

City of Hamilton

Point in Time Connection Results
2021

Housing Services Division – April 2022

The 2021 Point in Time Connection (PiTC), a joint planning effort with City of Hamilton's Housing Services Division and the Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership (CHIL), was made 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 single 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 from the Indigenous community guide efforts to ensure that the PiTC is conducted in a way that is safe and culturally appropriate, acknowledging autonomy and self-determination as key pillars of engagement.

For the first time, Hamilton's PiTC was led on the ground exclusively by community partners and City staff without the support of volunteers; these efforts were critical in prioritizing the health and safety of all involved throughout the survey week. 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.

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Summary and Key Findings

Hamilton's most recent PiTC survey of individuals experiencing homelessness in the city highlights a shift in the demographic profile of those experiencing homelessness, identifies key barriers to maintaining or obtaining housing, and shows specific groups are overrepresented in their experience of homelessness.

Held November 15 to 19, 2021, and jointly planned by the City's Housing Services Division and CHIL, it is the third nationally-coordinated Point-in-Time Count since 2016. The information collected complements existing local efforts to collect and report on key data on the state of homelessness and helps to ensure available resources are used as efficiently and effectively as possible to prevent and end homelessness.

Service staff from community-based social service organizations conducted 545 surveys over the five-day period at emergency shelters, drop-in programs, community agencies, and in unsheltered locations to better understand the needs of people experiencing homelessness in our community.

Results of the survey highlight:

- the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples, as 23% of all respondents identified as Indigenous or as having Indigenous ancestry;
- a shift in the demographic profile of those experiencing homelessness throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including an increase in the percentage of respondents who identify as a woman (53%), which was higher than in 2018 (32%) and 2016 (28%);
- key barriers to maintaining or obtaining housing, such as impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, housing affordability, low income/low income assistance, landlord/tenant conflict, poor housing conditions and discrimination;
- a majority of respondents reported they had most recently stayed in an emergency shelter or a City funded hotel/motel; and,
- the 2021 PiTC engaged a larger number of people staying in outdoor unsheltered locations and encampments (95) compared to 2016 and 2018 (In 2016, 34 survey respondents were unsheltered and/or in encampments compared to 25 survey respondents in 2018).

In keeping with the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty, as directed by the Indigenous Community Advisory Board (ICAB), CHIL has led the analysis of Indigenous respondent data and the City of Hamilton has not and will not use this data without the approval of the ICAB. Housing Services Division continues to prioritize collaborative work with local Indigenous leadership to develop connections to housing and supports

that are culturally appropriate, rooted in the spirit and actions of reconciliation that recognize the values of autonomy and self-determination.

Snapshot of Homelessness in Hamilton on November 19, 2021

- Shelters were at 93% capacity during the period of November 15-19, 2021
- 748: the number of unique individuals that stayed in an emergency shelter during the period of November 15-19, 2021
- 1426: total number of people on the City of Hamilton's By-Name List on November 12, 2022

Introduction

From November 15 to 19, 2021 the City of Hamilton participated in Everyone Counts, the third nationally coordinated Point-in-Time Count in Canada. Completion of the PiTC fulfilled requirements of both the Federal government's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy and the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Point-in-Time Counts have historically been used to help communities better understand the nature and extent of homelessness and the circumstances of the people experiencing homelessness, while providing information to help 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. Through the accompanying survey, the initiative provides information on the demographics and service needs of the local population experiencing homelessness.

545 surveys were completed during the week at emergency shelters, provincially administered Violence Against Women shelters, drop-in programs, community agencies, and in unsheltered locations including encampments. An Indigenous led magnet event was also held in Beasley Park on November 17, 2021 to provide an opportunity for Indigenous community members to be surveyed by Indigenous surveyors.

COVID-19 Context

Investments specifically targeted towards housing-focused interventions in Hamilton to prevent and end people's experience of homelessness total approximately \$25 M annually in regular funding. In addition, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has sustained an emergency response across the homelessness-serving system directing more than \$60 M in additional pandemic response funds. These funds ensured for a responsive and flexible response throughout the evolving demands of the pandemic.

Through the pandemic, additional investments have enabled the temporary expansion of shelter space across the system from 341 beds up to 548 beds at the highest point plus additional overflow space, as well as a new temporary women's shelter. In addition, these investments supported the expansion of the City's Housing Focused Street Outreach team and have also enabled community drop-in programs to expand and

maintain services for vulnerable residents, including: meals, showers, harm reduction supplies, and overnight access to drop-in services. These investments and the dedicated efforts of agency staff provided additional settings and opportunities for engagement through the PiTC.

Overview of Homelessness in Hamilton

Sheltered Homelessness

Emergency shelters are a critical first-line response to ensure people experiencing homelessness have a safe place to stay while they pursue stable housing. The City’s outreach staff work on a daily basis to engage individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness to offer shelter space and work with them to find safer, humane, and supportive housing options.

There has been growing pressure within the shelter system throughout the course of the pandemic. In 2020, emergency shelter average length of stay increased 18% and the women’s system was particularly over-capacity. From 2020 to 2021 there has been an increasing trend in number of unique individuals accessing shelters by month.

Figure 1: Unique Individuals in Shelter by Month

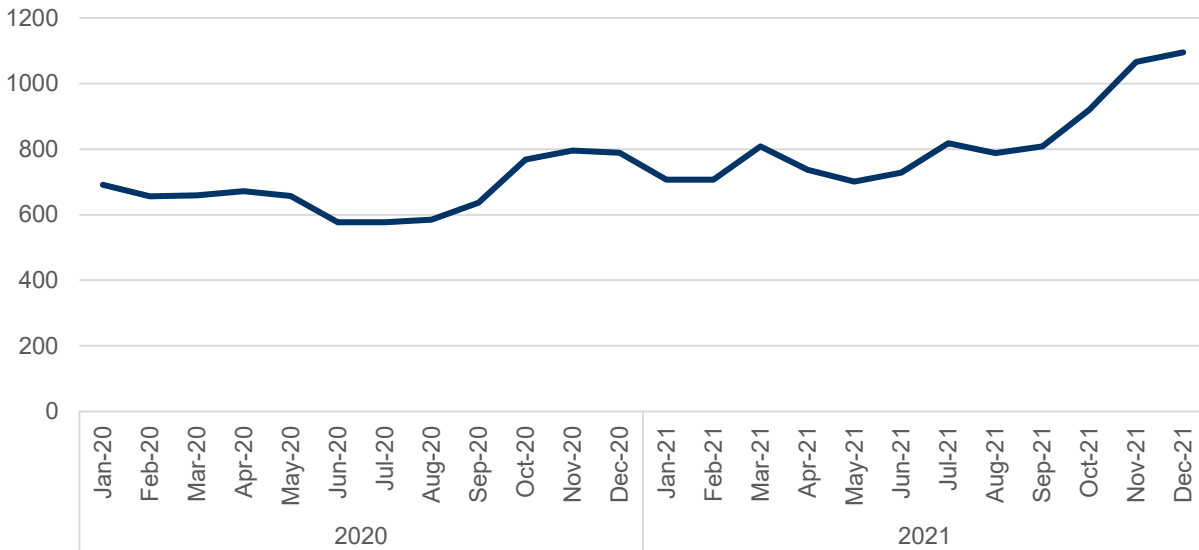


Figure 2: Monthly Shelter Bed Usage and Max Capacity by Month

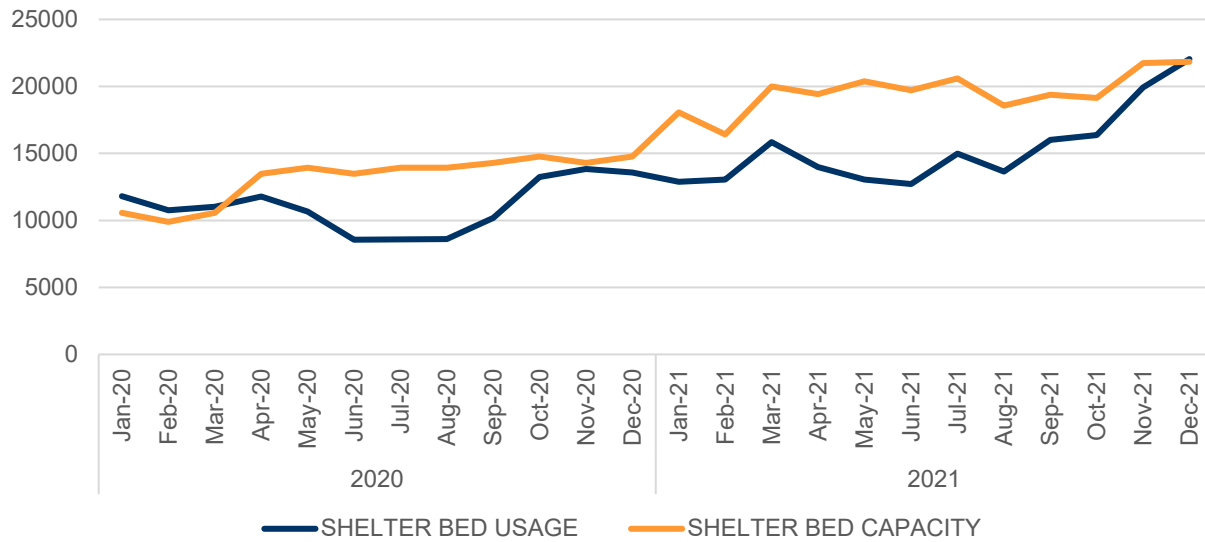
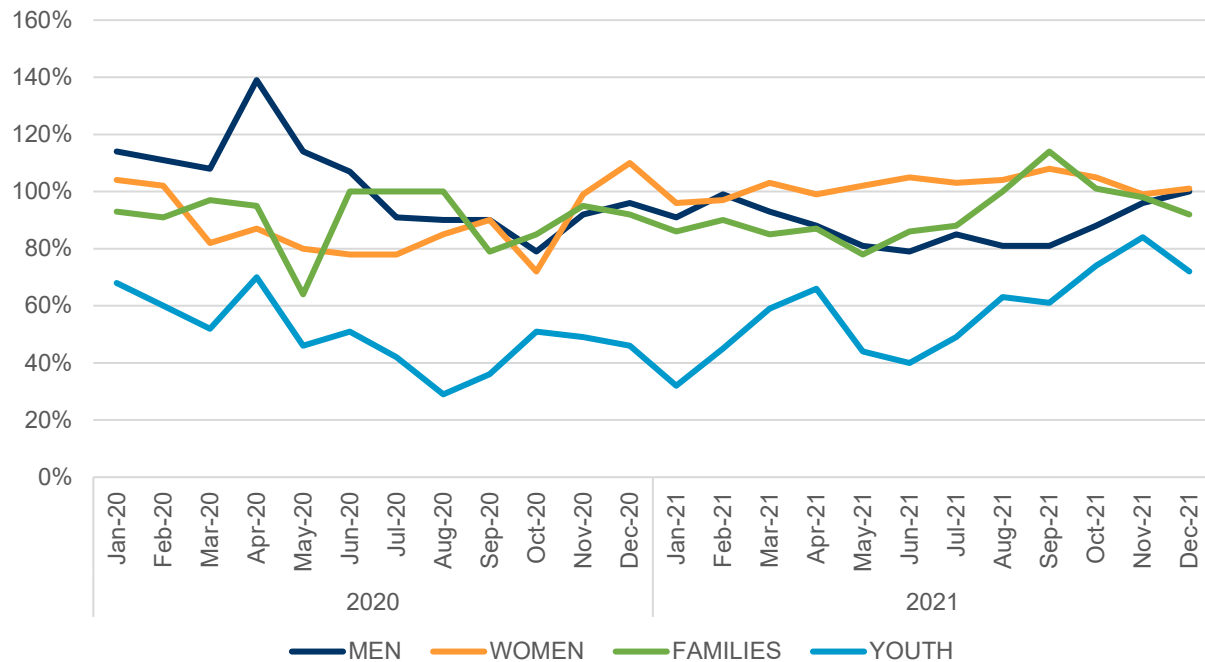


Figure 3: Shelter Occupancy by Sector and Month



Unsheltered Homelessness

During the week of the PiTC (Nov. 15-19, 2021), the City’s Housing Focused Street Outreach team reported that there were approximately 90 unique individuals staying in unsheltered locations, including encampments. The rise in, and visibility of, unsheltered

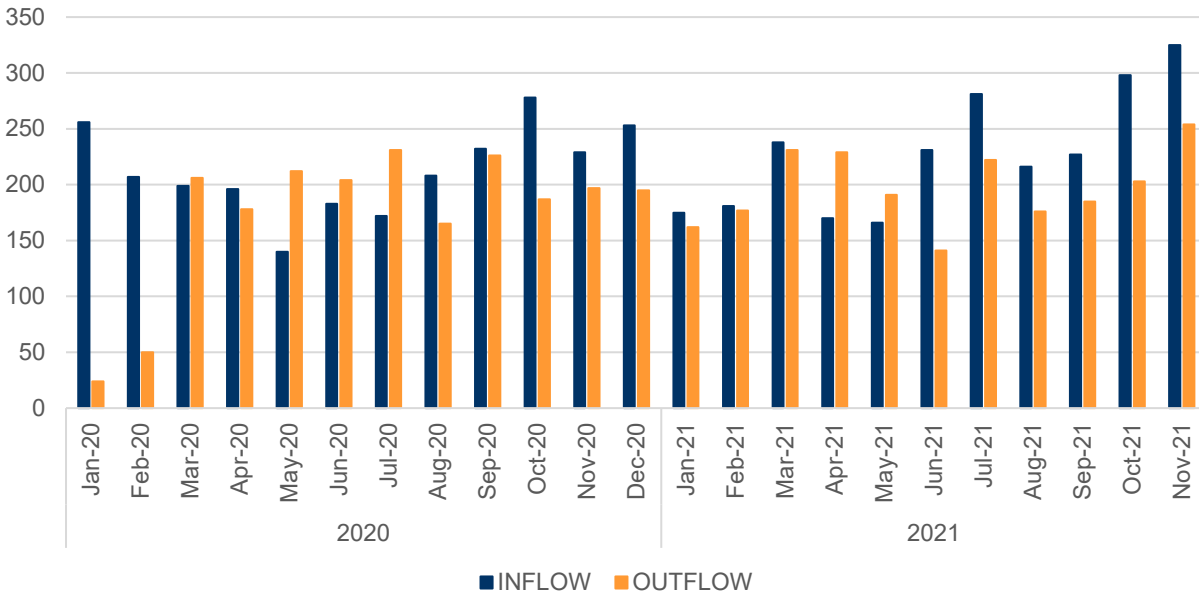
homelessness and encampments throughout many Canadian cities continues to demonstrate how the COVID-19 pandemic persists in exacerbating ongoing systemic challenges and inequities as it relates to housing and homelessness. While the City has worked to develop new strategies and approaches to address these issues locally, unsheltered homelessness remains a persistent reality in Hamilton along with structural barriers to accessing adequate housing and supports.

Shelter System Flow Data

Inflow and outflow are two of the most important measures for monitoring progress towards the goal of ending homelessness. The goal towards ending homelessness is to see outflow exceed inflow. When this happens, it means that more people are exiting from homelessness than are entering the homeless-serving system. As of the end of November 2021, there have been two months where outflow exceeds inflow. In 2020, there were four months where outflow exceeded inflow. Note that outflow data was limited for the first two months of 2020.

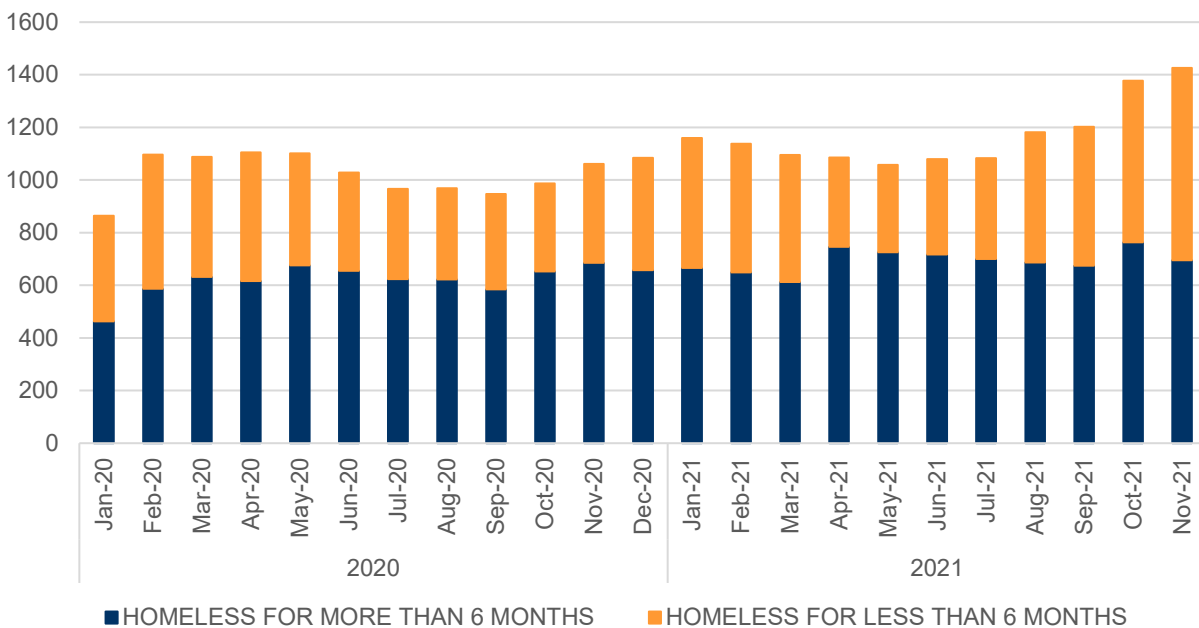
INFLOW	OUTFLOW
Represents the number of individuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • newly identified as homeless, • returned to homelessness from housing, • returned to homelessness from inactive status. 	Represents the number of individuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who have moved from housing to housed, • those who have moved to inactive status (meaning they have not interacted with the homeless-serving system for 90+ days).

Figure 4: Individuals (shelter stayers) entering (inflow) or exiting (outflow) homelessness by month



The number of people actively experiencing homelessness is based on data collected by homeless-serving shelters through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS). Individuals on the By Name List (BNL) who have been engaged only through Outreach and Drop-in programs are not included in this depiction at this time as we look to improve our data reporting.

Figure 5: Individuals (shelter stayers) experiencing homelessness for less than six months and more than six months, by month



Methodology

The nationally coordinated Point-in-Time Count approach includes a set of core standards for the methodology that guide how the counts are conducted in participating communities across Canada. The core standards, identified by Federal and Provincial governments, identify common screening and survey questions that are asked in all participating communities. The approach does give some flexibility for communities to adapt methodology, and Hamilton's survey design and implementation was guided by local partners, including consultation with Indigenous partners through CHIL.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, adaptations to methodology were made available to communities to support the implementation of Point-in-Time Counts to reduce risks and burden on participants and staff in the homeless serving sector. Adaptations to the 2021 PiTC included:

- expansion of surveying timeline to five days, creating additional flexibility to participate and complete surveys, while avoiding large gatherings to reduce the risk of infection and community spread of COVID-19;
- no additional assessment tool included for 2021, as the survey consisted of only the core anonymous questions;
- 24-hour online survey submission, completed through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS);
- no additional community volunteers recruited - surveying was conducted exclusively by community social-service agency and City of Hamilton staff;
- full training module completed online; and,
- focus on sheltered sites (emergency shelter, drop in, etc.) and a targeted approach to connect with unsheltered individuals and families in the community in known locations through the City's Housing Focused Street Outreach team, alongside partners from local Indigenous housing organizations.

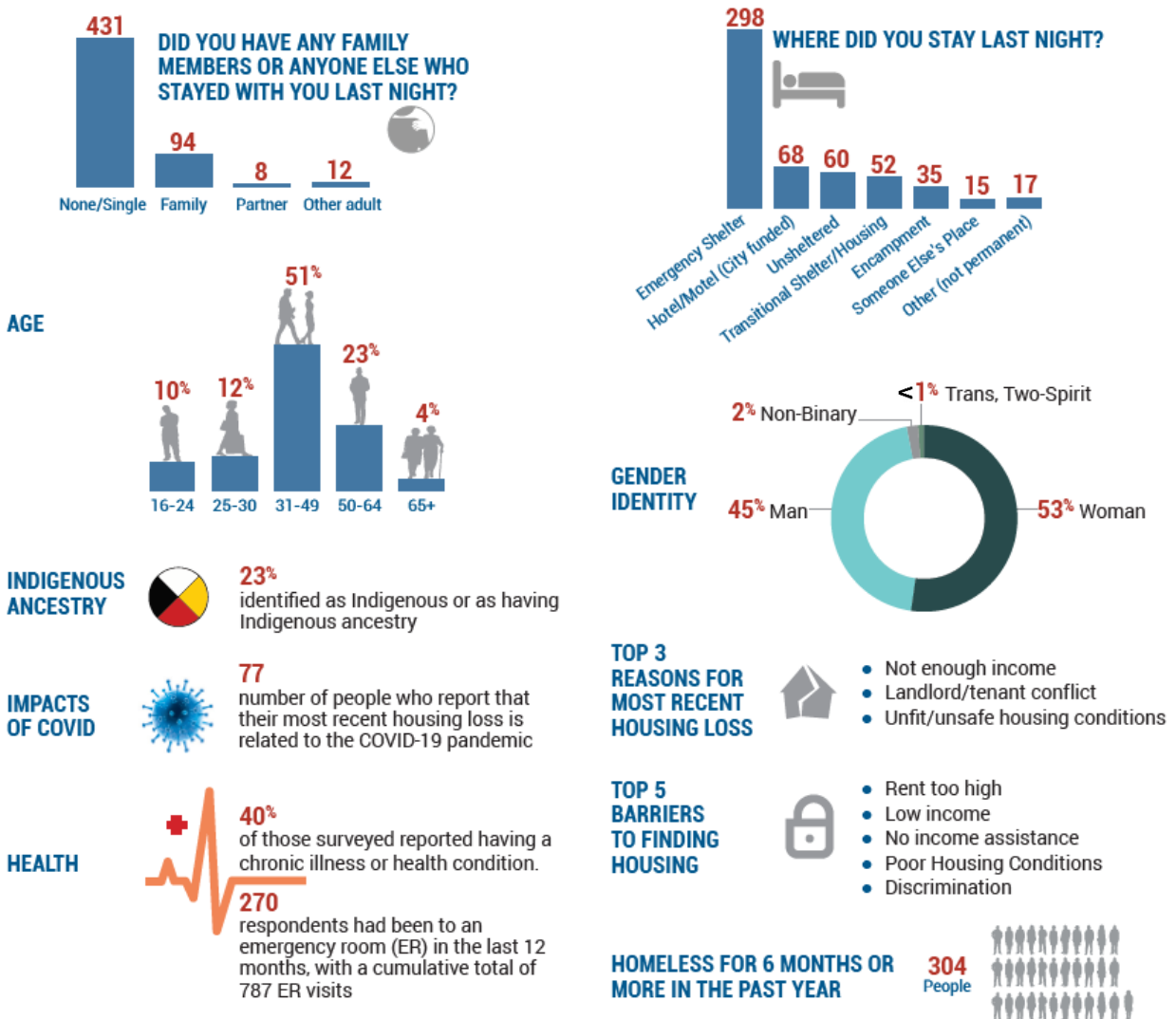
As in 2016 and 2018, an Indigenous led magnet event was held during the week to provide an opportunity for Indigenous community members to be surveyed by Indigenous surveyors. All survey participants of the PiTC were provided a \$15 gift card honorarium upon completion of the survey.

While a number of strategic decisions allowed for increased engagement through the PiTC, there remains limitations in the methodology. In the 2018 PiTC, Hamilton had expanded survey sites to include additional drop-in programs focused on youth, as well as including the Central Library location as a survey site. As a result of enhanced COVID-19 health and safety regulations and limitations on volunteer recruitment, staff were unable to include these additional spaces and build upon learnings and reflections from these survey sites in 2018.

Snapshot

Comparison and analysis of detailed results across multiple PiTC initiatives remains a challenge given the varying contextual factors from year to year. Between PiTC initiatives, the Housing Services Division has worked with community partners to strengthen local reporting on key data related to the state of homelessness and actions towards preventing and ending it. As a part of these broader efforts, the PiTC remains a valuable tool to further support evidence-informed action and improvement within Hamilton's Housing and Homelessness Serving System.

A total of 545 individuals completed voluntary surveys during the 2021 Hamilton Point in Time Connection. Here is a snapshot of the survey results:



Survey Participation

The following chart provides a summary of where the 545 survey respondents reported staying the night before completing the survey:

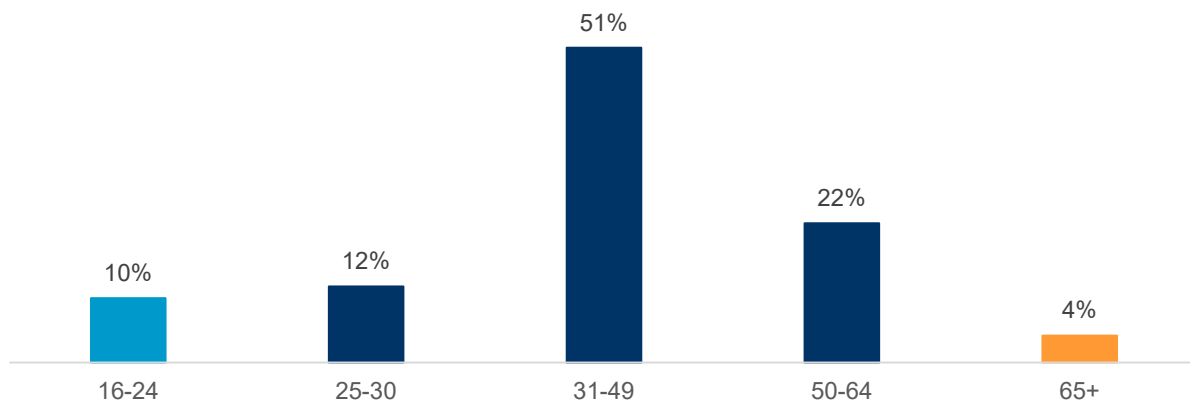
Location	Total	Description
Emergency Shelters	366 (67%)	An emergency shelter, hotel or motel, and domestic violence shelters for emergency accommodation.
Unsheltered	61 (11%)	An unsheltered location in a public space, such as a park, vehicle, or other place not intended for human habitation.
Encampment	35 (6%)	A group of tents, makeshift shelters, or other long-term outdoor settlements.
Couch Surfing	15 (3%)	Staying with a friend, family member, or stranger.
Transitional Housing	52 (10%)	Housing which is a temporary type of accommodation meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing.
Motel / Hotel (Self-funded)	1 (0.2%)	Staying in a motel / hotel that was paid for by the individual or family.
Location undetermined	15 (3%)	Location was not reported.

Profile of Respondents Experiencing Homelessness

Age

The average age of respondents was 35 years. Respondents ranged in age from 16 being the youngest and 79 as the oldest. Most respondents (73%) were between the ages of 31 and 64.

Figure 6: Age of Respondents



Gender Identity

A key demographic shift in 2021 results was the percentage of respondents who identified as a woman (53%), which was higher than in 2018 (32%) and 2016 (28%). There are contributing factors to keep in mind when considering this shift in respondent profile, including intentional adaptations to methodology, and where surveys were administered in 2021 in comparison to previous years.

Although not required, Hamilton continues to include people who may be experiencing “hidden homelessness” into the PiTC survey. This has been a standing recommendation by our community to ensure that we better represent populations who may typically not be as highly represented in the mainstream emergency shelter system. Enhanced gender-specific responses during COVID-19, including an expanded emergency shelter system and enhanced drop in locations, along with the option to complete surveys 24 hours a day through the entire duration of the initiative may have also contributed to a shift in response rate.

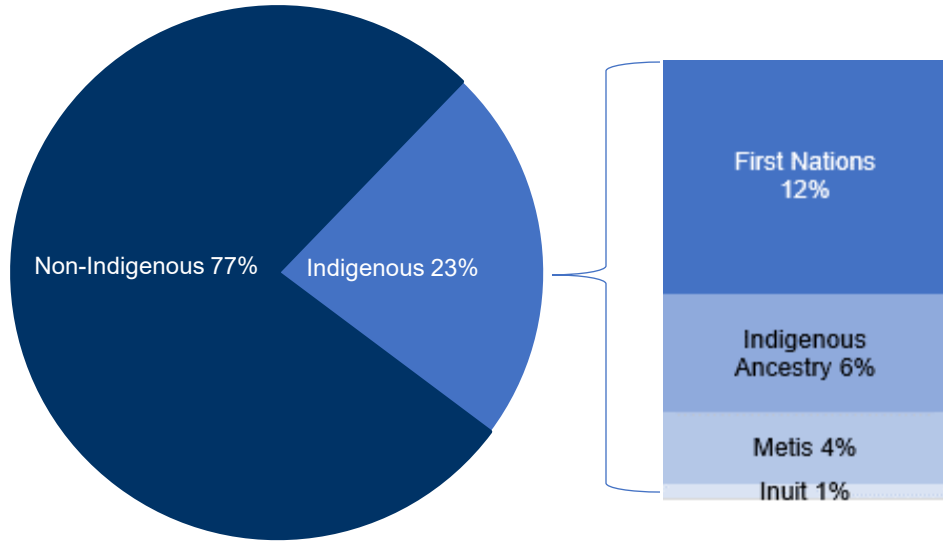
Table 1: Gender Identity of Respondents

Gender	Percentage
Woman	53%
Man	45%
Non-Binary	2%
Trans, Two-Spirit	<1%

Indigenous Identity

In 2021, the PiTC continues to highlight the overrepresentation of Indigenous persons experiencing homelessness in Hamilton (23% of all respondents). A full analysis of Indigenous respondent data can be found in Appendix “B” to Report HSC22021 - 2021 Point in Time Count (Hamilton, Ontario): Indigenous Responses, submitted by CHIL and approved by the ICAB.

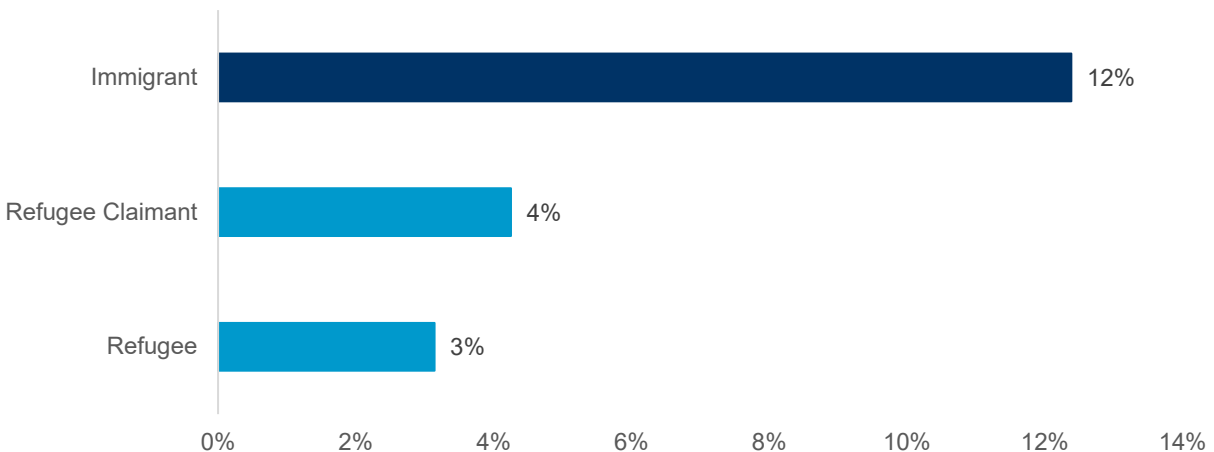
Figure 7: Indigenous Identity of Respondents



Migration to Canada

One-fifth of respondents identified as an immigrant or refugee. A total of 91% reported having been in Canada for one year or more, and 9% reported being in Canada for less than six months.

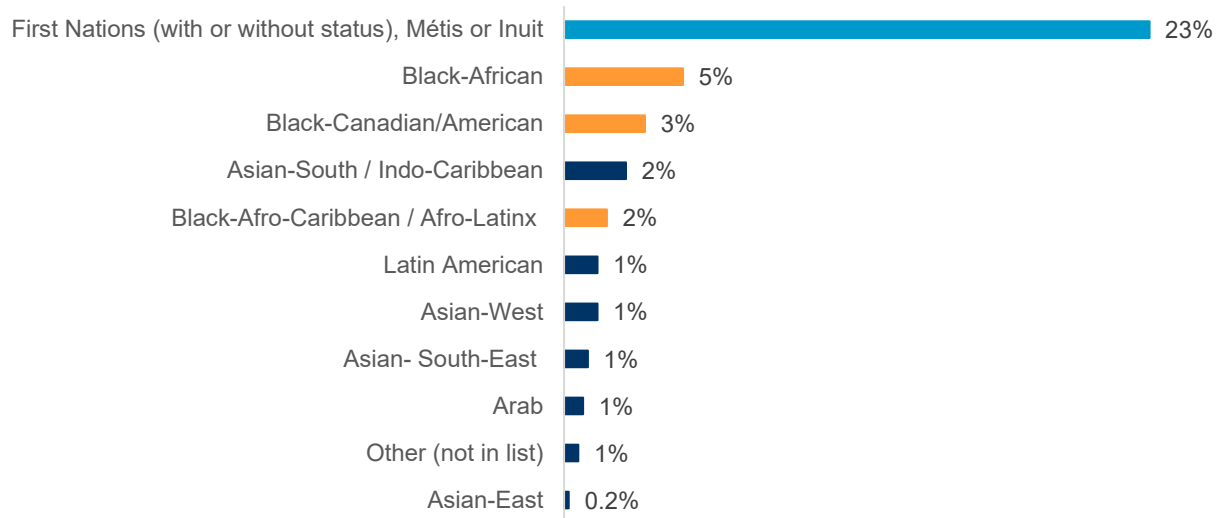
Figure 8: Respondents Migration to Canada



Racial Identity

In 2021, 39% of respondents identified as members of racialized groups, with the largest percentage identifying as First Nations (with or without status), Métis or Inuit (23%). Also, 10% of respondents identified as Black.

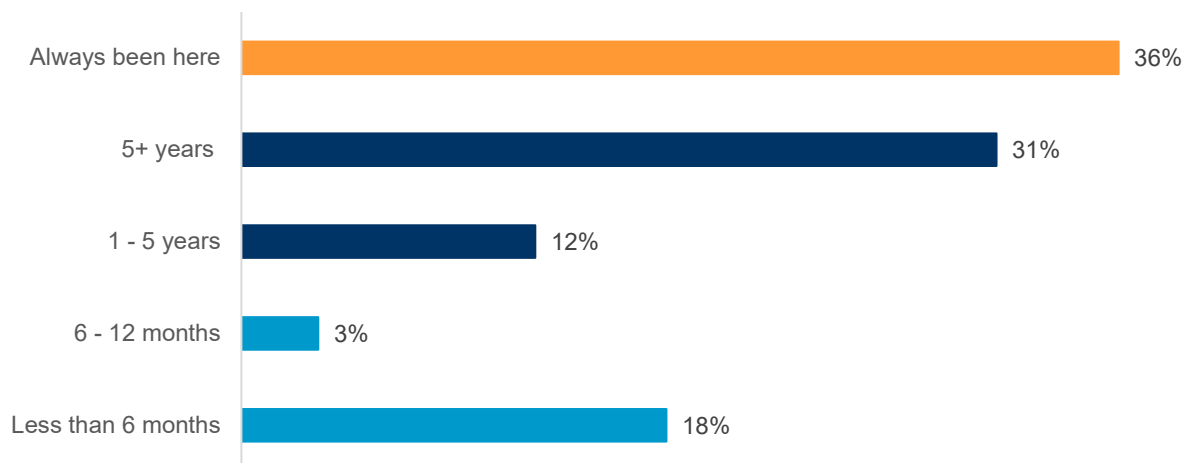
Figure 9: Racial Identity of Respondents



Length of Time in Hamilton

A total of 79% of respondents identified having been in Hamilton for one year or more, including those who reported as always been in Hamilton (36%). 21% of individuals reported being in Hamilton for less than one year.

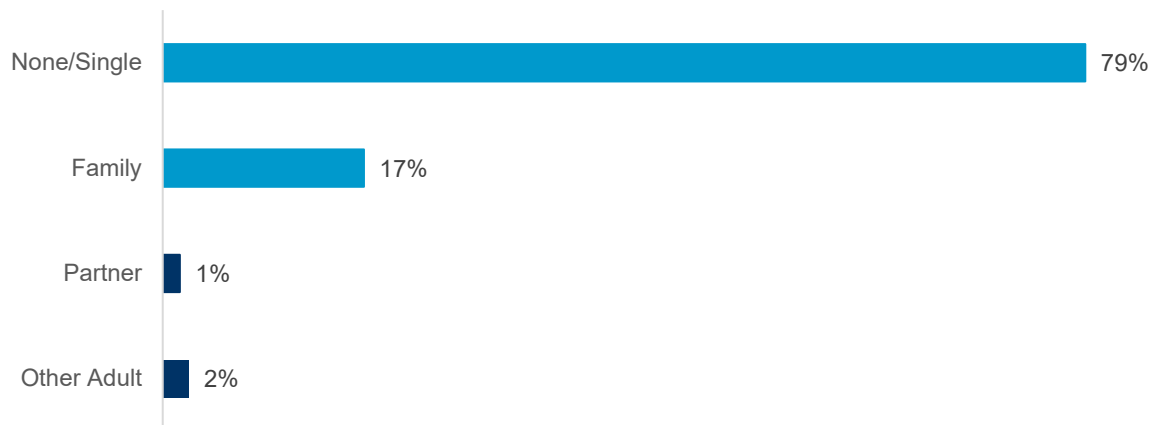
Figure 10: Respondents Length of Time in Hamilton



Family Homelessness

The majority of respondents identified that they were staying alone when surveyed (79%); 21% reported that they had either a partner, other adults or non-adult dependents staying with them that night.

Figure 11: Persons Staying with Respondent on Night of PiTC Survey



Sexual Identity

A total of 10% of respondents identified as 2SLGBTQ+ (Two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, + refers to sexual and gender identities not represented in the acronym). Of those who identified as 2SLGBTQ+ (50), 16% (9) were youth between the ages of 16 and 24.

Figure 12: Sexual Identity of Respondents

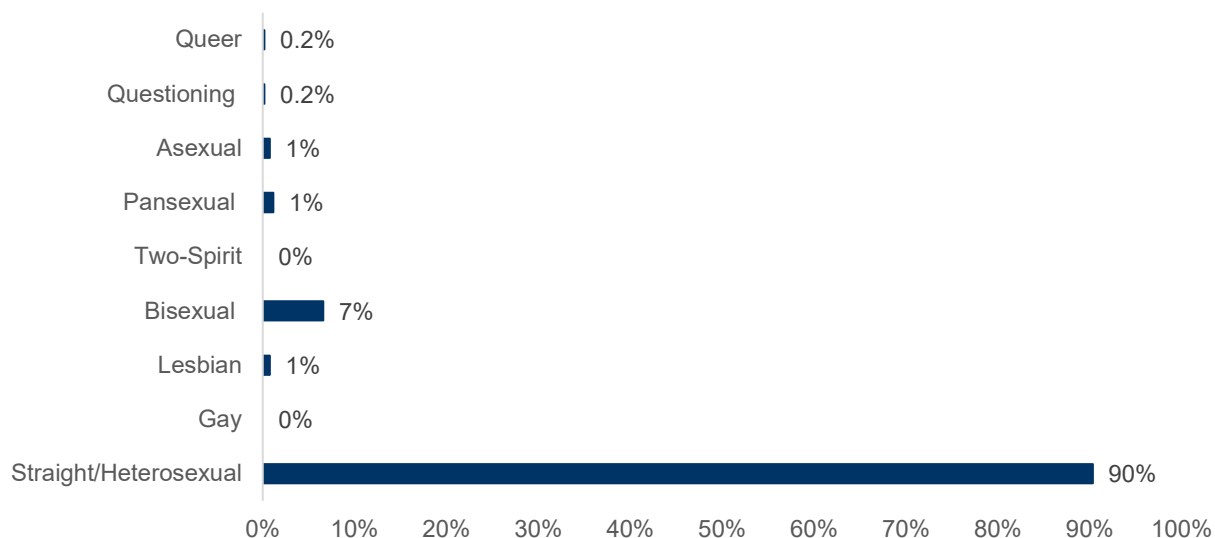
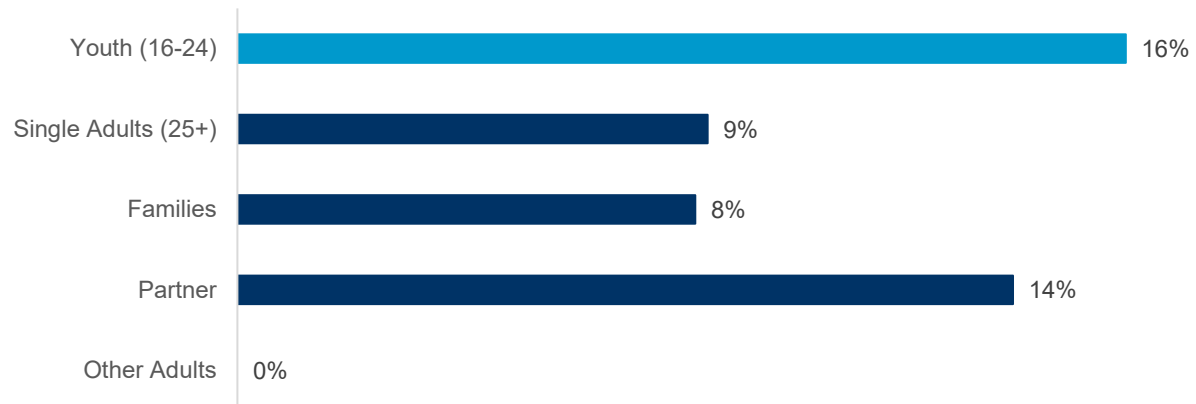


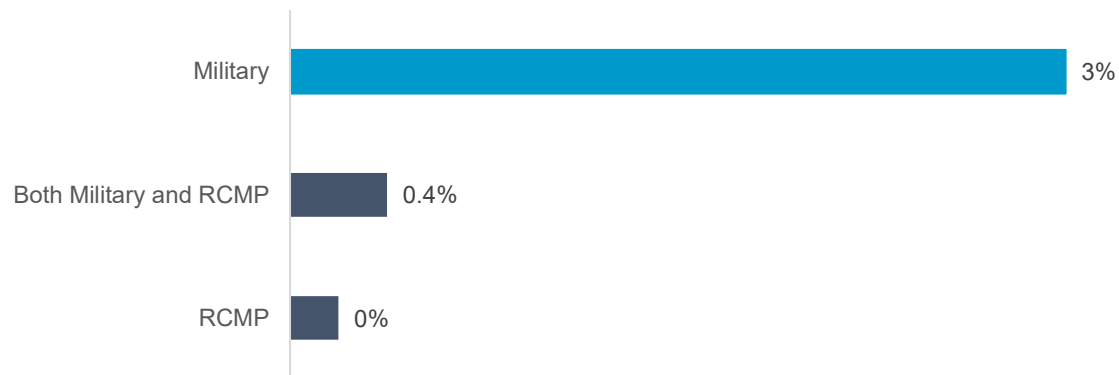
Figure 13: Respondents Identifying as 2SLGBTQ+ by Surveyed Group



Veteran Homelessness

In 2021, 3% of all respondents experiencing homelessness reported having served in the Canadian Military or RCMP.

Figure 14: Respondents Reporting Ever Serviced in the Military or RCMP



Health

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

- mental health issue [diagnosed or undiagnosed] (e.g. depression, PTSD, bipolar disorder),
- substance use issue (e.g. tobacco, alcohol, opiates),
- illness or medical condition (e.g. diabetes, arthritis, TB, HIV),
- physical limitation (e.g. challenges with mobility, physical abilities or dexterity),
- learning or cognitive limitations (e.g. dyslexia, autism spectrum disorder, or as a result of ADHD or an acquired brain injury).

A total of 457 respondents identified having at least one health challenge. More than half of respondents indicated having a health challenge relating to mental health (60%)

and substance use (59%). A total of 40% of those surveyed reported having a chronic illness or health condition.

Figure 15: Health Challenges Identified by Respondents



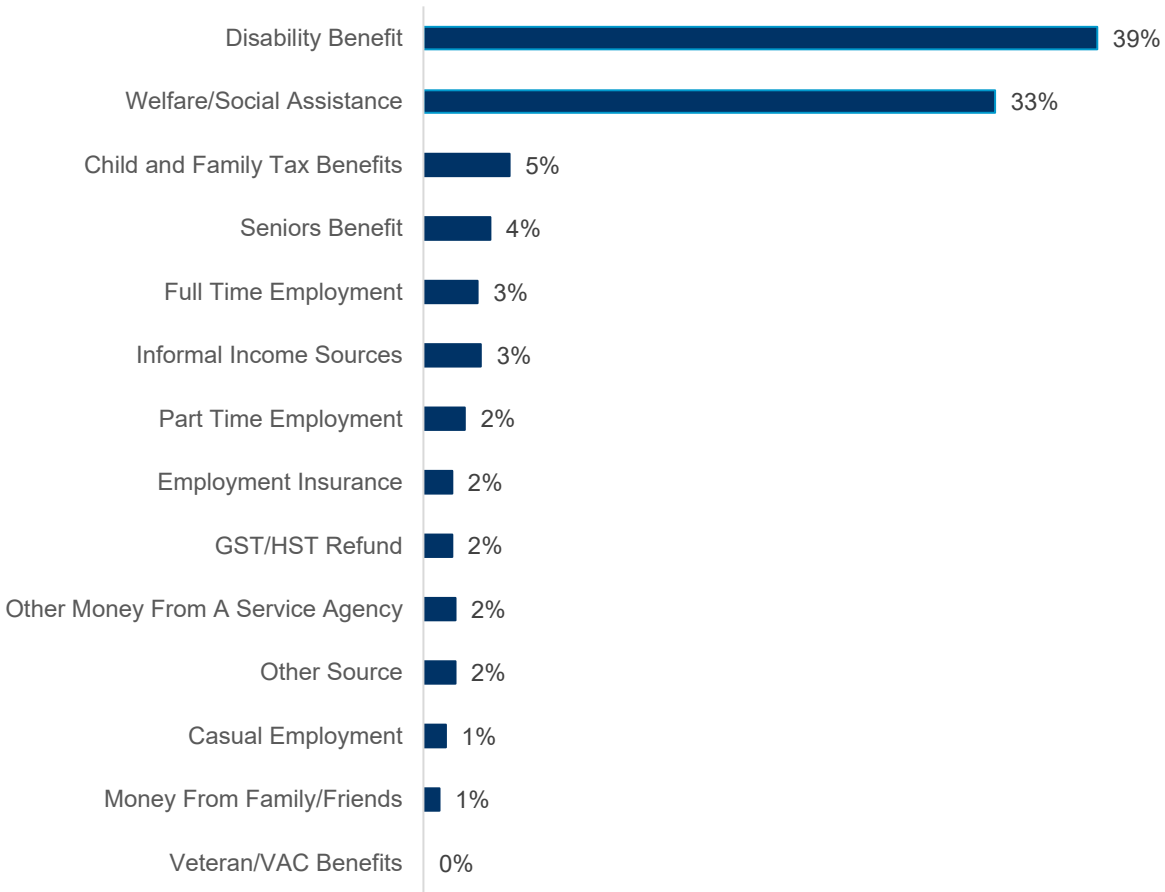
Figure 16: Multiple Types of Health Challenges Identified by Respondents



Sources of Income

The majority of respondents (87%) reported having at least one source of income. The most common sources of income reported in 2021 were disability benefit (39%) and welfare/social assistance (33%). All other sources of income were reported by less than 5% of respondents.

Figure 17: Respondents Source of Income

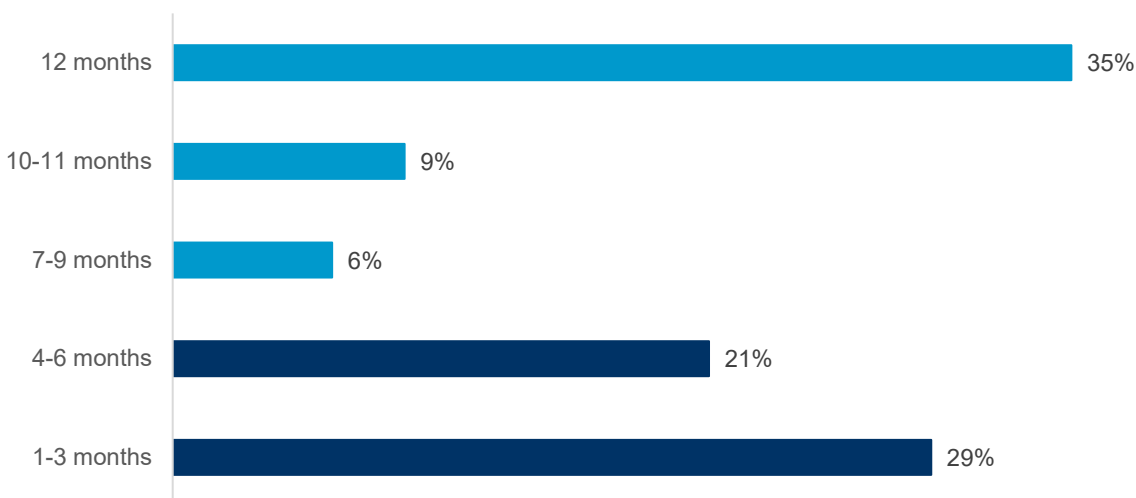


Homelessness History

Length of Homelessness in Past Year

The average reported length of homelessness in the past year was seven months. For the purposes of coordinated point-in-time counts, the federal definition of chronic homelessness is experiencing homelessness for six months or more in the past year. A total of 50% of respondents reported being homeless for more than six months over the past year. 65% of both youth and families identified as being homeless for less than six months in the past year. 57% of single adults identified as being homeless for more than six months in the last year.

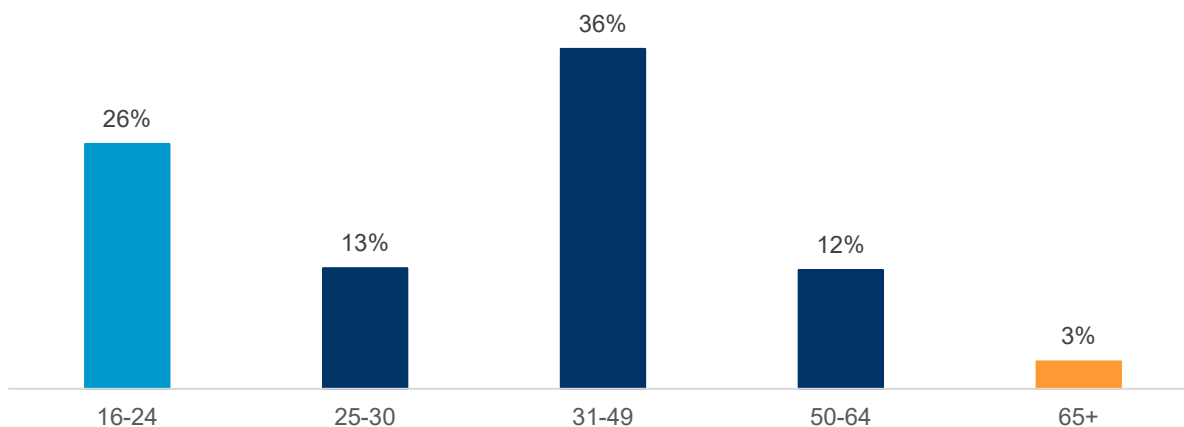
Figure 18: Length of Homelessness in the Past Year



Age of First Homeless Experience

Respondents were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness. A total of 26% of respondents reported being between 16-24 years old the first time they experienced homelessness; 61% were between the ages of 25 and 64.

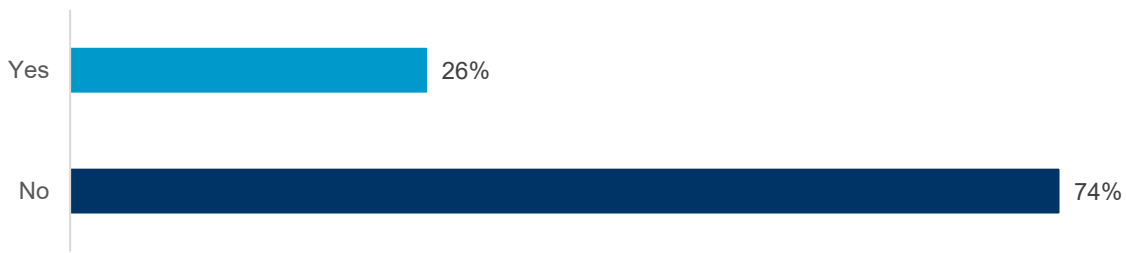
Figure 19: Respondents Age of First Homeless Experience



Experience with Foster Care

A total of 26% of respondents indicated that they had previous experience being in foster care or a youth group home.

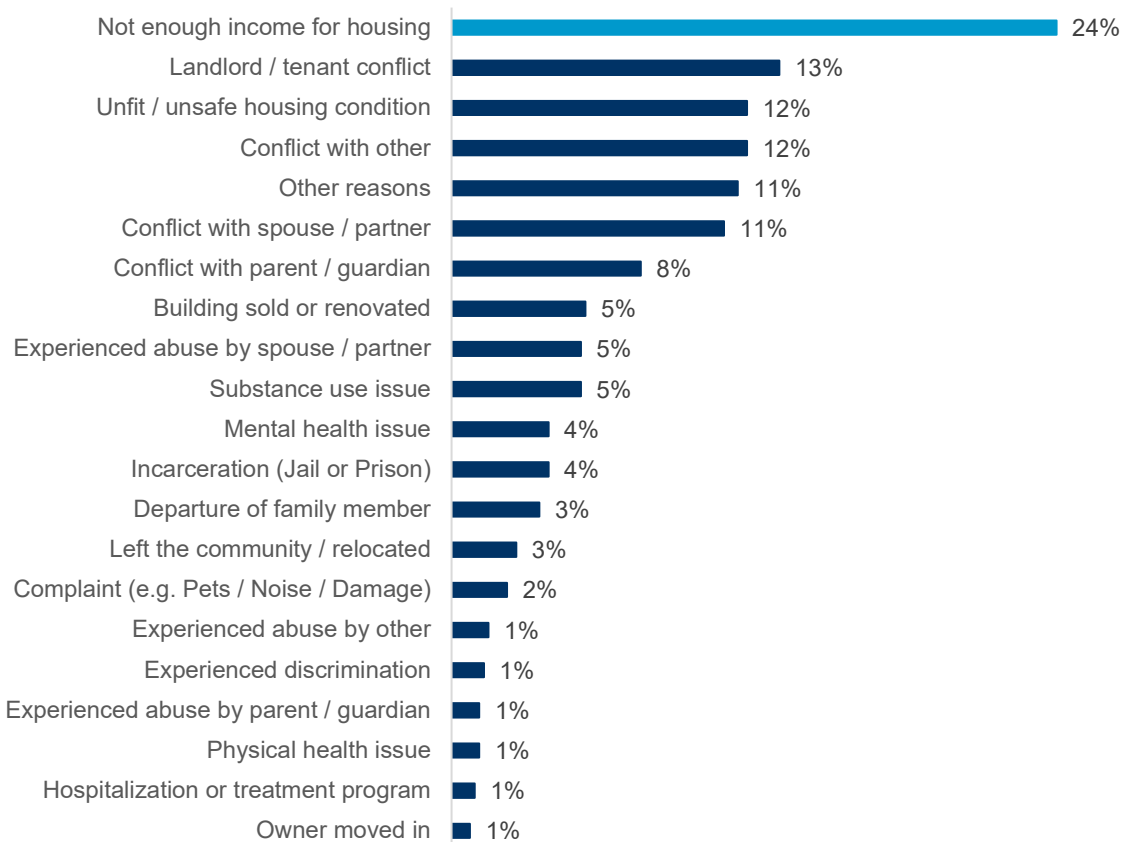
Figure 20: Respondents with Foster Care Experience



Reasons for Homelessness/Housing Loss

When asked what is necessary to maintain and/or find new housing, respondents consistently and clearly identified the need for enhanced income supports and spoke to ongoing challenges with housing affordability. The top reasons for most recent housing loss identified included: not enough income; landlord/tenant conflict; unfit/unsafe housing conditions and conflict with someone other than spouse/partner or parent/guardian.

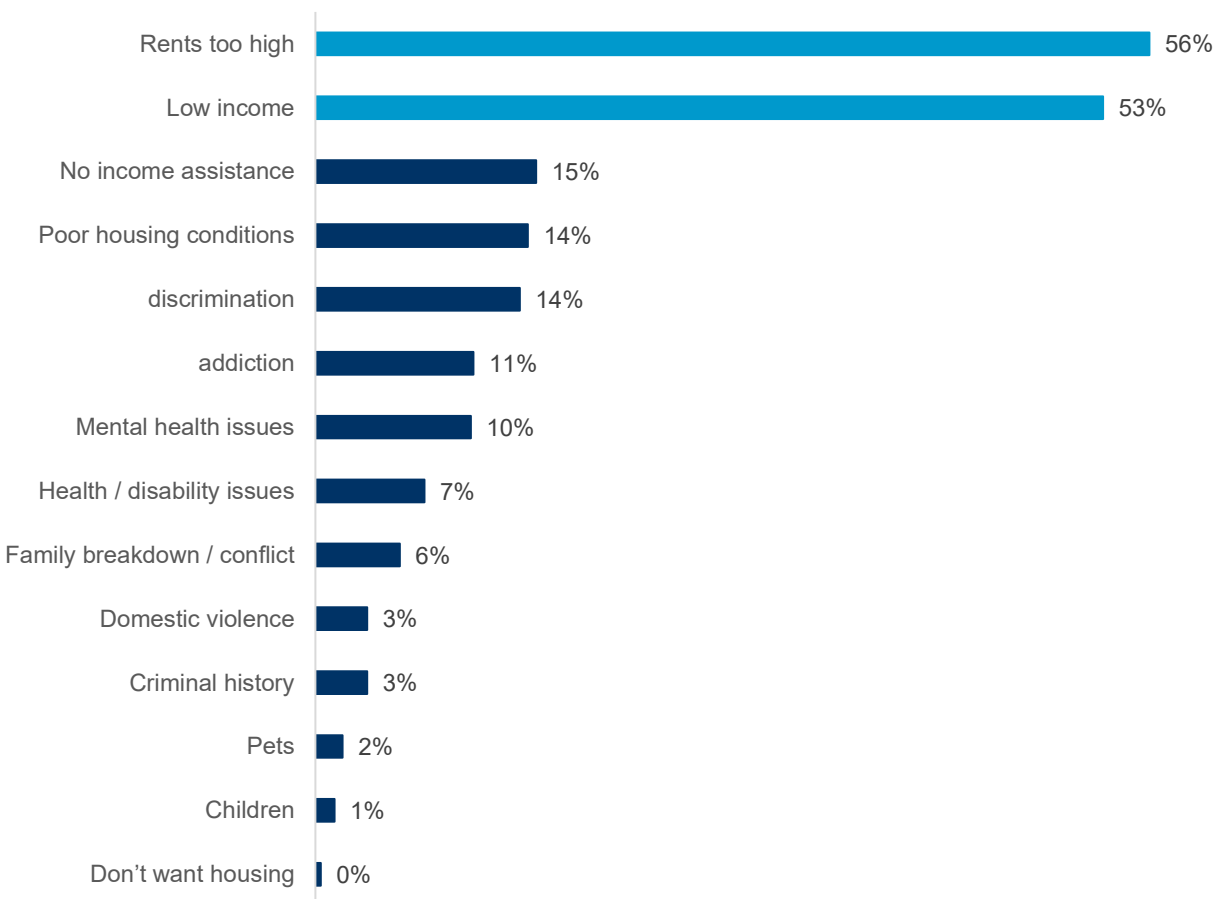
Figure 21: Respondents Reasons for Homelessness



Barriers to Finding Housing

The top barriers and challenges to finding new housing identified by respondents include: rents too high; low income; no income assistance; poor housing conditions; and, discrimination. Additionally, 67 respondents identified having a low credit score as a barrier as well.

Figure 22: Respondents Barriers to Finding Housing

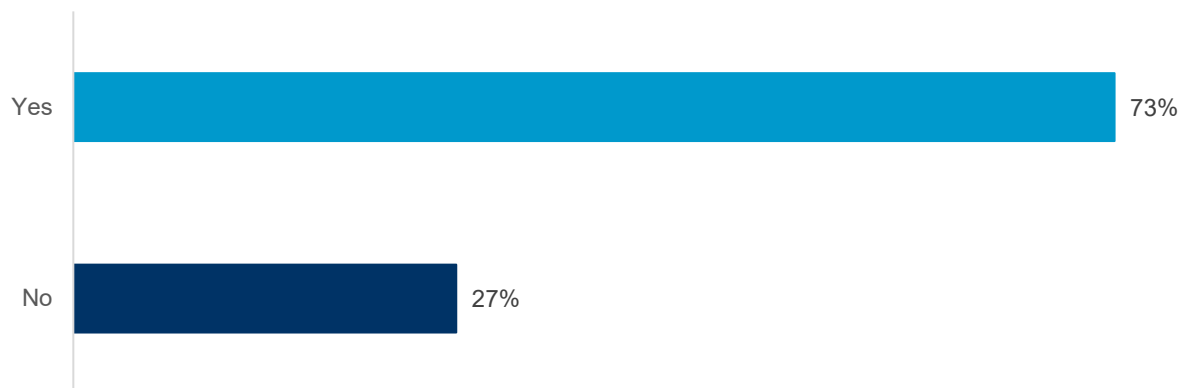


Service Use Patterns

Shelter Use in the Last Year

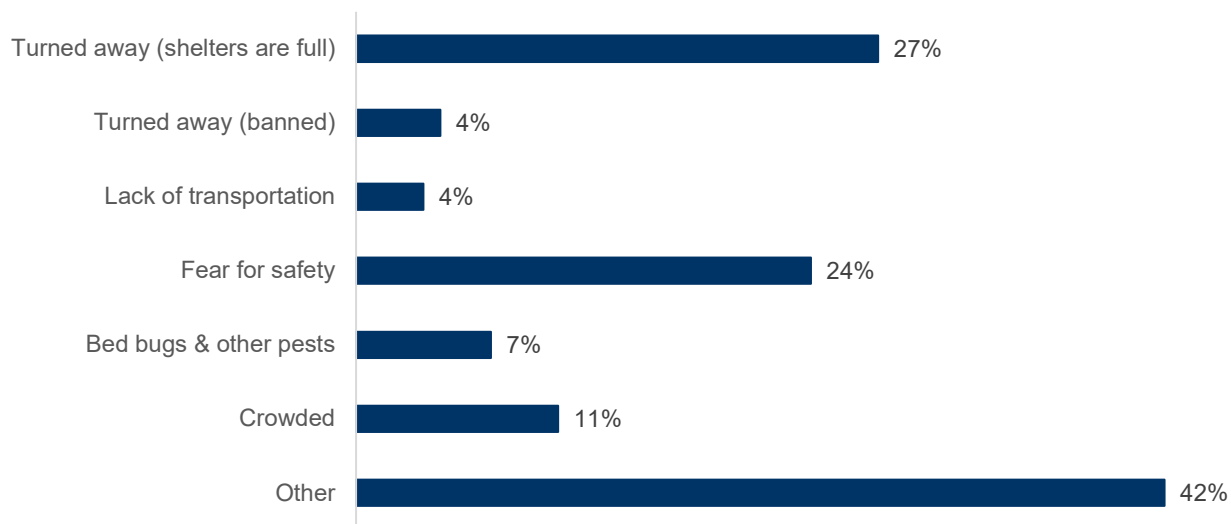
When asked if they have stayed in a shelter in the last year (including emergency and extreme weather shelters), 73% of respondents reported that they had.

Figure 23: Respondents Reporting Staying in Shelter in the Last Year



When individuals were asked about why they decided not to stay in a homeless shelter in the last year, 27% reported that they were turned away because the shelter was full, 24% feared for their safety in a shelter, and 11% expressed concerns about crowding.

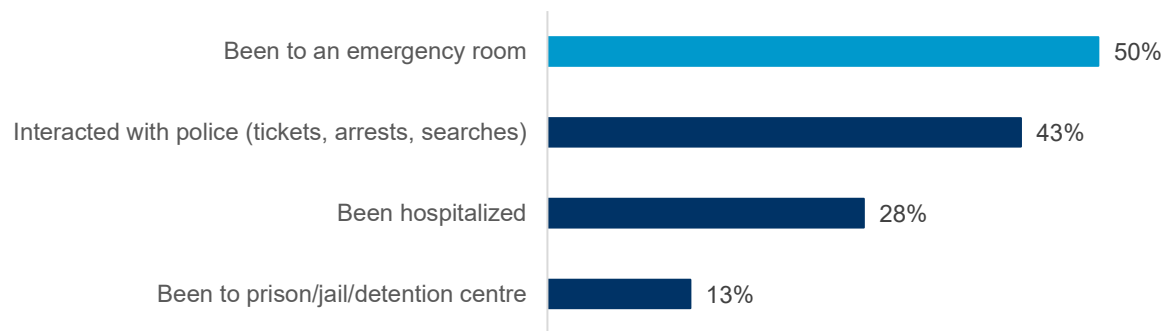
Figure 24: Respondents Reporting Staying in Shelter in the Last Year



Interaction with the Health Care & Criminal Justice System

A total of 270 respondents (50%) reported that they had been to an emergency room (ER) in the last 12 months, with a cumulative total of 787 ER visits. Approximately 61% of those who visited the ER in the last year had been there more than once.

Figure 25: Respondents Interaction with the Health Care and Criminal Justice System



Conclusion and Next Steps

The PiTC remains an important local initiative and a 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.

In addition, enhanced gender-specific responses and housing options for women, trans-feminine, trans-masculine and non-binary adults remain an important local priority. The Housing Services Division continues to consult with the sector planning tables including the Women’s Housing Planning Collaborative, the Street Youth Planning Collaborative and the membership of the Men’s Emergency Services Coordination Committee. Through this ongoing engagement and collaboration, it is our goal to continue to share the results and further analysis of the PiTC, while discussing next steps to further centre the voices of unhoused residents in our collective responses.

In the ongoing development and adaptation of systems-level responses, it remains essential that people with living/lived experience are empowered to inform services and hold the homelessness-serving system accountable for delivering on its promise of housing and supports. A distinct focus on Indigenous rights should be prioritized in these efforts, guided by the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the distinct rights of Indigenous peoples through engagement with unhoused residents. Underpinning further strategic coordination efforts remains the collective obligation to ensure that people experiencing homelessness have access to long-term, adequate housing that meets their needs.

Appendix A: 2021 PiTC Survey

SCREENING TOOL

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer for the **Hamilton** Point in Time Connection – a housing needs survey. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

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

A. Have you answered this survey already this week?

[YES: Thank and tally] [NO: Go to B]

B. Are you willing to participate in the survey?

[YES: Go to C] [NO: Thank and tally]

C. Where did you stay last night? [DO NOT READ CATEGORIES – circle response]

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	}	C1. Do you have access to a permanent residence where you can safely stay as long as you want? a. Yes [THANK & END] b. No (not permanent AND/OR not safe) [BEGIN SURVEY] c. Don't Know [BEGIN SURVEY] d. Decline to answer [THANK & END]
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 LONG-TERM OUTDOOR SETTLEMENT) m. VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK, BOAT) n. UNSURE: INDICATE PROBABLE LOCATION _____	}	[BEGIN SURVEY]

- You will receive a \$15 gift card as a thank you for your participation.

Survey Number: _____

Location: _____

Time: _____ **AM/PM**

Interviewer: _____

Contact #: _____

BEGIN SURVEY

1. 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"/> OTHER (Can include other family or friends)
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____									<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
[indicate gender and age for each]									
GENDER									
AGE									

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

AGE _____ **OR** YEAR BORN _____ DON'T KNOW 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?

AGE _____ DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

5. 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

5B➔ 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

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

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

8a. Do you identify as First Nations (with or without status), Métis, or Inuit, or do you have North American Indigenous ancestry? [If yes, please specify]

<input type="radio"/> YES, FIRST NATIONS	<input type="radio"/> YES, MÉTIS	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="radio"/> YES, INUIT	<input type="radio"/> YES, INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	

8b. In addition to your response in the question above, do you identify with any of the racialized identities listed below? [Show or Read list. Select all that apply]

<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"/> IDENTIFY AS INDIGENOUS ONLY
<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK-CANADIAN/AMERICAN	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK-AFRICAN (e.g., Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian)	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

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

<input type="radio"/> YES, MILITARY	<input type="radio"/> BOTH MILITARY AND RCMP	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> YES, RCMP	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> 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.]

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

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

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

<input type="radio"/> GAY	<input type="radio"/> BISEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> ASEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> NOT LISTED:
<input type="radio"/> LESBIAN	<input type="radio"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="radio"/> QUESTIONING	_____
<input type="radio"/> STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> PANSEXUAL	<input type="radio"/> QUEER	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
			<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"/> EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL HEALTH ISSUE
<input type="checkbox"/> UNFIT/UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER	<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING SOLD OR RENNOVATED (RENOVICTION)	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANCE USE ISSUE
<input type="checkbox"/> OWNER MOVED IN	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFLICT WITH: OTHER (_____)	<input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM
<input type="checkbox"/> LANDLORD/TENANT CONFLICT	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER	<input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATION (JAIL OR PRISON)
<input type="checkbox"/> COMPLAINT (E.G. PETS/NOISE/DAMAGE)	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> LEFT THE COMMUNITY/RELOCATED	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: OTHER (_____)	
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER REASON: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTURE OF FAMILY MEMBER	
	<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

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

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

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

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"/> PETS	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN	

-----**END OF SURVEY – PROVIDE GIFT CARD**-----