

Community Report

Point-in-Time Count



Kelowna, British Columbia

2025

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Land Acknowledgment

The 2025 Point-in-Time Enumeration was conducted within the traditional, ancestral, and unceded tm'xwúla?xw (land) of the syilx / Okanagan people who have resided here since time immemorial. The Central Okanagan Foundation recognizes, honours, and respects the Syilx / Okanagan lands upon which we live, work, and play. We acknowledge the ongoing impact of colonialization on homelessness. We acknowledge that any effort to address homelessness requires a holistic and culturally sensitive approach that recognizes the dispossession of land from Indigenous peoples, the deep-rooted historical traumas, and systemic inequalities.

Special Thanks

The Central Okanagan Foundation would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 2025 Kelowna Point-in-Time Enumeration. A special thanks to all the organizations, community partners, and survey participants who provided invaluable support and feedback throughout the entire project. Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to all the volunteers and team leaders who dedicated their time and effort to conducting the enumeration. This project would not have been possible without your tremendous support.



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Executive Summary

Kelowna's 2025 Point-in-Time (PiT) Enumeration provides a community-level estimate or snapshot of homelessness on a single night. The project is federally funded as part of *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy* to contribute to a national picture of homelessness. The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness defines homelessness as the situation of an individual, family, or community without stable, safe, permanent, and appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means, and ability to acquire it.¹ Beginning in 2025, PiT Enumerations will be conducted annually to track progress in reducing homelessness and to identify changes in the locations where individuals experiencing homelessness spend the night.

The Point-in-Time Count Coordinator formed a Steering Committee composed of people with lived experience of homelessness, service providers, advocacy groups, local research collaboratives, and municipal and provincial government staff. The Coordinator and the Committee formed the 2025 Project Team that organized and delivered the enumeration in Kelowna with support from volunteers. Kelowna's 2025 PiT Enumeration had two objectives:

- 1. To provide an enumeration on the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in Kelowna on a single night.**
- 2. To collect information on the demographics of those experiencing homelessness to identify service needs.**

The enumeration took place on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025**. The sheltered enumeration consisted of system data from participating shelters, transitional housing, treatment centers, and public systems locations. Outreach teams and volunteers conducted the unsheltered enumeration using tally sheets and the screening survey in the assigned zones throughout the city.

On the night of November 18, 2025, there were at least 806 individuals experiencing homelessness in Kelowna. The enumeration offers a snapshot, on a single night, of the number of people experiencing homelessness in participating shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations (e.g. public space), staying in treatment centers or public systems without permanent housing, in unknown locations, or experiencing hidden homelessness, such as couch surfing or staying with family or friends because they have nowhere else to go.²

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¹ 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. www.homelesshub.ca/homelessdefinition

² Unknown locations refer to those individuals who were enumerated or surveyed in unsheltered locations, but indicated they were unsure where they would be staying that night.

Homelessness in Kelowna

The 2025 PiT Enumeration is the fifth Point-in-Time project in Kelowna, aiming to capture a snapshot of homelessness in the community. The number of people experiencing homelessness has increased faster than the resources and supports available in the community. Housing conflict, financial challenges (including housing affordability), health issues, discrimination, and abuse (e.g. intimate partner violence) are among the top causes for homelessness.³ Efforts to address homelessness in Kelowna include a combination of federal, provincial, and local initiatives implemented by various organizations.

These initiatives offer a multi-level approach to the complexity surrounding homelessness.

Aside from the federally funded Reaching Home initiatives, Kelowna is also one of five cities in British Columbia that signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the provincial government as part of the Homeless Encampment Action Response Team (HEART) and Homelessness Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) programs. The MOU is part of Belonging in BC, the provincial strategy to prevent and reduce homelessness and funded by BC Housing.

Since its implementation in 2023, the HEART and HEARTH initiative in Kelowna has focused on ensuring the health and safety of people sheltering outdoors and on developing new housing options by creating additional transitional housing locations. The initiative continues to gradually transition individuals into different indoor settings. BC Housing chose Turning Points Collaborative Society, the John Howard Society of Okanagan & Kootenay, and Connective BC to operate the three housing supports from this initiative. As of March 2026, 180 units are operational between Trailside, STEP Place, and Balsam Place, supported with HEARTH funding. Each location provides different programming and support for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of being homeless.

The designated outdoor sheltering site (OS4) is another component of the multi-level homelessness strategy in Kelowna.⁴ In the spring of 2025, the site shifted to a hybrid model with 60 fenced spots for people who do not have to decamp daily, and who are actively following guidelines and working to become housing-ready as new indoor shelter and housing options became available. Space still exists for those sheltering outdoors and are not yet involved in the housing-ready area. This space is available from 5 pm to 9 am daily, and users must decamp outside those hours. These changes affect data collected in 2025 compared to 2024, as some individuals residing at OS4 and other unsheltered locations in 2024 may have moved to existing or newly established housing options such as Balsam Place, which opened in 2025.

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3 Joyal, G; Villegas, R. (2024). Kelowna Point-in-Time Count: Community Report. Central Okanagan Foundation, Kelowna, BC. Retrieved from: <https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/COF-PiT-Report-2024-PRINT.pdf>

4 City of Kelowna. "Outdoor Overnight Sheltering in Designated Areas: City's designated overnight sheltering site." Accessed December 1, 2025. <https://www.kelowna.ca/our-community/social-wellness/outdoor-overnight-sheltering>

Homelessness in Kelowna

The multi-level approach also affects the collection and interpretation of data for the 2025 PiT Enumeration, as each level of government and partner organization operates within context-specific guidelines. The 2025 Project Team recognized the challenges and mitigated them by following the guidelines and definitions established by the federal *Reaching Home* strategy.⁵ However, the team also organized the agency data in a way that illustrates the local approaches for addressing homelessness in Kelowna. This combined approach aims to provide a foundation that reflects local conditions, thereby strengthening the comparability of future findings in the community.



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⁵ Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC). "Everyone Counts: A Guide to Point-in-Time Enumerations in Canada, 1st Edition. Accessed December 1, 2025. <https://homelessnesslearninghub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Guide-to-Point-in-Time-Enumerations-in-Canada-1st-Edition.pdf>

Introduction

A PiT Enumeration is an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness within a determined geographical area on a single night. 2025 is the first time that Kelowna participates in a stand-alone enumeration. A stand-alone enumeration **does not include the Survey on Homelessness** that was conducted as part of the full PiT Counts in Kelowna in the past.

The sheltered enumeration collected data from 23 locations, (e.g. emergency shelters, Domestic Violence shelters, transitional housing, treatment centers, and public systems locations). The unsheltered enumeration included sixteen designated routes throughout the city. The 2025 PiT Enumeration had three more routes and two additional participating agencies compared to the full PiT Count in 2024.

The data collected from the enumeration can be interpreted as the **minimum number of people experiencing homelessness** in the community on a single night.

At least 806 individuals in Kelowna were experiencing homelessness on the night of November 18, 2025.

Although the PiT Enumeration uses a quantitative methodology, the information collected comes from individual human experiences with homelessness. Recognizing that numerical methods cannot represent the uniqueness of each individual experience is vital while reading through and reflecting on the findings of this report.

The 2025 PiT Enumeration community report highlights the multi-level approaches to addressing homelessness in Kelowna. It recognizes the importance of national guidelines and funding within the Reaching Home Strategy, while also demonstrating the contributions of provincial initiatives developed through Belonging in BC. Municipal authorities and local partners mobilize these contributions to address the needs of the community's homeless population.

The results of the 2025 enumeration provide a snapshot of homelessness in the community, helping strengthen existing initiatives or develop new approaches.

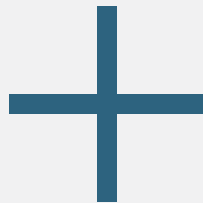
Methodology

The methodology for the 2025 PiT Enumeration followed national guidelines with minor modifications to reflect local conditions. The Project Team drew on their experience from the 2024 PiT Count in Kelowna to determine the best practices for the 2025 enumeration. The enumeration has two components:

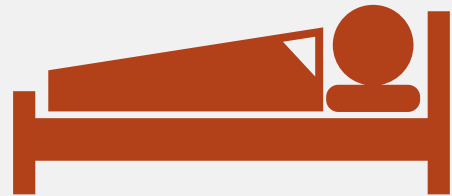
The Unsheltered Enumeration



Collected by outreach workers, homeless-sector staff, and/or volunteers.



The Sheltered Enumeration



Obtained from systems data from participating service providers.

The Sheltered Enumeration

The PiT Count Coordinator reached out to local shelters, transitional housing, treatment centers, and public systems locations two months prior to the night of the enumeration to request their participation. Staff from participating service providers completed the sheltered enumeration by reporting the number of people with no fixed address who spent the night of November 18, 2025, in their facilities. They also completed a form collecting information on the individual demographics, including age, gender, Indigenous identity, and transgender experience. Transgender experience refers to individuals whose gender identity is different than what was assigned at birth. This information was collected to assist service providers in developing programs and services that reflect the diverse needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Service providers also received a form to submit information on the total capacity, the maximum length of stay, and the number of people on each facility's waitlist. They submitted a separate form for each of their facilities, since some operate multiple locations. Since not all the service providers in Kelowna participated, the sheltered enumeration should be interpreted as a snapshot of the number of people accessing these services on a single night.

Methodology

The Unsheltered Enumeration

Teams of service providers, advocacy groups, municipal and provincial government staff, and volunteers conducted the unsheltered enumeration throughout their assigned routes. The PiT Count Coordinator assigned volunteers to teams of 4 - 5 people with an experienced team leader to engage with homeless individuals within their designated route. There were 16 routes across the city, determined through discussions with service providers and Bylaw services. The routes included driving and walking sections to capture the various locations where individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness are known to spend the night.

The screening survey and tally sheets helped the teams count individuals staying in outdoor locations (e.g. streets, alleys, parks, other green spaces, transit stations, abandoned buildings, and vehicles). The survey consisted of four core screening questions and four optional demographic questions added by the Project Team.

Core screening questions in the survey helped volunteers identify people experiencing homelessness to include in the enumeration.

Individuals who had already completed the survey, those who did not provide consent to participate, or indicated they had access to permanent housing were ineligible to participate.

The optional questions collected information on individuals' age, gender, Indigenous ancestry, and transgender experience to align with the data collected from the sheltered enumeration. Survey participants received a \$5.00 cash honorarium. Teams also distributed supplies such as warm clothing, hand warmers, personal hygiene products, and snacks to individuals they encountered.

Volunteers used the tally sheets to record observed homelessness in their assigned coverage area. Observed homelessness refers to instances where volunteers are unable to engage with someone (e.g. sleeping outdoors with their belongings) or that individual is unable to or declines to answer the screening survey, but that person is determined to be experiencing homelessness. The criteria for including observed homelessness followed national guidelines by counting those bedded down in an unsheltered location with many belongings, or those known to outreach workers conducting the enumeration.⁶

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⁶ Ibid.

Limitations

The data collected from the sheltered and unsheltered enumerations is not without limitations. The primary limitation is the inability to engage with every individual experiencing homelessness in the community. Individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness move constantly, making it difficult for teams to capture everyone. Another limitation is the challenge of engaging with individuals who experience homelessness after leaving treatment centers or public systems.⁷ The existing methodology makes it difficult to include these individuals in the PiT Enumeration. It is also difficult to collect data from all service providers for the sheltered enumeration. Not all overnight service providers participated in the 2025 PiT Enumeration.

Existing terminology and categorizations make it difficult to capture the complexity and diverse circumstances of individuals experiencing homelessness. Individuals lived reality challenges attempts to define or categorize people's experiences. The PiT Count methodology separates people's experience with homelessness into different categories, which may overlook those whose experience is not 'captured' by one of the categories. The 2025 Project Team recognized this limitation and sought to capture an accurate estimate of those experiencing homelessness in Kelowna.

Regarding observed homelessness, there is potential for observer bias and risk of duplication. The Project Team mitigated against duplication or double counting by excluding individuals who indicated they would be staying in a sheltered location (e.g., Shelters, transitional housing, treatment centers, or public systems) on the night of the enumeration, as their information would have been accounted for through system data.

Operational Definitions

Domestic Violence shelter: Temporary accommodation with support for individuals and families fleeing domestic abuse or the threat of violence.

Emergency shelter: Temporary, short-term accommodations for people experiencing homelessness. At a minimum, emergency shelters provide overnight accommodation. This includes general shelters, as well as those for specific populations, such as women, men, youth, and Indigenous peoples. For the PiT Count, this category also includes extreme weather shelters (e.g., warming centres), drop-ins, and informal shelters (e.g., those operated by charities or religious organizations) that accommodate people overnight.

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⁷ Stephen Gaetz & Erin Dej. (2017). A New Direction: A Framework for Homelessness Prevention. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

Operational Definitions

Encampments: A subset of unsheltered homelessness is encampments, outdoor locations with groups of tents, makeshift shelters, or other long-term settlements where two or more individuals are staying.

Hidden Homelessness: Includes individuals who are living temporarily with others, or in a self-funded hotel or motel, but without a guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing.

Observed Homelessness: Refers to those who are unable or unwilling to answer the screening survey, but who are staying overnight in an unsheltered location. The criteria for including these individuals follow national guidelines with contextual modifications, such as individuals who are sleeping in an outdoor location with their belongings or are known to local service providers.

Provisionally Accommodated: Includes individuals staying in transitional housing or other accommodations that lack secure tenure, with a maximum stay of one year.

Public Systems: These include individuals with no fixed address in correctional facilities, juvenile detention centers, hospitals, and detox centers. These institutions are governed by various jurisdictions at municipal, provincial, and federal levels.

Sheltered Homelessness: Includes people sleeping in emergency shelters (general and population specific to men, women, youth, etc), extreme weather shelters, and Domestic Violence shelters.

Transitional Housing: Programs that provide a supportive living environment for residents, offering them the experience, tools, knowledge, and opportunities for social and skill development to become more independent and transition from homelessness to secure housing. It is considered an intermediate step between emergency shelter and supportive or independent housing, with limits on the length of stay.

Treatment Centers: Specialized facilities or programs designed to provide comprehensive, integrated care to individuals experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness, particularly those with complex needs such as mental health issues, substance use, or chronic physical health conditions. Beyond medical care, these centers often provide case management, social services, and peer support to help individuals recover and gradually transition into permanent, stable housing.

Unsheltered Homelessness: Includes people who are sleeping in places unfit for human habitation. This includes streets, alleys, parks, transit stations, abandoned buildings, vehicles, ravines, and other outdoor locations where people experiencing homelessness are known to sleep.

Findings

2025 PIT Enumeration

The 2025 results stem from a combination of systems data submitted by participating agencies and unsheltered surveys conducted by volunteer teams. Volunteer teams conducted 168 unsheltered surveys with individuals they encountered in their assigned zones. Volunteers also reported 74 individuals on the observed homelessness tally sheet.

The data below only highlights the experiences of unsheltered individuals' volunteers encountered in their assigned zones and those staying throughout the participating agencies. **It does not capture all those experiencing unsheltered homelessness or staying in agencies that were unable to participate in this year's enumeration.** As a result, the findings should be interpreted as a snapshot of homelessness in Kelowna, based on data collected on a single night.

On the night of November 18, 2025, at least 806 people were experiencing homelessness throughout different locations in Kelowna.



Sheltered
308



Unsheltered
224



Transitional Housing
173

There were 101 individuals without permanent housing staying in treatment centers, unknown locations, or public systems.



Treatment Centers
79



Unknown Locations
17



Public Systems
5

Findings

The 2025 enumeration separated treatment centers from the public systems category to reflect the services and programs offered by participating agencies. The public systems category focuses on publicly funded institutions and does not account for service providers within the private or non-profit sectors. The inclusion of both categories highlights the complexity surrounding homelessness and the different services available to confront these diverse needs.

Public systems are governed by various jurisdictions at municipal, provincial, and federal levels making it challenging to screen people into the scope of the PiT Enumeration methodology.

Treatment centers are specialized facilities or programs designed to provide comprehensive, integrated care to individuals experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness, particularly those with complex needs such as mental health issues, substance use, or chronic physical health conditions. Beyond medical care, these centers often provide case management, social services, and peer support to help individuals recover and gradually transition into permanent, stable housing.



Findings

Changes From 2024

Due to the different categories used in the 2024 PiT Count report, it is difficult to compare the findings with the results from the 2025 PiT Enumeration.⁸ However, there is opportunity for comparison by organizing the data from 2024 into the core locations outlined in the 2025 standards for participation.⁹ By following these guidelines, the 2025 report can compare changes in the number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness and those in transitional housing. Using responses to the screening survey, there is also comparable data on the number of people who reported they would be staying in an encampment or an unsheltered location.

The number of people provisionally accommodated in transitional housing increased by 82% compared to 2024. This increase may be attributed in part to the additional 60 new housing units made available through the opening of Balsam Place in 2025. Balsam Place is the third HEARTH site to open in Kelowna, accompanying STEP Place and Trailside, which both opened in 2024 and provide transitional housing units and wrap around supports to people previously residing in shelters or outdoors.¹⁰

Table 2 - Sheltered Enumeration 2024 and 2025

Category	2024	2025	Rate of Change
Total Sheltered Homelessness	280	308	10%
Total Provisionally Accommodated	95	173	82%

Table 3 - Number of Participating Shelters, Capacity, and Occupancy from 2016 - 2025

PiT Counts in Kelowna	2016	2018	2020	2024	2025
Number of Participating Shelters	5	6	6	7	8
Total Capacity	180	254	242	291	321
Total Occupancy - Night of the Enumeration	164	234	225	280	308

8 The 2024 PiT Count report organized the findings into Absolute Homelessness and Temporarily Housed Homelessness to allow for comparison with previous Counts in Kelowna.

9 Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC). "Everyone Counts: A Guide to Point-in-Time Enumerations in Canada, 1st Edition. Accessed December 1, 2025, pages 11 - 12. <https://homelessnesslearninghub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Guide-to-Point-in-Time-Enumerations-in-Canada-1st-Edition.pdf>

10 Connective, Balsam Place: About 3100 Appaloosa. Connective. Retrieved December 1, 2025, from <https://connective.ca/services/appaloosa/>

Findings

There was also an increase of 10% in the number of people identifying as staying in a shelter from 2024. As seen in Table 3, the 2025 data demonstrate an increase in the number of people accessing shelters compared to previous PIT Counts in Kelowna.

Table 4 - Unsheltered Enumeration 2024 and 2025

Category	2024	2025	Rate of Change
Unsheltered in a public space	70	117	67%
Encampment	49	33	-33%
Observed Homelessness	183	74	-60%
Total Unsheltered Homelessness	302	224	-25%

The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness decreased by 25% compared to 2024.

The opening of new transitional housing sites that support individuals from unsheltered locations into different housing pathways, such as Balsam Place, may have contributed to the decrease. Changes to OS4 in the spring of 2025 impacted the number of people enumerated in encampments. The number of individuals tallied through observed homelessness decreased in 2025 compared to 2024, due to lower numbers at OS4 and the constant movement of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Observed Homelessness

Refers to those who are unable or unwilling to answer the screening survey, but who are staying overnight in an unsheltered location. The criteria for including these individuals follow national guidelines with contextual modifications, such as individuals who are sleeping in an outdoor location with their belongings or are known to local service providers.

Unsheltered Homelessness

Includes people who are sleeping in places unfit for human habitation. This includes streets, alleys, parks, transit stations, abandoned buildings, vehicles, ravines, and other outdoor locations where people experiencing homelessness are known to sleep.

Population Profiles

A combination of systems data (n=560) and survey responses (n=160) provide information on participants' gender, age, Indigenous identity, and transgender experience. There is no demographic information for 4 individuals from the systems data submitted and 8 unsheltered survey participants. As a result, volunteer teams collected demographic information of 160 participants experiencing homelessness on the night of the enumeration. The NR in the tables and figures below refers to non-releasable data to protect the confidentiality and privacy of some participants.

Sheltered Homelessness

Federal guidelines categorize sheltered homelessness to include people sleeping in emergency shelters (general and population-specific to men, women, youth, etc), extreme weather shelters, and Domestic Violence (DV) shelters. Approximately 38% of the 806 enumerated experienced sheltered homelessness on the night of the enumeration.

It is vital to note the support services specifically designed for women and family protections offered by DV Shelters and the diverse needs of those accessing these services. However, as per national guidelines and to uphold participant confidentiality, the total sheltered enumeration combines the number of people staying in emergency shelters, extreme weather shelters, and Domestic Violence shelters.

69% of those experiencing sheltered homelessness on the night of the enumeration identified as men, with 31% identifying as women.

The age of this group varied. 6% of those experiencing sheltered homelessness are 24 years old or younger. The remaining 94% are nearly equally divided between the other age categories seen in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1 - Gender

What gender do you identify with?

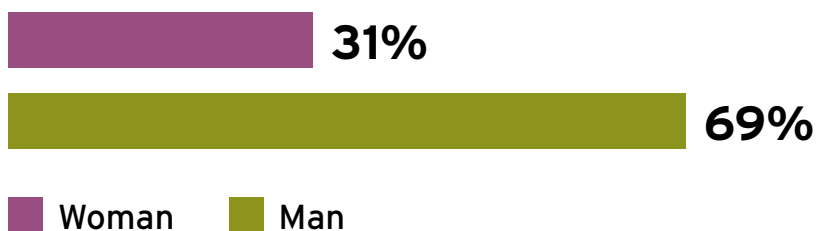
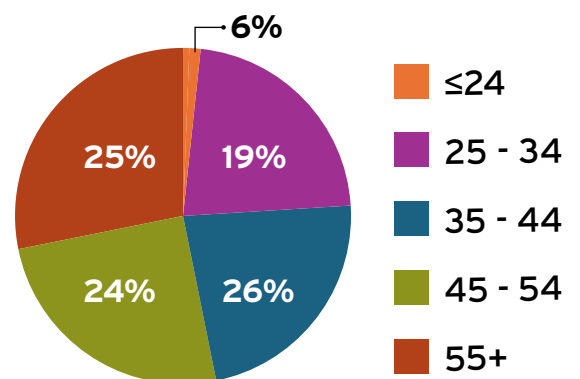


Figure 1.1 - Age

How old are you?



Population Profiles

Unsheltered Homelessness

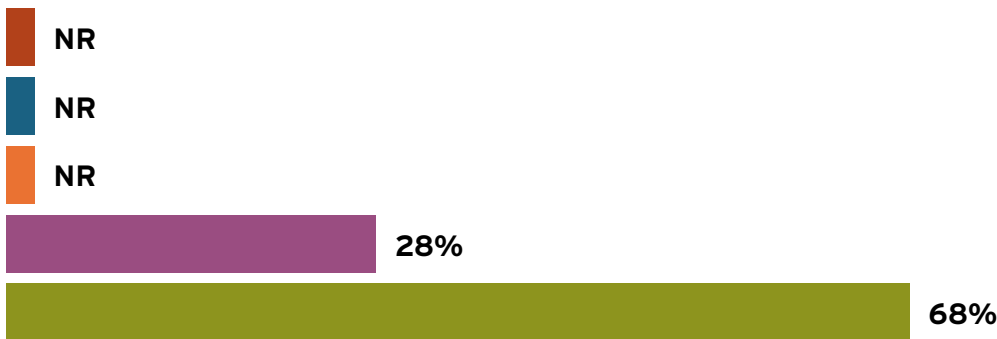
At least 224 people experienced unsheltered homelessness on the night of the enumeration, based on volunteer-observed homelessness and completed surveys. Unsheltered homelessness includes people who are sleeping in places unfit for human habitation, such as streets, alleys, parks, transit stations, abandoned buildings, vehicles, ravines, and other outdoor locations where people experiencing homelessness are known to sleep; those staying in encampments; and those tallied through observed homelessness.

Responses to the optional section of the screening survey provide demographic data for 141 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. 28% identified as women and 68% as men. The largest age range amongst respondents was 35 to 44 years old, accounting for 47% of this group.

95% of respondents did not identify as someone with a transgender experience.

Figure 2 - Gender

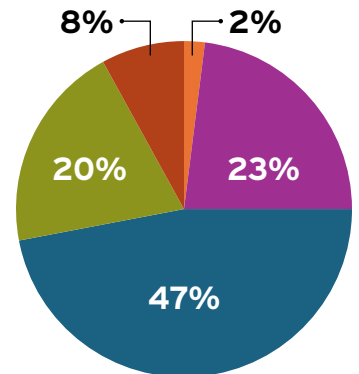
What gender do you identify with?



- Don't Know
- Two-Spirit
- Non-Binary
- Woman
- Man

Figure 2.1 - Age

How old are you?



- ≤24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55+

Population Profiles

Provisionally Accommodated

A total of six transitional housing sites participated in the 2025 enumeration by submitting system data on 173 individuals who stayed at their sites on the night of the enumeration.

Table 5 - Provisionally Accommodated

<p>Provisionally accommodated includes individuals staying in transitional housing or other accommodations that lack secure tenure, with a maximum stay of one year.</p>	<p>27% of those provisionally accommodated identified as women.</p>
	<p>73% of those provisionally accommodated identified as men.</p>
	<p>The largest age range for this group was 55+, accounting for 28%.</p>

Figure 3 - Gender

What gender do you identify with?

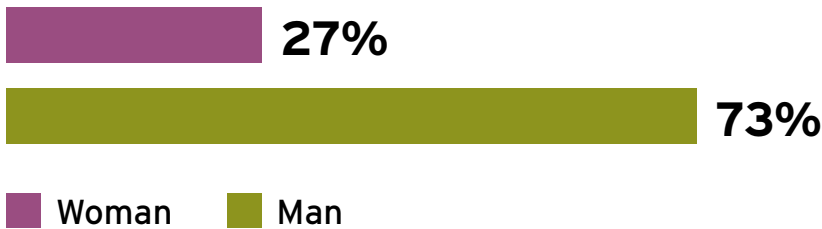
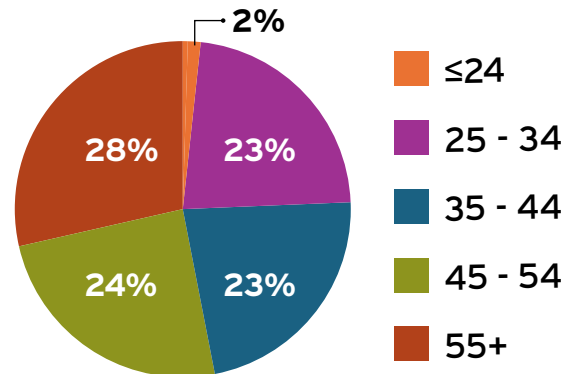


Figure 3.1 - Age

How old are you?



Youth and Homelessness

Table 6 - Youth and Homelessness

<p>Youth homelessness affects those aged 13 - 24 lacking stable housing and social supports for transitioning to adulthood, leaving them without consistent income or residence.</p>	<p>70% of those experiencing youth homelessness reported staying in a shelter (Emergency shelters and/or DV shelters) on the night of the enumeration.</p>
	<p>15% spent the night in unsheltered locations.</p>



3% of participants in the 2025 PiT Enumeration were between the ages of 13 - 24 years old.

Beyond the challenges of not having stable or consistent residence or a source of income, youth experiencing homelessness lack many of the social supports deemed necessary for the transition from childhood into adulthood. Individual and relational factors (e.g. breakdown of a key relationship at home), structural factors, and institutional system failures are amongst the main causes of youth homelessness.¹¹

11 Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Homeless Hub. "Youth Homelessness Overview." Accessed on December 15, 2025. <https://homelesshub.ca/book/youth-employment-toolkit/overview/youth-homelessness-overview/>

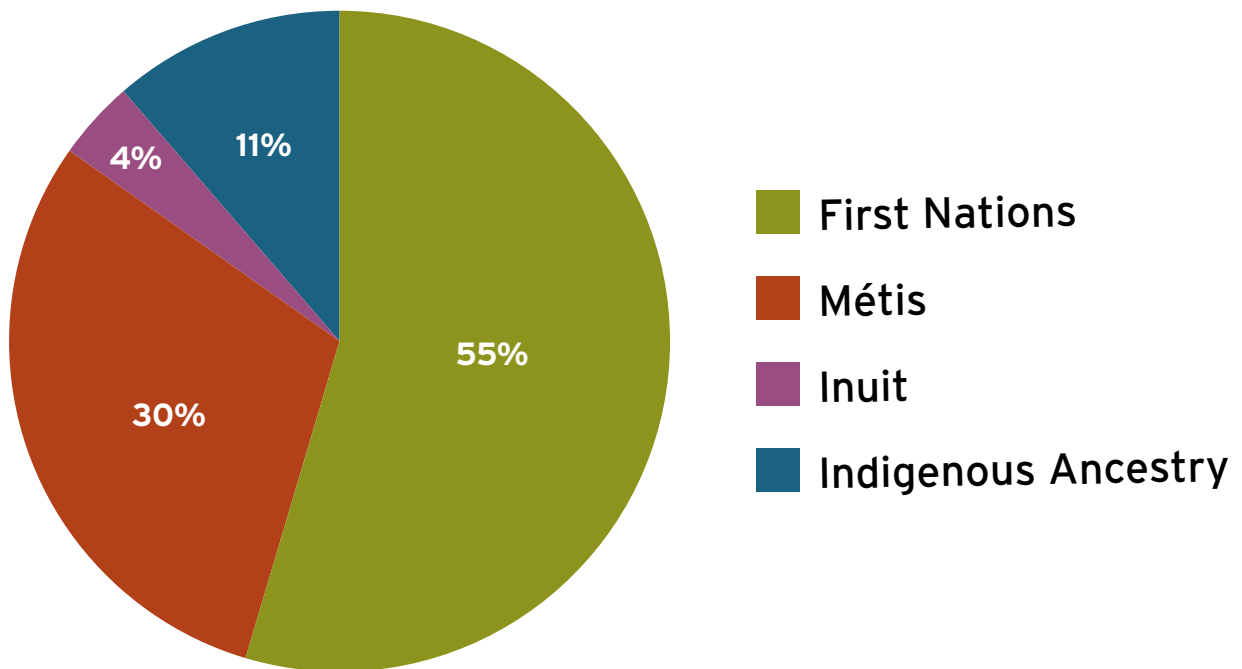
Indigenous Peoples and Homelessness

Indigenous homelessness is 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. Unlike the common colonialist definition of homelessness, 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. These include individuals, families and communities isolated from their relationships to land, water, place, family, kin, each other, animals, cultures, languages and identities. Importantly, Indigenous people experiencing these kinds of homelessness cannot culturally, spiritually, emotionally or physically reconnect with their Indigeneity or lost relationships.¹²

23% of participants in the 2025 PiT Enumeration identified as Indigenous.

Participants could identify as First Nations (With or without status), Métis, Inuit, or other North American Indigenous ancestry. Figure 4 breaks down the identities of the 23% that identified as Indigenous.

Figure 4 - Indigenous Identity



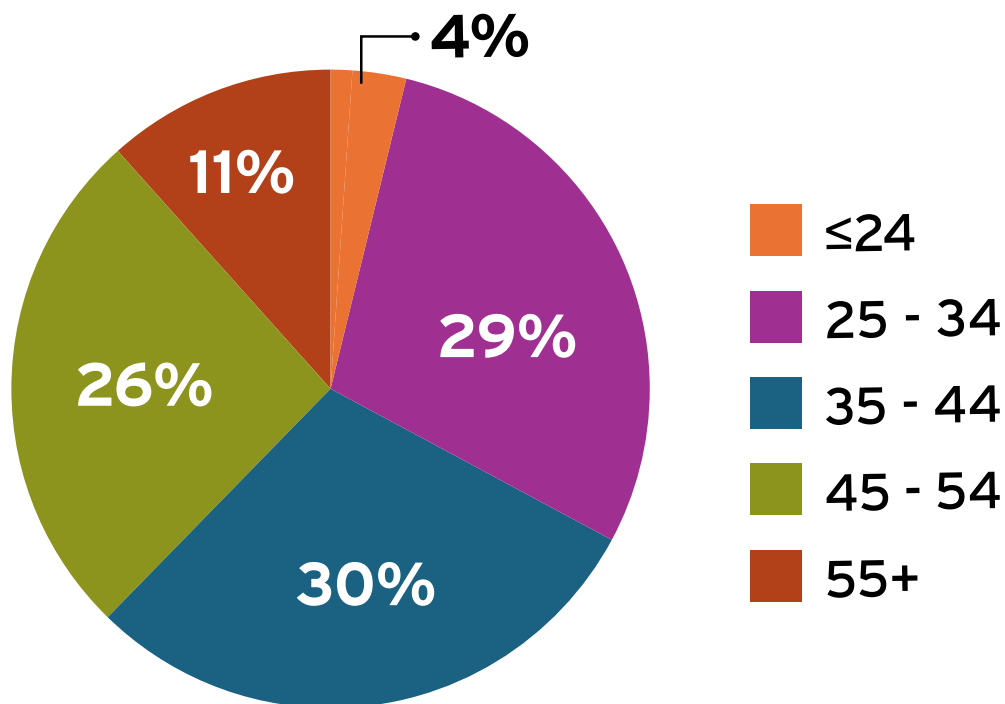
¹² Thistle, Jesse A. (2017). Indigenous Definition of Homelessness in Canada. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. <https://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/items/608b1066-7d7a-4647-b999-d5a1bbc1dda4>

Indigenous Peoples and Homelessness

Recognizing the ongoing impact of colonialism and the distinctions between Indigenous worldviews and settler definitions is vital when reflecting on Indigenous homelessness in Kelowna and other parts of Canada. Métis-Cree author Jesse Thistle's definition highlights these distinctions by noting how Indigenous worldviews understand homelessness beyond settler concepts of a lack of shelter or habitation.¹³ Indigenous homelessness is an outcome of historical and ongoing colonial practices that have displaced and dispossessed First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples from their traditional governance systems and laws, territories, histories, worldviews, ancestors, and stories.¹⁴

Figure 4.1 - Age

How old are you?



¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

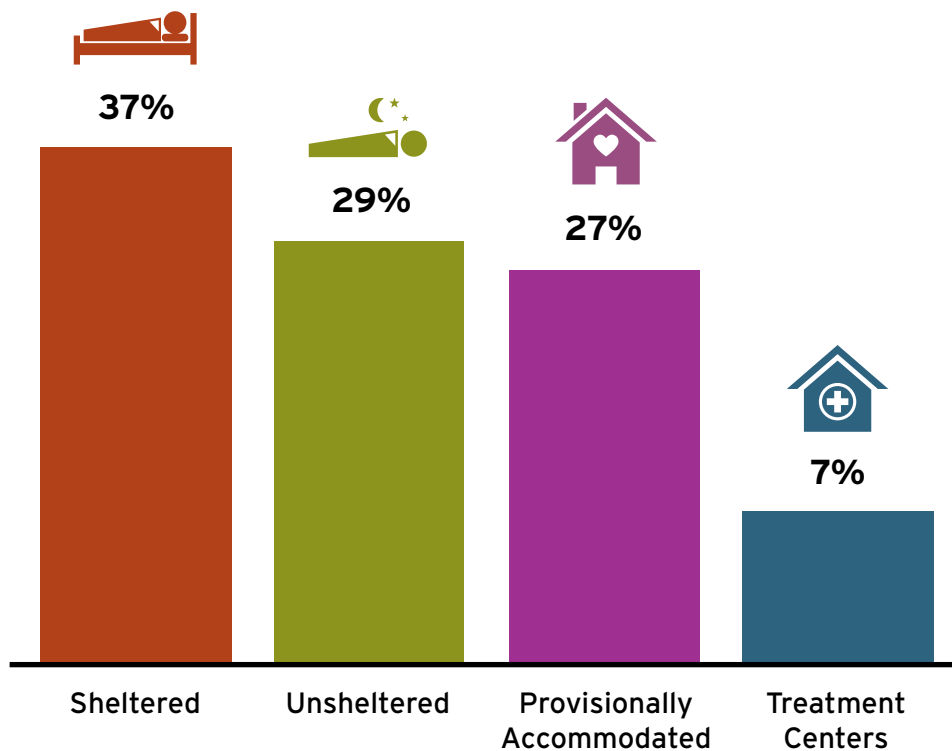
Indigenous Peoples and Homelessness

Indigenous peoples experience disproportionately high rates of homelessness due to systematic barriers, racial discrimination, colonialization, and historical trauma.¹⁵ National data from 2021 indicates that approximately 5.6% of the population in Kelowna identified as Indigenous.¹⁶ Data from the 2025 PiT Enumeration highlights the overrepresentation of Indigenous people experiencing homelessness in Kelowna, as 23% of participants identified as either First Nations (With or without status), Métis, Inuit, or other North American Indigenous ancestry.

38% of those who identified as Indigenous were women, and 60% were men. The largest age range amongst those who identified as Indigenous was 35 - 44 years old, with 30%.

Sleeping locations for the night of the enumeration varied amongst participants who identified as Indigenous. 37% spent the night in an emergency shelter, 29% in an unsheltered location, 27% in transitional housing and 7% in a treatment center.

Figure 4.2 - Indigenous Identity and Sleeping Locations



15 Homeless Hub, the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (2025). Population Groups Indigenous Peoples. <https://homelesshub.ca/collection/population-groups/indigenous-peoples/>

16 Government of Canada, Statistics Canada. (2022). 2021 Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census Kelowna. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?lang=E&topic=8&dguid=2021A00055935010>

Conclusion

The 2025 PiT Enumeration results provide a snapshot of homelessness in Kelowna, based on data collected on a single night. Homeless-serving agencies and outreach workers at the frontlines estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness in the community to be much higher. The data in this report should be interpreted as a minimum rather than a comprehensive representation of homelessness in Kelowna. Although this is only a snapshot, it helps support ongoing discussions and initiatives to address the complexities surrounding homelessness.

Homelessness remains a persistent and evolving situation affecting at least 806 people in Kelowna. However, the 2025 findings highlight the initial success of community initiatives as the number of people accessing transitional housing increased by 82% compared to 2024. The data also demonstrates a 10% increase in the number of people accessing shelters. These numbers reflect ongoing efforts to improve access to housing options by providing coordinated housing and support for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the community. Yearly conducted PiT Enumerations will provide data to support these efforts and service providers.



Appendix

Table 7 - 2025 Shelters

Agency	Program/Service	Enumeration 2025
BGC Okanagan	Youth shelter	NR
John Howard Society Okanagan and Kootenay (JHSOK)	Emergency shelter	77
Kelowna's Gospel Mission	Emergency shelter	77
Kelowna's Gospel Mission	Emergency shelter	60
New Opportunities for Women (NOW) Canada AG House	Emergency shelter	20
NOW Canada AG House	Emergency shelter	21
Turning Points Collaborative Society	Emergency shelter	43
Kelowna Women's Shelter	Domestic Violence shelter	NR
Total		308

Table 8 - 2025 Transitional Housing

Agency	Program/Service	Enumeration 2025
Connective Support Society	Transitional housing	56
JHSOK	Transitional housing	NR
JHSOK	Transitional housing	52
Turning Points Collaborative Society	Transitional housing	46
NOW Canada	Transitional housing	NR
PEOPLE - Xast wilx ^tn	Indigenous transition house	NR
Total		173

Appendix

Table 9 - 2025 Treatment Centers

Agency	Program/Service	Enumeration 2025
The Bridge Youth and Family Services	Men's treatment	NR
The Bridge Youth and Family Services	Women's treatment	NR
The Bridge Youth and Family Services	Supportive recovery	NR
The Bridge Youth and Family Services	Withdrawal management	NR
The Bridge Youth and Family Services	Youth recovery house	NR
Freedom's Door	Supportive recovery	27
Karis Support Society	Women's treatment	19
Ozanam Recovery House	Men's treatment	18
Total		79



A continued integrated approach that combines resources, data-driven strategies, and oversight from people with lived experience of homelessness will help support initiatives designed for vulnerable members of the community.



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