

# 2025 Saskatoon Point-in-Time Homelessness Count

HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY FINDINGS



This project is funded in part by  
the Government of Canada.



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the City of Saskatoon is located on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. This land is the traditional territory of the Nehiyaw (Cree), Nakota, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis nation. We honour the relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land and recognize the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization. This includes the displacement of Indigenous communities from their traditional territories which has

contributed to the over representation of Indigenous peoples among those experiencing homelessness in Saskatoon.

The Point-in-Time Count is conducted with respect for Indigenous knowledge, communities and leadership. As we work to understand and respond to homelessness in Saskatoon, we commit to advancing reconciliation, working in partnership with Indigenous communities in order to address housing justice and equity.

Jesse Thistle states that, *“Indigenous homelessness is not defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully described and understood through a composite lens of Indigenous worldviews. These include individuals, families and communities isolated from their relationships to land, water, place, family, kin, each other, animals, cultures, languages and identities.”* This means that responding to Indigenous homelessness strictly in terms of housing without addressing the need for cultural and spiritual connection can be inadequate and may even reduce colonial dynamics and harms.



YWCA Hopeful Hearts Project Rendering

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) would like to express our appreciation to the many individuals currently experiencing homelessness who generously shared their invaluable insights and personal stories, making the project possible.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the many dedicated volunteers, and Saskatoon's Community Advisory Board (CAB) who contributed their time and expertise, and

to Saskatoon Co-op for their generous donations on the day of the Count.

We also thank our partners at the Government of Canada for funding this project and for their continued critical role in this effort.

Together, these collective efforts reinforce our shared commitment to addressing homelessness in Saskatoon.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Point-in-Time (PiT) Homelessness Count conducted in Saskatoon on Thursday, October 16, 2025, highlights the severity of the homelessness crisis. This community-led initiative recorded at least 1,931 individuals experiencing homelessness - up from 1,499 individuals counted in 2024. This represents an increase from 5 to approximately 7 homeless individuals per 1,000 residents, placing Saskatoon among the Canadian cities with the highest rates of homelessness.

The Count reveals significant disparities, particularly the significant over-representation of Indigenous individuals, who make up approximately 83% of those experiencing homelessness. This points to systemic inequities and longstanding barriers to accessing safe and affordable housing.

The PiT Count is part of the Government of Canada's Reaching Home program, a nationally coordinated initiative among designated communities across Canada that contributes to local and national understandings of homelessness. Coordinated by the City of Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP), the PiT Count used standardized methodologies and survey questions aligned with national standards, with built-in flexibility to capture local context.

While the PiT count is an essential tool of measuring homelessness, it is important to recognize that its purpose is to present a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness during a 24-hour period, capturing the minimum number of individuals experiencing homelessness at a specific point-in-time.



CUMFI Round Prairie Elders' Lodge

# KEY TERMS

## **Administrative Data**

Information collected by organizations or institutions (i.e. hospitals) as part of their regular operations or services.

## **Encampments**

Outdoor locations with a group of tents, makeshift shelters or other long-term outdoor settlements, where two or more individuals are staying.

## **Hidden Homelessness**

Individuals experiencing hidden homelessness include those living temporarily with others without guaranteed residency (i.e., couch surfing) and staying in short-term rentals without secure tenure (i.e., self-funded motel/hotel).

## **Sheltered Homelessness**

Individuals residing in emergency shelters. It may include people who receive hotel/motel vouchers in lieu of emergency shelter. It does not include people who have security of tenure or who are in social or supported/subsidized housing.

## **Systems**

Refers to people experiencing homelessness who spend the night in a health or correctional facility, such as: an urgent care facility; emergency department; hospital inpatient ward; detox, treatment or rehabilitation centre; correctional facility; or police holding cell.

## **Transitional Housing**

Intended to offer a supportive living environment for its residents, including offering them the experience, tools, knowledge, and opportunities for social and skill development to become more independent and transition from homelessness to secure housing. It is considered an intermediate step between emergency shelter and supportive or independent housing, and has limits on how long an individual or family can stay.

## **Unsheltered Homelessness**

Without any form of shelter and residing in public places (i.e. streets, park, vacant buildings) or in areas not fit for habitation (i.e. cars).

## **Youth Homelessness**

Refers to the situation and experience of young people between the ages of 13 and 24 who are living independently of parents and/or caregivers, but do not have the means or ability to acquire a stable, safe or consistent residence.

# METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

## METHODOLOGY

The 2025 PiT Count was the first “enumeration-only” count, a change mandated by the Federal Government. Under this new model, enumeration counts will occur annually, while full surveys are conducted every three years. Data collection combined outdoor enumerations, direct observations, and administrative aggregate data from shelters, transitional housing, and related systems to provide a point-in-time snapshot of homelessness in Saskatoon.

### Timing and Scope

The count was a “snapshot” taken on October 16, 2025—capturing data across a range of settings including unsheltered locations, emergency shelters, encampments, and transitional housing.

### Training and Protocols

Volunteers received comprehensive trauma informed training to ensure respectful and accurate data collection. Training sessions ensured volunteers were equipped and prepared to approach the kindness and an understanding of the complexities involved with experiencing homelessness.

### Data Collection Processes

A screening tool and enumeration count sheet were adapted from templates provided from the Federal Government and were used by volunteers to guide data collection. Questions were added based on a desire to collect additional demographic data such as age, gender, Indigenous status, and length of time in Saskatoon.

## LIMITATIONS

Although the 2025 PiT Count used standardized and ethical methodology, it does have some limitations worth highlighting, namely:

### Single Night Snapshot

May not fully represent fluctuating or episodic homelessness.

### Potential Under-Counting

Likely under-represents hidden homelessness and those avoiding contact.

### Possible Count Duplication

A screening question was added to decrease the amount of possible duplication when approaching individuals, but inaccuracies may still occur.

### Voluntary Participation

May introduce demographic or experiential bias.

### Changes in Methodology

Expanded outreach could affect historical comparisons.

### Excluded Populations

Does not account for those at imminent risk of homelessness or in precarious living arrangements.

Despite these limitations, the PiT Count remains an essential tool for tracking trends and informing policy.

# SASKATOON'S 2025 PIT COUNT

**Saskatoon's Count Day:**  
Thursday, October 16, 2025

**Surveyed Hours:**  
11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**Weather Conditions:**

 High of 12°C and sunny during the day.

 Overnight low of 1°C.

**250+**



## **Volunteers**

Counted and surveyed individuals experiencing homelessness.

**13**



## **Outreach Teams**

Teams who covered quadrants of Saskatoon to collect outreach and encampment data.

**47**



## **Facilities & Programs**

Collected administrative and systems data for sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness.

**13**



## **Stationary Locations**

**29**



## **Study Areas**

Covering 24 of 65 neighbourhoods.

# COUNT RESULTS

**1,931**

**Counted without permanent shelter.**

- 1,931 people including 219 children and 209 youth were counted as without permanent shelter.
- 5% did not specify their age.

**Adults**  
(25-64)  
**69.3%**

**Youth**  
(13-24)  
**11.7%**

**Children**  
(0-12)  
**12.3%**

**Seniors**  
(65+)  
**1.7%**

**Encampments**  
**151**  
(7.8%)

**Unsheltered**  
**725**  
(37.5%)

**Systems**  
**47**  
(2.4%)

**Transitional Housing**  
**444**  
(23.0%)

**Emergency Shelters**  
**327**  
(17.0%)

**Hidden Homelessness**  
**237**  
(12.3%)

Although parental consent is typically required for research participants under the age of 18, youth who were in no distress and gave consent were eligible to be enumerated.

# WHO IS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?



**53.2%**  
MALE



**45.5%**  
FEMALE



**82.9%**  
INDIGENOUS

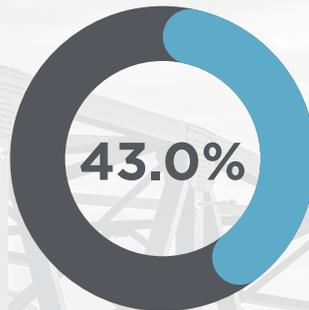


**1.3%**  
GENDER DIVERSE  
(including two-spirit,  
transgender and non-binary)

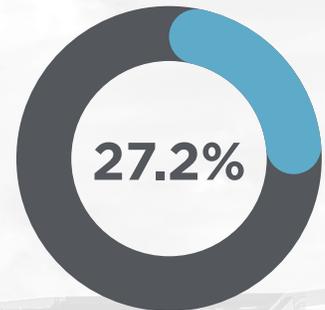
# LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN SASKATOON



**HAS "ALWAYS"  
LIVED IN  
SASKATOON**



**HAS LIVED IN  
SASKATOON MORE  
THAN 5 YEARS**



**HAS LIVED IN  
SASKATOON LESS  
THAN 5 YEARS**

# COMPARISON BETWEEN SASKATOON PiT COUNTS

Findings across Saskatoon PiT Homelessness Counts (2022, 2024 and 2025)

	2022*	2024	2025
Date of the Count	Apr 28	Oct 8	Oct 16
Total sheltered and unsheltered	550	1,499	1,931
Unsheltered (Adults)	5.5%	14.4%	22.9%
Sheltered (Adults)	24.4%	12.5%	14.3%
Total Children	2.3%	21.0%	12.3%
Total Hidden Homelessness	30 (5.5%)	339 (22.6%)	237 (12.3%)
Total Self-Identified Indigenous People	90.1%	80.7%	82.9%

\*In 2022, the PiT Count was conducted on a smaller scale with fewer volunteers. Please note that it may be reflected throughout the data.

For the 2024 and 2025 PiT Count, a child was defined within the 0-12 years range. Those from 13-24 years were defined as youth, while those between 25 and 44 were defined as adults, those between 45 and 64 as older adults; seniors were 65+.

## RATE OF HOMELESSNESS

The Homelessness Rate is the number of people experiencing homelessness per 1,000 residents on the night of the PiT Count over the years.

Year	Population (as of July 1)	PiT Count	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 residents)
2022 (Apr)	281,418	550	2.0
2024 (Oct)	308,626	1,499	4.9
2025 (Oct)	318,067*	1,931	6.1

Source: Statistics Canada Table 17-10-0155-01.

\*2025 Population is an estimate provided by Statistics Canada.

# KEY FINDINGS

The 2025 PiT Count offers critical insights into the evolving state of homelessness in Saskatoon. Analysis of the data collected highlights several key themes:

- Homelessness continues to rise, increasing by 30% since 2024. The 2025 Count identified 1,931 individuals experiencing homelessness, reinforcing Saskatoon's position among Canadian cities with the highest rates relative to population.
- Indigenous people remain disproportionately represented, accounting for approximately 83% of the homelessness population, despite comprising only a small fraction of Saskatoon's general population. This persistent over-representation reflects systemic inequities that require targeted solutions.
- Children and youth remain a concern, although the number of children counted reduced from 21% in 2024 to 12.3% in 2025. It is important to note that the children counted were through transitional and emergency shelter data collected.
- Just over 29% of respondents said they have always lived in Saskatoon - a figure that has held steady.
- The percentages of respondents identifying as male, female, or gender diverse remained largely unchanged from 2024, with fluctuations of no more than 2% across all three categories.

Command 9: Mobile Command Unit



# LIST OF PARTICIPATING FACILITIES & CLASSIFICATIONS

9

## EMERGENCY SHELTERS

- Saskatoon Interval House
- Saskatoon Tribal Council - 2 locations
- The Salvation Army
- YWCA
- The Mustard Seed
- John Howard Society
- EGADZ
- Hope Restored Canada

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## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

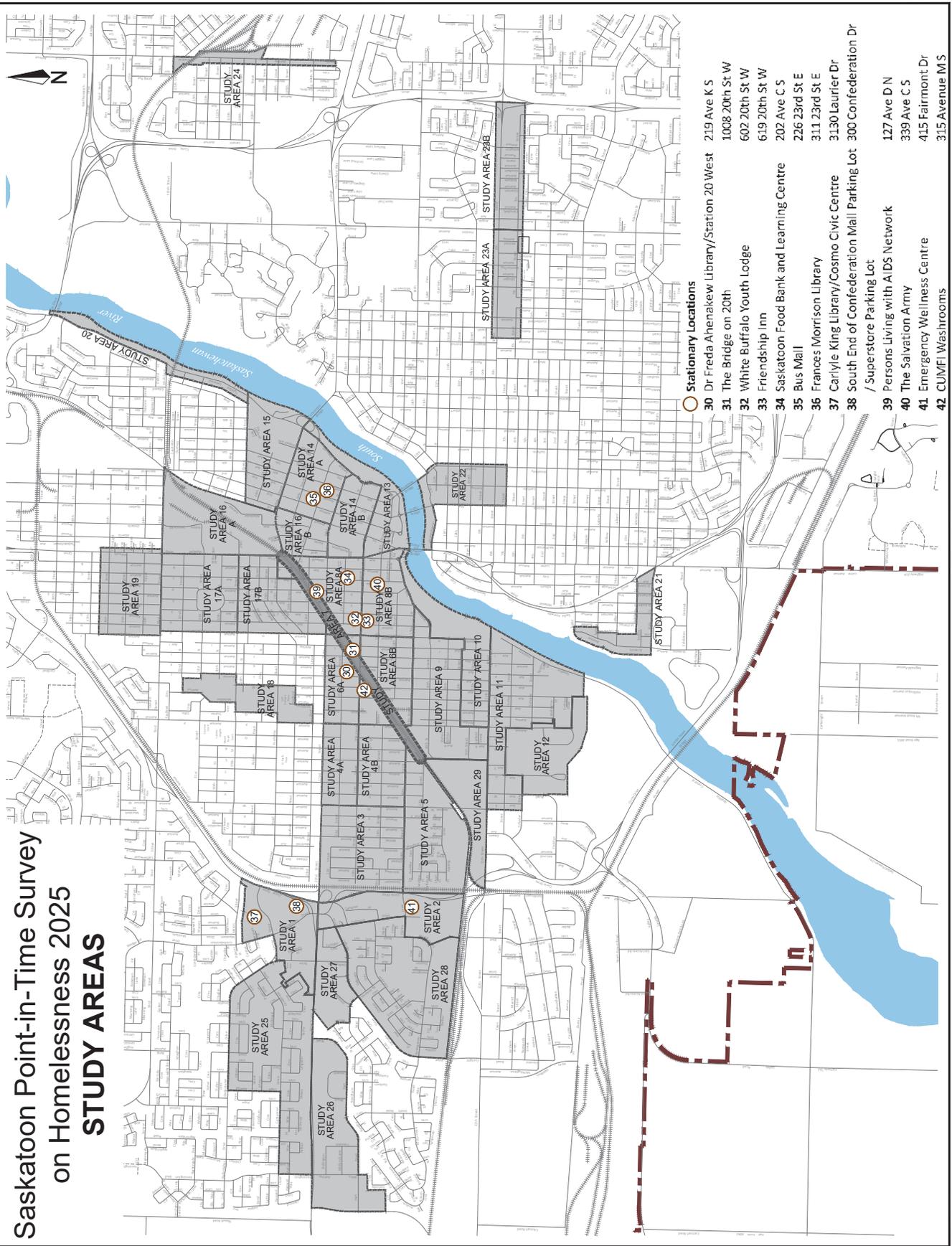
- CUMFI Transitional Homes - 5 locations
- CUMFI Group Homes - 5 locations
- EGADZ - 2 locations
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan
- John Howard Society
- OUTSaskatoon
- Persons Living with AIDS Network
- Prairie Harm Reduction
- Quint Development Corporation - 2 locations
- Sanctum Care Group - 2 locations
- Saskatoon Interval House
- Saskatoon Tribal Council - 4 locations
- The Salvation Army - 2 locations
- YWCA - 3 locations

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## SYSTEMS

- Detox
- Hospital Data
- Police Holding Cells/Detention Unit

# Saskatoon Point-in-Time Survey on Homelessness 2025 STUDY AREAS



## UNSHELTERED ENUMERATION SCREENING TOOL

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm a volunteer for the **Saskatoon homelessness Point-in-Time (PiT Count)**. We are offering cigarettes and a snack for anyone who is willing to spend a couple of minutes chatting with us.

**A. Have you already spoken to someone today with this PiT crew button?**

**[YES: Thank and end]**

**[NO: Continue script]**

The goal of this short survey is to have an idea of how many people in Saskatoon are experiencing homelessness. Having this information helps the city and other service providers advocate for support and funding. We are working to measure recent changes in the population experiencing homelessness in our community. This should only take about 1-2 minutes to complete. **Participation is voluntary and your name will not be recorded.**

**B. Are you willing to answer a couple of brief questions about your circumstances? (If they answer yes,**

**[YES: Go to C]**

**[NO: Thank and record on enumeration sheet, if applicable]**

**C. Where are you staying tonight? (DO NOT READ CATEGORIES)**

1. OWN APARTMENT / HOUSE		[Thank and end survey]
2. HOSPITAL		
3. TREATMENT CENTRE		[Continue to C1]
4. JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE		
5. HOMELESS SHELTER (e.g. emergency, family or domestic violence shelter, warming centre, drop-in)		[Thank and end survey] (For volunteers: these individuals will be counted through shelter statistics)
6. HOTEL / MOTEL FUNDED BY PROVINCE (SAID/SIS) OR HOMELESS PROGRAM		
7. TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING		
8. UNSHELTERED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (e.g. street, park, bus shelter, forest or abandoned building)		[Record on enumeration sheet and continue to D]
9. ENCAMPMENT (e.g. group of tents, makeshift shelters or other long-term outdoor settlement)		
10. VEHICLE (e.g. car, van, recreational vehicle (RV), truck, boat)		
11. SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE ("couch-surfing")		
12. MOTEL / HOTEL (SELF FUNDED)		
13. UNSURE: INDICATE PROBABLE LOCATION (1. – 12.)		[Prompt with further questions/categories above. Record on enumeration sheet and continue to D]

**C1. Otherwise do you have access to a permanent residence where you can safely stay as long as you want?**

1. YES		[THANK and END SURVEY]
2. NO		
3. DON'T KNOW		[RECORD, and CONTINUE TO D]
4. DECLINE TO ANSWER		

## UNSHELTERED ENUMERATION SCREENING TOOL

**D. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]**

1. AGE (in years) _____ OR YEAR BORN _____	2. DON'T KNOW	3. DECLINE TO ANSWER
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**E. Do you identify as First Nations (with or without status), Métis or Inuit? (If yes, please specify)**  
*[COMMUNITY NOTE: The wording of this question can be adapted to what makes sense in your community, for example by listing specific First Nations]*

1. YES, FIRST NATIONS	3. YES, MÉTIS	5. NO	7. DECLINE TO ANSWER
2. YES, INUIT	4. YES, INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY	6. DON'T KNOW	

**F. What gender do you identify with? (Show list or read list.)**

1. MAN	4. TRANS WOMAN	7. NOT LISTED: _____
2. WOMAN	5. TRANS MAN	8. DON'T KNOW
3. TWO-SPIRIT	6. NON-BINARY (GENDERQUEER)	9. DECLINE TO ANSWER

**G. How long have you been in Saskatoon?**

1. LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS	2. ALWAYS BEEN HERE	3. DON'T KNOW	4. DECLINE TO ANSWER
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**That is the end of our questions. Thank you for participating.**

**\*\*If at any point they want to stop the survey - stop and record on the enumeration sheet as 'observed homelessness', if you believe that to be true.\*\***





*City of*  
**Saskatoon**

[saskatoon.ca/pit](http://saskatoon.ca/pit)