

## FAQs: 2018 Kelowna Point-in-Time Count

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**All media inquiries regarding the Point-in-Time Count can be directed to:**

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**1) Q: What is a Point-in-Time Count?**

**A:** A Point-in-Time (PiT) Count (otherwise referred to as a Homeless Count) is a method used to measure sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. It aims to enumerate individuals in a community who are, at a given time, staying in shelters or unsheltered locations (e.g., on the street, in parks), providing a "snapshot" of homelessness in a community. Point-in-Time Counts include a survey that can provide communities with information on the characteristics of their homeless population (e.g., age, gender, Veteran status, Aboriginal identity).

**2) Q: Who was counted?**

**A:** The PiT Count enumerated those experiencing absolute homeless that included individuals who were staying in local shelters (sheltered) and individuals who were sleeping outdoors, or in areas not fit for human habitation (unsheltered). Additionally the PiT Count enumerated those experiencing temporarily housed homeless including those accessing system-supported (government or non-profit sector) interim housing or institutional care.

**3) Q: Where can I find more information about the 2018 Kelowna Point-in-Time Count?**

**A:** More information can be found on the Central Okanagan Foundation's website:  
<http://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/>

**4) Q: Can the results of the 2018 Point-in-Time Count be compared with previous homelessness counts conducted in Kelowna?**

**A:** The 2018 count can be compared with the 2016 Kelowna Point-in-Time Count. The results of the 2016 and 2018 Kelowna Point-in-Time Count cannot be compared with the results of previous homelessness counts. The homelessness counts prior to 2016 were conducted using different methodologies, and comparisons will draw inaccurate conclusions about the current state of homelessness in Kelowna. The 2018 PiT Count can be compared to other Point-in-Time Counts conducted by other Canadian cities that participated in the national PiT Count.

**Q: When will the next Point-in-Time Count be conducted?**

**A:** 2020, tentatively

**Q: How can the Point-in-Time Count data be used?**

**A:** The information resulting from the Point-in-Time Count can be used by communities to direct resources to areas of greatest need, and to connect individuals with specific backgrounds to targeted supports to help them achieve stable housing. When completed in subsequent years, it can also be used to track changes in the homeless population over time and measure progress in reducing it.

**Q: Why was the Point-in-Time Count conducted in late winter?**

**A:** Employment and Social Development Canada determined the timeframes for conducting the National Point-in-Time Count. During the colder months, homeless individuals are more likely to access homeless shelters, making it easier to enumerate the population. In the summer months, individuals are more likely to be sleeping outdoors and in camps that are spread throughout the city, making it more challenging to accurately enumerate the population. As a result, there is a higher probability that the count will miss individuals in warmer months. It is also known that individuals are more likely to participate in the survey if they are in a sheltered location, this may contribute to more surveys being completed in the winter count.