



RURAL AND REMOTE ALBERTA

2023 Alberta Housing and Services
Needs Estimation Project

PROVINCIAL REPORT



Prepared By:
Rural Development Network
(780)-964-2736
11443 - 143 Street, NW
Edmonton, AB

Acknowledgements

RDN's physical office is located on the Traditional Territories of Treaty 6 and is home to many Métis and Inuit Peoples. As a national organization, we also acknowledge that RDN staff and the communities we support live, gather, and organize across Turtle Island.

Inuit, Métis, and First Nations Peoples are experiencing homelessness at disproportionately high rates compared to non-Indigenous people in Canada. Unlike the common, colonialist definition of homelessness, Indigenous homelessness is not simply defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully understood as a loss or breakdown of relationships between individuals, families, and/or communities and their land, water, place, family, kin, each other, animals, cultures, languages, and identities. RDN recognizes the ways in which settler relationships to both the land and the Peoples of this land have been broken and misused, causing and contributing to Indigenous homelessness. We also recognize the ways in which our presence on this land continues to uphold colonialism and reproduces dispossession and violence for Indigenous people, further perpetuating experiences of Indigenous homelessness.

In an ongoing effort to support Indigenous communities in addressing issues of housing, homelessness, and service needs, we are committed to working to decolonize homelessness research and advocate to funders for Indigenous self-determination in the housing and social sectors.

We share this acknowledgement to reaffirm our responsibility and commitment to reconciliation.

We also recognize that this land acknowledgement is just that, an acknowledgement; it is but one step in our journey. We commit to working to uphold the conditions of the treaties that govern this land.



We thank you.

This report and the information within were made possible through the efforts of many dedicated individuals and groups. We wish to thank the coordinators who facilitated data collection in each of their communities, the front-line staff who administered surveys in each of their communities, and the residents in each community for their support, dedication, and commitment to this project.

Additionally, we would like to acknowledge that this project was funded in part by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy.

Canada 



About this Report

In 2023, the Rural Development Network (RDN) partnered with 22 organizations representing 45 communities across Alberta to conduct the third iteration of the provincial-wide housing and service needs estimation.

This report outlines the overall results of the provincial estimation, highlighting the number of residents who are housing insecure and their experiences with homelessness and is intended to support decision-making across organizations, funders and multiple levels of government around housing and homelessness by providing reliable and up-to-date data on housing and service needs across the province. It can also be used and referred to for program and advocacy purposes related to housing, homelessness, and service needs.

Contact info@ruraldevelopment.ca for more information on Housing and Service Needs Estimations.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	i
About this Report	iii
Table of Contents	iv
Definitions: What Does Homelessness Mean?	1
Introduction	3
Participating Rural, Remote, and Indigenous Communities	5
Methodology	6
Limitations	10
Results & Analysis	11
Objective Housing Situation	11
Exploring the Spectrum of Homelessness Across Rural and Remote Alberta	13
Housing & Service Needs Estimation Survey Respondent Population Overview	16
Housing Secure vs. Housing Insecure Survey Respondent Population Overview	18
Education, Employment, and Income Sources	22
Living Situation	25
Community Supports	29
Housing Insecurity in Rural and Remote Alberta: From 2018 to Now	36
Opportunities Moving Forward	42
In Conclusion	48
References	49

Definitions

What Does Homelessness Mean?

Homelessness


According to the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (Gaetz et al., 2012), homelessness is the situation of an individual, family, or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means, and ability to acquire it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, domestic violence, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination.

Further, Indigenous homelessness considers the traumas imposed on Indigenous Peoples through colonialism. It is defined as a "human condition that describes First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals, families or communities lacking stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means or ability to acquire such housing...Indigenous homelessness is not defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully described and understood through a composite lens of Indigenous worldviews" (Thistle, 2017).

Most people do not choose to be homeless, and the experience is generally negative, unpleasant, stressful, and distressing. The national definition of homelessness notes that individuals who become homeless experience a range of physical living situations, including:

Unsheltered: Absolutely homeless, living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation (e.g. living on sidewalks, squares, parks, vehicles, garages, etc.).

Emergency Sheltered: People who are staying in overnight shelters due to homelessness as well as those staying in shelters due to family violence.



Provisionally Accommodated: People with an accommodation that is temporary or that lacks security for tenure (e.g. couch-surfing, living in transitional housing, living in abandoned buildings, living in places unfit for human habitation, people who are housed seasonally, people in domestic violence situations, etc.).

At Risk of Homelessness: People who are not yet homeless but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards (e.g. people who are one rent payment missed from eviction, people whose housing may be condemned for health, by-law, or safety violations, etc.).

(Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Canadian Definition of Homelessness, 2012).

Insecure Housing: For this report, the term housing insecure, or insecure housing, will be used to encompass the entire spectrum of homelessness which includes unsheltered, emergency sheltered, provisionally accommodated, and at risk of homelessness.




Introduction

When it comes to homelessness and understanding its causes, the urban experience tends to dominate the conversation, mainly due to the “visibility” of individuals experiencing homelessness in urban centres. The issue of homelessness in rural and remote areas is far less understood and acknowledged because of its “hidden” nature. Further, recent data suggests that rural homelessness is prevalent at rates equivalent to or greater than urban per capita rates (Schiff, et al., 2022).

Recognizing this, RDN conducted the 2023 Alberta Provincial Housing and Service Needs Estimation with 22 organizations representing 45 rural, remote, and Indigenous communities across Alberta in an attempt to better understand what homelessness looks like in each community and across the rural provincial landscape. Specifically, the purpose of this estimation is to:

1. Develop a contextually relevant process for local service providers to engage and collect informed data with those who are at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.
2. Provide a comprehensive picture of housing insecurity and homelessness in Alberta, including demographic information on who is experiencing homelessness, which services are being accessed, and which services are missing.
3. Help inform service providers and municipal, provincial, and federal policies, practices, and funding decisions on homelessness, housing, and support services.
4. Develop recommendations and next steps for service providers and municipal, provincial, and federal governments.
5. Elevate and incorporate the voices of people experiencing homelessness in the solutions to end homelessness.



This is the third iteration of the Alberta Provincial Housing and Service Needs Estimation; it was also conducted in 2018 and 2020 with 20 and 24 communities respectively. In 2018, 1,771 individuals were surveyed, 1,098 of which were housing insecure. 905 dependents and 994 adults were reported as living with housing insecure respondents. In 2020, 1,893 individuals were surveyed, 908 of which were housing insecure. 769 dependents and 960 adults were reported as living with housing insecure respondents.



Participating Rural, Remote, and Indigenous Communities

- Athabasca
- Bonnyville
- Bow Valley (Banff and Canmore)
- City and County of Camrose
- County of Grande Prairie and the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, and Wembley
- Drayton Valley
- Drumheller
- Hanna
- Hinton
- Kainai First Nation
- Lac La Biche
- Lamont County
- Slave Lake
- St. Albert and Sturgeon County
- Taber
- Town and County of Barrhead
- Town and County of Stettler
- Town of Viking, Town of Tofield, and Beaver County
- Wabasca
- Wetaskiwin
- Yellowhead County - East End




Methodology

The methodology employed in this Housing and Service Needs Estimation comes from the [Step-by-Step Guide to Estimating Rural Homelessness](#), published by the Rural Development Network. RDN initially developed the Step-by-Step Guide to Estimating Rural Homelessness due to the lack of available, accurate, and current data on rural homelessness. A lack of data limits the ability of rural, remote, and Indigenous communities to advocate for better resources for their residents.

The guide is unique in that it tackles the issue of housing insecurity and homelessness from a rural perspective, and recognizes the difficulties that come with conducting standard Point-in-Time (PiT) counts in rural and remote areas. It instead uses a service-based population estimation approach, which allows for anyone, including small nonprofits and local front-line agencies, to gather data on gaps in local housing and service needs without adding additional strain to workloads and organizational capacities.

Following the model proposed in the Step-by-Step Guide, RDN worked with communities and academics across Canada to develop a survey that reflected rural, remote and Indigenous community contexts. The survey was developed in accordance with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness' definitions of homelessness. However, the survey itself was advertised as a Housing and Service Needs survey; this is a result of feedback from multiple service providers who are committed to minimizing the stigma associated with homelessness that could cause distress to their clients. By re-framing the language of the survey, service providers were able to encourage all clients to participate, instead of pointedly targeting certain individuals.

To further minimize stigma throughout the survey, rather than asking respondents to identify themselves as homeless or housing insecure, they were asked whether they consider their living conditions to be secure or insecure and to fill out checkboxes that determine their objective housing situation. Based on



responses to the latter survey question along with subsequent data analysis, RDN was able to determine which respondents were housing-unstable. As shown in the results, below, some individuals who don't consider themselves to be homeless or at risk of homelessness actually qualify based on the national definitions of homelessness.

The same survey was used across all communities participating in the 2023 Alberta Provincial Housing and Service Needs Estimation project, though each community's survey was customized to meet their location parameters. This can be seen in each community report.

RDN worked with each community to develop a survey administration process that would ensure the greatest level of participation possible. For most communities, surveys were advertised at service provider locations and online as an open Survey Monkey link across the community. Surveys were available through these locations and online for a period of four weeks: from March 1 to March 31, 2023, to all but one community. In Wetaskiwin, surveys were available online for a period of four weeks: from March 10 to April 10, 2023.

Before the survey period began, RDN conducted orientation and training sessions with staff from participating agencies. During the training, emphasis was placed on clarifying survey terms, ensuring respondents' confidentiality and privacy, and securing participants' informed consent. During each training session, resources were provided to staff to improve their understanding of the project and increase comfort in administering the survey. Training and resources also included the various ways to administer the survey in an open, non-intrusive manner, placing extra importance on meeting the individual's reasons for visiting the agency before offering the survey.

Important to note about the survey; to ensure the trust and anonymity of participants, each respondent was asked to give consent at the beginning of the survey, and create a unique identifier. The unique identifier allows RDN to maintain the integrity of the data without knowing respondent identities. The unique identifier is a combination of letters and numbers from a participant's name and birthdate.

Figure 1: Unique Identifier Question on Survey

Q1. Anonymous Unique Identifier (ex. John Smith, born on 15th November 1964)

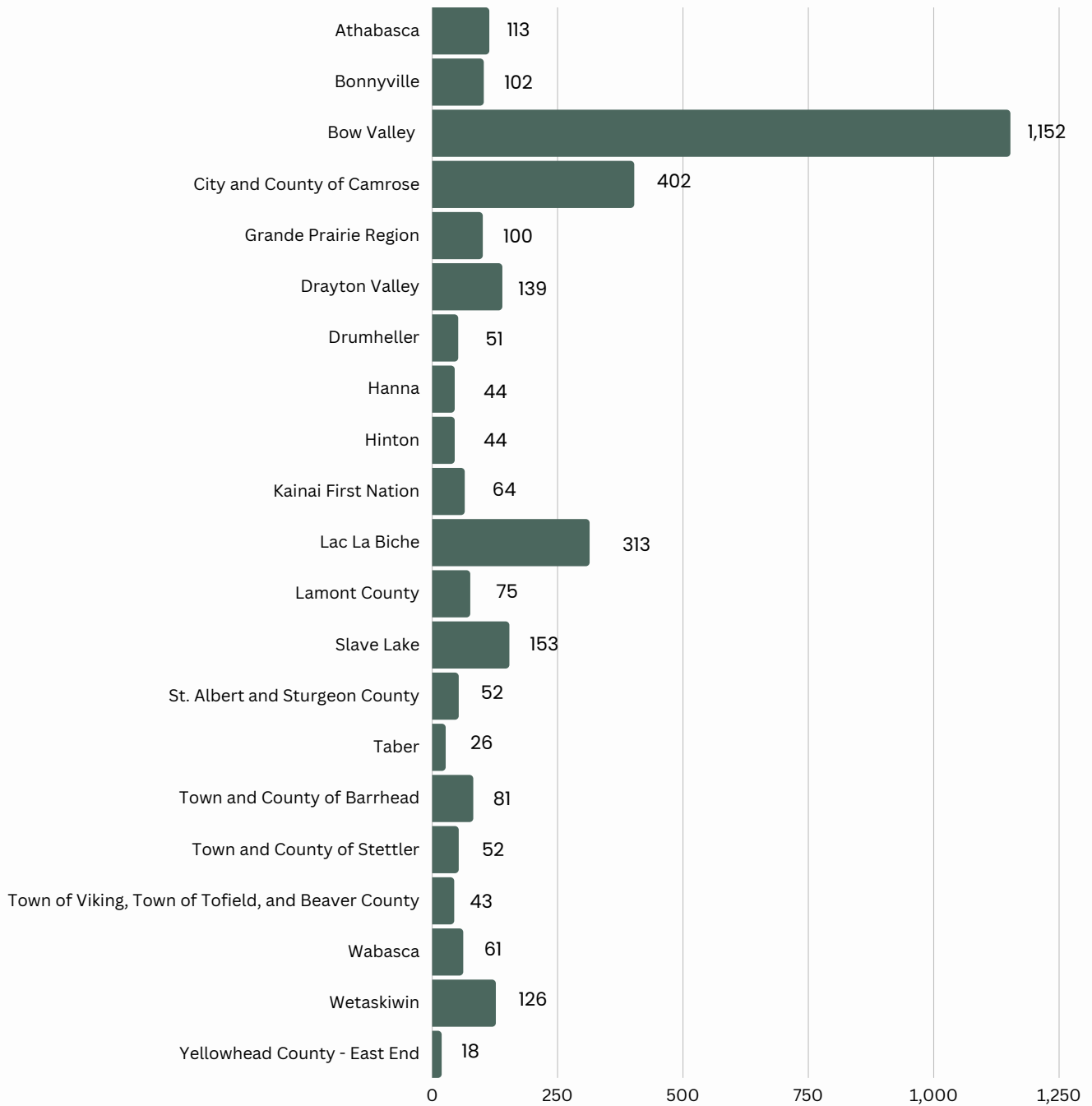
H	N	What are the last two letters of your FIRST name?
T	H	What are the last two letters of your LAST name?
1	5	What is the DAY you were born?
6	4	What are the last two numbers of the YEAR you were born?

4,877 survey responses were collected during the four weeks. Of the 4,877 surveys, 1,666 were excluded. Surveys were deemed unsuitable and excluded for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Survey respondent(s) declined to give consent.
2. Survey respondent(s) declined to provide the unique identifier or provided improper unique identifier information (i.e. characters instead of numbers, etc.).
3. Survey respondent(s) submitted multiple surveys (determined based on unique identifier(s)).

Based on this, 3,211 were determined to be suitable for further analysis and will be the focus of the results outlined below.

Figure 2: Total Number of Respondents Per Community



Limitations

Despite our best attempts to reduce stigma and increase accessibility of the survey, not all clients who were offered a survey chose to participate. Additionally, staff at participating agencies were informed that participants under the age of 14 years old required guardian consent to participate in the survey. This is inherently problematic and exclusionary as most youth experiencing homelessness would not have a guardian present to provide consent. However, to maintain survey ethics, this requirement is in compliance with the Alberta College of Social Workers. Worth noting here is that not everyone who filled out the survey responded to every question.

As a result, there remains a portion of people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity whose voices and lived experiences were not captured in this project. Therefore, while the trends, highlights, and recommendations made are very informative, it is important to remember that this report presents a conservative picture of the housing and services needs across rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in Alberta.



Results & Analysis

Objective Housing Situation

As part of the survey, participants were asked the following question: “Do you consider your housing situation to be unstable or feel you could easily lose your housing?” Respondents were given the options “yes”, “no”, and “I’m not sure” to guide their responses. Of the 3,211 survey respondents, 1,263 self-identified as housing insecure, and 295 indicated “I’m not sure”. Through further analysis, it was determined that 2,429 survey respondents are housing insecure according to the national definitions of homelessness. An additional 2,354 dependents and 2,537 adults reported living with housing insecure survey respondents. Therefore, based on survey results, there are at least 7,320 community members experiencing housing insecurity in the 21 participating communities across rural and remote Alberta.

Tables 1 and 2 show breakdowns of survey respondents by housing status and highlight the number of dependents and adults reported as sharing living conditions with housing insecure respondents.

Table 1: Breakdown of Respondents' Housing Status

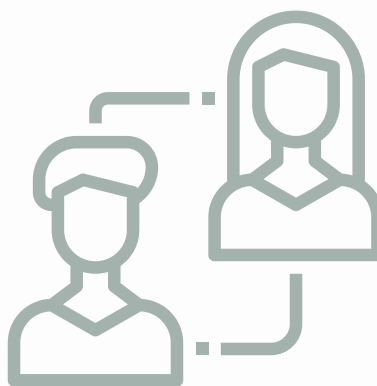
# of Individuals	Rural and Remote Alberta
Housing Secure	782
Housing Insecure	2,429

Table 2: Breakdown of Dependents & Adults Sharing Insecure Housing Living Conditions

# of Additional Individuals	Rural and Remote Alberta
Dependents	2,354
Adults	2,537

The top three reasons for housing insecurity across rural and remote Alberta, as reported by survey respondents, are:

1. Low wages
2. Inability to afford rent or mortgage payments
3. Increasing rent costs





Exploring the Spectrum of Homelessness Across Rural and Remote Alberta

Recognizing that the national definition of homelessness is complex, encompassing various housing situations across a continuum, it is important to better understand what housing insecurity looks like in rural and remote Alberta. This can be achieved by exploring the experiences of the 2,429 housing insecure respondents.

To accurately place respondents along the spectrum of homelessness, a series of measures were used to understand their situations, including their self-identified housing stability response, their calculated housing stability, their current housing situation, the amenities they lack in their current home, and others. Early in the survey, respondents were asked to outline their current housing situation and were able to choose all situations that applied to them from a variety of statements that ranged from “I own the house I am currently in” to “I lived in supportive housing” to “I slept in a public space” and more. To accurately present what a journey of housing insecurity might look like for respondents over a month, we have included all responses, as respondents were able to select more than one statement.

An important thing to consider when reading this table is that people experiencing housing insecurity often fluctuate in and out of their situation; therefore, someone who was unsheltered one night might have been emergency sheltered or provisionally accommodated the next night. As a result, we have highlighted every incident of insecurity respondents experienced in the past month to understand the journey of housing insecurity across rural and remote Alberta.

Table 3: Respondents by Housing Situation in the Homelessness Spectrum

Place on the Homelessness Spectrum	# of Respondents in Each Category
Unsheltered	151
Emergency Sheltered	244
Provisionally Accommodated	1,504
At Risk of Homelessness	2,810

This table demonstrates the diversity of respondents' experiences with housing insecurity across rural and remote Alberta and outlines that homelessness presents itself in more ways than simply sleeping outside.

Respondents that have been identified as **at risk** emphasized their difficulty in being able to afford their rent/mortgage and/or have stayed in a home that needs major repairs such as no windows, no electricity, etc. Many of these respondents also live in overcrowded housing, where there are too many people compared to the number of bedrooms in the home and/or in homes provided by/rented out by their employer or an Indigenous government.

Respondents who indicated they experienced being **provisionally accommodated** indicated staying in jail/prison/remand centre, medical/detox facilities, and transitional housing units. Many respondents also indicated staying in a home where they experience violence because they had nowhere else to go, staying with a stranger because they had nowhere else to go, and/or enduring unwanted sexual activity to have a place to stay.

Those that had experiences of being **emergency sheltered or unsheltered** noted staying in emergency shelters, makeshift shelters such as a vehicle, tent, or shack, and/or staying in public spaces such as parks or sidewalks.



Housing & Service Needs Estimation Survey Respondent Population Overview


3,211 community members responded to surveys across rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in Alberta; 59% (1,886) of whom identified as female, 36% (1,139) as male, 1% (17) as trans-female, 1% (33) as trans-male, and 1% (40) as gender non-conforming. 1% (17) of respondents were unsure of their gender identity, 0.09% (3) noted their identity was not listed in the options provided, and 1% (43) preferred not to answer. Additionally, 83% (2,629) of respondents identified as straight, 2% (76) as lesbian/gay, 8% (241) as bisexual/pansexual, 1% (44) as asexual, and 1% (32) as two-spirit. 1% (27) noted they were unsure of their sexual orientation, 0.22% (7) noted their orientation was not listed in the options provided, and 4% (113) preferred not to answer.

Of the 3,211 respondents, 4% (126) were between the ages of 0-19; we know from their unique identifier, which asks for their birth year, as well as our ethical standards on the age of consent when administering the survey that this respondent is between 14-19 years old. Additionally, 52% (1,647) were between the ages of 20-39, 31% (976) were between 40-59, and 14% (437) were 60 years or older.

82% (2,606) of respondents were born in Canada (Turtle Island), while 16% (516) reported being born outside of Canada and 2% (61) preferred not to answer.

63% of respondents are white, compared to 30% of respondents who are racialized. 2% of respondents noted their identity was not listed in the options provided and 4% preferred not to answer.¹

¹ Please note that individual numbers are not included for racial identity in the survey respondent population overview because respondents were able to select all racial identities that applied to them; as a result, there are more responses than there are respondents who completed the survey. While the percentage proportions are still accurate, to reduce confusion, the individual numbers have been removed.



Additionally, 39% (1,232) of respondents self-identified as Indigenous and 3% (84) preferred not to answer; 61% (750) as First Nations, 21% (263) as Métis, 10% (128) as Inuit, and 7% (91) as having other Indigenous ancestry. Three participating communities are made up mainly of Indigenous respondents: Kainai First Nation, Wabasca, and Wetaskiwin. 94% of Kainai First Nation's overall survey population self-identified as Indigenous, 82% of Wabasca's overall survey population self-identified as Indigenous, and 52% of Wetaskiwin's overall survey population self-identified as Indigenous. Kainai First Nation and Wetaskiwin each make up 5% of the combined provincial self-reported Indigenous survey respondents and Wabasca makes up 4% of the combined provincial self-reported Indigenous survey respondents.

22% (521) of respondents stayed in foster care, a youth group home, or under a youth/young adult agreement in the past and 2% (57) preferred not to answer.

Lastly, in terms of demographics, respondents were asked to indicate if they have ever served in the Canadian Armed Forces/Foreign Military Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) or Foreign Police Service, or local or foreign Emergency Services (EMS, Police, Fire Department). Of the 3,211 respondents, 6% (192) indicated they serve(d) in the Canadian Armed Forces or Foreign Military Service, 3% (109) in the RCMP or Foreign Police Service, and 6% (197) in local or foreign Emergency Services. An additional 2% (58) preferred not to answer.

Housing Secure vs. Housing Insecure Survey Respondent Population Overview

Table 4: Housing & Service Needs Estimation Survey
Population Overview Comparison by Housing Stability²

Demographic Characteristic	Housing Secure	Housing Insecure
Number of Survey Respondents	782	2,429
Gender	Male: 207	Male: 932
	Female: 538	Female: 1,348
	Trans-male: 2	Trans-male: 31
	Trans-female: 0	Trans-female: 17
	Gender Non-conforming: 4	Gender Non-conforming: 36
	Don't know: 2	Don't know: 15

² This table does not include respondents who preferred not to answer or skipped demographic questions

Sexual Orientation	Straight: 703	Straight: 1,926
	Gay/Lesbian: 2	Gay/Lesbian: 74
	Bisexual/Pansexual: 22	Bisexual/Pansexual: 219
	Asexual: 1	Asexual: 43
	Two-spirit: 1	Two-spirit: 31
	Don't know: 1	Don't know: 26
Age	0 - 19 years: 30	0 - 19 years: 96
	20 - 39 years: 230	20 - 39 years: 1,417
	40 - 59 years: 308	40 - 59 years: 668
	60+ years: 199	60+ years: 238
Immigration Status	Born in Canada: 688	Born in Canada: 1,918
	Born outside of Canada: 62	Born outside of Canada: 454

Indigenous Identity	First Nations: 43	First Nations: 707
	Métis: 48	Métis: 215
	Inuit: 5	Inuit: 123
	Other Indigenous ancestry: 11	Other Indigenous ancestry: 80
Time in Foster Care, Youth Group Home, or Youth/Young Adult Agreement	Spent time in care: 17	Spent time in care: 521
Served in Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, Emergency Services	Canadian Armed Forces: 18	Canadian Armed Forces: 174
	RCMP: 7	RCMP: 102
	Emergency Services: 28	Emergency Services: 169

Based on this survey population overview breakdown, we can determine the following:

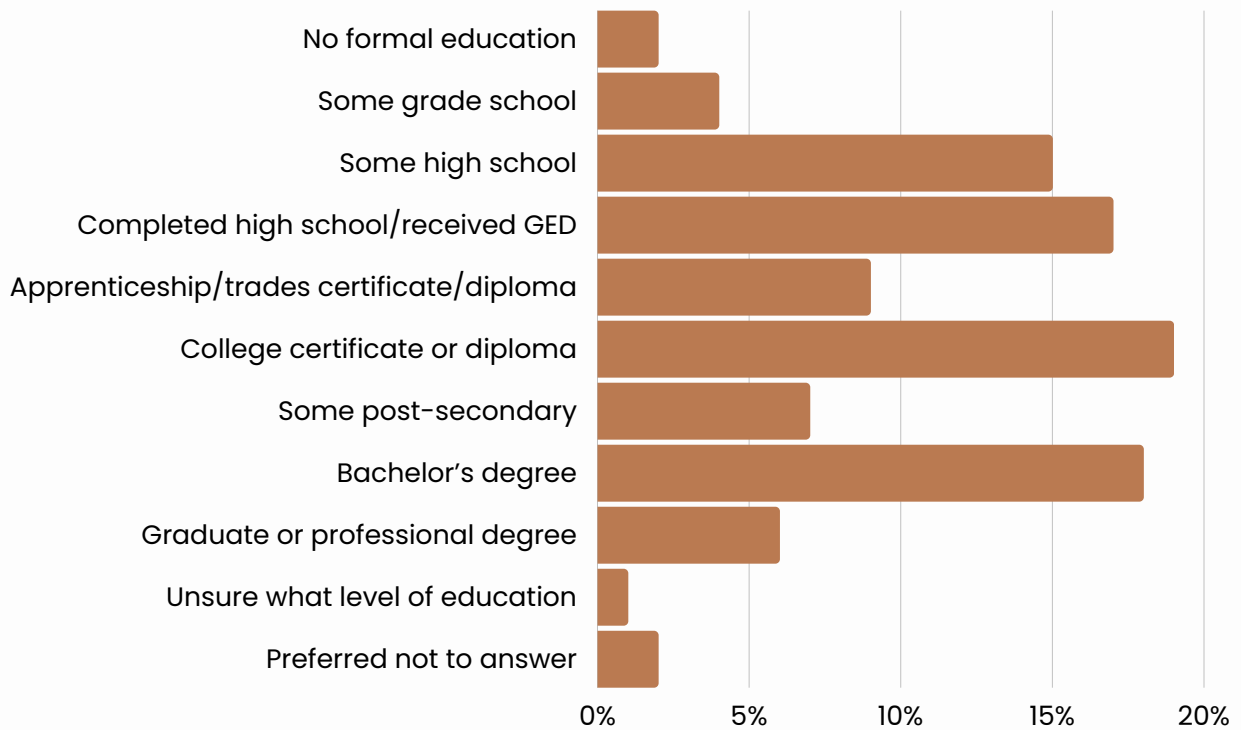
- Respondents identifying as women are 1.4x more likely than their male counterparts to be housing insecure.
- 93% of 2SLGBTQIA+ respondents (excluding “don’t know” responses) are housing insecure.
- 88% of respondents who were born outside of Canada are housing insecure.
- 91% of Indigenous respondents are housing insecure.
- 97% of respondents who spent time in care are housing insecure.
- 81% of housing insecure respondents who spent time in care are Indigenous.
- 89% of respondents who serve(d) in the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, and/or emergency services are housing insecure.



Education, Employment, and Income Sources

Housing insecure respondents indicated various education levels when responding to “*What is the highest level of education you’ve completed?*” 2% (36) of respondents have no formal education, 4% (99) have completed some grade school, 15% (335) have completed some high school, 17% (378) have completed high school or received their GED, 9% (196) have an apprenticeship, trades certificate, or diploma, 19% (438) have a college certificate or diploma, 7% (169) have some post-secondary, 18% (415) have a Bachelor’s degree, and 6% (132) have a Graduate or Professional Degree (Master’s, Ph.D., MD, JD, etc.). 1% (19) were not sure of their education levels and 2% (49) preferred not to answer. This can also be seen in Figure 3, below.

Figure 3: Housing Insecure Respondents’ Education Levels Breakdown





Did you know....

2% (36) of housing insecure respondents reported having no formal education; 61% (22) of these respondents reported an annual household income of less than \$30,000 in 2022, 61% (22) self-identified as Indigenous, and 33% (12) reported stays in foster care, a youth group home, or under a youth/young adult agreement.

Additionally, 69% (1,582) of housing insecure respondents were employed at the time of the survey and 3% (78) preferred not to answer; 68% (1,061) of those employed are full-time, 21% (323) are part-time, 7% (107) are casual, and 4% (64) are either doing contract work, are employed seasonally, or are self-employed.

Further, respondents were asked to disclose their approximate household income for the previous year. Responses varied widely, as seen in Table 5.

Table 5: Housing Insecure Respondents' Approximate Household Income in 2022

Total Household Income in 2022	# of Respondents Per Income Level
\$30,000 or less	684 (30%)
Between \$30,001 and \$49,999	431 (19%)
Between \$50,000 and \$69,999	361 (16%)

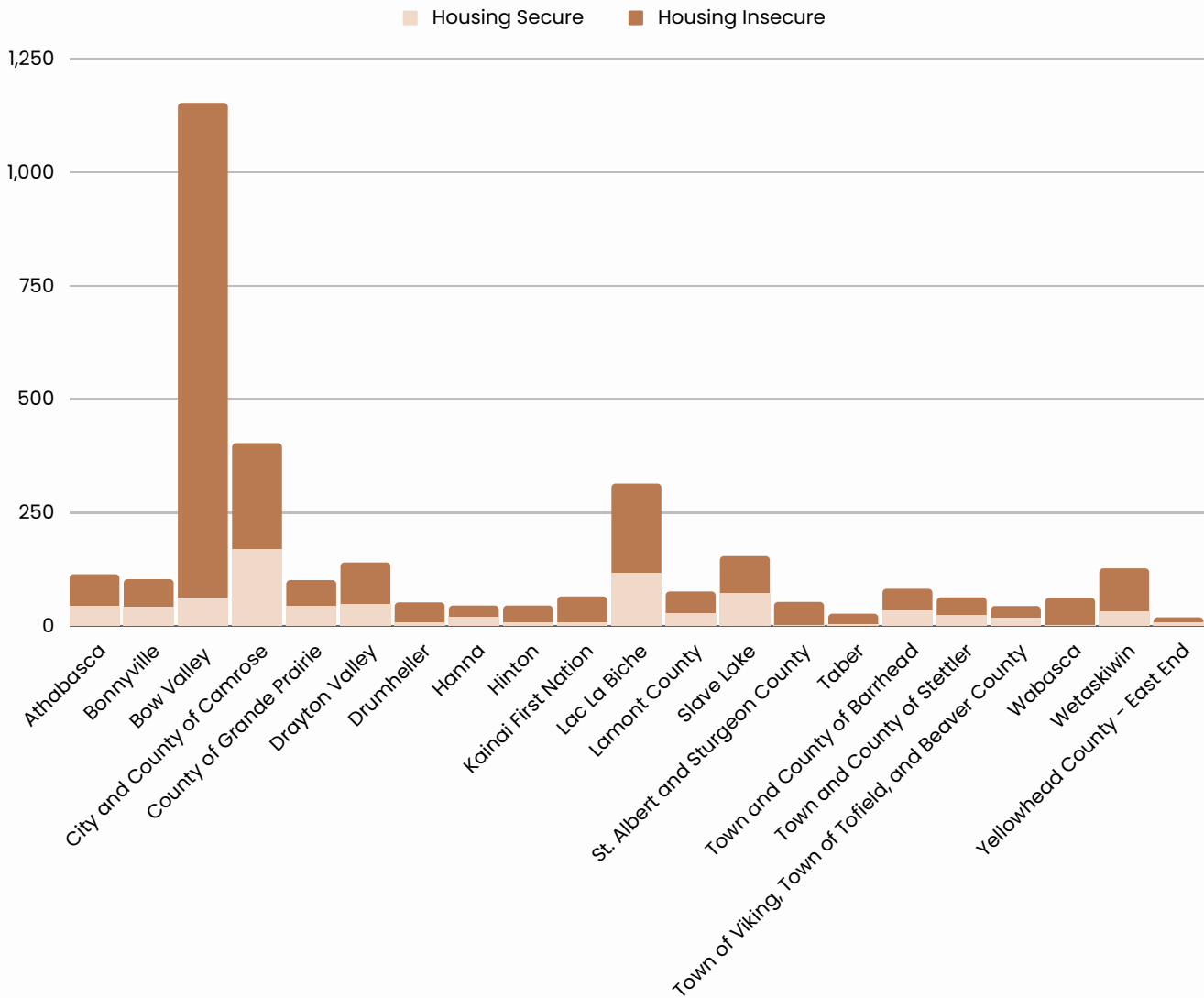
Between \$70,000 and \$89,999	242 (11%)
Between \$90,000 and \$109,999	151 (7%)
More than \$110,000	167 (7%)
Prefer not to answer	213 (9%)

Despite 64% of housing insecure respondents being employed in some capacity at the time of the survey, 49% (1,115) reported an annual household income of \$49,999 or less in 2022. This, combined with the fact that according to the Economic Research Institute (2023), the cost of living is an average of 6% higher than the national average across all 21 communities and an average of 4% higher than the provincial average in Alberta across all 21 communities, speaks to the main reported reason for housing insecurity among respondents: low wages. This clearly suggests that without adequate wages to match their communities' cost of living, housing insecure respondents will continue to struggle with housing insecurity.

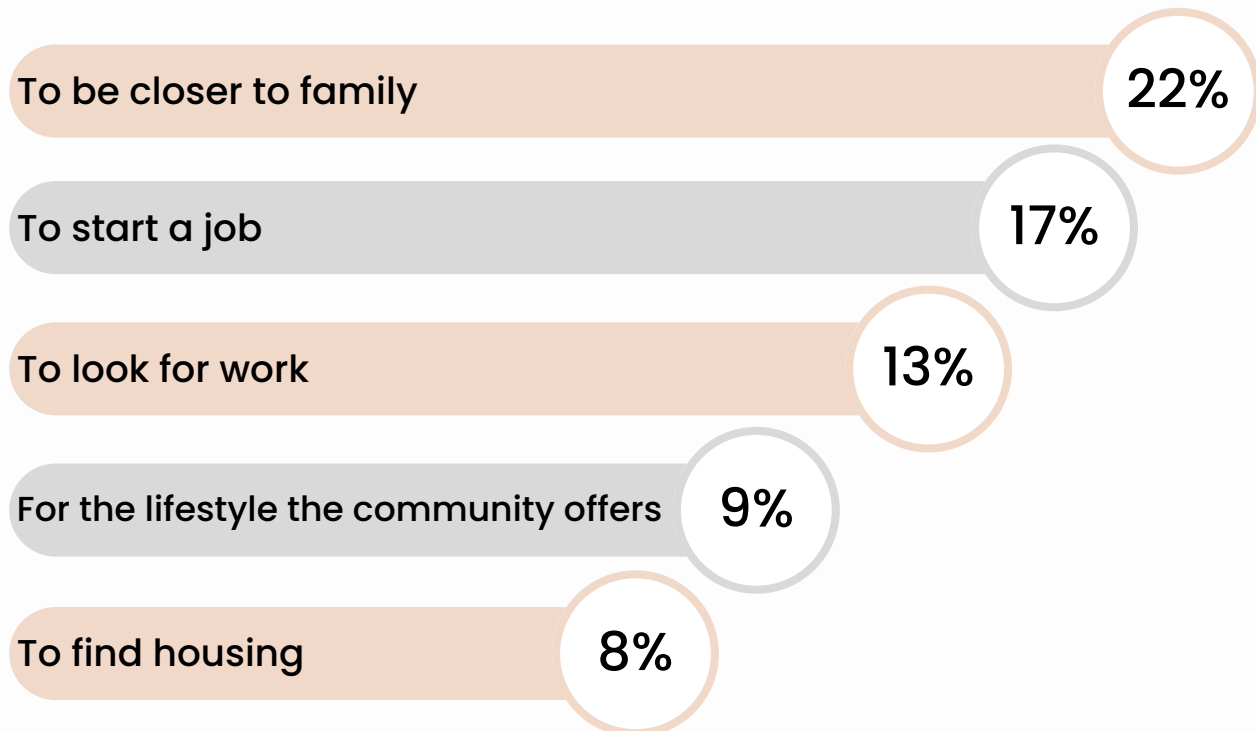
Living Situation

Community members from across the province participated in the 2023 Housing and Service Needs survey. This is outlined in Figure 4, below.

Figure 4: Survey Respondent Breakdown by Housing Status and by Community

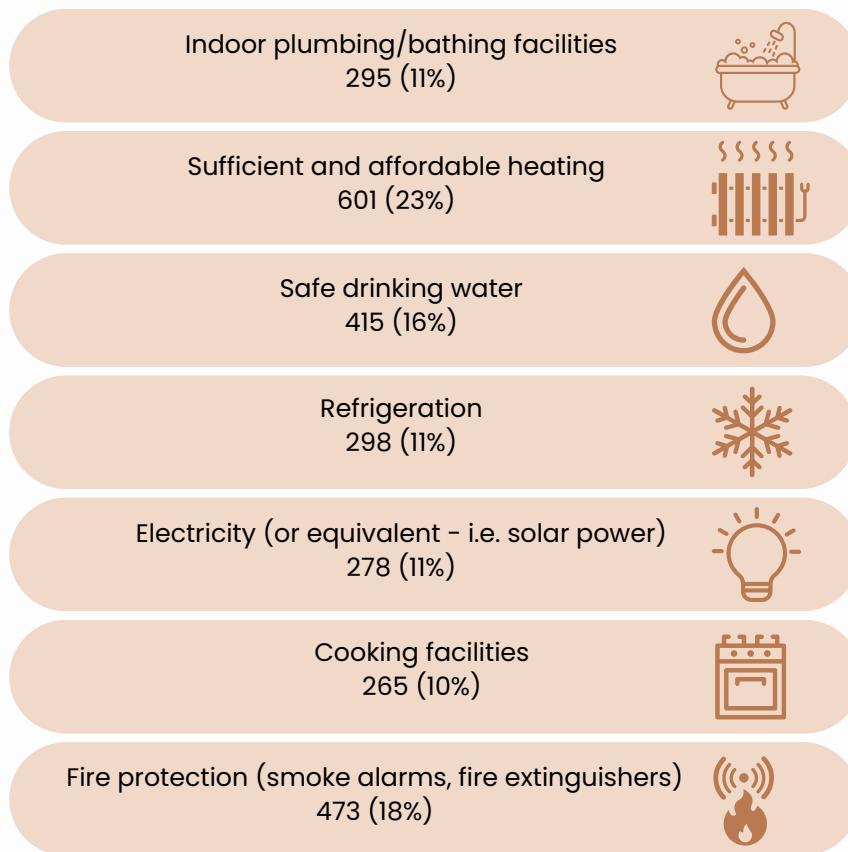


19% of housing insecure respondents have always lived in their community. Those who were not born in their community, were asked to indicate the reasons why they came to this community. The top five reasons respondents came to their community are:



To better understand current living conditions among housing insecure respondents, they were asked to identify which amenities are missing in their current housing situation. At the time of the survey, 23% did not have sufficient and affordable heating, 18% did not have fire protection, and 16% did not have access to safe drinking water.

Figure 5: Breakdown of Housing Insecure Respondents' Missing Amenities



This breakdown highlighted respondents who lack basic amenities and is one of the ways in which respondents' objective housing situation is calculated. Some respondents self-identified as housing stable but lacked amenities that would consider their housing situation stable according to the Canadian definition of homelessness, including indoor plumbing, heat, electricity, and access to safe drinking water.

Experiences of Violence

Additional analysis also discovered that 5% (123) of housing insecure respondents were experiencing domestic/intimate partner violence in their living situations at the time of the survey; 59% (73) of whom identify as female, 35% (43) identify as male, 2% (3) as trans-male, and 2% (2) as gender non-conforming. 76% (93) of respondents identify as straight, 5% (6) as lesbian/gay, 1% (1) as bisexual/pansexual, 1% (1) as asexual, 2% (2) as two-spirit, and 1% (1) who noted their sexual orientation was not listed in the options provided on the survey. 60% (74) are Indigenous.

In addition to being housing insecure as a result of domestic/intimate partner violence, these respondents also noted low wages and an inability to afford rent/mortgage as reasons for housing insecurity. Additionally, of these respondents who were not born in their communities, the top two reported reasons for coming to the community were to look for work and fear for safety/fleeing from violence.

36% (44) of housing insecure respondents who experienced violence are employed, 57% (25) of whom are full-time employed. 51% (63) of these respondents reported an annual household income of less than \$30,000 in 2022. A lack of consistent income is often a reason why people are unable to leave their abuser. Further, 40% of respondents reported staying in foster care, a youth group home, or under a youth/young adult agreement.

At the time of the survey, the majority of these respondents accessed basic needs support and health and wellness services on a regular basis.

Community Supports

In an attempt to better understand service needs and gaps across Alberta, respondents were asked: “Which support services do you access?” The main reasons housing insecure respondents accessed services were to help with basic needs (38%), health and wellness (28%), and financial services (22%).

Table 6: Reasons Why Housing Insecure Respondents Access Support Services

Services Accessed	# of Housing Insecure Respondents
Basic Needs - Food, shelter, clothing, etc.	918 (38%)
COVID-19 - PPE, information, supports	471 (19%)
Crisis Financial Support - Eviction notice, utility bill problems, damage deposits, etc.	299 (12%)
Family/Parenting - Child care, parenting/family issues, relationship issues, child developmental assessment tools/referrals, etc.	459 (19%)
Financial - Employment, housing, training/education, etc.	530 (22%)
Health and Wellness - Addictions, mental health, physical health care, spiritual/cultural, etc.	683 (28%)


<p>Legal - Separation/divorce/custody, wills/estates, employment/labour standards, landlord/tenant issues, immigration issues, criminal/misdemeanor, etc.</p>	<p>311 (13%)</p>
<p>Support Services - Help with government forms, help with accessing government/other programs or services, access to technology, etc.</p>	<p>482 (20%)</p>
<p>Transportation - Access to basic services/education/employment, medical transportation</p>	<p>332 (14%)</p>

Further, we asked: “Does your community provide enough...employment opportunities; free/accessible recreational and social opportunities; social services; accessible and affordable housing; public transportation; access to food?”

Table 7: Respondents' Perceptions of Service Provision in their Communities

Does your Community Provide Enough:	# of Respondents Who Believe their Community Provides Enough...		# of Respondents Who Believe their Community Does Not Provide Enough...		# of Respondents Who Aren't Sure if their Community Provides Enough...	
	Housing Secure	Housing Insecure	Housing Secure	Housing Insecure	Housing Secure	Housing Insecure
Employment opportunities	289 (46%)	931 (44%)	189 (30%)	832 (39%)	157 (25%)	375 (18%)
Free/accessible recreational and social opportunities	362 (56%)	1,056 (50%)	196 (30%)	761 (36%)	86 (13%)	309 (15%)
Social services	466 (72%)	1,386 (65%)	90 (14%)	517 (24%)	87 (14%)	231 (11%)
Accessible & affordable housing	130 (20%)	556 (26%)	253 (40%)	1,215 (57%)	255 (40%)	358 (17%)
Public transportation ³	125 (20%)	875 (41%)	420 (66%)	1,058 (49%)	96 (15%)	209 (10%)
Access to food (grocery stores, markets, food banks, etc.)	491 (76%)	1,486 (69%)	101 (16%)	489 (23%)	51 (8%)	175 (8%)

³ Bow Valley was an outlier among communities in responding to this question with more respondents believing there was enough public transportation in their community. If Bow Valley's dataset is removed from this table, only 16% of housing secure respondents believe there is enough public transportation while 68% believe there is not enough transportation and 16% are unsure if there is enough transportation. Similarly, only 18% of housing insecure believe there is enough public transportation while 71% believe there is not enough transportation and 11% are unsure if there is enough transportation.



Interestingly, with the exception of public transportation (only when Bow Valley's dataset is included), housing secure and housing insecure respondents expressed very similar perceptions of community service provisions (within 0-7% of each other in every case).

Of note in Table 8 is the significant discrepancy in:

- The number of housing secure and housing insecure respondents who believe there is enough public transportation across Alberta (36% including Bow Valley and 17% excluding Bow Valley) versus the number of respondents who believe more public transportation is needed (53% including Bow Valley and 70% excluding Bow Valley); and,
- The number of housing secure and housing insecure respondents who believe there is enough accessible and affordable housing (25%) versus those who believe more is needed (53%).

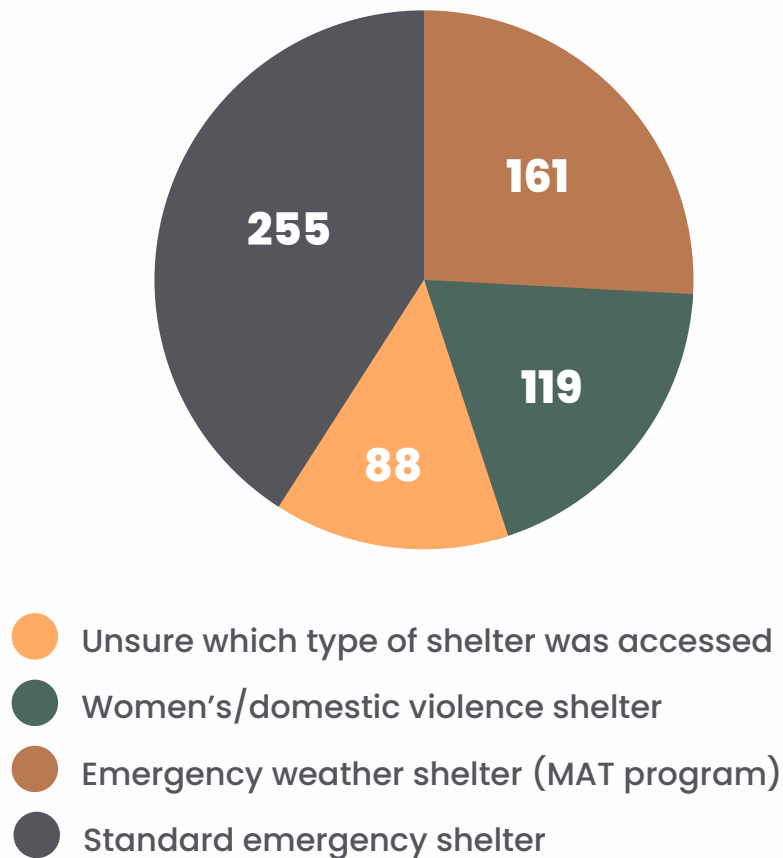
Distance to access services proved a significant barrier for respondents; while 34% of housing insecure respondents travelled by vehicle to access services not available in their community, 16% relied on a family member or friend, 18%, relied on public transportation, 15% took a taxi or had a service agency arrange a ride for them, and 5% resorted to hitchhiking or catching a ride from a stranger.

What's important to note here is that respondents who, due to transportation barriers, are unable to access the necessary support will continue to experience housing insecurity at much higher rates than those respondents who can access the support needed to stabilize their housing situation.

Emergency Shelter Use

326 unique respondents (13% of housing insecure respondents) accessed emergency shelter in the past 12 months, though the results suggest that these respondents accessed multiple types of shelters throughout the year and on multiple occasions. 78% (255) of housing insecure respondents who accessed emergency shelter accessed a standard emergency shelter, 49% (161) accessed an emergency weather shelter (also known as a MAT shelter), 37% (119) accessed a women’s/domestic violence shelter, and 27% (88) accessed an emergency shelter but are unsure what type of shelter it was. This can also be seen in figure 6 below.

Figure 6: Emergency Shelter Use



Additionally, 5% (124) of housing insecure respondents noted staying in transitional housing.

24% (581) of housing insecure respondents indicated that they did not access emergency shelter when they needed it. Table 9 outlines the several reasons. The top five reasons were:

1. The shelter was full
2. The right kind of shelter wasn't available (for example, I needed a women's shelter and couldn't access one)
3. There are no shelters in my area
4. I didn't feel safe
5. Lack of transportation

Table 8: Reasons Housing Insecure Respondents Did Not Access Shelter Services When Needed

Reason for Not Accessing Shelter Services	# of Respondents
The right kind of shelter wasn't available (for example, I needed a women's shelter and couldn't access one)	188 (32%)
The shelter was full	203 (35%)
There was no shelter in my area	170 (29%)
I didn't meet the intake criteria to access the shelter	115 (20%)

I didn't feel safe	149 (26%)
The shelter was unclean	78 (13%)
The shelter did not welcome me because of my gender identity	58 (10%)
Alcohol/substance use is not permitted on site	83 (14%)
Lack of disability accommodations	56 (10%)
Lack of transportation	120 (21%)
No pets allowed	60 (10%)
Isolation from social support (family, partner, friends, etc.)	86 (15%)


Housing Insecurity in Rural and Remote Alberta: From 2018 to Now

Consistent and recurring data collection is critical in painting a comprehensive picture of housing insecurity in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in Alberta, as well as to better understand new and existing trends in issues concerning residents experiencing housing insecurity across the province. This is the third iteration of the Alberta Provincial Housing and Service Needs Estimation and provides us an opportunity to highlight, compare, and contrast trends within the data.

RDN partnered with 20 communities to conduct the estimation in 2018, 24 communities in 2020, and 21 communities in 2023. Interestingly, in this iteration of the estimation (2023), RDN saw much more interest in regionalized data collection than in past iterations. While we only have 21 community reports, RDN worked with 22 organizations who represented roughly 45 communities altogether. This likely also speaks to the larger number of survey responses in 2023 compared to 2018 and 2020.

Table 9: Number of Survey Responses Across Estimations

Housing & Service Needs Estimation	# of Total Survey Respondents
2018	1,771
2020	1,893
2023	3,211



The increase in survey responses from 2018 to 2023 can also be attributed to a change in how surveys were administered to community members across iterations. In 2018, community members had to seek out service providers to support them in filling out a survey. In 2020, community members could fill out a survey on their own or with the support of staff in service provider locations or receive a unique code to take with them and access the survey online. In 2023, community members had the opportunity to fill out a survey individually or with support from staff at service provider locations or online through an open survey link. Given that each iteration of the estimation reduced more barriers to participation and the more regionalized data collection approach, it is understandable that response rates in 2023 increased significantly from 2018 and 2020.

The housing and service needs estimation process also underwent a change in analysis frameworks. In 2018, housing insecure respondents were identified solely from their self-identified housing status (as in, if they answered “yes” or “I don’t know” to the question “Is your housing situation unstable/do you feel like you could easily lose your housing?”, they were deemed housing insecure) whereas in 2020 and 2023, housing insecure respondents were identified through a series of questions in which responses were analyzed based on the national definitions of homelessness and from there, respondents were identified as housing secure or housing insecure. This was an important shift in analysis as this iteration of the estimation clearly showcases that many respondents who considered themselves housing secure were actually identified as housing insecure according to national definitions of homelessness. Because of this though, it is difficult to compare the number of housing insecure rural and remote Albertans across all three iterations to determine if rates of housing insecurity have increased, decreased, or stayed the same.

Though it is difficult to determine rates of housing insecurity across all three iterations of the estimation, secondary research suggests an increase in the rates of housing insecurity across the country. According to Statistics Canada (2023), there has been an increase in housing insecurity over the past five years: “Compared to 2018, those enumerated in an unsheltered location doubled

(a 100% increase), while those in sheltered locations increased by 3%.” Additionally, Statistics Canada reports an 11% increase in experiences of chronic homelessness,⁴ from 60% in 2018 to 71% in 2020/2022 (2023). In British Columbia, 2020-2021 homelessness counts suggest an 11.5% increase in the number of residents who are housing insecure compared to in 2018 (The Homelessness Services Association of BC, 2021). Further, according to CTV News (2022), the City of Edmonton’s homeless population has doubled since 2020 when COVID-19 emerged. While there is limited quantitative data that speaks to Alberta on a provincial scale, recent secondary research from Schiff, et al. (2022) suggests an increase in housing insecurity in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in most provinces and territories, Alberta included. Further, conversations with rural, remote, and Indigenous communities and service providers suggest they are also seeing significant increases in the number of community members experiencing housing insecurity.

Table 10: Number of Housing Insecure Respondents Across Estimations

Housing & Service Needs Estimation	# of Housing Insecure Respondents
2018	1,098
2020	908
2023	2,429

⁴ According to Statistics Canada (2022), chronic homelessness is defined as having a total of at least six months of homelessness over the past year and/or having recurrent experiences of homelessness over the past three years, resulting in a cumulative 18+ months of homelessness

The number of dependents and additional adults who were reported to have been sharing living conditions with housing insecure respondents has not changed much across all three iterations with the exception of the number of additional adults in 2023 where we saw more additional adults sharing living conditions with housing insecure respondents than we saw housing insecure respondents.

Table 11: Number of Housing Insecure Dependents and Additional Adults Across Estimations


Housing & Service Needs Estimation	# of Dependents	# of Additional Adults
2018	905	994
2020	796	960
2023	2,354	2,537

The top two reported reasons for housing insecurity by respondents has been consistent across all three estimations:

1. Low wages
2. Inability to afford rent/mortgage

The third reported reason for housing insecurity across all three estimations varies:

- 2018: Respondents reported conflict.
- 2020: Respondents reported mental health concerns.
- 2023: Respondents reported increasing rent costs.



One of the biggest differences in trends across all three estimations comes when comparing employment rates among housing insecure respondents. In 2018, 31% of housing insecure respondents were employed in some capacity; in 2020 this number decreased to 27% and in 2023 this number more than doubled with 69% of housing insecure respondents employed in some capacity. High costs of living in rural and remote communities, low minimum wage rates, COVID-19, and the housing crisis are all likely contributing factors to why rates of housing insecurity are significant despite the majority of respondents being employed.

In 2018, 23% of housing insecure respondents accessed emergency shelter. This decreased to 13% in 2020 and has held at 13% in 2023. This significant decrease in shelter use between 2018 and 2020 can likely be attributed to COVID-19 and the resulting mandated shelter shutdowns and/or decreases in the number of available beds to accommodate for social distancing and is supported by data Infrastructure Canada's 2021 Shelter Capacity Report which indicates a 5.1% decrease in shelter usage nationally between 2020 and 2021. Further, Alberta experienced a loss of 1,004 shelter beds between 2019–2021 (Infrastructure Canada, 2023). This decrease has likely held into 2023 as a result of continued health regulations and mandates, decreases in funding to emergency shelters, and likely a shift in behaviour patterns among housing insecure respondents (i.e. looking to couchsurf versus accessing an emergency shelter). Another reason for the holding decrease in 2023 could be that more participating communities in the 2023 iteration of the estimation project did not have a shelter in their area compared to participating communities in 2018 and/or 2020.

Additionally, the number one reason respondents accessed services across all three estimations was for help with basic needs.

Table 12: Reported Reasons for Accessing Services Across Estimations

Housing & Service Needs Estimation	Reported Reasons
2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic Needs 2. Financial 3. Health and Wellness
2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic Needs 2. Support Services 3. Financial
2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic Needs 2. Health and Wellness 3. Support Services


Interestingly, though the top three reported reasons for housing insecurity were low wages, an inability to afford rent/mortgage, and increasing rent costs, financial supports was not one of the three most accessed services by respondents in 2023. There are various reasons this could be the case, including that the 2023 estimation saw more than double the rate of employed housing insecure respondents than in previous years.

Opportunities Moving Forward

In each of the community reports, RDN suggested two or three opportunities communities should consider to address housing insecurity in their area. While recommendations varied in each community based on their individual results, there were four recommendations that were most commonly suggested across communities, as shown in Table 13.

Table 13: Breakdown of Common Recommendations

Recommendation	# of Communities Who Received the Recommendation
Increase community awareness and understanding of housing insecurity and homelessness	17
Consider public transportation options	14
Conduct a gap analysis and audit of service offerings	9
Conduct an audit of current housing options with the goal of increasing accessible and affordable housing	7



While individual communities can work to action these recommendations, there is a larger role for municipal, provincial, and federal governments as well as industry and funders to play in addressing housing insecurity in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in Alberta.

Increase community awareness and understanding of housing insecurity and homelessness. A significant finding of the data presented in this report is the number of housing insecure respondents who self-identified as housing secure. Of the 2,429 survey respondents who were identified as housing insecure, only 1,263 self-identified as housing insecure. This suggests that only 52% of housing insecure respondents believed their housing situation, at the time of the survey, to be insecure or inadequate. It is possible then, that the other 48% (1,166) of housing insecure respondents who believed they were housing secure have never accessed supports and services that could help improve their current housing situation. Additionally, 23% of housing insecure respondents did not have sufficient heating and 16% did not have access to safe drinking water, both of which are both considered human and/or tenant rights under provincial and federal policies.

Further analysis into qualitative responses from respondents related to the question, "What are two things you love about the community and what are two things you don't love about the community?", also suggests a divide among community members in several participating communities with reports of racism, discrimination, and judgment towards housing insecure respondents, Indigenous respondents, and 2SLGBTQIA+ respondents. Individual communities have been encouraged to host community conversations around housing insecurity with two goals in mind: first, to broaden the community's understanding of housing insecurity with the hopes that they will respond more empathetically towards housing insecure community members and decrease incidents of racism, discrimination, and judgment in the future. And second, to help community members understand the various experiences of housing insecurity with the hopes of seeing housing insecure respondents who believe they are housing secure recognize that their current housing situation is not considered secure or adequate according to federal standards and in turn, seek


appropriate supports to improve their housing situation.

Recommendations

1. Calling for mandatory orientation and training for municipal, provincial, and federal elected officials around key issues of housing insecurity to better serve their constituents during their terms.
2. Calling for leadership from all levels of government in promoting a better understanding of housing insecurity among constituents by highlighting the realities of homelessness, specifically through investing in research and community education programs.
3. Calling for leadership from all levels of government in recognizing housing as a human right and emphasizing the importance of treating neighbours with respect and empathy, regardless of the race, gender, sexual orientation, or housing status.
4. Calling on all levels of government to address the staggering number of rural, remote, and Indigenous Albertans living in housing without sufficient heating or access to safe drinking water.
5. Calling on all levels of government to address the disproportionate rates of Indigenous housing insecurity in Alberta.

Consider public transportation options. Respondents across rural and remote Alberta overwhelmingly indicated a need for accessible and affordable transportation options. Overall, respondents, both housing secure and housing insecure, indicated a lack of transportation options as prohibitive to accessing a range of services from recreation opportunities to support services to schooling to health and wellness services and more. Speaking strictly to services not available in their community, 34% of respondents travelled by vehicle, 16% relied on a family member or friend, 18%, relied on public transportation, 15% took a taxi or had a service agency arrange a ride for them, and 5% resorted to hitchhiking or catching a ride from a stranger. Further, only 36% of respondents believed there were enough public transportation options with their communities and across rural and remote Alberta.

Additionally, respondents across several communities highlighted an overall lack




of accessibility in terms of current transportation infrastructure, and in particular, sidewalks. Community members with mobility challenges and those pushing a stroller or pulling a wagon noted significant challenges in using sidewalks in their communities to get around due to their lack of accessibility or current state of disrepair. Communities struggling with public transportation concerns were encouraged to conduct an accessibility audit of public infrastructure with the goal of increasing accessibility for community members and to look into developing local public transportation systems. It is critically important that respondents have access to services in some manner to ensure respondents can get the support they need to stabilize their housing situation. Whether that be access to medical or mental health support, accessing the employment centre, obtaining a job, or even finding housing, accessible transportation is crucial in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities.

Recommendations

1. Calling for provincial and federal support in developing and implementing a long-term transportation system in partnership with local, regional, provincial, and federal non-profit organizations, advocacy groups, and industry leaders to support rural and remote constituents in travelling between communities.

Conduct a gap analysis and audit of service offerings. In the majority of communities, respondents identified a need for increased or improved services. This was particularly the case for the nine communities in which this recommendation was made. Respondents, both housing secure and housing insecure, indicated a need for several services, ranging from transportation services to educational supports to shelter services to health and wellness services. 24% of housing insecure respondents indicated that they did not access emergency shelter when they needed it because the shelter was full, the right kind of shelter wasn't available, or there were no shelters in their area. Additionally, 21% of housing insecure respondents have not completed high




school. These are just two examples which clearly highlight the lack of supports and services available in many rural and remote communities. Housing insecure respondents without access to the appropriate supports and services will undoubtedly struggle to stabilize their housing situation in the short- and long-term and housing insecure respondents with complex and intersecting needs will continue to lack adequate, stable and appropriate housing. Given the number of service gaps identified in the community reports, communities were encouraged to audit and map the availability of services in their area with the intention of either increasing the number and types of services available to residents or increasing awareness of services offered in the community.

Recommendations

1. Calling on all levels of government to support rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in conducting audits of service offerings with the intention of identifying and addressing service gaps.
2. Calling on all levels of government, service providers, and funders to explore opportunities in developing a model for more regionalized approaches to service delivery in rural and remote Alberta.
3. Calling on all levels of government to invest additional dollars to support capacity building and the foundational steps in the implementation of coordinated access in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in Alberta and across Canada.

Conduct an audit of current housing options with the goal of increasing accessible and affordable housing. A major theme across communities was the lack of emergency shelter and affordable and accessible housing options in the midst of a national housing crisis. As noted previously, 24% of housing insecure respondents who needed an emergency shelter did not access one for various reasons. Aside from the top three reasons (outlined in Table 9), other reasons why respondents did not access an emergency shelter when needed include: the shelter was full, the right kind of shelter wasn't available, and there were no shelters in the area. Other reasons why respondents did not access emergency shelter(s) when needed include: they did not meet the intake criteria to access the shelter, alcohol/substance use was not permitted on site, and a lack of disability accommodations at the shelter. Additionally, 17% of housing insecure



respondents reported addictions/substance use, illness/medical condition, mental health issues, mental disability, and/or physical disability as a reason for their current housing insecurity. To address the complex needs of housing insecure respondents, communities with a lack of emergency shelter and/or accessible and affordable housing have been encouraged to advocate for more housing options in their area, which could include sustaining an emergency shelter, developing income-based housing units, transitional and permanent supportive housing units, renovating and repairing existing inadequate housing, and/or considering more creative solutions to a lack of housing (such as tiny homes, shelter pods, etc.).

Recommendations

1. Calling on the provincial government to conduct an audit of emergency shelters⁵ in rural and remote Alberta, focusing on current gaps in shelter services (i.e. lack of emergency shelters in certain regions, policies/criteria implemented by emergency shelters that excludes constituents from accessing one when needed, disability accommodations, etc.) with the intention of supporting a more inclusive, accessible, and robust emergency shelter system across the province that expands beyond winter shelter beds and includes mandatory wraparound services..
2. Calling on local and provincial service providers, all levels of government, and funders to collaborate to develop a consistent model of the Housing First Philosophy across all new housing projects in rural and remote Alberta.
3. Calling on all levels of government to work with local service providers and housing developers to facilitate a review of current land zoning and bylaw regulations to support the development of more creative and diverse housing options.
4. Calling on all levels of government to increase funding for rural and remote accessible and affordable housing projects, and in particular, pre-development/seed funding and sustainable operational funding.

⁵ In this report, emergency shelter refers to standard emergency shelters, emergency weather shelters (i.e. MAT shelters), and women's/domestic violence shelters



In Conclusion

The results highlighted throughout this report showcase the realities of survey respondents' experiences with housing insecurity. With at least 7,320 community members (2,429 housing insecure respondents, 2,354 dependents, and 2,537 additional adults) experiencing housing insecurity across the 21 participating rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in Alberta, it is critical that service providers, government, industry, and funders work together to address housing insecurity across the province. Adequate housing is not only a human right, it is healthcare and while often viewed as a strictly social issue, it impacts not only social policy, but health systems, and economic development locally, regionally, provincially, and federally. Given the number of residents experiencing housing insecurity in rural and remote Alberta along with the current identification of service gaps in many communities across the province, a regionalized approach to addressing housing insecurity will be important moving forward. Additionally, additional research and data collection on rural, remote, and Indigenous housing insecurity is essential to continue identifying, monitoring, and addressing relevant trends at the local, regional, and provincial level.

To successfully address housing insecurity in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in Alberta and across Canada, an increase in provincial and federal funding to support communities located outside of urban centres is required.

References

- Abedin, Z. (2022). Step-by-step guide to estimating rural homelessness, 2nd Ed. Rural Development Network. <https://www.ruraldevelopment.ca/publications/step-by-step-guide-to-estimating-homelessness>
- CTV News. (2022, April 5). Edmonton's homeless population has doubled since the pandemic, city says. CTV News Edmonton. <https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/edmonton-s-homeless-population-has-doubled-since-the-pandemic-city-says-1.5850173>
- Economic Research Institute. (2023). Cost of Living Data in Alberta, Canada. <https://www.eri.com/cost-of-living/canada/alberta>
- Gaetz, S., Barr, C., Friesen, A., Harris, B., Hill, C., Kovacs-Burns, K., Pauly, B., Pearce, B., Turner, A., & Marsolais, A. (2012). Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.
- Homelessness Services Association of BC. (2021). 2020/21 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. <https://www.bchousing.org/publications/2020-21-BC-Homeless-Counts.pdf>
- Infrastructure Canada. (2023). Everyone counts 2020-2022: Preliminary highlights report. <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/reports-rapports/pit-counts-dp-2020-2022-highlights-eng.html>
- Infrastructure Canada. (2023). Shelter Capacity Report 2021. <https://secure.infc.gc.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/reports-rapports/shelter-cap-hebergement-2021-eng.html>
- Schiff, R., Wilkinson, A., Kelford, T., Pelletier, S., & Waegemakers Schiff, J. (2022). Counting the undercounted: Enumerating rural homelessness in Canada. International Journal on Homelessness, 3(1), 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.5206/ijoh.2022.2.14633>
- Thistle, J. (2017). Indigenous Definition of Homelessness in Canada. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.



Rural Development Network
(780)-964-2736
11443 - 143 Street, NW
Edmonton, AB