



2025 Point-In-Time Homelessness Enumeration

Results Report

**Funded by the Government of Canada through Reaching Home: Canada's
Homelessness Strategy.**

Table of Contents

- Objectives 3
- Background 3
- Methodology 4
 - Planning 4
 - Training 4
 - Administration 5
- Results..... 6
- Conclusion and Next Steps 7

Objectives

Under the Federal government's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy program, communities are required to conduct a Point-in-Time ("PiT") count to provide a community-level measure of sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. It also provides a national picture of homelessness. Conducted over subsequent years, PiT counts can be used by the community to track progress in reducing homelessness and identify changes in the location that individuals experiencing homelessness spend the night.

The aim of a PiT enumeration is to gather as complete of a one-night community-wide picture of both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness as possible. This can be understood to be the **minimum** number of people experiencing homelessness in a community.

Background

The City of Greater Sudbury receives funding from the Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, a federal funding program designed to support communities to support the needs of the most vulnerable Canadians; to improve access to safe, stable and affordable housing. This includes supporting the reduction of chronic homelessness. Under the Reaching Home funding agreement, communities are required to participate in a coordinated Point-In Time count, as a measure of reducing chronic homelessness in the community when conducted over subsequent years.

In 2025, the City of Greater Sudbury conducted a PiT enumeration. A PiT enumeration is an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness within a determined geographical area on a single night. It also identifies the location where they spent the night: in shelters, transitional housing, or unsheltered locations.

The two main components of an enumeration are¹:

1. The sheltered enumeration, which is obtained from administrative data systems and/or shelter administrators; and
2. The unsheltered enumeration, which is collected by outreach workers, homeless-sector staff, and/or volunteers.

Full PiT Counts take place every third year and include two components²:

1. Enumeration: An enumeration is an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness within a determined geographical area on a single night. It also identifies

¹ Everyone Counts: A Guide to Point-in-Time Enumerations in Canada, 1st ed.

<https://homelessnesslearninghub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Guide-to-Point-in-Time-Enumerations-in-Canada-1st-Edition.pdf> (October 28, 2025)

² Housing, Infrastructures and Communities Canada. About Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, Point-in-Time Counts of Homelessness. <https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/resources-ressources/point-in-time-denombrement-ponctuel-eng.html> (October 28, 2025)

the location where they spent the night: in shelters, transitional housing, or unsheltered locations.

2. Survey on Homelessness: The Survey on Homelessness (“the survey”) includes a set of standardized questions that are administered directly to individuals experiencing homelessness. Respondents include those in shelters, transitional housing, health and correctional systems, unsheltered locations, and hidden homeless (e.g. people who are “couch surfing”). The survey collects information on the characteristics and experiences of people affected by homelessness to help community organizations and all orders of government better understand and serve individuals experiencing homelessness in Canada.

The 2024 full PiT Count followed requirements set out by the Federal government, using a Point-In-Time count method, to count individuals on October 8th, 2024. There was a survey period that could be extended for up to one month, which was conducted over one week – October 8th to October 15th – asking about experiences of homelessness on the night of October 8th. The 2024 Federal [enumeration report](#) and [survey report](#) can be found on the Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada website. The previous 2021 enumeration followed requirements set out by the Federal and Provincial governments using a Point-In Time count method, to count individuals experiencing homelessness on one night only, October 19th. Participants were surveyed from October 19th to the 22nd and were asked questions about their experience of homelessness on the night of October 19th. Prior to that, the City of Greater Sudbury conducted enumerations in 2015 and 2018 in partnership with Laurentian University. These counts were conducted over a month-long period using period-prevalence methodology. Reports outlining the results from previous PiT Counts can be found on the City of Greater Sudbury [website](#).

Methodology

Planning

A Point-In Time Count planning committee was formed during the summer of 2024 to prepare for the autumn 2024 PiT Count. Committee members included staff from the City of Greater Sudbury Social Services, Homelessness Network and N’Swakamok Indigenous Friendship Centre.

Training

Staff from community partner agencies within social services were leveraged to complete the unsheltered enumeration. Training for the PiT Count was delivered by the City of Greater Sudbury virtually as a one-hour training session, offered on two separate dates. The training included reviewing the enumeration resources (script and tally sheet), some safety information, and a walk-through of the schedule. The training slides, including a safety video provided by the Federal government, were sent to the participants to review.

Cultural competency training took place in person at N'Swakamok Indigenous Friendship Centre just prior to the enumeration. An Indigenous knowledge keeper shared information about the impact of trauma, specifically inter-generational trauma, on Indigenous peoples.

Administration

The methodology for the PiT enumeration was consistent with the guidelines outlined by the Federal government. The enumeration included individuals staying in emergency shelters, temporary shelters, transitional housing, unsheltered in public space, encampments, and individuals staying in hospital with no fixed address.

In alignment with the PiT enumeration guidelines provided by the Federal government, the City of Greater Sudbury inquired about those experiencing homelessness on the night of October 15th, 2025. The sheltered enumeration included administrative data from: Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin (CMHA-S/M), Salvation Army, Elizabeth Fry Society, YWCA Geneva House, Monarch Recovery Services, Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin, Health Sciences North, and the City of Greater Sudbury Social Services. This information was relayed via e-mail to the PiT enumeration coordinator or via the Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS).

The unsheltered enumeration was conducted on the morning of October 16th, 2025. Participants were asked where they had slept the previous night. Prior to the PiT enumeration, the City of Greater Sudbury Social Services team identified key zones within the downtown core and outlying areas where individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness were likely to be located. 25 trained staff were involved in this year's unsheltered enumeration from the following service providers: N'Swakamok Indigenous Friendship Centre, the Go-Give Project, the Homelessness Network, L'association des jeunes de la rue, Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin (CMHA-S/M), Sudbury and District Nurse Practitioners Clinic, and City of Greater Sudbury Social Services. On the morning of October 16th, staff enumerating unsheltered individuals congregated at a headquarters location and were provided with paper copies of a script, tally sheet, and icebreaker items for participants. Some staff were assigned zones in the downtown core and some staff were assigned outlying unsheltered areas utilizing the Community Outreach Program van. The enumeration was completed with persons living unsheltered on the night of October 15th the next morning on October 16th from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Enumerators counted unsheltered individuals on paper tally sheets.

Unique to the PiT enumeration in the City of Greater Sudbury, staff enumerating unsheltered individuals also asked whether or not someone identified as Indigenous. Although not required by the Federal government, organizers, including Indigenous partners, felt this data was important to include. It is known that Indigenous people are severely overrepresented in the homelessness population³. This was counted on paper tally sheets by staff enumerating

³ Homeless Hub. Indigenous Peoples. <https://homelesshub.ca/collection/population-groups/indigenous-peoples/> (October 28, 2025)

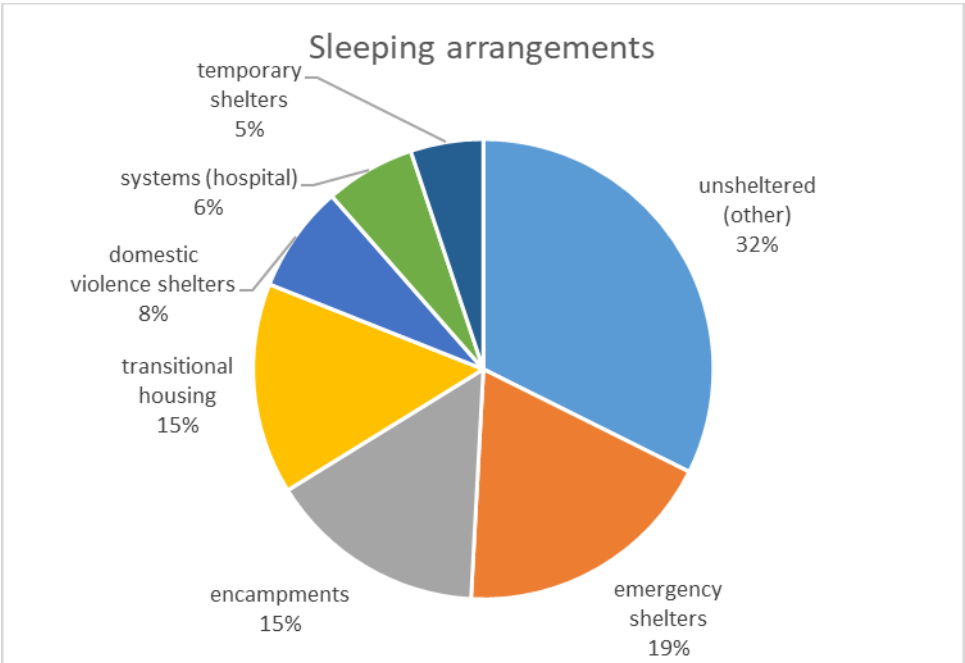
unsheltered individuals. The information was not collected for individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness via administrative data.

Results

On the night of October 15th, 2025, there were a total of 411 persons identified as experiencing homelessness in a shelter, transitional housing, or unsheltered (e.g., unsheltered in public space, encampment). From the enumeration count, 48% of people were identified as staying in an encampment/unsheltered in a public space, 31% were staying in a shelter, and 21% in transitional housing or provincial system (e.g. hospital). During the unsheltered enumeration, there were 25 people who identified they were housed or declined to answer. De-identified data was reported back to the Federal government.

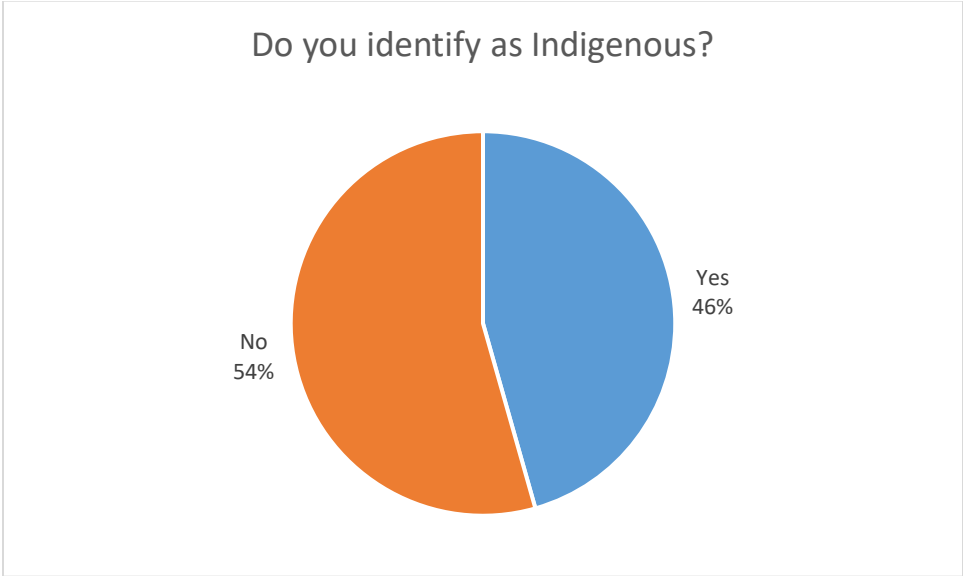
The sleeping arrangements of the 411 persons identified were:

Unsheltered	133
Emergency shelters	76
Encampments	63
Transitional housing programs	61
Domestic violence shelters	31
Systems (hospital)	26
Temporary shelters	21



Local Indigenous results indicate that of the number of individuals who identify as Indigenous of the people spoken to while doing the unsheltered enumeration. Some of the individuals spoken

to were counted as part of the administrative data (e.g. staying in a shelter) and were therefore not counted again. However, they were still asked whether they identified as Indigenous. Of the 239 individuals who indicated that they were experiencing any kind of homelessness during the unsheltered enumeration, 109 (46%) identified as Indigenous. This contrasts with Indigenous people making up 11.3% of the total population, according to the 2021 census⁴.



Conclusion and Next Steps

The results of the City of Greater Sudbury 2025 PiT enumeration will continue to raise awareness about the extent of homelessness in the community. This data, along with data collected through sources such as the Homelessness Individuals and Families information System (HIFIS), will continue to inform data-driven decisions by the City of Greater Sudbury regarding collaborative services, systems planning and housing focused solutions as identified in the Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030. There will be another PiT enumeration taking place in autumn 2026.

⁴ Statistics Canada. Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census of Population. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?lang=E&topic=8&dguid=2021S0503580> (October 28, 2025)