) database. Since this was the first time our community attempted direct data entry, staff were provided with paper copies of the survey as a back-up in case there were any technical difficulties or if staff preferred the paper copy method.

See Appendix A for the paper copy version of the PiT Count Survey.

# Methodology

## Shelter Count and Survey

All emergency shelters, city funded homeless isolation shelters, city funded hotel/motel programs, and transitional housing (if there was no lease for clients) were invited to participate. All community partners agreed to support the count and survey. Shelter component enumerated and surveyed the following spaces:

- 4 Emergency Shelters (Rosewood House, Salvation Army Brantford Booth, Nova Vita, and Youth Resource Centre);
- 3 Transitional Indigenous Housing Programs (Brantford Native Housing)
- 2 Transitional Housing Programs for both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Individuals (St. Leonard's)
- 1 COVID-19 Isolation Facility (Lucy Marco)
- Hotel/Motel Stay Program (The Housing Resource Centre)

The commitment from the service providers was threefold:

1. To provide administrative data on the number of stays the night of April 28, 2021;
2. Provide education to clients about the purpose of the PiT Count, where their information would be shared, and how this information would be used; and
3. Conduct surveys with clients and provide the honorarium

All staff were directed to screen-in participants asking if they had participated already, where they were staying tonight, and for their consent. Participation by clients in shelter spaces was voluntary and clients could not be denied service for not participating in the PiT Count.

## Unsheltered Count and Survey

Eight hours of unsheltered outreach was conducted and supported by 21 trained PiT Count staff. Staff were hired from various homelessness serving agencies within the community in order to limit the need for community volunteers (a recommended COVID-19 precaution). The Pit Committee created 13 walkable routes for staff to survey throughout the day. The routes were comprised of high traffic locations, known homeless “hotspots”, known encampments, known hotel/motel stays, and spots that were geographically diverse.

Staff were directed to talk to every individual they encountered on their route and to begin the survey conversation by facilitating the screening in and COVID-19 questions. Staff were directed to document observed homeless should someone be unwilling or be unable to participate. Staff were trained on indicators of homelessness and were asked to document anyone who may be indicating they are experiencing homelessness and unable to have a conversation (e.g. sleeping on a bench). Staff utilized iPads to conduct mobile data entry. Paper copies of the survey were provided as a backup.

Staff conducting unsheltered outreach were provided with a backpack of supplies. This backpack included PPE, hand sanitizer, a first aid kit, disinfectant wipes, an iPad, and job aids.

See **Appendix B** for a sample of a route map provided to unsheltered outreach staff.

# Methodology

In tandem with unsheltered outreach being conducted within the City of Brantford, County of Brant Bylaw and Parks staff visited areas where individuals that are experiencing homelessness have been observed. Staff did not observe any individuals experiencing homelessness on the day of the PiT Count.

## Systems Count

Brantford Police Service participated in the PiT Count by asking each person they interacted with on April 28 if they were experiencing homelessness. On the day of the PiT Count, the Brantford Police Service responded to 168 calls for service. Of those calls, 12 people identified as having no permanent residence. Ten of those individuals identified Brantford as their home community. One stated they were from Toronto and the other from Hamilton. Eight of the individuals were male and four female. All of these individuals were 18 years of age or older. (Brantford Police Service, personal communication, May 20, 2021)

The Brantford General Hospital completed surveys with patients staying overnight in their care who identified as homelessness. There were a total of 3 homeless individuals residing in the hospital who self-identified as homeless. As these individuals were staying in the hospital overnight, their information was documented in the final PiT Count Data.

## COVID-19 Considerations

This year's PiT count occurred at a unique time in history, during the global COVID-19 pandemic and more specifically during a province wide "Stay-at Home" mandate. In order to understand the impact of COVID-19 on homelessness, the Government of Canada recommended that if it was safe to proceed with the PiT Count that communities should attempt to carry it out.

Brantford- Brant staff consulted with the Brant County Public Health Unit and Grand River Community Health Care in order to create a plan for an event that would ensure community safety. To limit face to face interactions, Registry Week activities, such as the completion of VI-SPDAT assessments, were not conducted.

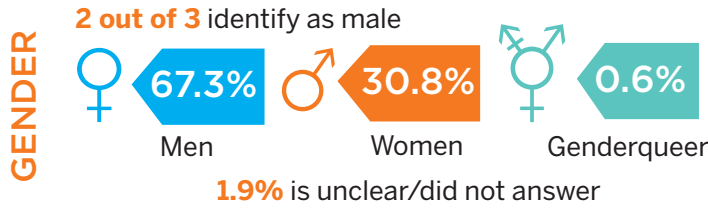
Additionally, the following precautions observed:

- No community volunteers supported the PiT Count. Surveyors were comprised of staff from homelessness serving agencies.
- Virtual training was conducted. Staff were trained on infectious disease control measures and how to properly engage with participants during outreach.
- Shelter bubbles were respected. Staff at each agency conducted the survey adhering to their own COVID-19 Protocols.
- No magnet events or Registry Week were held.
- PPE was provided to all involved in the PiT Count including staff and participants



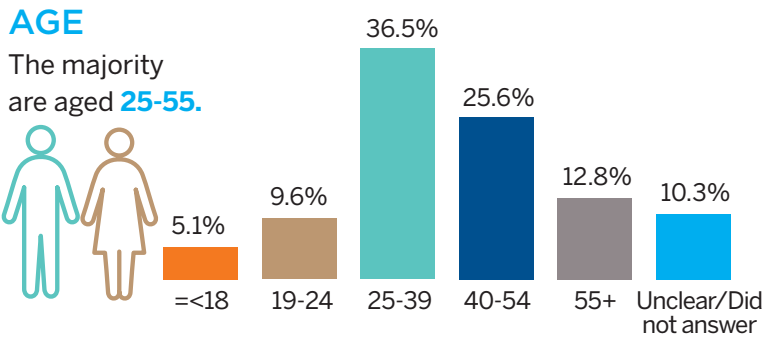
# Highlights of the Point-in-Time Count

Of the 156 individuals that participated in the homeless needs survey...



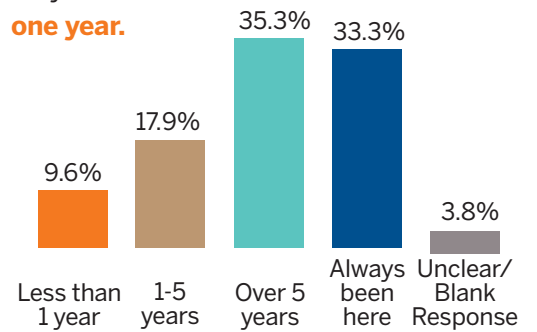
## EXPERIENCE IN FOSTER CARE

Nearly **1 out of 3** of all respondents indicated that they were in government care as a child or youth (29.5%).



**TIME IN COMMUNITY**

Only 9.6% of respondents indicated that they lived in Brantford-Brant for **less than one year**.



**INDIGENOUS**

**35.9%** identified as **Indigenous**, compared to 5.9% of the Brantford-Brant population. 71.4% are **male**, 55.4% had their first experience of homelessness as a **youth** (under the age of 25), and 39.3% indicate being in **foster care** – which are all higher than the general survey population.

## LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS

- Nearly half of all respondents (46.2%) **first experienced homelessness as youth** (under 25).
- The majority (58.3%) of survey respondents identify being homeless for a total time of six months or more over the past year.

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION

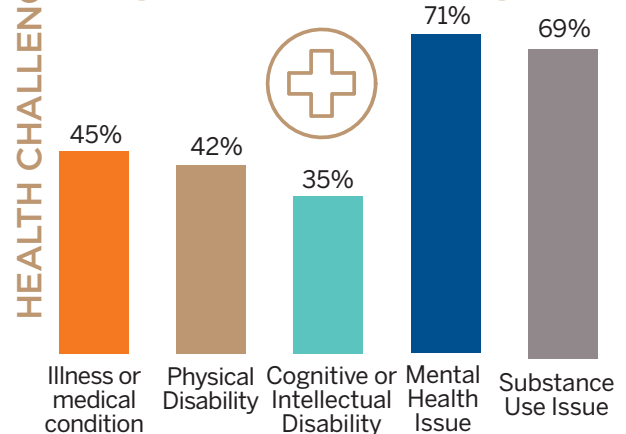


**INCOME SOURCES**

**88.5%** report having at least one source of income (n=138). Of those that indicated having a source of income, the most common sources were social assistance (33.3%), and disability benefits (30.8%).

**HEALTH CHALLENGES**

**92%** of survey respondents identify as **having at least one health challenge**.



## VETERAN STATUS

A small proportion (**3.2%**) of respondents indicated that they were a veteran.

## FAMILIES

**20** individuals had children with them.

**35%**

emergency shelter

**30%**

transitional housing

**20%**

unsheltered

**15%**

couch surfing

# Data Limitations

Due to the fluid nature and social dynamics of homelessness, the PiT Count methodology was unable to capture everyone experiencing homelessness in a community. The PiT Count should be viewed as an estimated minimum number of people experiencing homelessness on a given night. The following factors would be considered:

**Undercount:** The 2021 PiT Count utilized less staff and walked less routes than in 2018 due to COVID-19. Despite having less capacity, staff still had many meaningful interactions the day of the event. It is important to note that regardless of the number of staff working to enumerate the homeless population, it is impossible to capture everyone, particularly those who are “hidden homeless”. The statistics provided in this report, therefore, should be considered an undercount and an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness on April 28, 2021.

**Self-Reported Data:** The PiT Count relies on self-reported information, which may impact the accuracy of the data collected. Individuals experiencing homelessness are a vulnerable population and have the right to not to share certain information with the interviewer or may provide a rough estimate of an experience rather than specific details. It is common for participants to feel uncomfortable and provide answers that the participant thinks the interviewer wants to hear. Furthermore, some questions in the survey address extremely personal topics such as past trauma including when substance usage, mental health concerns, gender identity, and details around what led the participant to homelessness. Due to the nature of these questions, the participant may choose to modify their answers to protect themselves or choose to not share this information with the interviewer.

**Hard to Reach Populations:** Several subgroups within the homeless population are often harder to connect with during outreach activities due to increased vulnerability or ability to enter into “hidden” homelessness. This includes Indigenous individuals, women fleeing violence, LGBTQ2+ folks, and Youth. These groups are often overrepresented in those experiencing homelessness but under represented in data collection. It is important to note that although PiT Count staff may not have interacted with these individuals, that does not mean they are not experiencing homelessness.

**Province Wide Stay at Home Orders:** During most of early 2021 and the day of the PiT Count, the Province was adhering to stay at home orders to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This limited the number of people in the streets that staff have the opportunity to screen into the survey. The Province also placed a ban on eviction allowing for citizens to remain in their homes rather than entering provisionally accommodated spaces.

**Inconsistent Data Recording & Operator Errors:** While all interviewers completed training on how to conduct and enter the surveys, many staff had difficulties the day of the event resulting in incomplete or undocumented surveys. There were several instances where staff thought they had completed surveys, clicked submit, but the system did not document the information due to an operating error.

**HIFIS Lite System Errors:** It was reported that several surveys that were entered by staff into HIFIS Lite did not show up in the completed surveys. This was reported during both mobile data entry and staff in-office manual data entry. This glitch was reported to the ESDC for further investigation. Additionally, HIFIS Lite does not allow for concurrent logins, hindering the number of team members that could have been conducting surveys.

# Enumeration: Brantford-Brant Point-in-Time Count 2021

At least 238 people were experiencing homelessness on April 28th.				
38 Unsheltered	114 Emergency Shelters	16 Couch Surfing	3 Public Systems	20 Transitional Housing
Where an individual stayed in an unsheltered location such as a public space, park, tent, vehicle, or other place not intended for human habitation	Where an individual stayed in an emergency shelter, hotel or motel, and domestic violence shelters for emergency accommodation	Where an individual stayed with a friend, family member, or stranger, because they do not have a secure place of their own	Where an individual does not have a home to return to from a public system (e.g. correctional halfway houses, hospitals, and treatment centres)	Where an individual stayed in transitional housing which, is a temporary type of accommodation meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing
In total, <b>152</b> were unsheltered or emergency sheltered.		In total, <b>39</b> were provisionally accommodated.		
		<b>47</b> individuals were observed homeless but their sleeping location was undetermined. <sup>4</sup>		



<sup>3</sup>The total number of people counted to be couch surfing should be interpreted as an undercount as this total solely relies on survey outreach. Many of these individuals may have not been aware of the count as a result of not accessing homelessness services.

<sup>4</sup>There may be individuals that were double-counted under this measure.

# Enumeration: Brantford-Brant Point-in-Time Count 2021

## Point-in-Time Survey Changes Over Time

The table below illustrates the changes between unsheltered, emergency sheltered, provisionally sheltered, and total homeless individuals identified by the PiT count enumeration over time. There was a higher number of people experiencing homelessness surveyed in the 2021 count when compared to the PiT count completed in 2018. This increase may exemplify an overall increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness within Brantford-Brant. This observation is further supported when comparing the methodologies utilized to complete the PiT Count between 2018 and 2021. In spite of the comprehensive COVID-19 measures implemented for the 2021 PiT count, such as the significant reduction in the number of surveying staff, more surveys were completed in 2021 than 2018.



In addition to the increase of individuals experiencing homelessness, there is a notable fluctuation in the types of homelessness people are experiencing — this is due to methodology changes and external factors that are beyond the control of the researchers, such as COVID-19. On the night of April 28, 2021, a higher number of people sleeping outdoors were contacted by PiT survey staff than in the previous 2018 PiT enumeration. This increase in unsheltered homelessness may have been the result of the growing fear and rapid spread of COVID-19 that may have been interpreted to be in confined, crowded locations.

As the community continues to regularly complete PiT counts and surveys with improved methodology efforts, the data will continue to provide valuable insight into the progress towards preventing and addressing homelessness in Brantford-Brant.

Sleeping Location	2021	2018
Unsheltered	32	6
Emergency Shelter	86	72
Couch Surfing <sup>5</sup>	15	30
Public Systems <sup>6</sup>	3	0
Transitional Housing	15	15
Unknown Sleeping Location	5	11
<b>Total Surveys</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>134</b>

<sup>5</sup>Survey methodology does not accurately measure hidden homelessness such as couch surfing. Therefore, this number should be interpreted as an under count.

<sup>6</sup>Future counts should include statistics from the justice system for persons from Brantford-Brant in temporary or short-term custody at correctional facilities as this would contribute to our understanding of homelessness within public systems.

# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

Respondents to the 2021 PiT mostly identified as male: 67.3%, 30.8% female, 0.6% had another gender identity (e.g. transgender, two-spirit), and 1.9% did not answer. The number of completed surveys represent over half of the population enumerated (n=238), meaning the results can be considered to be a good representation of the broader homeless population in the Brantford-Brant region.

The graphs in this section are based on all 156 respondents, unless otherwise indicated. Some figures are based on sub-populations, such as youth, senior, or Indigenous survey respondents. Any charts or figures based on these sub-populations are noted.

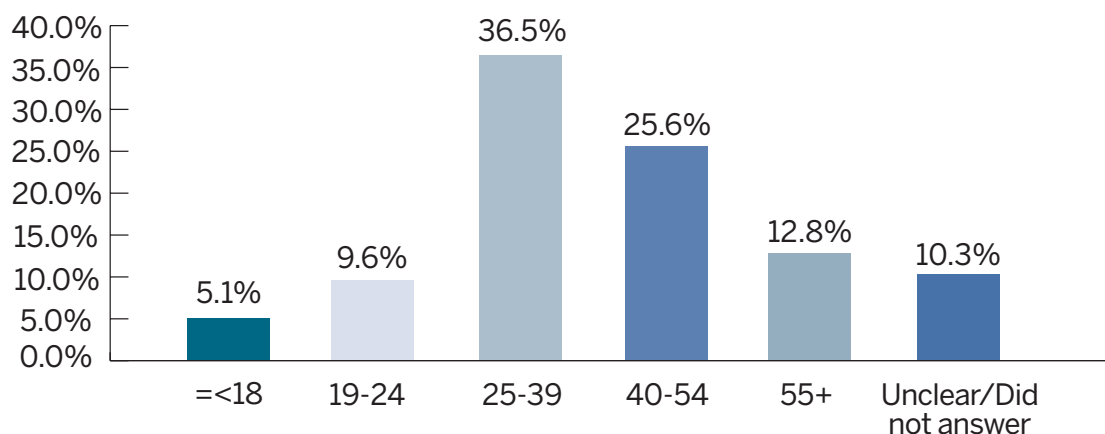
## Gender

Respondents to the 2021 PiT mostly identified as male: 67.3% male, 30.8% female, and 1.9% had another gender identity (e.g., transgender, two-spirit) or did not answer. This is similar to the 2018 survey; both years over-represent men in experiencing homelessness in the Brantford-Brant.

Gender	2021	2018
Male	67.3%	58.2%
Female	30.8%	39.6%
Genderqueer <sup>7</sup>	0.6%	1.49%
Did not answer / suppressed	1.9%	2.2%

## Age

A wide range of ages were represented in the survey population – the youngest age was 16 and the oldest age was 70<sup>8</sup>. The average age of survey respondents was 39. The majority (62.2%) were adults between the ages of 25 and 54. The region continues to be contentiously aware of the unsheltered aging population: nearly one-seventh (12.8%) of the survey respondents were aged 55 and older.



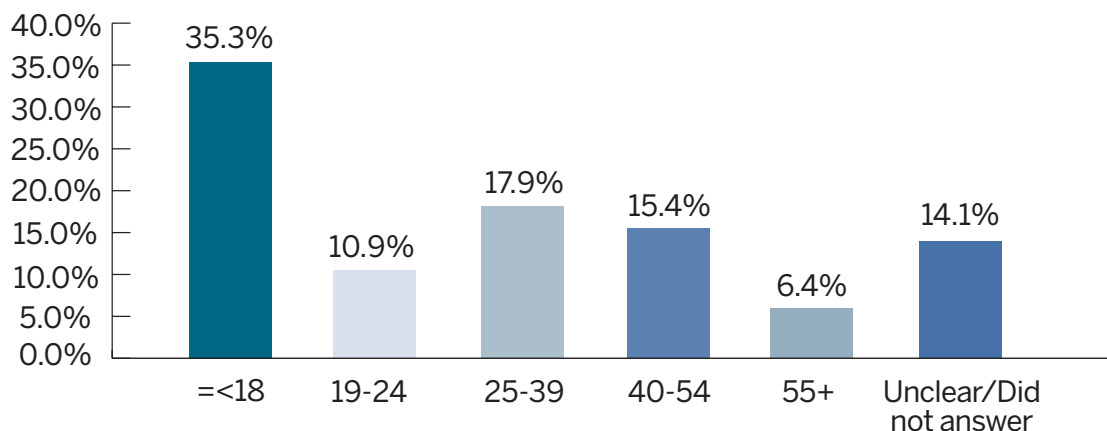
<sup>7</sup>Genderqueer means of, relating to, or being a person whose gender identity cannot be categorized as solely male or female. This can include but is not limited to individuals that self-identify as transgender, intersex, and two-spirit.

<sup>8</sup>Surveys were not conducted with individuals that identified under the age of 16.

# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

## Age of First Homelessness

Consistent with previous PiT surveys, a large portion of respondents had their first experience with homelessness as a youth. For 46.2% of survey respondents, that first experience happened as youth under the age of 25 with a considerable number (35.3%) first experiencing homelessness as a teenager under the age of 19.



## Families

Per the report completed by Raising the Roof (non-profit organization) in 2016, family homelessness is described as a “significant, yet hidden, part of the (homelessness) crisis”. Their research indicated that visible family homelessness is only the “tip of the iceberg”, and that many tend to fall under hidden homelessness where they stay in overcrowded, sub-standard housing – where they are left with the difficult choice between paying the bills and feeding the kids. (Gulliver-Garcia, 2016)

There are a number of ways to identify if families are at risk of becoming homeless including:

- Unaffordable rental housing units.
- Falling below the Market Basket Measure (MBM) poverty threshold and/or living below the Low Income Cut-off (LICO).
- Experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity.
- Stagnant or declining wages during periods of sustained economic and employment growth. (Gaetz et al., 2014)

On April 28, the majority of respondents were single with no family members staying with them the night (86.5%), whereas 13.5% were accompanied by a partner, friend, family member, or dependents.

Families with children experiencing homelessness account for 20 (12.8%) of the survey respondents and include 14 children/dependents. On the night of April 28, 35.0% of the families with dependents were staying at an emergency shelter, 30.0% were staying in transitional housing, 20.0% were unsheltered, and 15.0% indicated that they were couch surfing. Additionally, of those 20 survey respondents with dependents: 6 were male, 14 were female, 5 were Indigenous, and 6 were under the age of 25.

# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

## Indigenous People's Experiences of Homelessness

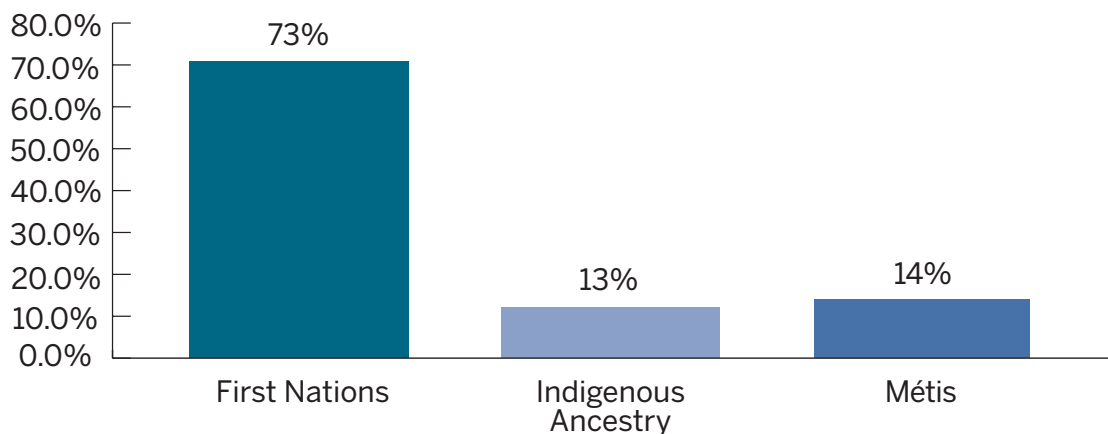
Indigenous homelessness, both in concept and definition, is far more complex than the common settler definition of lacking access to stable, permanent or appropriate housing. Indigenous homelessness recognizes that “being without a physical structure is only a symptom of the root causes of Indigenous homelessness, which are being without healthy social, cultural, spiritual, emotional and physical relationships” (Thistle, 2017).

As reported by the Canadian Observatory of Homelessness, Indigenous homelessness should be considered a consequence of historical trauma, oppression, racism and discrimination. The abuse and cultural trauma experienced by Indigenous peoples, including through the use of residential schools and the 60's scoop, have resulted in the many personal challenges Indigenous people face such as family dysfunction, substance use, addictions, and health issues. These challenges occur in tandem with racism, landlord discrimination, as well as difficulty transitioning from reserves to urban living. All of these factors result in the disproportionate experience of poorer health, lower levels of education, higher unemployment rates, lower income levels, higher incarceration, and higher suicide rates amongst youth. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, n.d.)

### Key Highlights about the Homeless Indigenous Population in Brantford Brant (56 Surveys)

The 2021 PiT survey found 35.9% (56 people) of all respondents self-identified as Indigenous. This is comparable to the 2018 PiT survey results, where 47 (35.1%) self-identified as Indigenous. With approximately 5.9% of the Brantford-Brant population identifying as Indigenous (Statistics Canada, 2016 Census), Indigenous individuals are disproportionately represented among those experiencing homelessness.

Of the 56 survey respondents who identify as Indigenous, one in three identified First Nations. Nearly 60% of Indigenous respondents shared the Indigenous community they are from. 35.7% indicated that their home community was Six Nations of the Grand.



**Note:** The graph above represents how individuals self-identified. More than one response possible.

# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

Below are a list of additional findings from the PiT Survey specific to Indigenous experiences of homelessness:

- More Indigenous men are homeless than non-Indigenous men: 26.8% female, 71.4% male, 1.8% had another gender identity (e.g., transgender, two-spirit) or did not answer — only 67.3% of the general survey population identify as male.
- The average age of Indigenous-identifying survey respondents was 38. The majority (64.3%) are adults between the ages of 25 and 54. These findings are consistent with the general population.
- More than one third (35.7%) were sleeping outdoors on the night of April 28 which, is much higher than the general survey findings.
- 89.3% were single or had no family members staying with them that night.
- 67.9% are experiencing chronic homelessness, meaning that they have been homeless for a total of 6 or more months of the past 12 months.
- 55.4% had their first experience of homelessness as a youth (under the age of 25), with 42.9% having their first experience of homelessness at the age of 18 or younger. This is higher than the general survey population.
- More than one third (39.3%) indicate being in foster care, a youth group home or a child welfare program as a child or youth. This is a much higher percentage than the general survey population, where 29.5% indicated being a child or youth in government/ ministry care. This finding is consistent with Canada-wide over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in foster care.
- 60.7% of individuals that self-identify as Indigenous indicated that they had not completed high school which, is significantly higher than the general survey.
  - 91.1% identify living with at least one health challenge:
    - Substance use issue = 75.0%
    - Mental health issue = 69.6%
    - Physical disability = 46.4%
    - Illness/medical condition = 41.1%
    - Intellectual/cognitive limitation = 28.6%
- Of the 50 individuals that disclosed their reasons for housing loss, the top two reasons were:
  - Conflict with spouse / partner (18.0%)
  - Unfit / unsafe housing conditions (16.0%)
- Of the 43 respondents that indicated a need for service, the top five services include:
  - Mental health (65.1%),
  - Addiction or substance use (60.5%)
  - Indigenous services (51.2%)
  - Legal services (44.2%)
  - Serious / ongoing medical condition (39.5%)

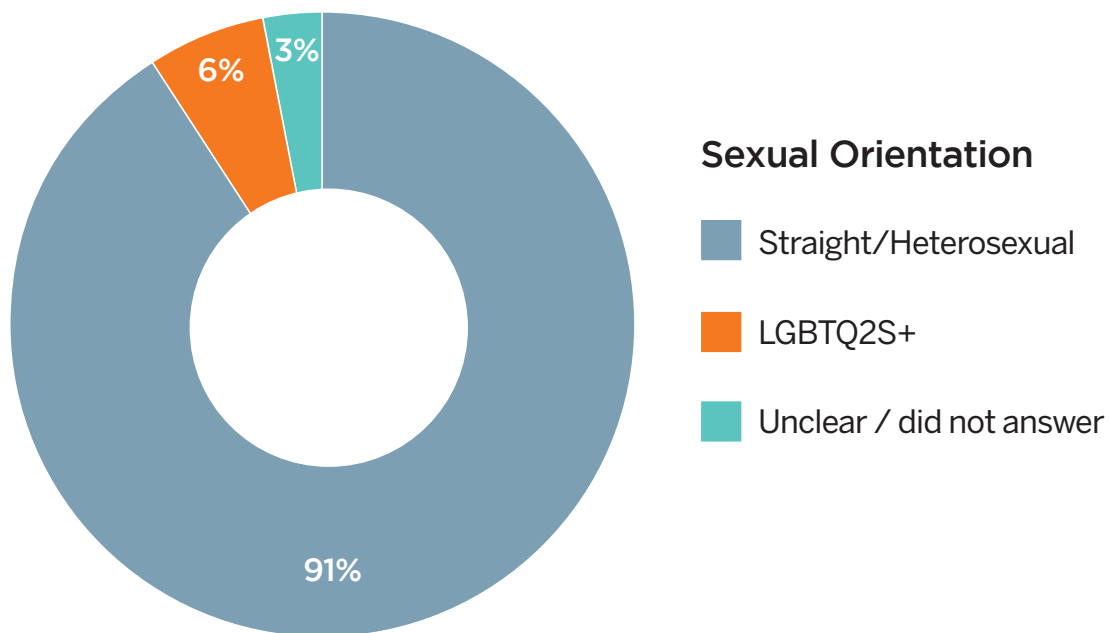


# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

## Sexual Orientation

The majority of respondents identify as straight/heterosexual (91.0%), while 5.8% identify as LGBTQ2S+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, queer, two-spirit, and more) and 3.2% did not disclose. Of those who identified as LGBTQ2S+ (n=9), 33.3% were youth, 55.6% were adults, and 11.1% were aged 55+.

At this time, it is difficult to know how many individuals are experiencing homelessness that identify as LGBTQ2S+ since methodologies can vary between studies and individuals may not be willing to self-identify for personal reasons (including a lack of trust or fear of violence or discrimination). However, the most common theme identified in research was a LGBTQ2S+ youth's pathway into homelessness resulting from the lack of family and community support. (Rempel et al., 2017)



## Foster Care

Just under one-third (29.5%) of all survey respondents were in foster care, a youth group home, or a child welfare program of some sort as a child or youth. Only 21.7% of these respondents felt that Child Protective Services were helpful with transitioning to independence after leaving foster care.

Of the 28 respondents that shared the length of time that had passed following their residency within a foster care/group home where they experienced homelessness, 35.7% indicated that they had become homeless within six months.

# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

## Youth (age 16-24) Experiences of Homelessness

As defined by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, “youth homelessness” refers to the situation and experience of young people between the ages of 13 and 24 who are living independently of parents and/or caregivers, but do not have the means or ability to acquire a stable, safe or consistent residence” (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2016). It is estimated that youth make up approximately 20% of the homeless population in Canada (Abramovich A., & Pang N., 2020). Further, research indicates that there is low service utilization rates and service availability to youth, resulting in homeless youth “falling through the cracks” (Abramovich A., & Pang N., 2020).

## Key Highlights about the Homeless Youth Population in Brantford Brant (23 Surveys)

Below are a list of additional findings from the PiT Survey specific to youth experiences of homelessness:

- Sexual orientation appeared to be a bigger factor for youth homelessness: 13.0% identify as LGBTQ2S+ compared with 5.8% reported by the general population.
- 60.9% of respondents aged 24 and under are male (14 respondents).
- Nearly half of all youth respondents indicated that they were residing in transitional housing on the night of April 28 (43.5%), and one in three were staying at an emergency shelter (34.8%)
- The majority (69.6%) were single or had no family members or friends staying with them that night.
- Over one third (39%) identify as Indigenous, similar to the broader survey population.
- 39.1% are experiencing chronic homelessness, meaning they have been homeless for a total time of six months or longer over the past 12 months.
- 39.1% are or were in foster care, a youth group home, or government care, a much higher portion than the broader survey group.
- 91.3% identify living with at least one health challenge:
  - Mental health issue (78.3%)
  - Substance use issue (60.9%)
  - Cognitive or intellectual disability (56.5%)
  - Illness/medical condition (26.1%)
  - Physical disability (21.7%)
- 21 respondents disclosed their reason for losing housing most recently. The top five reasons were:
  - Unfit / unsafe housing condition (19.0%)
  - Conflict with Parent / Guardian (19.0%)
  - Not enough income for housing (9.5%)
  - Conflict with spouse / partner (9.5%)
  - Conflict with other (9.5%)
- Of the 15 respondents that disclosed the services they need, the top services selected were:
  - Mental health (53.3%)
  - Addiction or Substance Use (26.7%)
  - Legal services (26.7%),
  - Indigenous service (20.0%)
  - Serious / ongoing medical condition (13.3%),
  - Learning disability (13.3%)
  - Young parents (13.3%)

# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

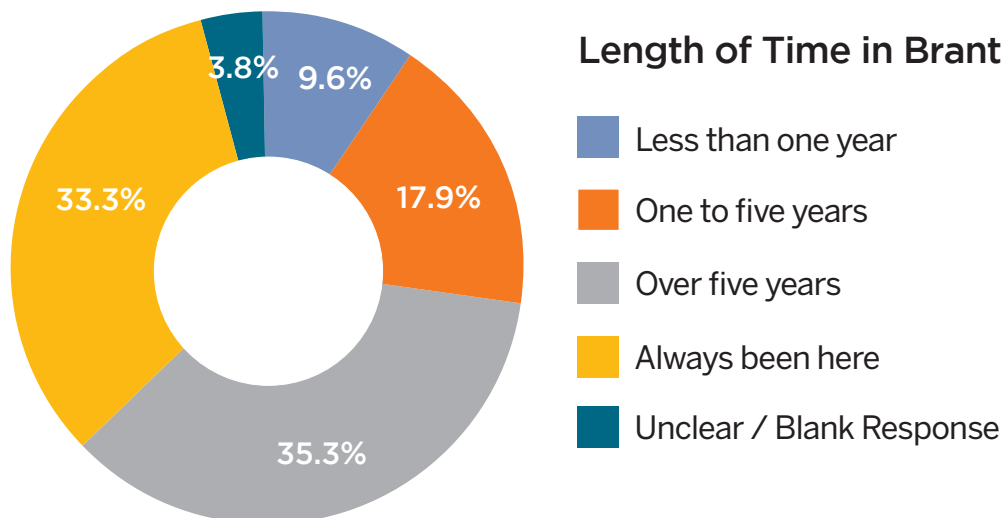
## Immigrants and Refugees

While the majority of respondents (93.0%) do not identify as immigrants or refugees, 6.4% identify as immigrants, and 0.6% did not disclose.

For those who came to Canada as an immigrant, and disclosed the length of time that they have lived in Canada (n=8), shared that they had lived in Canada as long as 54 years. All 8 respondents indicated that they had lived in Canada for over 10 years.

## Length of Time in Brantford-Brant

There is a common misconception that individuals experiencing homelessness in Brantford-Brant are not local to the area, and have moved to the community recently. Survey findings strongly counter this assumption. The majority of respondents (86.5%) have lived in the Brantford-Brant for more than one year, with 35.3% living in the region longer than five years and 33.3% residing here their entire lives. Only 9.6% of respondents indicated that they lived in Brantford-Brant for less than one year, with even fewer (7.1%) living in the region for six or fewer months.



64 respondents indicated which community they came from previously. The top three identified communities were:

- 20.3% were from Hamilton (n=13)
- 10.9% were from Toronto (n=7)
- 6.3% were from Simcoe (n=4)

The top five reasons for moving to Brantford-Brant indicated by 116 respondents include:

- Family moved here (35.3%)
- Other (21.6%)
- To visit friends / family (15.5%)
- To access services and supports (10.3%)
- To find housing (7.8%)

# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

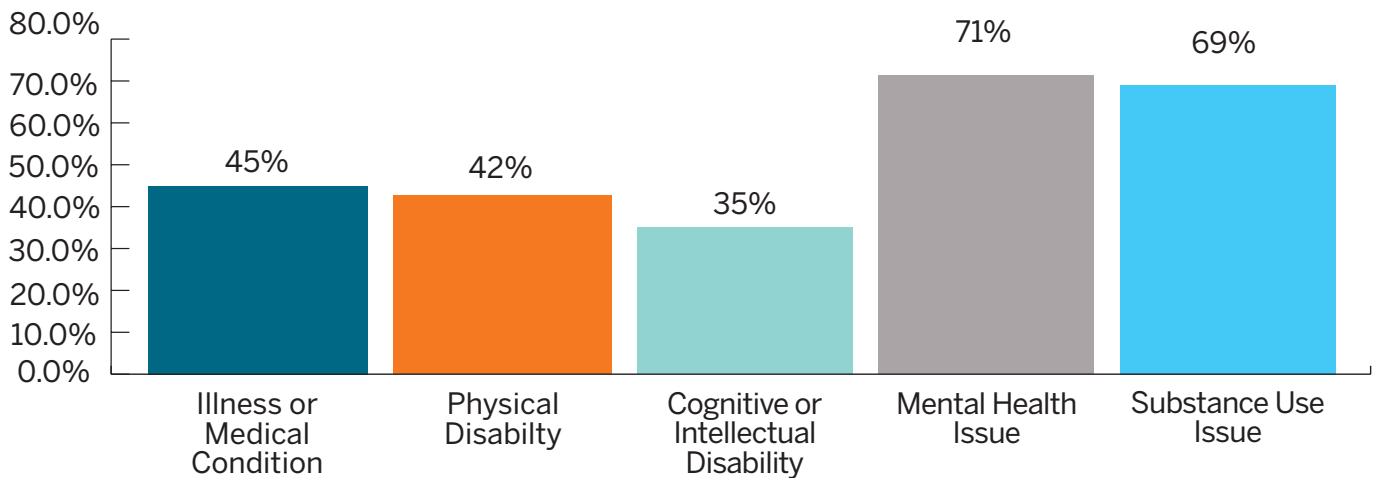
## Emergency Shelter Stays

Survey participants were asked if they have stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year. 78.8% indicated that they have accessed shelter services, where 20.5% indicated that they did not. For those that did not access services, they were asked for the reason why. The top reasons indicated by 22 respondents were: A fear for safety (31.8%), Turned away (shelters full) (13.6%), Turned away (banned) (13.6%), and Crowded (13.6%).

## Health Conditions

There is a distinct relationship between health and homelessness: where the experience of poverty and/or homelessness can exacerbate health issues, and health issues can contribute to poverty and homelessness. Therefore, it is critical that communities develop strategies that aim to address homelessness and eliminate barriers that prevent individuals from accessing health services – with additional consideration to those from specific populations such as youth, Indigenous, and seniors.

When asked about health challenges, 91.7% of survey respondents identify as having at least one health challenge. More than half of the respondents indicated having a health challenge relating to mental health (70.5%) and substance use (69.2%).



<sup>9</sup>Some of the reasons indicated under “Other” include: Family Emergency (n=2), Born and raised in community (n=5), and family/partner relationships in community (n=3).

**Note:** Of the 156 respondents to the PiT Count Survey. More than one response possible.

# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

## Income

The vast majority (n=138, 88.5%) report having at least one source of income, whether it is a formal or informal source. This is comparable to the 2018 PiT Count Survey where 85.8% reported having at least one source of income.

The most common sources of income reported in 2021 were social assistance (33.3%), disability benefits (30.8%), and employment (9.0% with casual, temporary, part-time and full-time combined). Informal sources of income were also significant at 16%, which may include bottle returns, panhandling, sex work, etc. While the most common sources of income in 2018 are comparable to the findings of 2021, there are some slight differences. In 2018, more individuals reported that they were accessing social assistance (41.0%), fewer were accessing disability benefit (27.61%), more individuals were receiving employment income (13.4%), and far fewer were obtaining income from an informal source (1.5%).

Source of Income	#	%
Government Transfers		
Social assistance	52	33.3%
Disability benefits	48	30.8%
GST/HST refund	1	0.6%
CERB	1	0.6%
WSIB	2	1.3%
Seniors benefits	13	8.3%
Employment insurance	6	3.8%
Employment		
Casual	3	1.9%
Temporary	1	0.6%
Part-time	6	3.8%
Full-time	4	2.6%
Other sources		
Informal sources (bottle return, panhandling, sex work, etc.)	52	33.3%
Other sources not listed	48	30.8%
Other money from a service agency	1	0.6%
No income	13	8.3%
Unclear / did not answer	5	3.2%

# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

## Reasons for Homelessness

Survey participants were asked what caused them to lose their housing most recently. Individuals were able to indicate multiple factors that could have contributed to their housing loss – factors that could be the result of a variety of structural, systemic, and personal factors. Of the 145 respondents that indicated their reasons for housing loss, the top reasons included:

- Landlord / tenant conflict (15.2%);
- Conflict with spouse or partner (12.4%);
- Not enough income for housing (11.7%);
- Unfit / unsafe housing conditions (9.7%); and
- Conflict with parent / guardian (9.0%).

When survey respondents were asked how long ago they lost their most recent housing, 51.3% indicated a loss of housing less than one year ago, and 48.1% lost their housing one year ago or longer. At the time of the survey, respondents reported losing their housing as recent as nine days before to 40 years ago.

## Chronic Homelessness

Those who have been homeless for a cumulative period of six months or longer are considered to be experiencing chronic homelessness. The majority (58.3%) of survey respondents identify being homeless for a total time of six months or more over the past year.



# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

## Seniors (55+) Experiences of Homelessness

Research has shown that seniors experience homelessness for a number of reasons. This can include but is not limited to the lack of income to pay for housing, increasing shortage of affordable and secure housing units, deteriorating mental and physical health, relationship breakdowns, violence and abuse, the loss of a spouse/partner, social isolation, discrimination, and the lack of awareness of available benefits and services (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, n.d.). With seniors experiencing homelessness at an increasing rate, stronger measures need to be taken.

### Key Highlights about the Homeless Senior Population in Brantford Brant (20 Surveys)

The 2018 PiT survey found that at least 10 seniors (aged 55 and older) were experiencing homelessness in Brantford-Brant. Comparably, for the 2021 PiT survey, 20 seniors experiencing homelessness completed the survey, making up nearly 12.8% of all survey respondents.

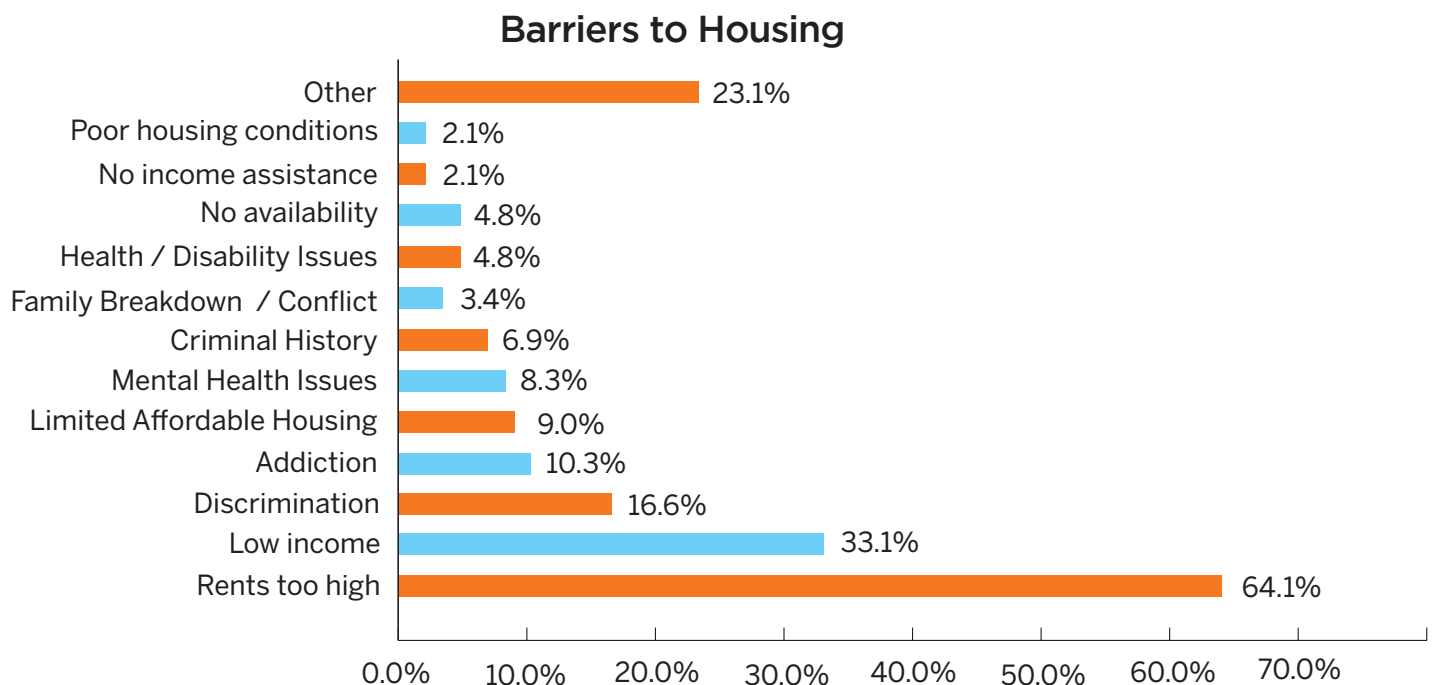


- A much higher portion of the seniors are male: 75% identify as male, and 25% identify as female.
- 5.0% identify as LGBTQ2S+, which is comparable to the general survey.
- 75.0% of seniors indicated that they were staying at an emergency shelter the night of the count.
- All seniors (100%) disclosed that they were single or had no family members or friends staying with them on April 28.
- 30% identify as Indigenous, which is slightly lower than the general survey group.
- 45.0% are experiencing chronic homelessness, meaning that they have been homeless for a total time of six months or longer over the past 12 months.
- 45.0% indicated that had their first experience of homelessness in recent years as a senior (55+).
  - 100% identify living with at least one health challenge:
    - Illness/medical condition = 75.0%
    - Physical disability = 70.0%
    - Mental health issue = 70.0%
    - Substance use issue = 60.0%
    - Cognitive or intellectual disability = 25.0%
  - Of the 19 individuals that disclosed the services they needed the most, the top services were:
    - Serious / ongoing medical condition (68.4%),
    - Physical disability (63.2%)
    - Mental health (42.1%)
    - Legal services (31.6%)

# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

## Obstacles to Access Housing

Homelessness can be a traumatic experience caused by challenging structural, systemic, and personal factors, and it is very rarely a choice. When asked about the challenges or problems in trying to find housing, there was a lot of variety in the answers. Of the 145 respondents to this survey question, the top three most common challenges reported include: rent is too high (64.1%), low income (33.1%), and discrimination (16.6%). There were a large number of responses that did not align with the options provided, and were grouped under other. These options include but are not limited to: credit score (4.1%), no identification (3.4%), no phone (2.1%), and not looking (2.1%).



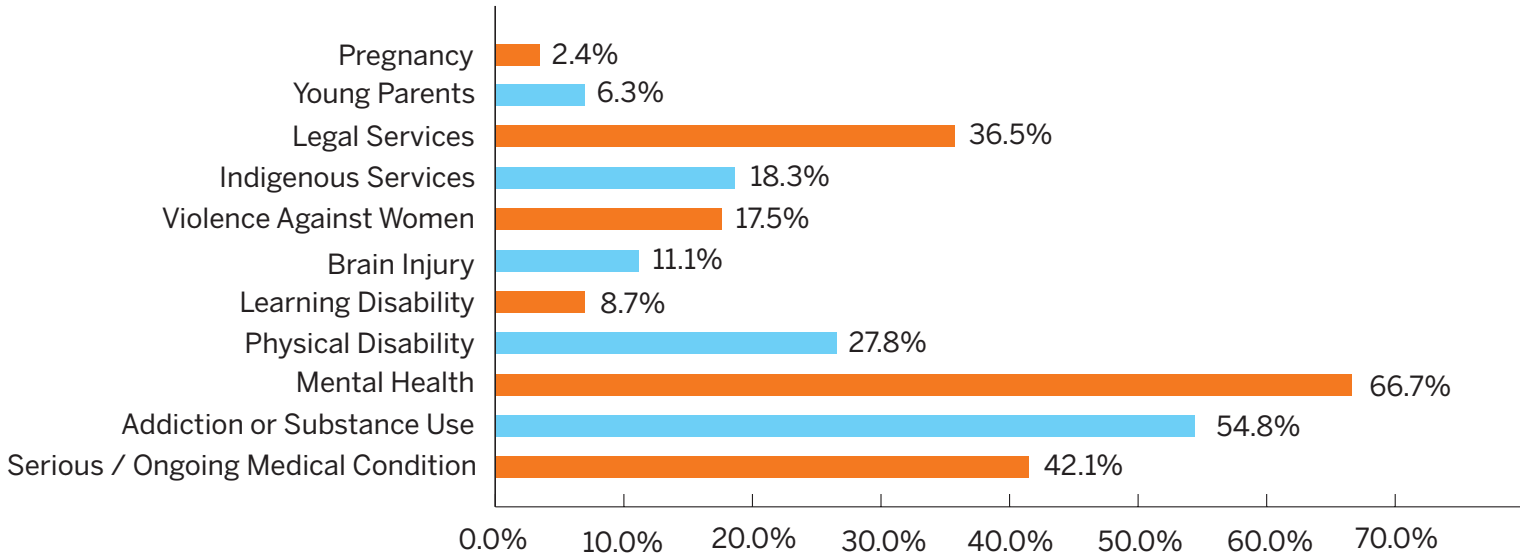
## Service Needs

When survey respondents were asked to identify which services would help them, 80.8% (n=126) of respondents selected a wide range of needed services from a list that was provided to them. Of those that indicated a need for service, the most prominent service needs are: mental health services (66.7%), addiction and substance use services (54.8%), serious/ongoing medical condition (42.1%), and legal services (36.5%). 10.3% of the total respondents indicated that they required none of the services listed, and 9.0% did not answer.



# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

## Services Needed

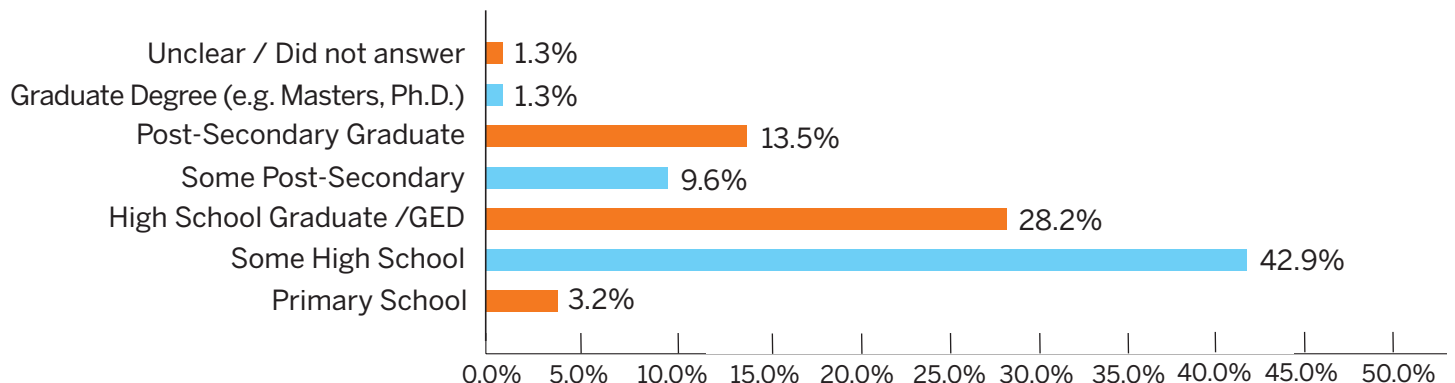


## Education Level

Understanding the relationship between education and homelessness is crucial for a number of reasons. Primarily, it is due to the experience of becoming homeless as a youth that can disrupt an individual's efforts in school, resulting in youth to withdraw. Once unsheltered, returning to school becomes an incredible challenge as their basic needs for shelter and food are often unmet. For homeless families, ensuring access to good education can be a tremendous challenge. Homeless families are often forced to move to shelters outside of their home communities, and children are enrolled in new schools. As a result of the incredible poverty facing homeless families, children are often placed at a disadvantage. In tandem with these findings, educational supports for individuals experiencing homelessness are rare and are not often a priority within communities. (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2015)

Nearly half of all respondents indicated that they had not completed high school (46.2%). Further, for those who had indicated they had not completed high school, 61.1% indicated that their first experience of homelessness was under the age of 24. This reinforces the importance of addressing the educational needs of people experiencing homelessness.

## Education Level

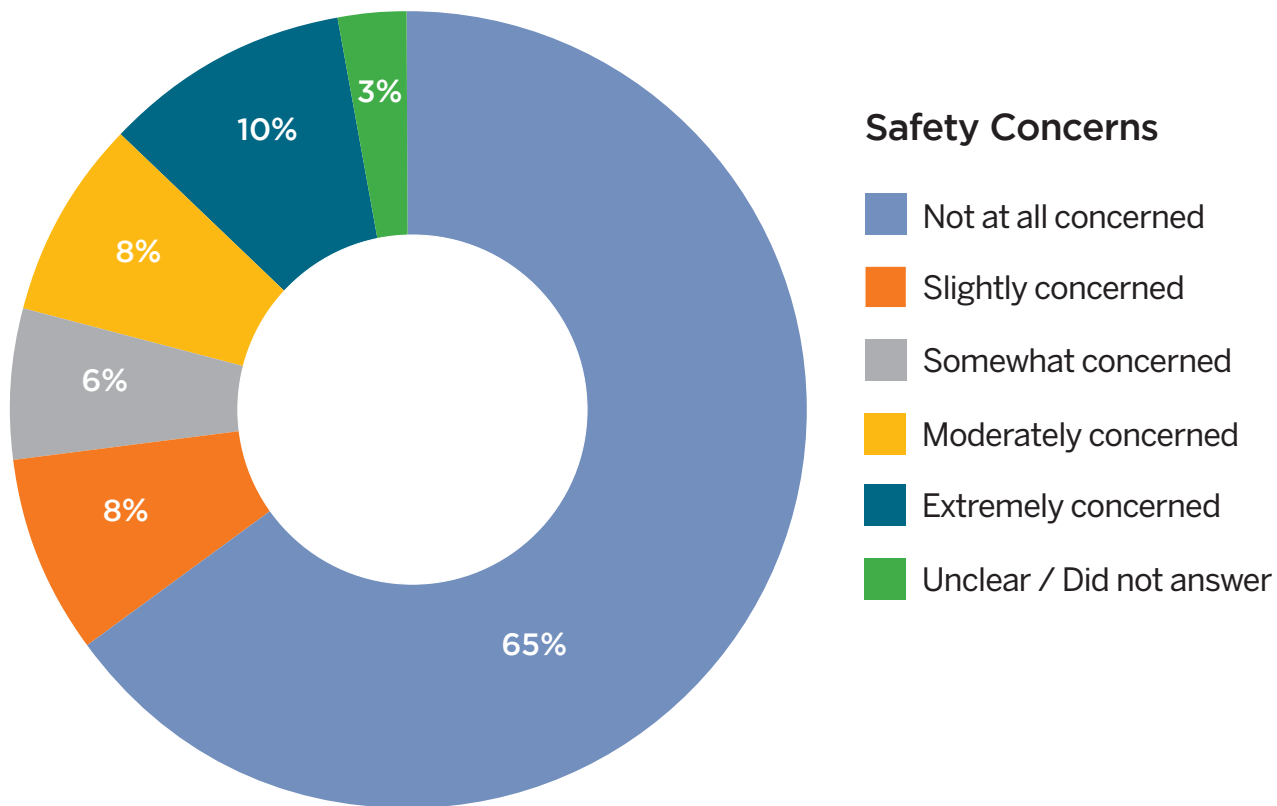


# Behind the Numbers: Brantford-Brant PiT 2021 Survey Findings

## Safety Concerns

As recommended by the PiT Count committee, a question was added to the PiT Count survey designed to delve into safety concerns for individuals experiencing homelessness. The majority of respondents indicated that they were not at all concerned for their safety (65.4%), whereas 17.9% indicated that they were either moderately or extremely concerned for their safety.

When analyzed further, it is clear that individuals that self-identify as female are more likely to report that they are extremely concerned for their safety (16.7%) than males (7.6%).



# Conclusion

Brantford-Brant's Homelessness system of care strives to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness within our community. With the findings from this event, we have strengthened our understanding regarding the experiences of individuals within our community and have obtained a baseline to measure future improvement. In addition to this, information collected from the PiT event will help to inform the strategic direction of our system of care, by identifying priorities for individual needs.

As we look forward, we plan to host a Registry Week this fall (2021) which will help to connect individuals to appropriate supports within our community. These efforts occur in tandem with the development of our coordinated access system of care – a system that aims to streamline processes for individuals experiencing homelessness to access housing and supports.

It is imperative to continue building on the success of enumeration events like the PiT event, to continue to actively engage with individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and to measure the progress the City of Brantford is making to end homelessness. Together, we can eliminate barriers and create a more prosperous future for all of Brantford-Brant's residents.



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# Appendix A: PiT Count 2021, Survey

The paper copy of the survey was provided to all surveyors as a back-up, or for use as a preferred tool. If a surveyor used the paper copy of the survey rather than completing the survey directly on HIFIS, dedicated staff were assigned to enter the survey after the event.

There are three sections to the survey: Core, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH), and Local. Core questions are mandatory questions provided by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). COH questions are optional and can be selected by communities to include in the survey. Local questions are designed by community partners.

Note: There were some discrepancies between the paper copies of the survey compared to HIFIS. There were additional follow-up questions available on the online version which were not included on the paper copy provided by Employment and Social Development Canada.

## INTRODUCTION TO SURVEY (FOR STAFF TO READ TO INDIVIDUAL FOR VERBAL CONSENT)

Hello, my name is (First name), and I am an Outreach Worker in the Homelessness Care Sector. We are conducting a survey called the Point-in-Time Count with people who are experiencing homelessness in Brantford. It will only take 10 minutes of your time and you will be provided with a \$15 gift card for your time.

**A. Have you answered this survey with a person wearing this green vest today?**

**[Yes: Thank and Tally]**

**[No: Go to A1]**

**A1. Check for mask and remain a 6ft distance. [Offer mask if a client isn't wearing one and explain you will remain distance due to COVID-19. The client must be willing to stay distant and masked to complete the survey.]**

B. The questions will help us better understand the experiences of those experiencing homelessness. You may choose to skip questions or stop the survey at any time. Your decision to participate will not impact your ability to access housing services in our community. Your answers will help inform programs and policies to help end homelessness across the nation. **Are you willing to participate in the survey?**

**[YES: Refer to Consent Form, obtain verbal consent, and mark on tracker. Move to C.]**

**[If HESITANT: Provide more information and remind them of the incentive]**

**[If NO: Refer to Touchdown Location postcard, offer community resource guide, and tally]**

# Appendix A: PiT Count 2021, Survey

## SURVEY

Survey Number: 0001

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

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

### A. Where are you staying tonight? / Where did you stay last night?

a. DECLINE TO ANSWER b. OWN APARTMENT / HOUSE	} [THANK & END SURVEY]
c. SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE d. MOTEL/HOTEL (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> <p>a. Yes [THANK &amp; END] b. No (not permanent AND/OR not safe) [BEGIN SURVEY] c. Don't Know [BEGIN SURVEY] d. Decline to answer [THANK &amp; END]</p>
h. HOMELESS SHELTER (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 (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK, BOAT) n. UNSURE: INDICATE PROBABLE LOCATION _____ (b. - m.)	} [BEGIN SURVEY]

## BEGIN SURVEY – CORE QUESTIONS

1. Do you have family members or anyone else who is staying with you tonight? / Did you have any family members or anyone else who stayed with you last night? [Indicate survey number for partners. Check all that apply]

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

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

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

➔ For this survey, "homelessness" means any time when you have been without a permanent and secure place to live, including sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others without having your own permanent housing (e.g. couch surfing).

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

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

# Appendix A: PiT Count 2021, Survey

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.]

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

In total, *how many different times* have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR? (the last 12 months) [Best estimate.]

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

4 a. Have you stayed in a homeless shelter in the past year? For example, (*COMMUNITY NOTE: Include examples of emergency shelters and extreme weather shelters for interviewers to provide.*)

YES       NO       DON'T KNOW       DECLINE TO ANSWER

→ If not, what are the main reasons? [Do not read categories; select all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> TURNED AWAY (SHELTERS ARE FULL)	<input type="checkbox"/> FEAR FOR SAFETY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> TURNED AWAY (BANNED)	<input type="checkbox"/> BED BUGS & OTHER PESTS	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> LACK OF TRANSPORTATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CROWDED	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

5. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or a refugee claimant (i.e. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada)?

<input type="radio"/> YES, IMMIGRANT ----->	<b>If YES: How long have you been in Canada?</b>
<input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE----->	
<input type="radio"/> YES, REFUGEE CLAIM IN CANADA--->	
<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

→ Are you a Canadian Citizen?

<input type="radio"/> YES	<b>If NO:</b>	<input type="radio"/> PERMANENT RESIDENT	<input type="radio"/> INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
<input type="radio"/> NO ----->		<input type="radio"/> REFUGEE CLAIMANT	<input type="radio"/> OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW		<input type="radio"/> TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER	
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER			

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

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

↪ Where did you live before you came here?       CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ | PROVINCE/TERRITORY/COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

DECLINE TO ANSWER

7. 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"/> EMPLOYMENT (SEEKING)	<input type="radio"/> RECREATION/SHOPPING
<input type="radio"/> TO ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS	<input type="radio"/> EMPLOYMENT (SECURED)	<input type="radio"/> OTHER: _____
<input type="radio"/> FAMILY MOVED HERE	<input type="radio"/> TO ATTEND SCHOOL	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> TO VISIT FRIENDS/FAMILY	<input type="radio"/> FEAR FOR SAFETY	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="radio"/> TO FIND HOUSING		

# Appendix A: PiT Count 2021, Survey

## 11. Do you identify as having any of the following health challenges at this time:

ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION [e.g. diabetes, arthritis, TB, HIV]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
PHYSICAL LIMITATION [e.g. challenges with mobility, physical abilities or dexterity]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
LEARNING OR COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS [e.g. dyslexia, autism spectrum disorder, or as a result of ADHD or an acquired brain injury]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE [diagnosed/undiagnosed] [e.g. depression, Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar disorder]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
SUBSTANCE USE ISSUE [e.g. tobacco, alcohol, opiates]	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

## 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

14a. 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".]

A: HOUSING AND FINANCIAL ISSUES	B: INTERPERSONAL AND FAMILY ISSUES	C: HEALTH OR CORRECTIONS
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT ENOUGH INCOME FOR HOUSING (E.G. LOSS OF BENEFIT, INCOME, OR JOB)	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL HEALTH ISSUE
<input type="checkbox"/> UNFIT/UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING SOLD OR RENNOVATED	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: OTHER (_____)	<input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANCE USE ISSUE
<input type="checkbox"/> OWNER MOVED IN	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER	<input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM
<input type="checkbox"/> LANDLORD/TENANT CONFLICT	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATION (JAIL OR PRISON)
<input type="checkbox"/> COMPLAINT (E.G. PETS/NOISE/DAMAGE)	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: OTHER (_____)	
<input type="checkbox"/> LEFT THE COMMUNITY/RELOCATED	<input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTURE OF FAMILY MEMBER	
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER REASON: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION	
	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

## 14b. Was your most recent housing loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- 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



# Appendix A: PiT Count 2021, Survey

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

<input type="checkbox"/> FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
<input type="checkbox"/> PART TIME EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT [Name of PROV. DISABILITY BENEFIT]	<input type="checkbox"/> GST/HST REFUND
<input type="checkbox"/> CASUAL EMPLOYMENT (E.G. CONTRACT WORK)	<input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G. CPP/OAS/GIS)	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER MONEY FROM A SERVICE AGENCY
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL INCOME SOURCES (E.G. BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	<input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE [Prov. Benefit]	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SOURCE: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS	<input type="checkbox"/> VETERAN/VAC BENEFITS	<input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME
		<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
		<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

## CONTINUE SURVEY – COH QUESTIONS

1) What is the highest level of education you completed?

<input type="radio"/> PRIMARY SCHOOL	<input type="radio"/> SOME POST SECONDARY	<input type="radio"/> NO FORMAL EDUCATION
<input type="radio"/> SOME HIGH SCHOOL	<input type="radio"/> POST SECONDARY GRADUATE	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE/GED	<input type="radio"/> GRADUATE DEGREE (E.G., MASTERS, Ph.D.)	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

2) In the past year (12 months) have you:

BEEN TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM	Y ___ N ___
BEEN HOSPITALIZED	Y ___ N ___
INTERACTED WITH POLICE ( <i>Tickets, arrests, searches</i> )	Y ___ N ___
BEEN TO PRISON/JAIL	Y ___ N ___

3) Have you tried to obtain permanent housing in the past year?

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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4) 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"/> PETS	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES		

5) 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

# Appendix A: PiT Count 2021, Survey

## CONTINUE SURVEY – LOCAL QUESTIONS

**1) I'm going to read a list of services that you may or may not need. Let me know which of these services you may seek in the community. Do you have a need for services related to: [Read categories, select all that apply]**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SERIOUS/ONGOING MEDICAL CONDITION                     | <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL DISABILITY  | <input type="checkbox"/> PREGNANCY         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE                            | <input type="checkbox"/> LEARNING DISABILITY  | <input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ( <i>Counselling, treatment, etc.</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> BRAIN INJURY   | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Violence against women,<br>Indigenous Services, Legal<br>Services, Young parents |  |

**2) How concerned with safety are you where you are currently staying? (Note: Safety concerns might relate to fear of violence/discrimination or other forms of abuse, but also may refer to unsafe living conditions such as bed bugs). [Select the answer that best describes the level of concern]**

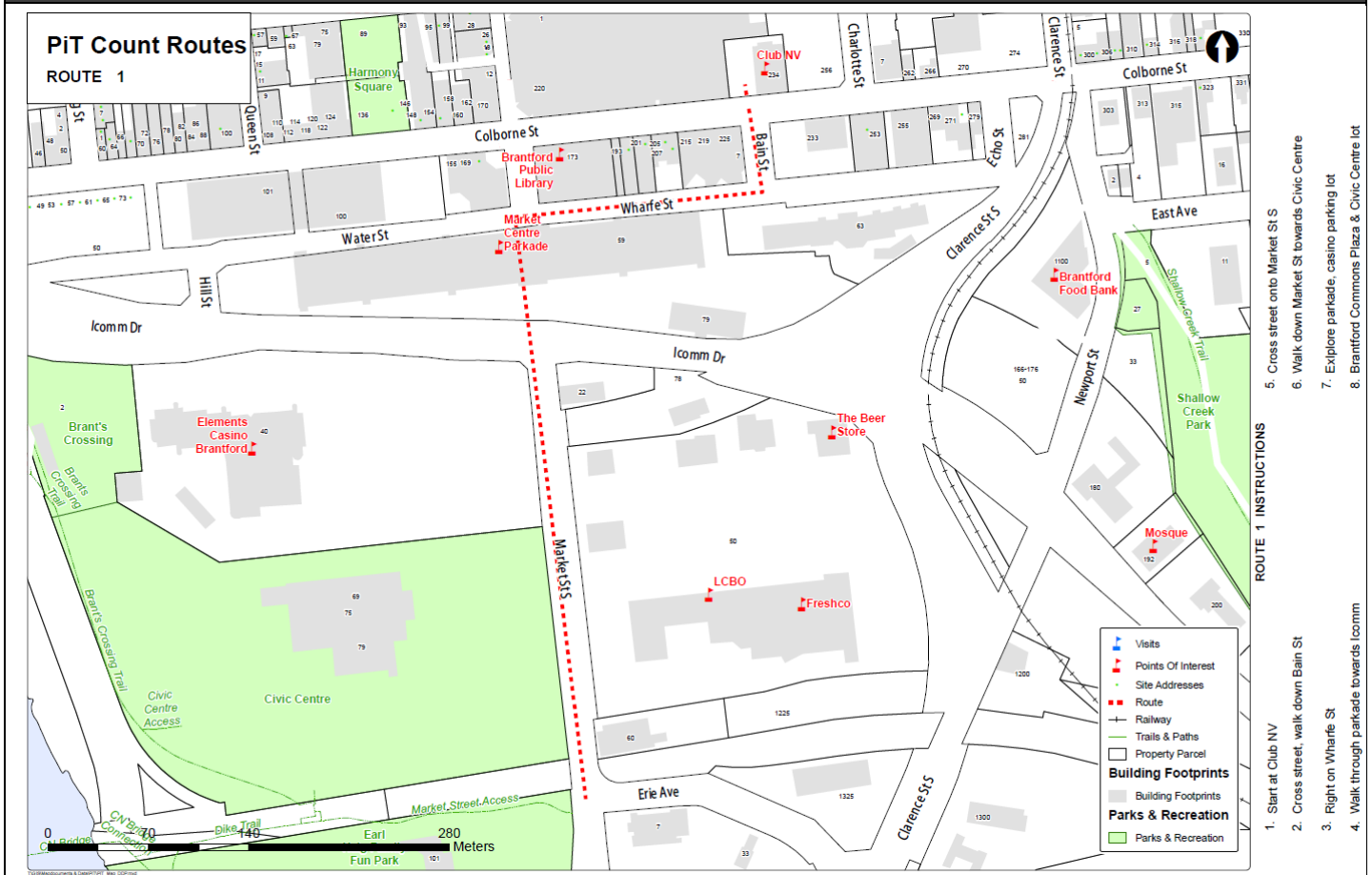
- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> NOT AT ALL CONCERNED | <input type="radio"/> SOMEWHAT CONCERNED   | <input type="radio"/> EXTREMELY CONCERNED |
| <input type="radio"/> SLIGHTLY CONCERNED   | <input type="radio"/> MODERATELY CONCERNED | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER   |

END OF SURVEY

# Appendix B: Route Map Sample

Each team that was conducting surveys in the community was provided with a route map, within their outreach backpack. This map outlined the roads that the surveyor was to walk. Routes were determined in collaboration with the PiT Count Committee, and were designed to maximize coverage of the community.

Figure 1: Point-in-Time Count 2021, Route 1



2021  
Brantford Brant  
Point-in-Time Count  
Report

