CUISR
COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY
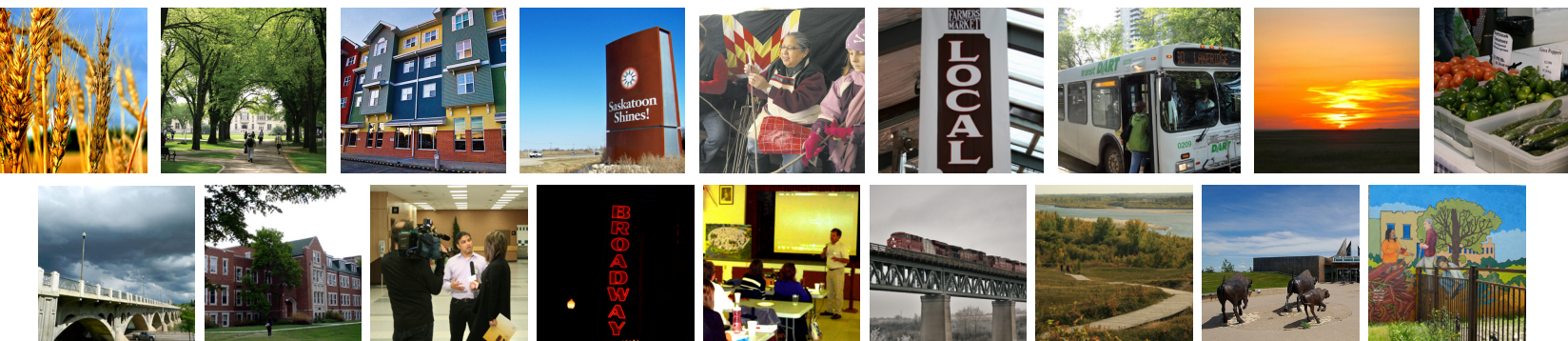### INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

Saskatoon's Homeless Population 2012:
A Research Report

Isobel M. Findlay, Bill Holden, Giselle Patrick, and Stephen Wormith

Community-University Institute for Social Research

Building healthy, sustainable communities
Since 1999, the Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR)—formally established as a university-wide interdisciplinary research centre in 2000—has remained true to its mission of facilitating "partnerships between the university and the larger community in order to engage in relevant social research that supports a deeper understanding of our communities and that reveals opportunities for improving our quality of life."

Strategic Research Directions
CUISR is committed to collaborative research and to accurate, objective reporting of research results in the public domain, taking into account the needs for confidentiality in gathering, disseminating, and storing information. In 2007 CUISR adopted five interdisciplinary strategies:

1.   Saskatoon Community Sustainability
2.   Social Economy
3.   Rural-Urban Community Links
4.   Building Alliances for Indigenous Women's Community Development
5.   Analysis of community-university partnerships

These strategic directions extend our research organized until 2007 in three modules—quality of life indicators, community health determinants and health policy, and community economic development—the result of efforts to address health, quality of life, and poverty that led to the formation of CUISR to build capacity among researchers, CBOs, and citizenry.

CUISR research projects are funded largely by SSHRC, local CBOs, provincial associations, and municipal, provincial, and federal governments. Beginning in 2007, CUISR's reputation for high quality community-based participatory research (CBPR) enabled us to diversify our funding by responding to community agency requests to conduct research projects for them for a fee.

Tools and strategies
Knowledge mobilization: CUISR disseminates research through newsletters, brown bag luncheons, reports, journal articles, monographs, videos, arts-based methods, listserv, website.

Portal bringing university and community together to address social issues: CUISR facilitates partnerships with community agencies.

Public policy: CUISR supports evidence-based practice and policy at these tables: provincial Advisory Table on Individualized Funding for People with Intellectual Disabilities, Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership, and Saskatoon Regional Intersectoral Committee (RIC).

Student training: CUISR provides training and guidance to undergraduate and graduate students and encourages community agencies to provide community orientation in order to promote positive experiences with evaluators and researchers.

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United Way of Saskatoon & Area

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

E‌XECUTIVE SUMMARY

T‌he Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) in collaboration with the United Way of Saskatoon and Area conducted an enumeration of Saskatoon's homeless population on September 24, 2012. A previous count conducted by CUISR in 2008 focused on absolute and sheltered homeless individuals and used the same "snap shot" approach to collect the data, which represents homelessness for the city on a given day. The purpose of the count was two-fold: first, to develop an estimate of the number of homeless persons in Saskatoon; and, second, to better understand the nature of homelessness in the city, the current pattern of service use, and the particular barriers to locating permanent residences faced by individuals experiencing homelessness. Although all such counts represent an underestimation of the problem because of methodological and other challenges, they provide useful evidence to enhance public awareness and to shape policy and program decision making. This count will inform definitions of homelessness and establish a baseline homeless count for subsequent community homelessness policy and program development. Increasing understanding of the challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness in Saskatoon will help community agencies to better address those challenges, to tailor initiatives to reported needs of the population, and to help reduce or mitigate homelessness.

Since the 1980s, efforts to understand and address homelessness in Canada have helped refine data collection methods and definitions of homelessness. Homelessness takes four distinct forms: absolute, sheltered, hidden, and at risk.

- The absolute homeless are people with no permanent residence or conventional housing alternatives, including shelters, safe houses, or transition houses.

- The sheltered homeless also have no permanent residence; however, these persons currently reside in emergency accommodations, such as shelters, safe houses, and transition houses.

- The hidden homeless are persons without secure housing. These persons would suffer absolute or sheltered homelessness if they could not stay temporarily with friends and/ or family or acquaintances.

- The at risk homeless are persons who have a permanent address but live in inadequate, overcrowded, or overpriced housing and are at risk of losing access to their present home.

Learning from lessons learned and good practices in other jurisdictions, the project had two components:

- An enumeration, which counted the number of homeless individuals staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing (hereafter indoors) and outdoors.

- A street needs assessment, which was a survey examining homeless individuals' service use patterns and needs.

It was intended that more shelters would be surveyed, but miscommunication within some of the shelters' administrations meant that volunteers were not able to access them on the night of the count. Hospital emergency rooms, acute care wards, remand centres, and city jail **were not included** in the survey.

Twenty-seven people who reported that they would be staying at a friend's house agreed to be surveyed even though the screening instructions made clear that any answer that revealed they would be sleeping indoors ended the survey. These surveyed individuals have been included in the data reported in the results section because (a) they do represent the homeless (the hidden homeless in this case); (b) their voices are worthy of inclusion; and (c) the data are valuable in terms of policy and program development.

After an environmental scan reporting on homelessness studies in a number of Canadian jurisdictions and a section explaining research methods, this report presents indoor and outdoor survey findings and discusses their implications for planning and delivery of services, for addressing challenges experienced by individuals, and for developing strategies to reduce or eliminate homelessness.

Count Results

The count found that 368 adults and 11 children were homeless in Saskatoon on September 24, 2012. A breakdown of the total number of 379 shows:

- 72 people slept outdoors

- 27 spent the night with friends

- 269 people stayed in shelters, motels, or transition housing

- 9 children were reported with parents surveyed indoors

- 2 children were reported with parents outdoors

The 2008 CUISR survey using similar methodology counted 260 homeless people in Saskatoon. The 2008 survey count included 32 children.

For locations of indoor surveys, see Table i.

Table i. Indoor Survey

Services Primarily Accessed by Homeless Individuals	Number of Persons	Percentage
Adelle House	4	7.4
YWCA	10	18.5
Lighthouse	16	29.6
Kanewymick	4	7.4
McLeod House	4	7.4
Detox	5	9.5
Salvation Army – Men's	10	18.5
Shelter unrecorded	1	1.7
Total	54	100

Street Needs Assessment Results

Respondent Demographics

- Homelessness is experienced by people of all ages. Although a slight majority of persons surveyed (20%) were between the ages of 20 and 29, people experiencing homelessness in the age groups of 30-39 and 40-49 represented 17.9% and 18.6% of the total respectively. There were 9 (6.4%) under 20s. The data exclude the reported children.

- Most survey respondents (61.4%) self-identified as male; 37.9% self-identified as female.

- The most frequently reported ethnicities were Caucasian and Aboriginal. In the shelters, approximately 61% self-identified as Aboriginal and approximately 37% were Caucasian. Close to 70% of the outdoor survey respondents were Aboriginal and approximately 28% were Caucasian.

Sources of Income

Social Services were the most often cited form of income for indoor respondents (26%); 22 % in the case of outdoor respondents. Government programs and family/friends were the next most cited forms of income for indoor respondents, listed by approximately 17 (or 15.7 %) and 14 (or 13 %) respondents, respectively, while another 11 (10%) of the indoor respondents listed formal employment and 12 (or 11.1 %) informal employment as their main income source.

By comparison, in the 2008 count, approximately half (45%) of the indoor respondents cited formal employment as their main source of income.

After family and friends (21 or 16 %), informal employment was cited as the main source of income for 15% of outdoor participants, followed by day jobs (11.4%) and panhandling (10.6%). For outdoor respondents in

2008, day jobs and formal employment were the highest (27.8%), followed by informal employment, family and friends, and panhandling (all at 22.2%).

Men located either out-of-doors or at shelters reported higher rates of formal and informal employment as well as day jobs than women. Employed individuals living in shelters had full-time work, while employed individuals living out-of-doors were more likely to list part-time work.

Forty-one (76%) indoor respondents were staying alone, while nine (16.6%) reported they were staying with their children. While 33.3% of outdoor participants were staying alone, the majority were staying with one to six adults. Two were observed with one child each.

Current and Past Housing

- Asked where they planned to sleep on the night of the count and the night before, individuals most frequently listed "at a friend's" (hence, hidden homeless), followed closely by "other." A follow-up, open-ended question provided insight into the meaning of "other" which included police station, hotel, family, camper, hotel, and detox.

- While 8 had stayed at a shelter for under a week and 13 for less than a month, most respondents (24) had stayed for between 1 month and a year; 5 reported over a year.

- Most respondents (67) had been without a residence for less than one year (57.4 % for indoor respondents; 41.8% for outdoor respondents). Of indoor respondents, seven (13%) had had a permanent residence less than one month prior to the count night; ten (11.7%) outdoor respondents had had a permanent residence within a month of the count. Twenty indoor respondents (37%) and 15 (17.4%) outdoor respondents had not been in private housing for more than a year. For thirteen outdoor respondents (15.1%) it had been more than 2 years.

Waiting List Registration

- Of the respondents only 13.7% were on a waiting list for housing.

- Overall and for both outdoor and indoor respondents, there were more females than males on waiting lists.

- The most frequently cited waiting list was the Saskatoon Housing Authority's waiting list (10 respondents); the Cress Housing waiting list was the next most frequently cited (3 respondents). Twelve respondents were on "other" waiting lists; one identified Affinity housing, one a private apartment, and one was on their own waiting list (reporting "self").

- For the indoor survey the majority of respondents cited more than a month but less than a year on waiting lists, and none went over a year. While most outdoor respondents similarly reported less than a year on waiting lists, three reported over a year and four over two years. Respondents reported they had checked their applications under a week ago, but some had waited as long as a year.

- The majority of respondents found the application process difficult. The most common difficulties were the cost of available housing, inability to obtain references, and eligibility concerns.

Service Use Patterns

- Overall, health clinics, followed by the hospital / ER services and then shelters, were the most used. Indoor residents used shelters most frequently (79% of respondents) although this was not a common response for outdoor respondents (28% of respondents). Health clinics were the most commonly used service by outdoor respondents (61%) and were indoor respondents' second-most used service (45%). Hospitals or emergency rooms were also frequently used by respondents (39% of outdoor respondents and 29% of indoor respondents).

- Shelters were most frequently reported as helping respondents find housing (14 indoor respondents and four outdoor respondents). Respondents felt that the majority of services did not help them locate housing. Of the 544 times that services were used in the past 6 months, only 75 times was there an additional result of helping the individual find housing.

- 26 or 18.6 % of outdoor respondents experienced difficulties in accessing services.

- Of the 52 indoor participants who responded, 30 (55.6%) had a long-term housing plan; only 28 (32,6%) of outdoor respondents had such a plan. More men (34 or 38.2%) than women (24 or 48%) had a plan. Of the 58 with a housing plan, 48 persons had an anticipated time to move ranging from one week (16) to one year (8).

- Of the health and justice services, respondents had most often been in contact with the police followed by ambulance, jail/detention, and probation/parole. Most reported not receiving help with housing. Males had more contact than females with police and probation/parole.

Finding Housing

- Perceived housing affordability (72) was the most commonly cited barrier to finding housing. Lifestyle factors such as alcohol and drug addiction, as well as discrimination, were mentioned by six people. The next most cited barriers included having no idea where to start to find own residence, reference, and eligibility issues (4 each).

- Asked about supports to help find housing, respondents listed as the top four responses "help finding affordable housing," "more money," "transportation to see apartments," and "help with housing applications."

Life Experiences

- While veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces represented only 4.3% of respondents, approximately 38% of respondents had experienced physical violence while living outside—an important reflection of people's vulnerability to victimization on the streets. Interestingly, those experiencing sheltered homelessness were less likely to have been victims of violence on the streets: 27.8% compared with 44.1%. Importantly, women were more likely to have experienced violence than men: 48% compared with 32.6%. One woman expressed fear for her safety on the night of the count, acknowledging the risks associated with her need for food and a place to stay and expressing concern that she not be "found dead" by the morning.

- Close to half of those surveyed had lived with foster families during childhood. The percentage of individuals living indoors and outdoors were fairly evenly represented in the results, although the number of outdoor respondents was almost double that of indoor respondents.

- Although more men than women reported experience of foster care (38 compared with 26), proportionately more women than men shared foster care experience. Twenty-three or 16.4 % remained in foster care until 18.

- By location the numbers were similar, although 13.9 % (outdoor) compared with 20.4% (indoor). Although there was exactly the same number of men and women who remained in care until 18, the men represented 12.3% of their total while the women represented 22%.

Key Findings

- The 2008 and 2012 counts show that there are several consistent issues that amplify the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

- Most commonly reported ethnicities were Caucasian and Aboriginal, with the Aboriginal representation being twice that of the Caucasian. Aboriginal and Caucasian representation was almost identical in 2008.

- Locating employment was shown to be of primary concern to the population of people experiencing homelessness.

- Only 10% of indoor respondents cited formal employment as a source of income compared with close to half in 2008.

- The high cost of housing and continual rent increases, along with a difficult job market, have created significant barriers to accessing reliable housing.

- The majority of the respondents were not on waiting lists. Respondents may be unaware of the waiting lists, or face criteria to get on to the waiting list that may be difficult to fulfill.

- Women use waiting lists more than men.

- Respondents reported 544 uses of health clinics, hospitals, and other services and only 75 instances of help with housing.

INTRODUCTION

On September 24, 2012, Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) in collaboration with the United Way of Saskatoon and Area conducted an enumeration of Saskatoon's homeless population. This research is a follow up on a 2008 CUISR count funded by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (Human Resources and Skills Development Canada) and focused on absolute and sheltered homeless individuals. The 2012 count used the same "snap shot" approach to collect the data, representing homelessness in the city on a given day. The purpose of the count was two-fold: (1) to develop an estimate of the number of homeless persons in Saskatoon and (2) to better understand the nature of homelessness in the city and the factors that complicate it; in particular, to identify the current pattern of service use and barriers to locating permanent residences faced by homeless. The count will inform definitions of homelessness, establish baseline data for subsequent community homelessness policy and program development in Saskatoon, and help develop strategies to reduce or mitigate homelessness.

The United Nations (1981) declared for 1987 "an international year devoted to the problems of homeless people in urban and rural areas of the developing countries" in order "to focus the attention of the international community on those problems" in recognition of "the grave and generally worsening situation of the homeless in the developing countries." By 1987, however, the focus had extended to include the so-called developed world and the year 1987 was host to many conferences on homelessness in Canada reflecting a growing experience with "dehousing processes" resulting from government cuts to social housing (Hulchanski, 2009). The United Nations (1981) defined two categories of homelessness: the absolute; that is, "Individuals living in the street with no physical shelter of their own, including those who spend their nights in emergency shelters" and relative; that is, "People living in spaces that do not meet the basic health and safety standards" including protection from the elements; access to safe water and sanitation; security of tenure and personal safety; affordability; access to employment, education and health care; and the provision of minimum space to avoid overcrowding" (Cited in City of Calgary, 2009, p. 12). Within the broad literature, homelessness takes four distinct forms: absolute, sheltered, hidden, and at risk.

- The absolute homeless are people with no permanent residence or conventional housing alternatives, including shelters, safe houses, or transition houses.

- The sheltered homeless also have no permanent residence; however these persons currently reside in emergency accommodations, such as shelters, safe houses, and transition houses.

- The hidden homeless are persons without secure housing. These persons would suffer either absolute or sheltered homelessness if they could not stay temporarily with friends and/ or family or acquaintances.

- The at risk homeless are persons who have a permanent address but live in inadequate, overcrowded, or overpriced housing and are at risk of losing access to their present home.

In Europe, homelessness has been associated with three domains: physical, social, and legal. According to the European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA, 2007), "Having a home can be understood as: having an adequate dwelling (or space) over which a person and his/her family can exercise exclusive possession (physical domain); being able to maintain privacy and enjoy relations (social domain) and having a legal title to occupation (legal domain)." The European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (ETHOS) classifies the absolute homeless as "roofless" or "houseless" and the "relatively homeless" as "insecure" or "inadequate"; each of the four categories is further categorized as "people living rough," "people living in emergency accommodation," and "people due to be released from institutions" and further related to living conditions (penal or medical institutions, children's homes, for instance).

In Canada homelessness has been related to a continuum of shelter types or housing situation (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012; Canadian Homelessness Research Network, 2012; City of Calgary, 2008; 2012; Metro Vancouver, 2011; Echenberg & Jensen, 2012; Sorensen, 2012); to levels of a pyramid where absolute homelessness is only the "tip of the iceberg" masking hidden homelessness (Metro Vancouver, 2012; Echenberg & Jensen, 2012); as well as to duration or frequency; that is, how long someone has been experiencing homelessness in such broad categories as chronic, cyclical, and temporary homelessness (Echenberg & Jensen, 2012).

The continuum of shelter type definition has been the one most widely used in Canada in the recent literature and counts (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012; Canadian Homelessness Research Network, 2012; City of Calgary, 2008, 2009, 2012; Echenberg & Jensen, 2012;; Metro Vancouver, 2012). The current study follows this literature and focuses on absolute and sheltered homelessness.

After an environmental scan reporting on homelessness studies in a number of Canadian jurisdictions and a section explaining research methods, this report presents indoor and outdoor survey findings and discusses their implications for planning and delivery of services, for addressing challenges experienced by individuals, and for developing strategies to reduce or eliminate homelessness.

Environmental Scan

How homelessness is defined has clear implications for policy and program decision making. According to the Canadian Homelessness Research Network (CHRN) (2012), homelessness is "the situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it." It is not typically a choice of individuals and families, but "the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination." Even in "crisis situations,"

society may fail "to ensure that adequate systems, funding and support are in place" for individuals and families to have access to housing (CHRN, 2012).

Although there are four types of homelessness—absolute, sheltered, hidden, and at risk—as defined by the continuum of shelter types, homeless counts in Canada in the last decade, specifically those of Calgary (2008, 2012), Vancouver (2011), Edmonton (2012) and Toronto (2006), have focused on absolute and sheltered homelessness. Although all reports do not refer to the categories by the same terms, there are clear continuities in definitions and in a focus on the absolute and sheltered homeless; the hidden homeless and at risk homeless are generally not captured in counts. CHRN (2012) refers to the Absolute Homeless as the Unsheltered and the Hidden Homeless as the Provisionally Accommodated. Another example of differential naming is included in the Calgary Homeless Foundation (2012) count of persons experiencing homelessness, with a focus on absolute and sheltered homelessness, which they variously referred to as "absolute," "unsheltered homeless," or "rough sleepers" and "sheltered homeless" (including those in emergency shelters, short-term supportive housing, jails, and hospitals).

According to Echenberg and Jensen (2012), there are methodological obstacles to the count and enumeration of persons who are experiencing homelessness at any given time. The population itself presents a unique set of complications. That they effectively have no permanent dwelling makes contacting everyone experiencing this situation at best difficult. Metro Vancouver (2012) lists some serious impediments to counts when, for example, some food bank rules require addresses from clients who may then make arrangements with friends or families to use their addresses. Similarly, some may misrepresent their situation out of fear that they might lose shelter allowances. As CHRN (2012) makes clear, it is also challenging to count when "homelessness is not a static state but rather a fluid experience, where one's shelter circumstances and options may shift and change quite dramatically and with frequency." Statistics Canada concluded that a comprehensive count would be "prohibitively expensive" (as much as $10 million) and methodologically challenging (Echenberg & Jensen, 2012, p. 3). Hence, "all Homeless Counts are inherently undercounts" (Metro Vancouver, 2012, p. 1).

However, using the definitions related to the continuum of shelter type, it seems somewhat more feasible to access persons experiencing sheltered and absolute homelessness in a shelter or on the streets. Counting and enumerating persons experiencing hidden or at risk homelessness remains difficult. Persons who are experiencing these types of homelessness are even less likely to be found in the same place from one day to another. In addition, persons who are experiencing these two types of homelessness may not even consider themselves to be experiencing homelessness, as homelessness is generally understood to mean either absolute or sheltered homelessness.

The "snapshot" or "point-in-time" methodology is the only methodology that has been used to count the population of people experiencing homelessness across cities in Canada (Metro Vancouver, 2011; Toronto, 2006; Edmonton, 2012; Calgary, 2008, 2012). This methodology has two components: a count and an interview generally completed with both the sheltered and absolute homeless. Different cities have tailored the methodology to suit their needs; however, the basic premise remains the same across the cities. In the counts, as in the research, the cities have generally used results, limitations, and recommendations from previous counts to refine and inform the subsequent

count. As a result the methodology of the counts has, generally speaking, changed over time. A review of the methodology used in the most recently available counts of Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, and Calgary as well as the 2008 count of the population experiencing homelessness in Saskatoon was used to inform the methodology of the 2012 Homeless Count in Saskatoon.

Calgary

The City of Calgary carried out biennial counts of its homeless population between 1992 and 2008, using a point-in-time method to count the number of homeless indoors and outdoors in a 24 hour time period in May. In 2008, however, the absolute homeless population had exceeded the City's ability to carry out a point-in-time count of that group of homeless, and as a result it estimated the number of absolute homeless using regression analyses. It is important to note that Calgary had previously completed nine point-in-time counts of its population of people experiencing homelessness (City of Calgary, 2008). It is also noted across different Canadian counts of homelessness that regardless of the accuracy of the count design, it is impossible to count all the persons experiencing homelessness. The point-in-time snapshot which "captures the size and characteristics" of the population can produce useful data, especially when it is augmented by frequent counts.

The City of Calgary (2009) report documents best practices and lessons learned over sixteen years and nine biennial counts which increased in scope to take account of increased awareness, additional service providers (and agency classification issues), and homelessness extending across further zones of the city, although forest and wilderness areas within city limits were excluded for logistical reasons. It is especially informative on methodological issues: definitions of homelessness, count timing and duration, data collection, and street counts. Three key lessons relate to "advance planning, adequate resourcing, and extensive yet targeted consultation" to access and coordinate the human resources required for a rigorous count (p. i).

In 2008 Calgary developed its 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and committed to a mandatory Homeless Management Information System that would give real-time data on numbers, demographics, needs, causes, and interventions. Until it is operational, Calgary would continue its biennial point-in-time census using in 2008 the ETHOS classifications, but estimating the street homelessness on a probability model rather than coordinating a street count. The loss of demographic data was compensated by a Voices from the Street survey organized by service providers. The ETHOS criteria produced more detailed information that clarified how and where capacity and occupancy could be adjusted (City of Calgary, 2009). The Calgary checklist on count timing and duration identifies the importance of consultation and consistency in the following: count cycle, time of year subject to least seasonal variation, standardized day of the week, date that moderates income support program effects, and count duration appropriate to location.

The most recent count and enumeration of persons experiencing homelessness in Calgary was completed by the Calgary Homeless Foundation on January 18, 2012, and was methodologically similar to the 2008 count, but

distinct in excluding "permanent supportive housing" and in the timing of the count. According to best practices, it is recommended that the "point-in-time" methodology be completed in the winter months, as it effectively forces homeless persons to seek shelter of some type. Being present in a shelter makes it easier to count numbers. In addition, it means that as many persons as possible will access shelters and that number will represent the most accurate count of persons experiencing homelessness. The count included an enumeration and a count of the persons residing in shelters on the night of the count as well as on the streets. To gauge seasonal fluctuation a second count was conducted in August 2012. The count found a decrease of 11.4% in overall homelessness and a 49% decrease in systems (jails and hospitals) homelessness but an increase of 13.4% in emergency shelters. Aboriginal people were over-represented. If women were under-represented overall, they were 40% of those in short-term supportive housing where they would be less vulnerable to violence and exploitation and where their children would be safe (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012).

Vancouver

The 2011 point-in-time count of persons experiencing homelessness in the Metro Vancouver Area used a 24-hour snapshot from midnight on March 15 to midnight March 16. It was comparable to the 2005 and 2008 count in the same region, although this was the first to include comprehensively those in "temporary facilities" (such as jails, remand centres, hospitals, emergency rooms, detoxification beds, and psychiatric units) and without "a fixed address to return to upon discharge" (Metro Vancouver, 2012, p. 5). The count was completed by counting persons experiencing sheltered homelessness from 4:00 p.m. to midnight on the night of March 15, whereas persons experiencing absolute homelessness, which they referred to as unsheltered, were counted from early morning to midnight on the 16th. The survey instruments were pre-tested with those experiencing homelessness and refined using information from the 2008 count to better screen and reduce the risk of capturing people who should not be counted, such as persons already enumerated or counted, persons not experiencing homelessness as well as persons experiencing hidden or at risk homelessness.

The 2011 Vancouver Metro count of persons experiencing homelessness differentiated between the count and the enumeration, stating that persons counted as homeless included persons staying in shelters, staying on the streets, and people with no fixed address found in health, corrections, and recovery facilities on the night of March 15. The surveyed population, however, includes all persons who were counted and completed an interview instrument on March 15 or 16. Low income and high rents were the major reported reasons for homelessness. Aboriginal people remained over-represented, Francophones were the next largest ethnic group, and new Canadians self-identified. Youth and women's homelessness increased, while seniors experienced longer-term homelessness. Although there was the highest reported number of homeless families, a marked shift from unsheltered to sheltered homeless, and increasing health and food access issues, this count found that the region has made "one step forward" in that homelessness had not grown in three years despite difficult economic times. Progress was associated with partnerships among governments, municipalities, and agencies that helped link those experiencing homelessness with

income, housing, and supports or what they call the "three ways to home" (Metro Vancouver, 2012).

Edmonton

The most recent count of the homeless population completed in Edmonton was done on the night of October 15, 2012, by shelter operators and by agencies on October 16 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Sorensen, 2012). It was coordinated by the Homeward Trust, a community-based, comprehensive housing organization committed to the "housing first" principles "at the core of both the municipal and provincial ten year plans to end homelessness, and the Housing First Support Program." Housing First promotes everyone's "right to a safe, secure home" and ending homelessness "by providing permanent housing and follow-up support" (Sorensen, 2012). As was done in the Calgary count of 2011 and Vancouver count (2011), there was a street count and a shelter count. The homeless count in Edmonton, as in Calgary, is completed biennially, and uses a point-in-time methodology. The persons counted in the street are considered to be representative of the unsheltered or absolute homeless, while the persons counted in shelters are considered to be the sheltered homeless. Three methodological changes were made: counting the shelter numbers the night before to facilitate shelter participation and, with appropriate screening, to reduce double counting; removal of secondary caregivers of dependent children; and the addition of questions about age and Aboriginal identity. The count found a reduction in unsheltered homelessness that correlated closely with the increase in the sheltered—a trend reported in both Calgary and Vancouver.

Toronto

The Toronto count of persons experiencing homelessness (2006) was used to inform the count of the persons experiencing homelessness in Saskatoon in 2008, and to some extent the present count in 2012 in Saskatoon. The methodology informed by academic literature and discussions with local groups and with jurisdictions across Canada and the US was a point-in-time one and it was completed on April 19, 2006, and did not capture the hidden or at-risk homeless. The report did not use the terms sheltered and unsheltered as in the Edmonton count, but rather used the terms "indoor" for sheltered homelessness and "outdoor" for those persons experiencing absolute homelessness. The streets need assessment gave those experiencing homelessness "opportunity to have their voice heard directly and provided insights into their service needs" (p. 28). Seventy percent were in the central core of the city and Aboriginal people represented 16% of the total but 26% of the outdoor homeless and experienced homelessness for longer periods (5.3 years) than non-Aboriginal people (3.1 years). Participants overwhelmingly wanted permanent housing and identified these five ways that would help them find housing (findings consistent with 2009 findings):

1. (i) Help finding an affordable place
2. (ii) More money

3. Transportation to see apartments

4. Help with housing applications

5. Help getting identification

The April 15, 2009, Toronto Street Needs Assessment used a consistent, methodology to ensure comparability with the 2006 results. The 2005 City commitment to a Housing First approach to ending street homelessness showed significant results by 2009: a 51% reduction on the street homeless and a 1.6% reduction in the sheltered homeless. These results are especially striking given the economic environment and increases in homelessness elsewhere. Fluctuations in family shelter numbers—decreasing 59%, 2001-2005, but increasing by 43%, 2005-2009—was associated with "international geopolitical circumstances and federal immigration policy" (Toronto, 2009, p. 3). While their overall representation reduced from 16.2 % to 15.4 % in 2009 and they were less likely to be living outdoors, Aboriginal people were still disproportionately represented in both the overall homeless population and in the outdoor homeless population (28.7%). As in 2006, the homeless are "frequent users of expensive emergency services like hospitals, ambulance, and the justice system"; such service use is "substantially more expensive than housing-based responses to homelessness" (p. 4). The report concluded that ongoing "implementation of the Housing First approach throughout all housing and homelessness services provided by the City, including in shelters and through the Streets to Homes program, is needed to build on the clear progress" (p. 5). A third Street Needs Assessment using the same methodology to assess progress was scheduled for April 17, 2013 (Toronto, 2013).

Methods

The information garnered from the experience of cities doing enumerations and counts of their homeless population for longer than Saskatoon informed the 2008 count (modeled on the Toronto example) and the present count. The City of Toronto's count is well established and its needs assessment survey covers content areas the researchers considered important for the assessment of needs and gaps in service provision for homeless individuals. The point-in-time methodology was used to count the number of homeless persons encountered both indoors and outdoors in a specific 24-hour time period (September 24, 2012) in the city of Saskatoon. The research team selected the research date so that the day and night time temperature and light conditions would closely approximate those of the May 2008 count to increase comparability of results.

Refinements from the 2008 count included concentration on areas that are known to be areas frequently visited by persons experiencing absolute homelessness, addition of questions on life experiences to the survey questionnaire and a prompt in the screening ("If you couldn't stay there [friend's house] tonight would you sleep outside or in a shelter?") designed to capture hidden homeless numbers, as well as the use of a retroactive count of persons

who used shelters and overnight facilities on the night of the count. A volunteer debrief and interview with a previously homeless volunteer were also added. The refinements served to augment the information in the 2012 report by giving an estimate of the numbers of persons experiencing sheltered homelessness in addition to absolute homelessness. This counting method is conducted by teams of volunteers assigned to specific grids within one 24-hour period, providing a "snap shot" of the homeless population at the time of the survey. For the 2012 iteration, teams of volunteers conducted in-person interviews with two survey questionnaires: an indoor survey (shelter) and an outdoor survey. When developing the methodology, the research team consulted the version of the surveys used in conjunction with the CUISR 2008 report. The survey items used for the questionnaire were modeled on the CUISR 2008 survey, although some wording was modified and some content was added based on the 2008 findings.

Three questions were added to the indoor and outdoor surveys in the 2012 count. The three additional questions asked about specific life experiences: whether participants were veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces, had experienced physical violence in their youth while living outdoors, and whether they had lived with foster families, and, if so, had they lived with them until turning 18. This information was added because studies have suggested that for some persons homelessness may not have been a function only of social and environmental barriers, but may have been a way of life starting from a much earlier point in their lives.

Most of the project's survey areas were on the West side of the city, an area with a large Aboriginal population. While including an ethnicity item in the questionnaire likely resulted in an overrepresentation of Aboriginal respondents, the researchers felt it was important to include this demographic item. An estimate of the number of individuals of Aboriginal ancestry who are homeless will help provide information on the level of demand for culturally-sensitive approaches and interventions. In addition, because of the recent economic boom, the city has attracted individuals from outside the province, including immigrant populations.

It is fairly common practice to provide survey research participants a small honorarium to compensate for their participation and increase response rates. The researchers opted not to provide honoraria for participating because the research participants were part of a vulnerable population and providing a reward for participating could be construed as coercive. In addition to potentially creating safety issues for volunteers and participants, it could also result in skewed results if people were incentivized into identifying themselves as homeless. This was the decision in the 2008 count of the homeless persons in Saskatoon, and the decision was endorsed by those leading the present study. It was also the recommendation of Saskatoon Police Service that volunteer safety could be compromised if they carried money (or other valuables). The outdoor and indoor survey instruments are included in Appendices A and B respectively.

Ethical Review

The study was approved by the University of Saskatchewan's Behavioural Research Ethics Board on September 17, 2012, based on the 2008 application, and thus, the survey opened with a statement assuring the

respondent of his/her confidentiality and anonymity. Because of the difficulties involved with administering consent forms to the population under study, completion of the survey constituted informed consent. Volunteers did not approach individuals on private property to recruit participants and were asked not to wake up any individuals they saw sleeping in public places.

Volunteer Training

Consistent with obligations under ethics review to mitigate risks for volunteer surveyors and interviewing respondents, volunteers were trained in sessions over three days in the use of the instruments. Volunteer surveyors were recruited via email communication with contacts on Saskatoon United Way's and CUISR's email networks. Because of the nature of these established networks, many of the volunteers had health, social work, or psychology backgrounds and were highly committed to the project.

Volunteers completed a training session on September 21, 22, or 24, 2012, at the Saskatoon Friendship Inn. The training comprised a short background on homelessness, including the definitions of the types of homelessness used for the research. The trainer went through the surveys and how they should be completed, allowing time for questions about the surveys. The trainer then provided an overview of the schedule for count night, following which the volunteers stayed for a short discussion on how to approach and interact with vulnerable participants. In addition, a member of the Saskatoon City Police Community Support Officers was present at all training sessions and did a presentation to the volunteers instructing them on safety and risk avoidance for the count night. Volunteers were also advised to bring pen, watch, flashlight, cell phone, and backpack and to dress in layers and in bright colours.

Outdoor Survey

In consultation with the study Advisory Group and staff at city shelters and other agencies and organizations involved with homeless individuals, areas of the city were identified where homeless people tend to be located (as in the 2008 homeless count). The areas included in the survey area grid included: (1) west of Spadina Crescent to Avenue Y between 20 and 22 Street; (2) the Central Business District down 11 to 25 Street; and (3) along the riverbank. Parks within the city, shelters and additional discrete locations which were identified by community partners were also included (see map).

Homeless Count of Saskatoon – Study Areas
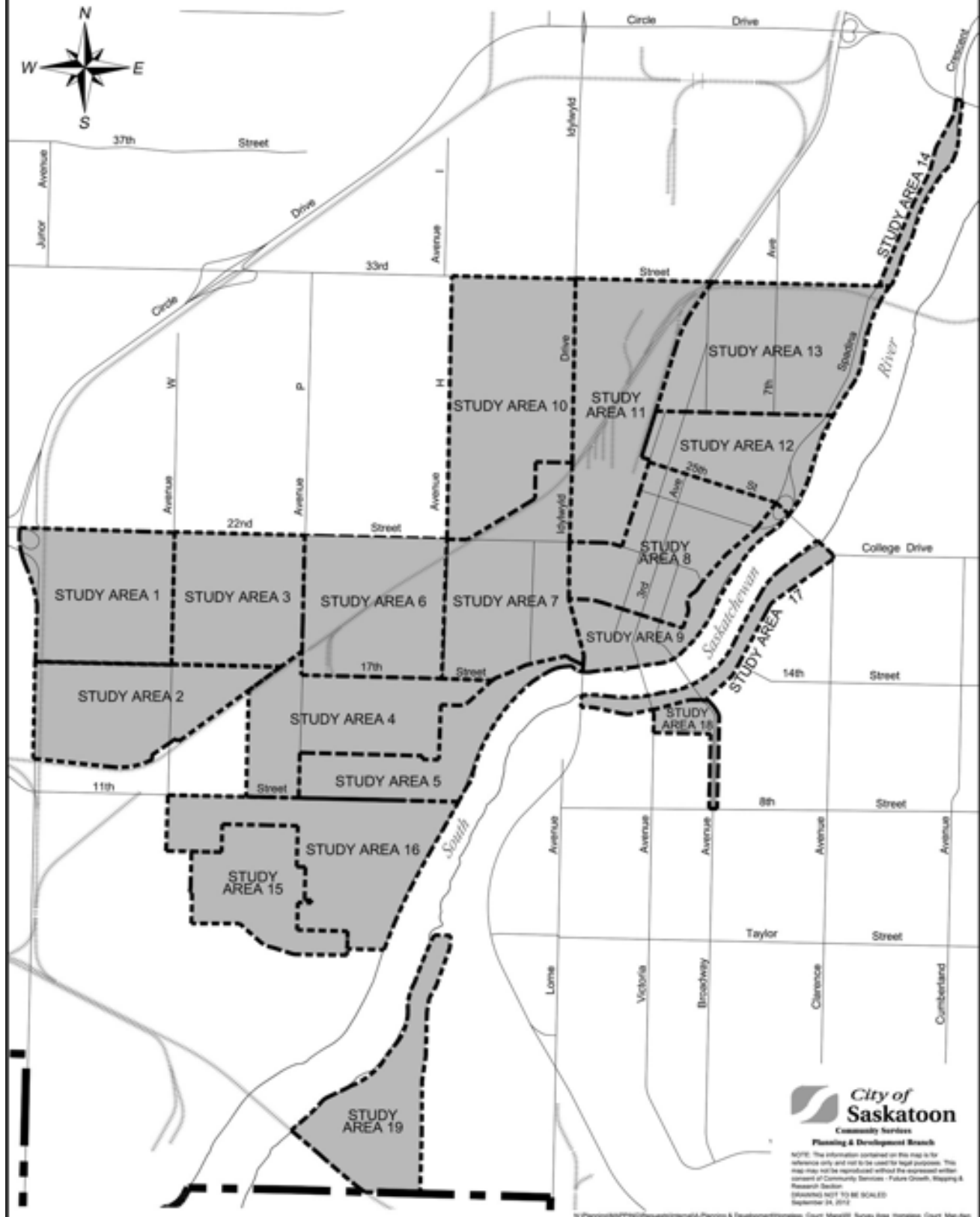
The Saskatoon Friendship Inn acted as the field office for the project. Volunteers for the indoor and outdoor surveys reported to the field office at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively. Data collection for indoor and outdoor surveys was completed on two shifts. Data collection for shift 1 was conducted between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and shift 2 took place between 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Debriefing for shift 1 occurred between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; that for shift 2 was between 10:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. (Table1).

Table 1. Count Schedule

Time	Activity
First Shift	
4:30 to 5:00 pm	Arrive and Organize
5:30 to 7:30 pm	Data Collection
7:30 to 8:30 pm	Return to field office and debrief
Second Shift	
7:30 to 8:00 pm	Arrive and organize
8:30 to 10:30 pm	Data Collection
10:30 to 11:00 pm	Return to field office and debrief

Teams of no fewer than three volunteer surveyors (at least one of whom had experience interviewing or working with at-risk individuals) were assigned to specific outdoor areas or indoor shelters. The teams were provided with a map of the region they were expected to canvass as well as resource booklets and emergency phone numbers. Surveyors were asked to walk every street and public place in their survey area and to focus especially on areas where people were likely to be such as parks, tree bluffs, train tracks, and so on. To recruit respondents for the outdoor survey, volunteers approached all individuals in their survey area, introduced themselves, and described the project. Screening questions were administered to determine if the individual was eligible to complete the outdoor survey. Volunteers did not approach individuals on private property (stairwells, abandoned buildings, parkades, for example) to recruit participants and were asked for safety reasons and out of respect to individuals not to wake up any individuals they saw sleeping in public places.

Screening Procedure

Outdoor survey volunteers completed three screening questions (Appendix A) to determine if the potential respondent was eligible to complete the survey. First, respondents were asked if they had already been interviewed by a surveyor to avoid duplication of surveys and to avoid double-counting. If they were previously interviewed, they were thanked and not interviewed again. Respondents were then asked where they would be sleeping that night. If they were staying at a shelter for the night, they were thanked and not interviewed, as they would be interviewed at the shelter. If participants were staying in an indoor location, they were also thanked and the survey

ended. If the individual reported s/he would be sleeping outdoors, the volunteer asked the respondent if s/he would be willing to proceed with the survey. Those who were screened successfully and agreed to answer questions were then surveyed. The total number of participants screened was not recorded.

Twenty-seven people who reported that they would be staying at a friend's house agreed to be surveyed even though the screening instructions made clear that any answer that revealed they would be sleeping indoors ended the survey. These surveyed individuals have been included in the data reported in the results section because (a) they do represent the homeless (the hidden homeless in this case); (b) their voices are worthy of inclusion; and (c) the data are valuable in terms of policy and program development.

Survey Interview

If the individual consented to complete the survey, the volunteer began the survey interview. The outdoor survey covered the needs assessment after identifying survey location and observing (where relevant) number of adults, children, or pets present:

- Demographic characteristics including age, gender, ethnicity, and current sources of income

- Whether the respondent was on a housing waiting list, including which, for how long, when last updated, and difficulties faced in applying

- Location where the respondent will be staying that night and where they spent the previous night

- Length of homelessness

- Use of health clinics, job training, detox, shelters, drop-ins, food bank, health care services, Saskatoon Housing Authority, churches

  - Whether the respondent is currently getting help to obtain housing

  - Other services that might help the respondent obtain housing

- Preferences related to obtaining housing including:

  - Whether the respondent had a long-term housing plan

  - Services that would help the respondent to obtain housing

  - Common barriers to obtaining housing

- Recent contact with ambulance, police, probation/ parole, jail/detention centre

- Current sources of income (formal and informal employment, family/friends, Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Government programs, Social Services, Panhandling)

- Experience in Canadian military, physical violence, foster care.

If the individual did not consent to complete the survey (or if the surveyor was unable to complete the questionnaire with the individual) and the surveyor felt the individual might be homeless, Part II (Observation Report) was completed. Based on the volunteer's observations, Part II included information about the person's location, appearance, estimated age, and reasons the volunteer thought the individual may be homeless and reason the individual was incapable of completing the survey.

Indoor Survey

The indoor (service provider) survey was conducted at seven shelter facilities in the city. Hospital emergency rooms, acute care wards, remand centres, and city jail were not included in the survey. As key stakeholders, the shelters were consulted about the implementation of the survey and the researchers gained the shelter facilities' permission to conduct the survey. With permission, counts were also conducted at the Bridge on 20th Street Fellowship Centre (a street ministry) and during the lunch hour at Friendship Inn. These were included as sites known to attract homeless and precariously housed individuals.

Teams of volunteers were assigned to administer the survey at a shelter. Upon arriving at the shelter, the survey team reported to a staff member and were set up in a specific location within the shelter to administer the survey (although specific arrangements differed by shelter). To ensure the survey did not disrupt the shelter and its residents, shelter residents were advised by the staff that the survey would be conducted that night. In most cases, residents who were interested in participating in the survey approached the surveyors; however, in some cases, surveyors were able to approach shelter residents to recruit them to conduct the survey. The introduction to the indoor survey (Appendix B) was identical to the outdoor survey. The surveyors introduced themselves and described the project. Respondents were also assured of their confidentiality and anonymity.

The indoor survey comprised a set of two screening questions and the needs assessment questionnaire. For the screening, respondents were first asked if they had already been interviewed to avoid duplication of surveys. The respondent was then asked if they would be willing to proceed with the survey. If the individual consented to complete the survey, the volunteer began interviewing the respondent.

The survey questionnaire included the same topics covered in the outdoor survey with the addition of a question about length of stay at the shelter. The indoor survey did not include Part II (Observation Report).

Volunteer Debriefing

On October 5, 2012, a debriefing focus group was held with seventeen volunteers who participated in the count. Volunteers were asked about their experiences with the initiative from the point of volunteering up to and including the count night and data collection. The information garnered from these sessions (recorded and transcribed) will be useful to the organization and implementation of follow-up counts. An interview was completed with one of the

volunteers who had herself experienced homelessness for many years of her life. No demographic information was collected from the debriefing session or the volunteer interview. As the count is intended to help develop a strategy to address homelessness in the city of Saskatoon, the interview added another dimension to the study that a quantitative questionnaire and its numbers would not necessarily capture.

RESULTS

The project had two components: (1) a count, which determined the number of homeless individuals staying outdoors or in shelters, and (2) a street needs assessment, which was a survey examining homeless individuals' service use patterns and needs. This was similar to the count done in 2008, and was replicated in an effort to identify the issues and barriers that the homeless face in changing their homeless situation.

The majority of the data are presented as frequency and percent distributions describing the number and percentage of respondents providing particular responses. In some cases, responses were analyzed by gender to best identify the needs of particular groups.

Count Results

The first component of the homeless count project was to count the number of homeless individuals residing in shelters and staying outdoors on the night of September 24, 2012.

Overall Count

A total of 368 adult individuals were counted and 11 children were reported as being homeless in Saskatoon on the night of September 24, 2012. Of the 368 adults, a total of 153 were surveyed. Fifty-four adults were surveyed in shelters, and they had nine children with them. Ninety-nine adults were surveyed outdoors and reported two children with them. As explained in the Methods section, 27 "hidden homeless" who were screened agreed to be surveyed and their data are included as valuable evidence for policy and program purposes. Of the 99 outdoor surveys, there were 13 observations. Observations were completed with participants who were believed to be homeless but either refused participation, or were unable to be counted for practical reasons. Because children were reported by parents as accompanying them and were not themselves surveyed, they are not included in the detailed analyses that follow.

Table 2. Total Number of Homeless Individuals Counted

Location	Number of Adults Counted	Number of persons surveyed or observed	Number of Children stated to be homeless by parents surveyed
Indoors	269	54	9
Outdoor	99	99	2
Total	**368**	**153**	**11**

Indoor Survey

The survey was conducted at seven indoor locations: shelters, detox centres, and homes. It was intended that more shelters would be surveyed, but miscommunication within some of the shelters' administrations meant that volunteers were not able to access them on the night of the count. Table 3 shows the total respondents who participated in the indoor survey by shelters.

Table 3. Indoor Survey

Services Primarily Accessed by Homeless Individuals	Number of Persons	Percentage
Adelle House	4	7.4
YWCA	10	18.5
Lighthouse	16	29.6
Kanewymick	4	7.4
McLeod House	4	7.4
Detox	5	9.5
Salvation Army – Men's	10	18.5
Shelter unrecorded	1	1.7
Total	**54**	**100**

Outdoor Count

A total of 99 adults were counted and two children reported outdoors on the night of the count; 86 were surveyed and 13 observed. The majority of the outdoor surveys were administered on the street. As an addendum to the 2008 version, specific locations outdoors were recorded since it was thought that this information could prove useful in any subsequent counts in helping to narrow down areas to survey as well as to allow for an in-depth understanding of preferred sites. In the event that Part I could not be completed, interviewers were responsible for identifying the rationale for choosing to complete Part II, which included volunteer perceptions of safety, approachability, and refusals. Part I was completed by 86 people, and a total of 13 people were counted with Part II.

Table 4. Outdoor Location where Survey was Completed

Area	Number	Percent
On the Street	20	23.3
In a park or the river valley	5	5.8
Another public place	42	48.8
Non response	19	22.1
Total	**86**	**100**

Needs Assessment Survey Results

A total of 54 surveys were completed at the indoor locations. For the outdoor component of the project, 86 surveys were completed. The results of the needs assessment survey are provided below. The number and percentage of responses to each item are presented for the indoor and outdoor surveys. Some results are also presented by gender. Due to the limitations of sample size, the research team was unable to complete tests for statistical significance.

Respondent Demographics

Survey respondents provided information on several demographic characteristics including age, gender, and ethnicity.

Age

As shown in table 5, homelessness is experienced by people of all ages. Although a slight majority of persons (20%) were between the ages of 20 and 29, people experiencing homelessness in the age groups of 30-39 and 40-49 represented 17.9% and 18.6% of the total respectively. The data exclude the reported children.

Table 5. Age of Respondents

Age Category	Number	Percent
Under 20	9	6.4
20 to 29	28	20
30 to 39	25	17.9
40 to 49	26	18.6
50 to 59	17	12.1
60 or Over	8	5.7
Non- Response	27	19.3
Total	**140**	**100**

When completing Part II of the outdoor survey, the surveyors estimated the age of the individual they were observing. Of the 13 individuals observed, a total of nine (69.2%) were estimated to be between 26 and 49 years of age; none of the individuals was thought to be under 25 and four individuals were estimated to be 50 years of age or over (Table 6).

Table 6. Estimated Age

Age Category	Number	Percent
Under 25	0	0
26 to 49	9	69.2
50 or over	4	30.8
Total	**13**	**100**

Gender

Most survey respondents self-identified as male (Table 7). Approximately 57 percent and 65 percent of respondents were male in the shelters and outdoors, respectively or 61.4 percent overall. No respondents identified themselves as being transgendered.

Table 7. Surveyed Respondent by Gender

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	86	61.4
Female	53	37.9
Non-Response	1	0.7
Total	**140**	**100**

For the observation section of the survey, approximately 61.5 percent of the individuals observed outdoors were male and 38.5 percent were female (Table 8).

Table 8. Observed Gender, Outdoors

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	8	61.5
Female	5	38.5
Total	**13**	**100**

Ethnicity

The most frequently reported ethnicities were Caucasian and Aboriginal and the proportion of Aboriginal to Caucasian respondents was more than double. In the shelters, approximately 61%self-identified as Aboriginal and approximately 37% were Caucasian. Close to 70% of the outdoor survey respondents were Aboriginal and approximately 28% were Caucasian (Table 9).

Table 9. Respondents' Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Indoor		Outdoor	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Caucasian	20	37	24	27.9
Aboriginal	33	61.1	59	68.6
Refused	0	0	1	1.2
Other	1	1.9	0	0
Non Response	0	0	2	2.3
Total	**54**	**100**	**86**	**100**

Sources of Income

Social Services were the most often cited form of income for indoor respondents (26%); 22% in the case of outdoor respondents. Government programs and family/friends were the second most cited forms of income for indoor respondents, listed by approximately 17 (or 15.7%) and 14 (or 13%) respondents, respectively, while another 11 (10%) of the indoor respondents listed formal employment and 12 (or 11.1%) as their main income source. It is important to note respondents could cite more than one source of income, so that the numbers in Tables 10 and 11 exceed the number of individuals surveyed.

As shown in Table 10, after family and friends (21 or 16%), informal employment was cited as the main source of income for 15% of outdoor participants, followed by day jobs (11.4%) and panhandling (10.6%). An interesting point to note is that in the 2008 count, approximately half (45%) of the indoor respondents cited formal employment as their main source of income. For the 2008 count, day jobs and formal employment were the highest (27.8%), followed by informal employment, family/ friends, and panhandling (all at 22.2%) for outdoor respondents.

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Table 10. Sources of Income

Source of income	Indoor		Outdoor	
	Number	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
Formal employment	11	10.2	9	6.8
Informal employment	12	11.1	20	15
Day jobs	6	5.6	15	11.4
Family/ Friends	14	13	21	16
Canada Pension Plan	6	5.6	2	1.5
Employment Insurance	3	2.8	2	1.5
Government programs	17	15.7	10	7.6
Social Services	28	26	29	22
Panhandling	3	2.8	14	10.6
Other	8	7.2	10	7.6
Total	**108**	**100**	**132**	**100**

Table 11 illustrates the income source by gender. Men located either out-of-doors or at shelters reported higher rates of formal and informal employment as well as day jobs than women.

Table 11. Income Source by Gender

Source of income	Indoor				Outdoor		
	Male	**Female**	**Unknown**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Formal employment	9	2	0	11	8	1	9
Informal employment	7	4	1	12	16	4	20
Day jobs	4	1	1	6	12	3	15
Canada Pension Plan	5	1	0	6	2	0	2
Employment insurance	3	0	0	3	2	0	2
Family/friends	9	4	1	14	13	8	21
Government programs	4	12	1	17	7	3	10
Panhandling	1	2	0	3	7	7	14
Social services	12	15	1	28	17	12	29
Other	4	4	0	8	4	6	10

Table 12 illustrates the working status of all individuals who cited employment as their primary means of income. An interesting point is that most employed individuals living in shelters had full-time work, while employed individuals living out-of-doors were more likely to list part-time work.

Table 12. Respondents with Full-Time and Part-Time Employment

Employment	Indoor		Outdoor	
	Number	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
Full time	7	13	9	10.5
Part time	4	7.4	15	17.4
Non-Response	43	79.6	62	72.1
Total	**54**	**100**	**86**	**100**

Respondents Staying Alone or with Other People

Table 13 represents the responses to questions about family living arrangements for individuals living in shelters. The majority of shelter residents (76%) reported they were staying at the shelter by themselves, while nine respondents (16.6%) were staying with their children while at the shelter.

Table 13. Indoor Respondents Staying Alone or With Other People

Response	Number	Percent
Staying alone	41	76
One other adult	2	3.7
More than one adult	1	1.9
With children	9	16.6
Non response	1	1.8
Total	54	100

The outdoor surveyors made observations about the number of adults, children, and pets that were with the survey respondent at the time of the interview. Most outdoor respondents were staying with another adult although respondents were observed in groups of up to six other adults. Finally, outdoor surveyors did observe that two persons had one child each staying outdoors (Table 14).

Table 14. Number of Adult Staying with Survey Participants on Night of the Count

Number of Adults	Number	Percent
None	26	33.3
One adult	31	39.7
Two adults	16	20.5
Three adults	2	2.6
Four adults	0	0
Five adults	2	2.6
Six adults	1	1.3
Total	78	100

Current and Past Housing

Respondents answered several questions about their current accommodations and housing, including length of shelter stay, and time since they last had their own residence.

Sleeping Location (Outdoor Survey Only)

Outdoor survey respondents were asked where they planned to sleep on the eve of the count, and where they had spent the night before. Individuals most frequently listed "at a friend's" (hence, hidden homeless), followed closely by "other" (Table 15). A follow-up, open-ended question provided insight into the meaning of "other" which included police station, hotel, family, camper, hotel, and detox.

Table 15. Location where Respondent Spent the Night on Sept 23 and Sept 24, 2012

Location	Place spending the night (Sept 24, 2012) Number	Place spent last night (Sept 23, 2012) Number
Ravine	1	0
Car/van/trailer	1	1
Park	6	6
Transit Shelter	1	2
Sidewalk	3	2
Tent	3	2
Friends	27	23
Shelter	5	6
Under bridge	1	1
Don't know	11	0
Other	25	21
Non response	2	22
Total	**86**	**86**

Time in Transitional Housing (Indoor Survey Only)

Indoor respondents were asked how long they had stayed at the shelter. As shown in Table 16, most respondents have been residing in the transitional shelters for between 1 month and a year. A few respondents had stayed for longer than one year, with lengths of as much as 5 years listed.

Table 16. Time in Transitional Housing

Time in housing	Number of respondents
Under a Week	8
Over a week, but less than a month	13
Over a month but less than a year	24
Over a year	5
Refused/ No Answer	1
Don't know	2
Non response	87
Total	**140**

Time since Last Residence

Most respondents (67 in total) had been without a residence for less than one year (57.4 % for indoor respondents; 41.8% for outdoor respondents). Of indoor respondents, seven (13%) had had a permanent residence less than one month prior to the count night; ten (11.7%) outdoor respondents had had a permanent residence within a month of the count. Twenty indoor respondents (37%) and 15 (17.4%) outdoor respondents had not been in private housing for more than a year. For 13 outdoor respondents (15.1%) it had been more than 2 years.

Table 17. Length of Time Since Last Residence

Length of time	Indoor		Outdoor	
	Number	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
Less than 1 month	7	13	10	11.7
1 Month to less than 1 year	24	44.4	26	30.1
More than a year	20	37	15	17.4
More than 2 years	0	0	13	15.1
Refused/ No Answer	0	0	1	1.1
Don't Know	3	5.6	5	5.8
Non response	0	0	16	18.6
Total	**54**	**100**	**86**	**100**

Waiting List

Many housing providers maintain housing waiting lists for individuals who are experiencing difficulties maintaining a permanent residence. Respondents were asked several questions about waiting lists for housing.

Waiting List Registration

Table 18 displays the number of individuals who reported being on a housing waiting list. Of the respondents, only 13.7% were on a waiting list for housing.

Table 18. Respondents on Housing Waiting List

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	21	13.7
No	113	73.9
Don't know	4	2.6
Non response	2	9.8
Total	**140**	**100**

Table 19 illustrates the gender of respondents who reported being on a housing waiting list. Overall and for both outdoor and indoor respondents, there were more females than males on waiting lists.

Table 19. Respondents on Housing Waiting List, by Gender and Location

	Indoor				Outdoor		
Response	**Male**	**Female**	**Unknown**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Yes	2	6	0	8	6	7	13
No	26	16	1	43	51	19	70
Don't know	2	1	0	3	1	0	1
Non response	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total	**30**	**23**	**1**	**54**	**59**	**27**	**86**

Respondents who reported they were on a waiting list were asked to identify waiting list(s) on which they were currently registered, and could choose more than one waiting list. The most frequently cited waiting list was the Saskatoon Housing Authority's waiting list (10 respondents); the Cress Housing waiting list was the next most frequently cited (3 respondents). Twelve respondents were on "other" waiting lists; one identified Affinity housing, one a private apartment, and one was on their own waiting list (reporting "self").

Table 20. Waiting Lists

Waiting list	Number	Percent
Saskatoon Housing Authority	10	7.1
Cress Housing	3	2.1
Saskatoon Housing Coalition, SaskNative and Cress Housing	1	0.7
SaskNative Rentals	1	0.7
Saskatoon Housing Authority and Cress Housing	1	0.7
Cress Housing and SaskNative Rentals	1	0.7
Other waiting lists	12	8.6
Non response	111	79.4
Total	**140**	**100**

Time on Waiting Lists

Table 21 shows the amount of time respondents reported being on waiting lists. For the indoor survey the majority of respondents cited more than a month but less than a year on waiting lists, and none went over a year. While most outdoor respondents similarly reported less than a year on waiting lists, three reported over a year and four over two years.

Table 21. Time on Waiting List

Time on Waiting List	Indoor	Outdoor
Under 1 week	1	0
1 week to 1 month	2	6
1 month to 1 year	7	3
Over 1 year	0	3
Over 2 years	0	4
Refused / No Answer	2	2
Don't Know	0	1
Non response	42	67
Total	**54**	**86**

Respondents were asked how long it had been since they last updated their application or checked to see if they were still on the waiting list (Table 22). Respondents reported they had checked their applications under a week ago, but some had waited as long as a year.

Table 22. Time Since Application Last Updated

Time since application last updated	Indoor	Outdoor
Under 1 week	1	3
1 week to 1 month	2	4
1 month to 1 year	6	4
Over 1 year	0	0
Over 2 years	0	1
Refused / No Answer	1	2
Don't Know	1	4
Non response	43	68
Total	**54**	**86**

Barriers to Applying for Housing

Respondents who were on waiting lists were asked whether they encountered any difficulties when applying for the waiting list. The majority of respondents found the application process difficult (Table 23).

Table 23. Respondents who Found the Application Process Difficult

Application difficult?	Numbers	Percentages
Yes	22	15.7
No	11	7.9
Refused/ No Answer	3	2.1
Don't Know	4	2.9
Non response	100	71.4
Total	**140**	**100**

Respondents were asked what kinds of problems they had experienced when applying for housing. The most common difficulties were the cost of available housing, inability to obtain references, and eligibility concerns.

Table 24. Types of Problems Experienced in Applying for Housing

Types of problems experienced	Number
Expense	11
Addictions and alcoholism	1
Can't afford it and wrongfully accused (has a record)	1
Services did not help and had to do it on own	1
Using injection drugs	2
No ID	1
No references	3
Mobility issues	1
The False Market	1
Criminal Record	1
Non response	117
Total	**140**

Service Use Patterns

The survey examined respondents' service use patterns to determine whether services were helping respondents obtain housing and barriers that respondents may have encountered to accessing services in the city.

Past Service Use

Respondents were asked which services they had used in the previous six months. Overall, most used were health clinics followed by the hospital / ER services and then shelters (Table 25). Indoor residents used shelters most frequently (79% of respondents) although this was not a common response for outdoor respondents (28% of respondents). Health clinics were the most commonly used service by outdoor respondents (61%) and were indoor respondents' second-most used service (45%). Hospitals or emergency rooms were also frequently used by respondents (39% of outdoor respondents and 29% of indoor respondents).

Respondents were also asked whether the services had helped them find housing. Shelters were most frequently reported as helping respondents find housing (14 indoor respondents and four outdoor respondents). Respondents felt that the majority of services did not help them locate housing. Of the 544 times that services were used in the past 6 months, only 75 times was there an additional result of helping the individual find housing.

Table 25. Service Use in Past 6 Months

Services	Number	Helped Find Housing?
Health Clinics	81	4
Job Training/ Job Supports	36	3
Detox	32	1
Shelters	70	18
Drop-ins	56	12
Food bank	63	5
Hospital / emergency room	71	6
ID Services	40	3
Saskatoon Housing Authority	23	9
Churches	52	7
Other	20	7
Total	**544***	**75**

*This total is a reflection of the total number of times 10 services were used by the sample.

Respondents also provided examples of "other" services that they had used in the last 6 months. Both indoor and outdoor respondents cited the following services:

- Family Services

- Outreach Social Worker

- Addiction counselor

- Social Services

- Web-based services (e.g. Kijiji)

Barriers to Accessing Services

Respondents were asked if they had ever experienced barriers to accessing any of the above services. The majority of participants responded that they had not faced barriers (55%); however, 26 or 18.6 % of outdoor respondents experienced difficulties.

Table 26. Service Access Difficult

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	26	18.6
No	77	55
Non response	37	26.4
Total	**140**	**100**

Those respondents who listed barriers to accessing services were prompted to identify some of the challenges they faced. The following barriers were cited by indoor respondents:

- No help

- Transportation issues

- No contact information such as mobile or land line numbers to put in in the form on

- Turned away from places that should assist

- Unable to afford the fees to access help

- Waiting time for a place

- People stealing from them in places that should help

- No internet access.

Outdoor respondents cited the following barriers to accessing services:

- Transportation issues

- No references or help with getting them, or some places asking for more than 3 references

- Hard to get through to the toll free service numbers

- No resources for drug users

- Turned away

- Wheelchair housing is hard to find

- Unable to access shelters without ID; drop-ins not open at nights.

Long-Term Housing Plans

The survey also asked participants if they currently had a long-term housing plan. Respondents could define for themselves what such a plan might look like. It could be formal or informal. Overall, as is shown in Table 27, there were almost equal numbers of persons stating they did (58) and did not (57) have a housing plan. Of the 54 indoor respondents who answered the survey item, 30 reported having a long-term housing plan. More of the outdoor respondents (35) did not have a long-term housing plan.

Table 27. Housing Plan

	Indoor		Outdoor	
Responses	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
Yes	30	55.6	28	32.6
No	22	40.7	35	40.7
Non response	2	3.7	23	26.7
Total	**54**	**100**	**86**	**100**

Table 28. Number of Respondents who had a Long-Term Housing Plan, by Gender

	Male		Female		Unknown Gender		
Response	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Total**
Yes	34	38.2	24	48	0	0	58
No	37	41.6	19	38	1	100	57
Non response	18	20.2	7	14	0	0	25
Total	**89**	**100**	**50**	**100**	**1**	**100**	**140**

Table 28 illustrates the number of respondents who reported having a long-term housing plan, by gender. A larger proportion of the relevant respondents were male. Table 29 shows the anticipated time to move of the respondents. Of the 58 with a housing plan, 48 persons had an anticipated time to move. There were 30 indoor respondents who had a housing plan and six expected to move to a residence within a week while four expected to move within a month. There were 28 outdoor respondents who had a housing plan, of which ten reported they would move to a residence within one week and eight expected to move within a month.

Table 29. Anticipated Time to Move

Response	Number	Percent
One week	16	11.4
One month	12	8.6
Three months	12	8.6
One year	8	5.7
Don't know	19	13.6
No Answer	1	0.7
No Housing Plan	2	1.4
Non response	70	50
Total	**140**	**100**

Contact with Health and Justice Services

Respondents were also asked whether they had been in contact with ambulance, police, probation or parole, and jail or detention in the last six months (Table 30). Respondents had most often been in contact with the police (44.1% of indoor respondents and 43.4% of outdoor respondents). Respondents had also been in contact with ambulance, probation/parole, and jail/detention. When asked if the health or justice service they had been in contact with had helped the respondent find housing, most respondents reported that these services had not.

Table 30. Contact with Health and Justice Services

Service	Yes	Yes, helped find housing	Percent Helped	No	Non Response
Ambulance	36	7	19.4	84	20
Police	60	5	8.3	61	19
Probation/Parole	14	5	35.7	106	20
Jail/Detention	28	5	17.9	92	20

Table 31 displays the gender of respondents who had contact with health and justice services. Males had more contact than females with police and probation/ parole in general. Females cited less help from the services in finding housing than males in the indoor respondents, but the opposite for the outdoor respondents.

Table 31. Contact with Health and Justice Services, by Gender*

| | Male | | | Female | | |
Service	Number	Percent	Helped find Housing	Number	Percent	Helped find Housing
Ambulance	26	27.7	5	8	20	4
Police	37	39.4	3	21	52.5	11
Probation/Parole	11	11.7	5	3	7.5	2
Jail/Detention	20	21.2	2	8	20	6
Total	**94**	**100**	**15**	**40**	**100**	**23**

*One respondent had contact with the police only, and received no help with housing; gender is unknown

Finding Housing

In addition to questions about the barriers they experienced finding their own housing, respondents were asked questions about services that might help them obtain housing.

Barriers to Finding Housing

Housing affordability (Table 32) was the most commonly cited barrier to finding housing. Lifestyle factors such as alcohol and drug addiction, as well as discrimination, were mentioned by 6 of the respondents as barriers, and are the second highest cited barrier for outdoor respondents. The next most cited barriers included having no idea where to start to find own residence, references, and eligibility issues.

Table 32. Barriers to Finding Own Residence

Barrier	Male	Female	Unknown Gender	Total
Affordability	41	30	1	72
Low vacancy rate/Limited availability	2	0	0	2
References	3	1	0	4
Affordability and Transportation	2	1	0	3
Affordability, References, false accusation of being a gang member	0	1	0	1
Looking for a model tenant/ Discrimination/Alcohol struggles	5	1	0	6
Disability help	1	1	0	2
No idea where to start	4	0	0	4
Need job	1	0	0	1
Not applicable	2	2	0	4
None	3	1	0	4
Non response	25	12	0	37
Total	**89**	**50**	**1**	**140**

Help Finding Housing

The survey provided a list of several supports and asked respondents to list the services they thought would be helpful for them to find housing. The top four responses overall were "help finding affordable housing," "more money," "transportation to see apartments," and "help with housing applications" (Table 33). "More money" and "help finding affordable housing" were the top two cited supports across both indoor and outdoor respondents. Respondents suggested the following "other" services which might help them gain access to housing:

- A job

- Associations with family and / or friends

- Affordable rent North Saskatchewan Individual [Independent] Living Association.

- References

- Counseling

- More housing in general

Table 33. Supports to Help Find Housing

Supports to help find housing	Number
Help finding affordable housing	108
More money	106
Transportation to see apartments	68
Mental health supports	40
Cultural supports	36
Help getting ID (e.g., health card)	50
Help with legal issues	33
Help addressing your health needs	51
Help getting alcohol or drug treatment	31
Services in a language other than English	17
Help getting detox services	22
Harm reduction supports (e.g., needle exchange)	19
Help with housing applications	66
Help with immigration issues	3
Other	15
Total	**665**

Life Experiences

For the 2012 survey, questions on life experiences were added to develop broader evidence of the needs, causes, and interventions for policy and program development. Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces represented a small percentage (Table 34). Approximately 38% (Table 35) had experienced physical violence while living outside—an important reflection of people's vulnerability to victimization on the streets. Interestingly, those experiencing sheltered homelessness were less likely to have been victims of violence on the streets: 27.8% compared with 44.1% (Table 36). Importantly, women were more likely to have experienced violence than men: 48% compared with 32.6% (Table 37). One woman expressed fear for her safety on the night of the count, acknowledging the risks associated with her need for food and a place to stay and expressing concern that she not be "found dead" by the morning.

Table 34. Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces

Response	Numbers	Percent
Yes	6	4.3
No	111	79.3
Non response	23	16.4
Total	**140**	**100**

Table 35. Victims of Physical Violence while Living Outside

Responses	Number	Percent
Yes	53	37.9
No	63	45
Non Response	24	17.1
Total	**140**	**100**

Table 36. Victims of Physical Violence while Living Outside, by Location

	Indoor		Outdoor	
Response	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	15	27.8	38	44.1
No	35	64.8	28	32.6
Non response	4	7.4	20	23.3
Total	**54**	**100**	**86**	**100**

Table 37. Victims of Physical Violence while Living Outside, by Gender

	Male		Female		Unknown Gender		
Response	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Total
Yes	29	32.6	24	48	0	0	53
No	43	48.3	19	38	1	100	63
Non response	17	19.1	7	14	0	0	24
Total	**89**	**100**	**50**	**100**	**1**	**100**	**140**

Persons who lived with foster parents or families during childhood

The final questions related to individuals' experience of foster care. Close to half of those surveyed had lived with foster families during childhood (Table 38). Individuals living indoors and outdoors were fairly evenly represented in the results: 42.6 % of indoor respondents as opposed to 48.8 % of outdoor respondents, although the number of outdoor respondents was almost double that of indoor respondents (Table 39). Although more men than women reported experience of foster care (38 compared with 26), proportionately more women than men shared foster care experience: 52 % compared with 42.7 % (Table 40). Twenty-three or 16.4 % remained in foster care until 18. By location the numbers were similar (Table 42), although 13.9 % (outdoor) compared with 20.4% (indoor). Although there was exactly the same number of men and women who remained in care until 18, the men represented 12.3% of their total while the women represented 22% (Table 43).

Table 38. Persons who Lived with Foster Parents or Families During Childhood

Responses	Number	Percent
Yes	65	46.4
No	51	36.4
Non response	24	17.2
Total	**140**	**100**

Table 39. Persons who Lived with Foster Parents or Families During Childhood, by Location

	Indoor		**Outdoor**	
Response	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
Yes	23	42.6	42	48.8
No	27	50	24	27.9
Non response	4	7.4	20	23.3
Total	**54**	**100**	**86**	**100**

Table 40. Persons who Lived with Foster Parents or Families During Childhood, by Gender

	Male		**Female**		**Unknown Gender**		
Response	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Total**
Yes	38	42.7	26	52	1	100	65
No	34	38.2	17	34	0	0	51
Non response	17	19.1	7	14	0	0	24
Total	**89**	**100**	**50**	**100**	**1**	**100**	**140**

Table 41. Persons who Lived with Foster Parents or Families until 18

Responses	Number	Total
Yes	23	16.4
No	45	32.1
Non response	72	51.5
Total	**140**	**100**

Table 42. Persons who Lived with Foster Parents or Families until 18, by Location

	Indoor		Outdoor	
Response	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	11	20.4	12	13.9
No	12	22.2	33	38.4
Non response	31	57.4	41	47.7
Total	**54**	**100**	**86**	**100**

Table 43. Persons who Lived with Foster Parents or Families until 18, by Gender

	Male		Female		Unknown Gender		
Response	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Total
Yes	11	12.3	11	22	1	100	23
No	28	31.5	17	34	0	0	45
Non response	50	56.2	22	44	0	0	72
Total	**89**	**100**	**50**	**100**	**1**	**100**	**140**

Volunteer Debriefing

The very informative debriefing session included both criticisms of the questionnaires themselves, as well as organization of the count. Although there were concerns about the timing of the count to support United Way's Housing First agenda, inadequate preparation of inexperienced volunteers, intrusive or insensitive questions, dangers of labeling, and inadequate coordination with the shelters, there were also plaudits for training that helped people understand they'd be dealing with people who volunteers should treat as they would want to be treated. Then people felt "more comfortable and it was a positive experience." Some encountered "very enthusiastic" participants who "thought it was a really good thing to have done." One volunteer who had an issue with the survey length commented on "others who seemed to be quite proud to have their voice heard." Others commented on the poignancy of the sleeping places they found, including the rugs and cardboard or about learning about landlords taking in people beyond their capacity and the dangers of such overcrowding for those trying to recover from addictions, for instance. Another came across people who had been homeless and wanted to talk but the survey was not flexible enough to include them. Results included the following:

- Survey was too long, intrusive and quite insensitive in some respects, even dehumanizing.

- Survey was repetitive, and could be shortened, making it more efficient.

- Referring to the target population as "homeless" as opposed to "persons experiencing homelessness"

or "persons currently dealing with the stresses of homelessness" is insensitive and makes it difficult to interact with the population. The survey should be framed not as a count but as a study of homelessness and housing conditions.

- Shelters may not be a good place to interview persons because it is less private and anonymous than on the streets. "Maybe on the street corner it is better because people aren't watching. I was surprised at how withdrawn they were from it. Some of these guys are trying to work so hard; some of them are staying at the Salvation Army because it's the cheapest rent. I think maybe it's the label."

- Training should have been more extensive to increase familiarity with the materials; confusion about how to administer the survey as well as having negative effects on the smooth administration of the questions. Some were "terrified" and this "came through in their body language" when talking to people.

- There needed to be better organization and communication of the initiative with the shelters and the general public in an effort to increase the interest and investment in the count.

- There was not sufficient time and communication with shelters to have a successful shelter count; it was recommended that actually visiting shelters and interacting with the day–to-day staff as well as communicating with the managers would have been best.

- It was suggested that an incentive for the target population be used, not necessarily money but something that is useful to the group, such as warm and clean pieces of clothing or food. It could be a $5 gift voucher that could be picked up at the Friendship Inn to avoid putting people at risk with money on the street.

- It was recommended that teams not only be organized with a leader who has experience working with the target population, but also with attention to gender composition depending on the locations they would be working in. For example, do not send an all- female group to the tent city area.

- There was concern about why the whole initiative was so rushed with only one month of preparation as opposed to seven months in 2008. The organization and training was rushed and it showed in the lack of experience of the volunteers, which may have affected the count more negatively than expected. It was suggested that the lack of experience of the volunteers may have further dehumanized the population as well as decreased numbers in terms of the population opening up to specific people.

- The volunteers did state that the outdoor respondents who have drug problems and / or criminal histories have a hard time finding accommodations as they are generally not welcome indoors and as a result remain outdoors.

- In keeping with the quantitative results, it was stated that affordability was the main issue being faced by respondents. Specifically, one volunteer stated that they "did not want more money, but they would like affordable housing."

Interview with previously homeless volunteer

One of the volunteers who assisted with the collection of data on the night of the count (September 24, 2012), had previous experience with homelessness having lived as an absolute and sheltered homeless person. The interviewee was female and from her own experiences and interaction with other homeless individuals she suggested ways in which the issue of homelessness could be addressed. She talked of the instability of a life where foster care began at age two. She talked about family suicides, the stresses of overcrowded housing, efforts to create a home out of a tent and sleeping bags, the library as a refuge in winter and as a way to search for jobs, Friendship Inn as a key resource for meals, and the importance of EGADZ in helping her "find stability in Baby Steps." She also talked of volunteering throughout her life "to be part of the solution." She insisted that we need "to encourage people to know their voices are heard because they often think they don't count." We also need "more resources for men of all ages. . . Families, especially in the Aboriginal community, are getting healthier. But what about the men? How do you make the family stable and healthy? The men cry their hearts out, but have nowhere to go." Still, she recognized that "lots don't want to talk. It hurts too much to be reminded of what they are going through." Despite or because of her experiences, she has "goals and dreams." She wants to start university, study political studies, and make a difference: "We shouldn't complain unless we are willing to get educated, become part of the government and part of the solution."

DISCUSSION

The 2012 count of the homeless of Saskatoon would not have been possible without the work of the 94 volunteers who collected the data on the night of September 24, 2012. It was the second count completed in Saskatoon and for the most part recreated the procedures used in the 2008 count. The following points represent key findings from the 2012 homeless count:

- The 2008 and 2012 counts show that there are several consistent issues that amplify the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

- Most commonly reported ethnicities were Caucasian and Aboriginal, with the Aboriginal representation being twice that of the Caucasian. Aboriginal and Caucasian representation was almost identical in 2008.

- Locating employment was shown to be of primary concern to the population of people experiencing homelessness.

- Only 10% of indoor respondents cited formal employment as a source of income compared with close to half in 2008.

- The high cost of housing and continual rent increases, along with a difficult job market, have created significant barriers to accessing reliable housing.

- The majority of the respondents were not on waiting lists. Respondents may be unaware of the waiting lists, or face criteria to get on to the waiting list that may be difficult to fulfill.

- Women use waiting lists more than men.

- Respondents reported 544 uses of health clinics, hospitals, and other services and only 75 instances of help with housing.

The count in 2008 was completed in the month of May, which is generally a warmer time of year than September. The temperature on the count night was a high of 21 degrees Celsius with a low of 10 degrees Celsius. The average temperature for May weather in Saskatoon is 11.5 degrees Celsius, with a low of 4.5 degrees Celsius and a high of 18.4 degrees Celsius (City of Saskatoon, 2008). The temperatures are therefore comparable. The temperature was of importance because it is expected to affect the numbers of homeless persons who would be staying out on the streets. It is expected that the colder it is, the more persons will rely on their family, friends or acquaintances for housing

The 2008 and 2012 count differed in a few aspects, such as the inclusion of additional questions and also of some 27 hidden homeless, a volunteer debrief, and interview with a previously homeless volunteer. There were also some differences in scope because of the access difficulties at some shelters, making comparisons of total numbers difficult. However, comparison of the descriptive profile of homelessness from the two surveys is appropriate.

For the 2012 enumeration, a total of 368 adults were located on the streets and in shelters and 11 children reported as homeless. Of that 368, 153 were surveyed and broken down by living arrangement, 99 respondents (and 2 children) represented themselves as absolute homeless individuals living on the street or as hidden homeless staying with friends. An additional 54 respondents living in temporary or transitional centres were located; 9 children were reported as accompanying them.

The majority of the respondents were between the ages of 20 and 59. It was also found that there were more male respondents than female, particularly for the outdoor respondents. The most commonly reported ethnicities were Caucasian and Aboriginal with approximately twice the number of Aboriginal respondents than Caucasian. This contrasts with findings from the 2008 count, which located virtually identical numbers of Aboriginal and Caucasian respondents.

The most cited forms of income for indoor respondents included social services, government programs followed by only 10% stating formal employment. In contrast, the outdoor respondents cited social services, informal employment, then day jobs and lastly panhandling. Comparatively, the 2008 count found that nearly half of the indoor respondents were employed and that information dispelled the myth that homeless people were not willing to work. The present study adds to the 2008 count by showing now that even though persons were not employed fully

or part time, locating employment is a primary concern for homeless individuals. This seems to suggest that entry into Saskatoon's job market is becoming increasingly difficult.

The respondents were also asked about their barriers to finding housing. The most commonly stated barriers were the affordability of housing and inability to find sufficient housing, whether in number or quality, and references to appease housing agencies or owners. In addition to this, they were asked what would assist them with finding housing and the majority stated that help finding affordable housing, as well as more money would help them find housing. There is enough information from the present count and its predecessor to suggest that there are several intersecting issues that amplify the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Factors such as the high cost of housing and continual rent increases, along with a difficult job market, have created significant barriers to accessing reliable housing.

There was a great deal of variance in the time since last residence, ranging from as low as 3 days and up to more than 2 years for the outdoor respondents, but only going up to more than a year for indoor respondents. Respondents were asked whether they were on waiting lists for housing, and it was found that more females than males, both outdoor and indoor were on waiting lists. In addition, it was found that more outdoor respondents were on waiting lists than indoor respondents. A strategy that could be used to address homelessness in Saskatoon is to have targeted activities for males and indoor persons.

The outdoor respondents are considered absolute homeless and in 27 cases hidden homeless, who, it would seem, have been out of housing for longer and have higher representation on waiting lists than indoor or the sheltered homeless. Similar to the previous count, the majority of the respondents in this count were not on waiting lists and it is possible that the homeless are unaware of the waiting lists, or it is possible that the criteria to get on to the waiting list may be difficult to fulfill. The low reliance of the outdoor respondents on the shelters and indoor facilities suggests that other avenues of circulating information about waiting lists be investigated.

Of the 544 instances of service use in the last six months, there were only 75 reported examples of help finding housing. Of the 230 instances where indoor respondents (sheltered homeless) reported using health clinics, hospitals, and other services, only 45 felt that they had received assistance with locating housing. A similar pattern was noticed with the outdoor respondents; surveyed individuals cumulatively reported using these services 314 times, but reported receiving help locating housing only 30 times.

The responses on life experiences give a picture of the risks and vulnerabilities to violence of those who experience homelessness. Interestingly, the sheltered homeless were less likely to be victimized. 27.8% compared with 44.1% of those living on the streets (Table 36), a finding that may reflect safeguards represented by sheltered accommodation and/or keener risk management on behalf of the individuals. Women were especially vulnerable; one woman was willing to talk about her fears of what her night on the streets might cost her. Like the interviewed volunteer, foster care was a part of the life experiences of about half the respondents for whom instability, risk, and unpredictability were recurring life themes.

The information garnered from the focus group and the interview while not quantitative and hence not able to be tabulated, was very informative. There were several recommendations from the focus group about how to amend the count in an effort to gather more informative information while increasing the sensitivity towards the target group. The information from the interview will allow for the development of a homeless strategy by the United Way that will not only address the tangible and systemic barriers but also the individual barriers that people face such as drug use among other self or person barriers. The qualitative information was integrated into the recommendations, strengths and limitations sections.

Limitations

There are some limitations to be noted with the methodology of point-in-time counting. These include the underestimation of the number of people experiencing homelessness. It is important to note, however, that any methodology would have this limitation by virtue of the nature of the population of interest. Homeless persons are generally difficult to locate and are nomadic to some extent, never being located in the same place continuously. That is, with no fixed address, it is a difficult population to locate. Consequently, point-in-time counts are by their very nature an underestimate of the true number. Efforts are made to minimize the underestimate, but there is no precise way of knowing the magnitude of the underestimate. This makes comparison of numbers over time difficult. For example, although temperatures were comparable for the 2008 and 2012 surveys, there may be other unknown differences between spring and fall that affect the number of homeless people, thus confounding any comparison of raw numbers.

A second limitation of this methodology is that it does not allow for a differentiation of and therefore understanding of long- and short-term homelessness. The final limitation is that because the count number given is an estimate of the number of homelessness, there is no way to tailor services to match the number of homeless in Saskatoon.

The number of homeless individuals found in Saskatoon's 2012 Homeless Count was larger than the number found in the previous count of 2008. A large number of homeless individuals was recorded despite the problem that the count accessed fewer shelters (seven) than in the 2008 count which included four emergency shelters, six transitional housing locations, hotels, and McLeod House offering transitional housing for men in addictions recovery. Other reasons for underestimation of numbers include safety considerations; as in 2008, surveyors were advised not to go onto private property and did not capture individuals staying on private property. To enhance volunteer safety, as in 2008, volunteers were equipped with reflector vests when conducting their surveys. It is possible that residents thought they were police, and may have avoided the surveyors, when the surveyors were recruiting respondents for the survey. It is also possible that some homeless individuals in some survey areas were not counted, as people were trained not to approach persons if they did not feel it was safe to do so.

A significant limitation of the present count was the speed (one month) with which it was organized com-

pared to the seven months of preparation for the 2008 study. Had more time been feasible in terms of organization and planning, it would have been possible to integrate some of the recommendations from the 2008 count. The incorporation of some of these recommendations could have increased significantly the numbers that were found as well as access to shelters and indoor services for homeless persons.

Strengths

Despite the limitations outlined above, the 2012 Homeless Count had a number of strengths. United Way's volunteer recruitment strategy was successful. It is possible that due to the request to conduct a homeless count in Saskatoon coming from the community and because housing is currently an enormous concern in the city, there was a great deal of support for, and interest in, the project. This is perhaps particularly true to CUISR's and United Way's network of community contacts, which comprises many organizations that are involved with individuals struggling to maintain housing. In addition, CUISR's status in the University of Saskatchewan provided important links to the academic community. Finally, the researchers took a participatory approach to the needs assessment by providing respondents with several open-ended questions. The open-ended items allowed respondents to communicate their needs in their own words, without imposing the researchers' perspective. Thus, the project was conducted in a manner that was respectful of homeless individuals and methodologically consistent with the previous count.

Training volunteers on a separate day from the count provided the project with a number of advantages. By having volunteers sign up for the additional day, United Way ensured the project's volunteers were committed to the project, which likely increased the volunteer retention rate for the night of the count. As a result, 94 surveyors completed the training and participated on the night of the count.

Recommendations

The 2012 Homeless Count was the follow up to the first count that was conducted in the City of Saskatoon in 2008. The results of the needs assessment survey provided several avenues to consider for designing interventions to reduce homelessness in Saskatoon, especially when considered in conjunction with the results of the previous count. Recommendations include:

- Increasing the number of affordable housing units and increasing ease of access to affordable housing would likely be a significant help to individuals struggling with the cost of housing.

- Most respondents were not on a housing waiting list. The 2008 and 2012 counts showed that those

who were on waiting lists found the application process to be difficult. It would be helpful to review the application processes for the different housing waiting lists. This may provide insight into possible barriers that applicants may be encountering and help simplify the process. A possible suggestion is to have one application that is automatically sent to all applicable waiting lists.

- Many respondents reported relatively high rates of contact with the health care system and with the police. The possibility of partnering with the Saskatoon Health Region and Saskatoon Police Service to develop a housing referral mechanism could be explored.

- When asked what would help respondents find housing, help finding affordable housing and more money (speaking to affordability) were most frequently referenced. In addition, respondents thought transportation to see apartments and help with housing applications would be most helpful. All of these suggestions speak to the need for affordable housing that is easily accessible and the need to facilitate access to affordable housing when designing strategies for housing Saskatoon's homeless population.

A count of absolute and sheltered homeless individuals conducted in the future should take into consideration the following recommendations:

- Sufficient time to allow for organizing and planning of the next count to take into consideration the findings in the 2008 and 2012 reports.

- Volunteer recruitment should continue to be done via email within CUISR's network and at the University of Saskatchewan. In addition, the Facebook group and Kijiji.com advertisement were also very helpful for recruiting volunteers. However, in the future, volunteers should also be recruited through the City of Saskatoon's volunteer database as well as the local newspaper; an article on the project appeared in the newspaper shortly before the count and there was a spike in volunteers interested in participating, which suggests newspaper advertisements would be useful in attracting more volunteers.

- Holding the training sessions on a separate day, should also continue as this served to increase retention and may have helped to increase the quality of the data collected.

- Training sessions need to be held far enough in advance of the count to allow for familiarity with the survey material by the volunteers. If possible, have the teams organized prior to training, so they can train and practice together.

- The areas of the outdoor survey should include more areas on the East side of the city. Other areas throughout the city should also be included to enable a city-wide estimate to be derived via statistical extrapolation.

- Representatives from the city's shelters should participate in the Advisory Group. Working more closely with the shelters may help to increase buy-in and service provider response rates.

- Increase the time for the organization of the count so that communication with shelters and the general public can be clear about the count and its purpose. This may increase the buy-in of the city in general.

- Amend the survey materials to be sensitive to the target group; examples include referring to the population not as homeless but as persons experiencing homelessness.

- Shorten the survey itself to facilitate participation.

- Record the number of persons encountered as well as numbers interviewed and observed.

By continuing to improve the methodology, future initiatives will continue to enjoy success. It is important to make use of the findings to improve initiatives for Saskatoon's homeless population to help end homelessness in the City of Saskatoon.

Conclusion

Saskatoon has been proactive in addressing homeless concerns of the community by conducting a homeless count at the beginning of an economic boom (2008), and by doing this follow up count. This present Homeless Count shows that the majority of homeless people are homeless because of the lack of affordable and appropriate housing. It is possible to prevent homelessness in Saskatoon becoming a larger issue. It is reasonable to assume that if housing issues are not addressed in a timely and systematic way, the homeless population of Saskatoon will continue to increase. The examples of decreasing count results in jurisdictions invested in Housing First (see Environmental Scan) are especially promising.

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Hi, my name is _____ and I am a volunteer with the Community-University Institute for Social Research. We are conducting a survey about what homeless individuals need to obtain housing.

Have you already been interviewed tonight by someone wearing a name tag like this *(point to volunteer name tag)? (If YES, "Thank you for your time.")*
- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No

Where will you be sleeping tonight? *(If INDOOR LOCATION, "That concludes our survey. Thank you for your time.")*
- ❍ Outside
- ❍ At home
- ❍ In a shelter
- ❍ At a friend's house *(If YES, ask prompting question below)*
    - ❍ If you couldn't stay there tonight would you sleep outside or in a shelter?
- ❍ Other (specify): _____
    (if OTHER, and judged a place not meant for human habitation, continue)

Would you be willing to answer a few questions? *(If YES, complete questionnaire with respondent. If NO, complete observation report)*
- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No

Outdoor Survey Questionnaire

Location where survey was completed:
- ❍ On the street
- ❍ In a park or the river valley
- ❍ In another public place (specify): _____

Thanks for agreeing to participate in the survey. It will take about 10 minutes to complete. You will be completely anonymous and only group data will be reported. Your participation is completely voluntary and you can skip a question or stop the survey at any time, for any reason.

Observations: *(Complete this section by observation – do not ask these questions)*

Number of other adults present: _____
Number of children present: _____
Number of pets present: _____

Part One: *(Begin asking questions here)*

1. May I ask you how old you are? _____ years

If unknown or refused, estimate by these ranges:
   - ○ 25 years or younger
   - ○ 26 to 49 years
   - ○ 50 years or older

2. What is your gender?
   - ○ Male
   - ○ Female
   - ○ Other (specify): _____
   - ○ Refused/no answer

3. What is your racial background? *(Read all options)*
   - ○ European/Caucasian descent
   - ○ Aboriginal/Métis
   - ○ East Indian
   - ○ Asian
   - ○ Middle Eastern
   - ○ African
   - ○ Central American
   - ○ South American
   - ○ Refused/no answer
   - ○ Other (specify): _____

4. a) Are you currently on a waiting list for housing?
   - ○ Yes
   - ○ No *(Go to Q5)*
   - ○ *(Don't read)* Don't know *(Go to Q5)*
   - ○ *(Don't read)* Refused/no answer *(Go to Q5)*

   b) What waiting list(s) are you on? *(Read each option and check all that apply)*
   - ❑ Saskatoon Housing Authority
   - ❑ Cress Housing
   - ❑ Saskatoon Housing Coalition
   - ❑ SaskNative Rentals
   - ❑ YWCA
   - ❑ Other (specify): _____

   c) How long have you been on the waiting list(s)?
   - _____ days
   - _____ weeks
   - _____ months

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_____ years
◯ Don't know
◯ Refused/no answer

d) When was the last time you updated your application or made sure you were still on the list?
_____ days ago
_____ weeks ago
_____ months ago
_____ years ago
◯ Don't know
◯ Refused/no answer

e) Has anything made applying for housing difficult?
◯ Yes
◯ No *(Go to Q5)*
◯ Don't know *(Go to Q5)*
◯ Refused/no answer *(Go to Q5)*

f) *(If yes),* what problems have you had <u>applying for housing</u>?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. a) Please describe the place you will stay tonight *(Check only one – prompt if necessary):*

◯ Sidewalk
◯ Ravine
◯ Grate
◯ Park
◯ Abandoned building
◯ Car/van/trailer
◯ Transit shelter
◯ Under a bridge
◯ Parking garage
◯ Coffee shop
◯ Internet café
◯ Bathhouse
◯ Tent

○ Shelter *(Go to closing script)*
○ Friend's house *(Go to closing script)*
○ Other (specify): _____ _____
○ *(Don't read)* Don't know
○ *(Don't read)* Refused/no answer

b) Where did you stay last night?

○ Sidewalk
○ Ravine
○ Grate
○ Park
○ Abandoned building
○ Car/van/trailer
○ Transit shelter
○ Under a bridge
○ Parking garage
○ Coffee shop
○ Internet café
○ Bathhouse
○ Tent
○ Shelter
○ Friend's house
○ Other (specify): _____ _____
○ *(Don't read)* Don't know
○ *(Don't read)* Refused/no answer

6. How long has it been since you last had your own residence?
_____ days
_____ weeks
_____ months
_____ years
○ Don't know
○ Refused/no answer

7. a) Have you used any of the following services in the last 6 months? *(Read list and ask yes or no for each question and check their response to each) (If none, move to Q7e).*

	Yes	No
Health clinics	○	○
Job training/Job supports	○	○
Detox	○	○
Shelters	○	○
Drop-ins	○	○
Food bank	○	○
Hospital/emergency room	○	○
Services that help you get ID	○	○
Saskatoon Housing Authority	○	○
Churches	○	○
Other (specify):	○	○

b) Of the services you just mentioned you have used, are any helping you get permanent housing? *(Mark all that are indicated – if none, move to Q7e)*

	Yes	No
Health clinics	○	○
Job training/Job supports	○	○
Detox	○	○
Shelters	○	○
Drop-ins	○	○
Food bank	○	○
Hospital/emergency room	○	○
Services that help you get ID	○	○
Saskatoon Housing Authority	○	○
Churches	○	○
Other (specify):	○	○

c) Have you had any problems accessing <u>any of the services you just mentioned</u> that might help you get housing?
    ○ Yes
    ○ No *(Go to Q7e)*

d) *(If yes),* what problems have you had?

_____

_____

_____

_____

e) Do you currently have a long-term housing plan?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No *(Go to Q7g)*

f) Based on your housing plan, when do you expect to move into housing? *(Read aloud and check the corresponding time)*
- ○ Within one week
- ○ Within one month
- ○ Within three months
- ○ Within one year
- ○ *(Don't read)* Don't know
- ○ *(Don't read)* Refused/no answer
- ○

g) Have you had any contact with any of the following in the last 6 months? *(Read list and ask yes or no for each question and check their response to each)*

	Yes	No
Ambulance	○	○
If Yes, did they help you with housing?	○	○
Police	○	○
If Yes, did they help you with housing?	○	○
Probation/Parole	○	○
If Yes, did they help you with housing?	○	○
Jail, detention centre	○	○
If Yes, did they help you with housing?	○	○

8. a) What kinds of problems have you had finding <u>a place of your own to live</u>?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

b) Which of the following would help you find housing? *(Read list and ask yes or no for each question and check their response to each)*

	Yes	No
More money	○	○
Help getting ID (e.g., health card)	○	○
Help finding an affordable place	○	○
Help with housing applications	○	○
Help with immigration issues	○	○

	Yes	No
Harm reduction supports (e.g., methadone, needle exchange)	○	○
Transportation to see apartments	○	○
Help with legal issues	○	○
Help addressing your health needs	○	○
Help getting detox services	○	○
Help getting alcohol or drug treatment	○	○
Mental health supports	○	○
Cultural supports	○	○
Services in a language other than English	○	○
Other (specify):	○	○

My next questions are about your income.

9.   a) What are your current source(s) of income? *(Read list and ask yes or no for each question and check their response to each)*

	Yes	No
Formal employment	○	○
Informal employment (for example, under the table or for cash)	○	○
Day jobs (e.g., Ready to Work)	○	○
Family/friends *(Go to closing script)*	○	○
Canada Pension Plan *(Go to closing script)*	○	○
Unemployment/Employment Insurance *(Go to closing script)*	○	○
Government Programs (e.g., Child Tax Credit) *(Go to closing script)*	○	○
Social Services/Welfare *(Go to closing script)*	○	○
Panhandling *(Go to closing script)*	○	○
Other (Specify):	○	○

    b) Do you work full time or part time? By full time, I mean 35 hours a week.
       ○ Full time
       ○ Part time

These last questions ask about some of your life experiences.

10.   a) Are you a veteran of the Canadian armed forces *(Mark yes if they list any military or para-military organizations, i.e. merchant marines)*
       ○ Yes
       ○ No

b) Have you been a victim of physical violence while living out-of-doors? *(This can   include any encounter that they consider to be violent)*

 ❍ Yes
 ❍ No

c) Did you live with foster parents or families at any point during your childhood?

 ❍ Yes
 ❍ No

 (If Yes) did you live with them until you turned 18?

  ❍ Yes
  ❍ No

Volunteer Closing Script (Please read):

That concludes our survey. Thank you for participating. Your answers will help shelters and service providers in the City of Saskatoon better plan its services for homeless people. (*Leave card with information about housing services)*.I am leaving you with a card with information about agencies that may help you to get housing if you're interested in contacting them. Thank you again for your assistance.

Thanks for agreeing to participate in the survey. It will take around 10 minutes to complete. You will be completely anonymous and only group data will be reported. Your participation is completely voluntary and you can skip a question or stop the survey at any time, for any reason.

1. Are you staying here with anyone?
   - ❍ No, alone
   - ❍ Yes, with one other adult
   - ❍ Yes, with more than one other adult
   - ❍ Yes, with children

2. May I ask you how old you are? _____ years

   If unknown or refused, estimate by these ranges:
   - ❍ 25 years or younger
   - ❍ 26 to 49 years
   - ❍ 50 years or older

3. What is your gender?
   - ❍ Male
   - ❍ Female
   - ❍ Other (specify): _____
   - ❍ Refused/no answer

4. What is your racial background? *(Read all options)*
   - ❍ European/Caucasian descent
   - ❍ Aboriginal/Métis
   - ❍ East Indian
   - ❍ Asian
   - ❍ Middle Eastern
   - ❍ African
   - ❍ Central American
   - ❍ South American
   - ❍ *(Don't read)* Refused/no answer
   - ❍ *(Don't read)* Other (specify): _____

5.   a) Are you currently on a waiting list for housing?
   - ❍ Yes
   - ❍ No *(Go to Q6)*
   - ❍ Don't know *(Go to Q6)*
   - ❍ Refused/no answer *(Go to Q6)*

c) What waiting list(s) are you on? *(Read each option and check all that apply)*
- ❑ Saskatoon Housing Authority
- ❑ Cress Housing
- ❑ Saskatoon Housing Coalition
- ❑ SaskNative Rentals
- ❑ YWCA
- ❑ Other (specify): _____

c) How long have you been on the waiting list(s)?
- _____ days
- _____ weeks
- _____ months
- _____ years
- ❍ Don't know
- ❍ Refused/no answer

d) When was the last time you updated your application or made sure you were still on the list?
- _____ days ago
- _____ weeks ago
- _____ months ago
- _____ years ago
- ❍ Don't know
- ❍ Refused/no answer

e) Has anything made applying for housing difficult?
- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No *(Go to Q6)*
- ❍ Don't know *(Go to Q6)*
- ❍ Refused/no answer *(Go to Q6)*

f) *(If yes,)* what problems have you had <u>applying for housing</u>?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

6.   a) How long have you been using this shelter/transitional housing?
- _____ days
- _____ weeks
- _____ months

_____ years
- ○ Don't know
- ○ Refused/no answer

b) How long has it been since you last had your own residence?
_____ days
_____ weeks
_____ months
_____ years
- ○ Don't know
- ○ Refused/no answer

7. a) Have you used any of the following services in the last 6 months? *(Read list and ask yes or no for each question and check their response to each) (If none, move to Q7e).*

	Yes	No
Health clinics	○	○
Job training/Job supports	○	○
Detox	○	○
Shelters	○	○
Drop-ins	○	○
Food bank	○	○
Hospital/emergency room	○	○
Services that help you get ID	○	○
Saskatoon Housing Authority	○	○
Churches	○	○
Other (specify):	○	○

b) Of the services you just mentioned you have used, are any helping you get permanent housing? *(Mark all that are indicated – if none, move to Q7e)*

	Yes	No
Health clinics	○	○
Job training/Job supports	○	○
Detox	○	○
Shelters	○	○
Drop-ins	○	○
Food bank	○	○
Hospital/emergency room	○	○
Services that help you get ID	○	○
Saskatoon Housing Authority	○	○
Churches	○	○
Other (specify):	○	○

c) Have you had any problems accessing any of the services you just mentioned that might help you get housing?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No *(go to Q7e)*

d) *(If yes,)* what problems have you had?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

e) Do you currently have a long-term housing plan?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No *(Go to Q7g)*

f) Based on your housing plan, when do you expect to move into housing? *(Read aloud and check the corresponding time)*
- ○ Within one week
- ○ Within one month
- ○ Within three months
- ○ Within one year
- ○ *(Don't read)* Don't know
- ○ *(Don't read)* Refused/no answer

g) Have you had any contact with any of the following in the last 6 months? *(Read list and ask yes or no for each question and check their response to each)*

	Yes	No
Ambulance	○	○
If Yes, did they help you with housing?	○	○
Police	○	○
If Yes, did they help you with housing?	○	○
Probation/Parole	○	○
If Yes, did they help you with housing?	○	○
Jail, detention centre	○	○
If Yes, did they help you with housing?	○	○

8.   a) What kinds of problems have you had finding <u>a place of your own to live</u>?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

    b) Which of the following would help you find housing? *(Read list and ask yes or no for each question and check their response to each)*

	Yes	No
More money	○	○
Help getting ID (e.g., health card)	○	○
Help finding an affordable place	○	○
Help with housing applications	○	○
Help with immigration issues	○	○
Harm reduction supports (e.g., methadone, needle exchange)	○	○
Transportation to see apartments	○	○
Help with legal issues	○	○
Help addressing your health needs	○	○
Help getting detox services	○	○
Help getting alcohol or drug treatment	○	○
Mental health supports	○	○
Cultural supports	○	○
Services in a language other than English	○	○
Other (specify):	○	○

My next questions are about your income.

9.   a) What are your current source(s) of income? *(Read list and ask yes or no for each question and check their response to each)*

	Yes	No
Formal employment	○	○
Informal employment (for example, under the table or for cash)	○	○
Day jobs (e.g., Ready to Work)	○	○
Family/friends *(Go to closing script)*	○	○
Canada Pension Plan *(Go to closing script)*	○	○

Unemployment/Employment Insurance *(Go to closing script)*	○	○
Government Programs (e.g., Child Tax Credit) *(Go to closing script)*	○	○
Social Services/Welfare *(Go to closing script)*	○	○
Panhandling *(Go to closing script)*	○	○
Other (Specify):	○	○

       c) Do you work full time or part time? By full time, I mean 35 hours a week.
- ○ Full time
- ○ Part time

These last questions ask about some of your life experiences.

10.   a) Are you a veteran of the Canadian armed forces *(Mark yes if they list any military or para-military organizations, i.e. merchant marines)*
- ○ Yes
- ○ No

       b) Have you been a victim of physical violence while trying to find a place of your own? *(This can include any encounter that they consider to be violent)*
- ○ Yes
- ○ No

       c) Did you live with foster parents or families at any point during your childhood?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No

       (If Yes) did you live with them until you turned 18?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Volunteer Closing Script (Please read):

That concludes our survey. Thank you for participating. Your answers will help shelters and service providers in the City of Saskatoon better plan their services for homeless people.

Thank you again for your assistance.

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