

# 2024 Winnipeg Street Census

Housing instability is not random – it's rooted in systemic inequality.

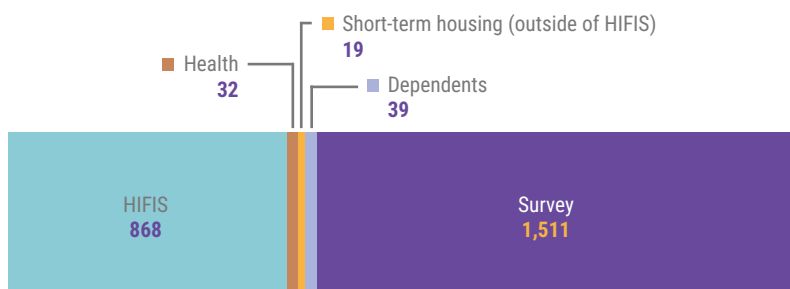
End  
Homelessness  
Winnipeg

The 2024 Winnipeg Street Census or **Point-in-Time (PiT)** Count identified 2,469 unhoused individuals in Winnipeg on November 5th, 2024.

The **PiT Count** occurred between November 6th and 12th, utilizing survey and administrative data. The survey was administered by more than **160 volunteers and staff** along designated routes, at service provider locations, and in encampments whereas the administrative data was obtained from the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, and a transitional housing program yet to be onboarded onto HIFIS. This federally funded initiative is coordinated by End Homelessness Winnipeg, and is supported by lived experts, local government representatives, staff at community organizations, and academics. This summary highlights some of the findings.

## At Least 2,469 People Are Estimated to Have Experienced Homelessness in Winnipeg on November 5, 2024.

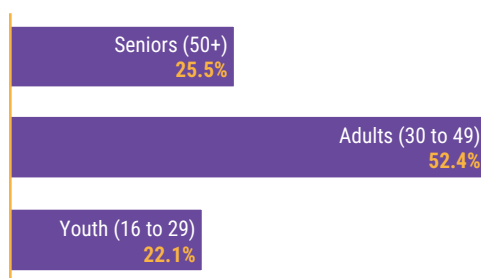
The Size of the Population Experiencing Homelessness:



\*The sum of all values shown is 2,469.

## Homelessness Has No Age Limit.

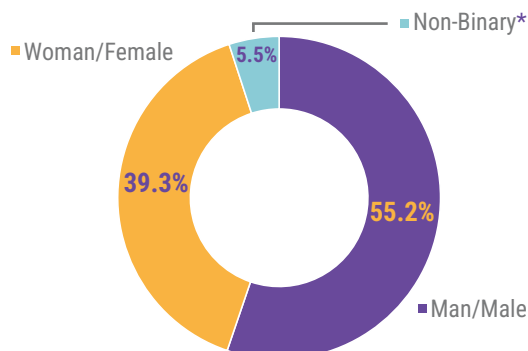
Age Group, Average Age is 41:



\*2.9% of the respondents are 65+ years old.

## Homelessness Knows No Gender.

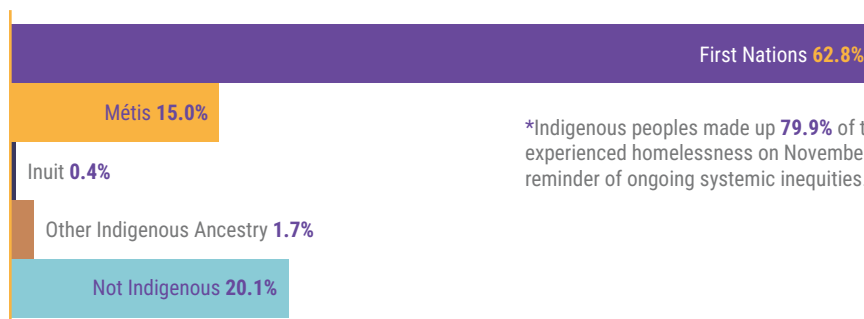
Gender Identity:



\*Non-binary includes Two-Spirit, Trans Woman, Trans Man, Queer, Indiqueer, Gender fluid, Questioning, Gender non-conforming, Agender, Pangender, Intersex, Demiboy, and Demigirl.

## Homelessness Isn't Equal.

Indigenous Identity:



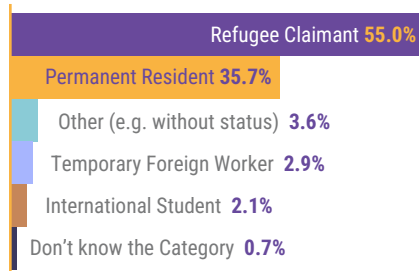
\*Indigenous peoples made up **79.9%** of those who experienced homelessness on November 5, 2024—a powerful reminder of ongoing systemic inequities.

# 2024 Winnipeg Street Census, cont.

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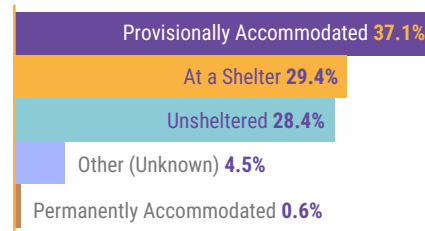
## 12.9% of Those Who Experienced Homelessness Are Newcomers to Canada.

Arrival Category:



## Where People Stayed on The Night of the Count.

Current Housing Situation:  
(Based on 1,511 Survey Respondents)

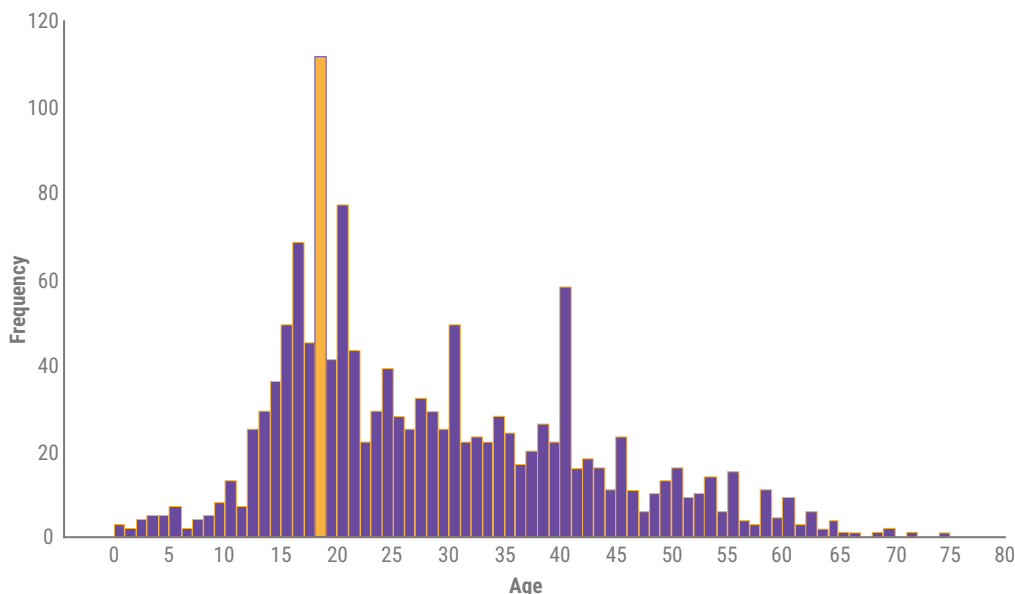


87.1% of the respondents were born in Canada and 12.9% arrived as an immigrant, refugee, refugee claimant, or through another process. Among those who came to Canada, more than half (55%) were a refugee claimant.

Some individuals were in their own homes on the night of the count, but reported their housing was **unsafe** or **not permanent**, meeting the criteria for inclusion.

## Homelessness Can Begin at Any Age – Most Commonly at 18.

Age at First Experience of Homelessness:

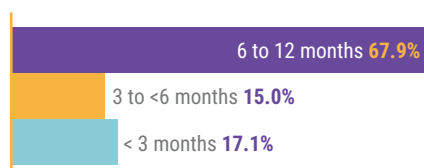


**Unsheltered** locations included living in a public space, encampment, or vehicle. **Shelters** included emergency shelters and domestic violence shelters. **Provisionally accommodated** locations include hospitals, jail/prison/remand centre, transitional housing, and couch surfing. **Permanently accommodated** includes one's own home/apartment.

Data shows that individuals first experience homelessness at **any age**, but the most common age is **18** years old.

## More Than 50% Experienced Homelessness for 6+ Months.

Length of Time Experienced Homelessness in the Year Prior to the Survey:



\* Experiencing homelessness for longer than 6 months is recognized as **Chronic Homelessness**.

## Unstable Housing.

Places Stayed Overnight in the Past Year:



**86.1%**  
Shelter  
(e.g. drop-in)

\* Respondents may have stayed in multiple places so the total percentage does not sum up to 100%.



**67.6%**  
Provisionally Accommodated  
(Friends, Family)



**59.6%**  
Unsheltered  
(public space)

**Two-thirds** of the respondents experienced homelessness for more than half a year. In fact, more than **50%** experienced homelessness for the entire year.

Respondents stay in various (types of) places in a short period of time. Thus, there is a lot of **mobility**, which has implications for intervening and providing services.

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Almost half of the respondents were involved in the **child welfare** system as a child or youth. This suggests that the child welfare system is a **pathway** into homelessness (either immediately when they exit the system or later).

More than half of the respondents would have met the definition of homelessness (i.e., not permanently accommodated) when they exited the Child and Family Services (CFS) system.

The **high use of healthcare** suggests there are opportunities to intervene since the healthcare system is a **point of contact**. As well, there may be cost savings and resource saving opportunities for the healthcare system if investments are made to provide appropriate housing for folks (with wrap around supports). Also, hospitals need to end the practice of discharging patients to shelters or unsheltered locations.

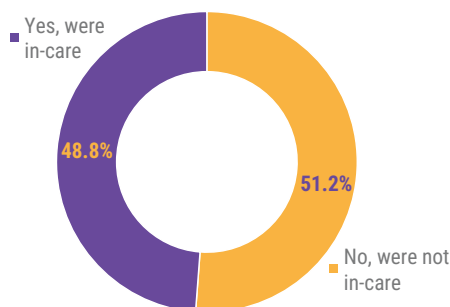
## Why Are People Losing Housing?

Top 5 Reasons:  
(Multiple Responses were Possible)

1. **Not enough income** (e.g., loss of benefit, income or job) **(32.6%)**
2. **Eviction** **(16.9%)**
3. **Substance use issue** **(16.3%)**
4. **Conflict with a spouse or partner** **(14.0%)**
5. **Discrimination** **(10.8%)**

## Child Welfare – A Common Pathway to Homelessness.

Were in Foster Care, Kin Care, or a Youth Group Home as a Child or Youth:



## The Healthcare System is a Major Pathway to Homelessness.

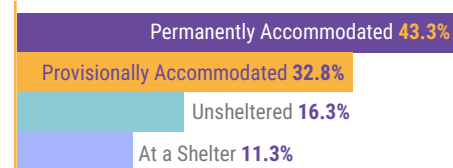
Healthcare utilization in the year before the survey:



*Among those who were ever in-care, more than half (52.0%) were in-care around their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

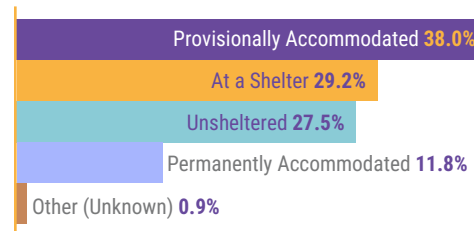
## More Than Half Without Permanent Homes Within 3 Months of Leaving Care at 18.

Places Stayed:  
(Multiple Responses were Possible)



## No Home to Return To: Hospital Discharge Destinations Tell the Story.

Places they stayed upon being discharged from the hospital in the year prior to the survey:  
(Multiple Responses were Possible)

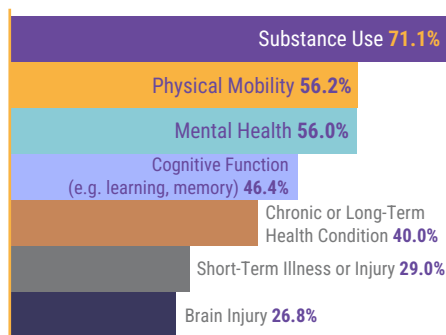


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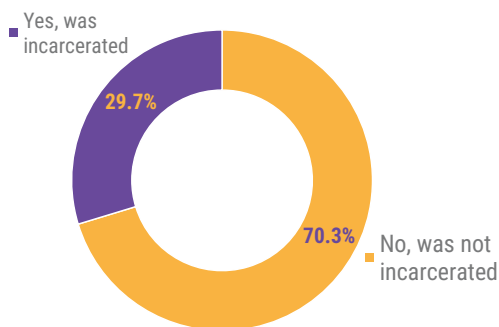
## Not Just Struggling —Systemically Unseen.

Difficulties with... :



## Justice Involvement Shouldn't End in Homelessness.

Incarcerated in the year prior to the survey:

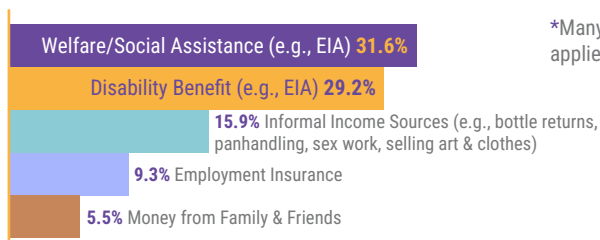


Individuals are often released from the justice system to shelters or unsheltered locations, highlighting an **urgent need** for policy change to prevent this practice. It is crucial to recognize there are many complex reasons why someone may become involved with the justice system. Our study did not inquire about the nature of any charges, respecting the dignity and privacy of those affected.

## Fragmented Income, Persistent Homelessness.

Top 5 income sources:

(Multiple Responses were Possible)



\*19.4% of the respondents indicated they had no sources of income.

\*Many of the respondents (85.9%) had applied for EIA at some point.

Individuals experiencing homelessness have needs that must be considered in supporting them. For example, there are **accessibility considerations** (e.g., physically being able to go places, need for accommodations in housing/ service provider locations like handrails, ramps). Also, services/programs need to be **low barrier** and **non-judgemental** for folks, particularly for individuals who use substances. The results speak to the high need for safe consumption sites, and detox and treatment facilities, as well as the ongoing supports folks will need to maintain housing.

## Affordable Housing, Income, and Support: What People Say They Need to Find a Home.

Top 5 things that would help people find permanent, stable housing:

(Multiple Responses were Possible)

1. **More Affordable Housing (82.1%)**
2. **Housing Subsidy or Benefit (71.2%)**
3. **More Money from EIA or Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (67.7%)**
4. **Mental Health Supports (66.1%)**
5. **Housing with Supports (healthcare, mental health, and addiction support services) (57.9%)**

\*93.2% of the respondents were interested in obtaining housing.

The **cost** of housing and mental health are huge barriers to finding and maintaining housing. Thus, **strategies to address homelessness** should prioritize increasing income supports, developing barrier-free low-income housing, and increasing culturally appropriate mental health and addiction supports.