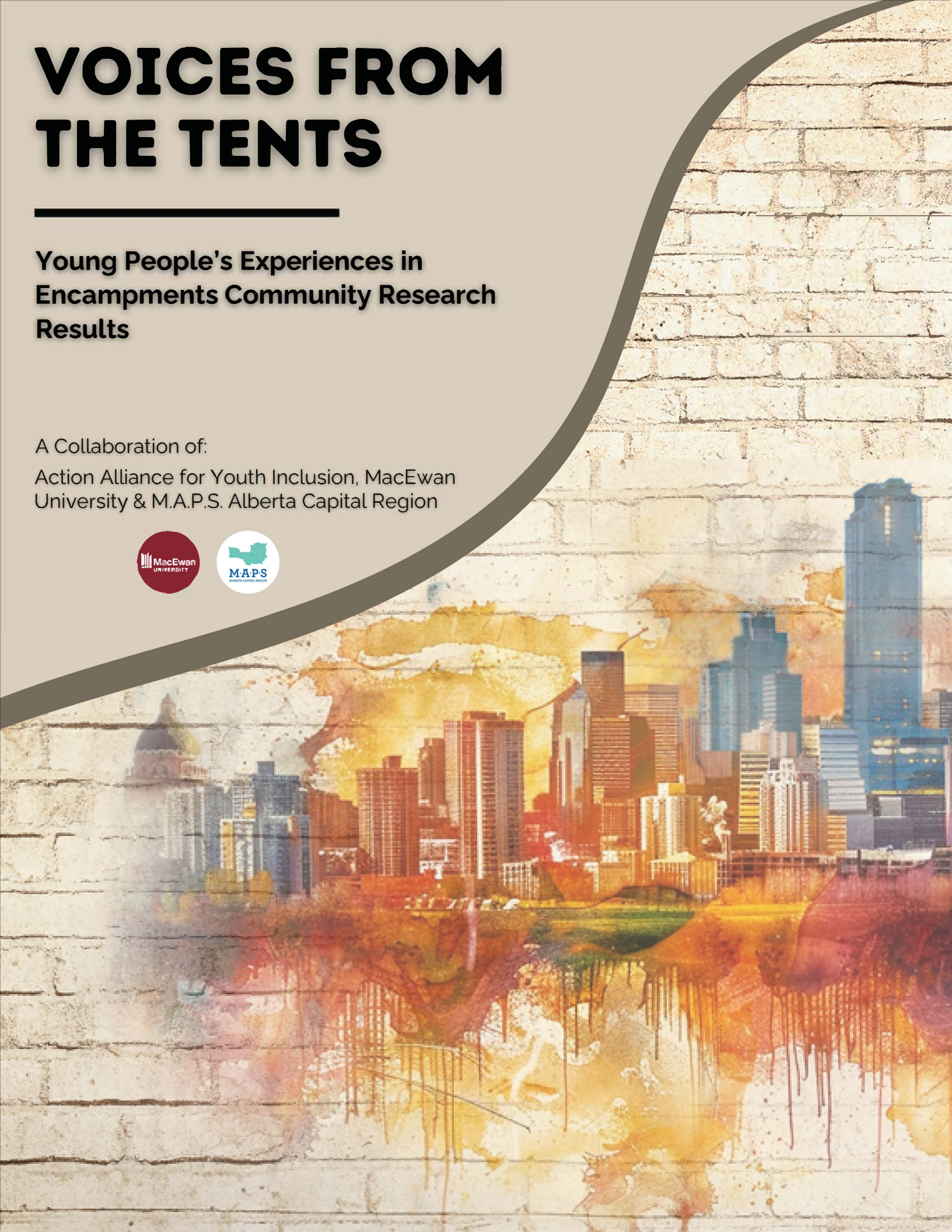


VOICES FROM THE TENTS

Young People's Experiences in Encampments Community Research Results

A Collaboration of:

Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion, MacEwan
University & M.A.P.S. Alberta Capital Region



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We would like to acknowledge and thank all who made this research possible. The Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion (AAYI), a collaboration of youth-serving agencies and community partners promoted this project. The City of Edmonton and REACH Edmonton funded the project. iHuman Youth Society (iHuman), Edmonton Public Library (EPL) – Strathcona, and Old Strathcona Youth Society (OSYS) provided spaces for the research team to host the data collection events and helped recruit young people to participate in the project. Indigenous support and knowledge sharing began with a feast ceremony to launch the data collection process led by Dr. Carola Cunningham, (retired CEO of NiGiNan Housing Ventures) and Blaine Paul, (Director of Cultural supports at NiGiNan).

The research team was guided by Jerry McFeeters, acknowledged as “Uncle Jerry” in the houseless community. Jerry cares for and checks on people within the houseless community and has previous experience in shelters, data collection with street level populations, and first-hand knowledge of the inner workings of running encampments, including camp sustainability. Additionally, Jerry worked on previous M.A.P.S. projects surrounding houseless adults and is a trusted, respected, and invaluable resource who helped recruit young people to participate in this project.

Three research assistants, Alison Thomas, Yusi Hunter, and Matthew Cardinal brought their invaluable experience and knowledge to the project. Research Assistants were selected for their ability and willingness to work with others and their alignment with the approach and tools utilized for data collection for this project. Jennifer Vogl, M.A.P.S. Community Engagement Specialist, supported the research project through her extensive knowledge of the human services sector in Edmonton and aided in managing the project. Japkaran Saroya, an Honours Psychology undergraduate, was the Project Coordinator. Dr. Matthew “Gus” Gusul, the Executive Director and Partnership Enhancement Facilitator of MAPS and Dr. Cynthia Puddu, Assistant Professor at MacEwan University provided guidance and leadership to the project. Finally, Marlene Mulder, a private research consultant, was brought in at the end of the project to support report writing.

II. Introduction

Edmonton is a vibrant city known for its rich culture and economic opportunities. Despite Edmonton's prosperity, houselessness continues to be a growing problem. Social-assistance agencies across the city are reporting that younger demographics of people utilize their resources and services, an alarming number of whom find themselves without stable housing, and grappling with challenges that threaten their well-being and future. As of March 2024, it was estimated that there were over 3,200 people experiencing houselessness in Edmonton and over a quarter of them are people under the age of 24 (Homeward Trust, 2024).

Numerous public health crises and targeted efforts against specific groups have led to increasing numbers of people becoming unhoused (e.g., the residential school system and the Sixties Scoop, the ongoing drug poisoning crisis and opioid epidemic, and the lack of affordable housing and rent increases). Encampments, known as tent cities/communities, surged during the COVID-19 pandemic as people struggled economically. Encampments in Canada present multifaceted challenges. Some houseless persons prefer encampments for community and autonomy, yet encampments remain unsafe for a variety of reasons: fire hazards; little access to care; improper garbage and waste disposal; and the risk of victimization and traumatization (The Canadian Press, 2024; Smith, 2023).

Houselessness disproportionately impacts individuals from minority backgrounds. While Indigenous people make up approximately 6% of Edmonton's population, they make up 60% of the houseless population (Government of Alberta, 2023). 2SLGBTQ+ youth are more likely to become houseless due to family rejection. Overall, unhoused youth face specific challenges while staying outside (Abramovich & Pang, 2020). These may include physical and sexual abuse, extortion, increased substance abuse and mental health issues, poor physical health, and physical injuries (Kozloff et al., 2016; Farha & Schwan, 2020).

In Edmonton, the response to homelessness is coordinated by Homeward Trust, who receive funding from all orders of government to distribute to community-based organizations that deliver housing programs that serve different populations based on their expertise. Homeward Trust does this work through implementation of the Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, which outlines the strategic investments and actions needed to be taken across the homeless serving sector to end homelessness. Historically, the City of Edmonton has filled gaps in the homelessness response based on emerging needs. At the inception of this research, the City was developing their first corporate homelessness plan which will outline steps the City will proactively take to contribute to collaborative efforts to end homelessness among allied systems of care and others of government. Noting the alarming reports of rising rates of youth homelessness as outlined above, the purpose of this research is to better understand the needs of youth to inform the City's contributions to community-based efforts to provide youth with the vital tools, skills, and services to ensure that they live successful, independent, and fulfilling lives.

Numerous local organizations provide youth services including mental health, addiction and housing supports, harm reduction and outreach, shelters, food and clothing, and drop-in services. These organizations include, but are not limited to, Boyle Street Community Services, Youth Empowerment & Support Services, CHEW Edmonton, iHuman Youth Society, Old Strathcona Youth Society, Bent Arrow, and E4C. The Edmonton John Howard Society (EJHS) offers a Housing First for Youth program through referral from Homeward Trust.

Youth Houselessness in a National and Local Context

The first nationwide exploration of youth houselessness in Canada was conducted in 2015 and surveying over 1,100 youth aged 12 to 27 (Gaetz et al., 2016). This study examined the issues of housing instability, chronic houselessness, mental health issues, low school engagement, unemployment, and criminal victimization. This report points out that

focusing on prevention is imperative as “by failing to implement more effective strategies to address youth houselessness, we are undermining the human rights of these youth” (p.5 Gaetz et al., 2017). In a similar nationwide study focusing specifically on the mental health of houseless youth, “thirty-five percent reported at least one suicide attempt, and 33.1% reported a drug overdose requiring hospitalization (p1. Kidd et al., 2021). Risk factors for houselessness included sexual and physical violence as well as past trauma (Kidd et al., 2021).

In Edmonton, rising rates of unsheltered youth homelessness is of deep concern to communities. In 2021, Edmonton’s By Name List, indicated that 1 in 4 persons experiencing homelessness were under the age of 24. (Homeward Trust, 2021). The fluid and often cyclical nature of youth houselessness including transitioning in and out of care situations, living outside, and/or couch surfing, make it difficult to accurately determine numbers of houseless youth. Best estimates come from youth serving organizations in AAYI where numbers between 2,000 and 4,000 are suggested. YESS, the only agency in the city providing beds specifically for youth, reports having 16 emergency youth beds available. While youth may be able to access shelter beds more generally, these opportunities may not respond to the specific needs of youth.

Shifting public perceptions, advocating for supportive policies, and involving encampment residents in policy making are essential steps toward addressing houselessness effectively. A scan of English media on houselessness and encampments showed that media tended to cover three main themes: life in encampments, issues facing encampments, and responses to encampments (Flynn et al., 2022). While people showed empathy regarding the reasons why or how a person could become houseless, they also referred to houseless people as “criminals,” citing mental health and substance use issues, and indicating that the houseless should not use public spaces (p. 30 Flynn et al., 2022,). In February 2023, M.A.P.S. released “Staying Outside is Not a Preference: Houselessness in Edmonton.” The top three cited reasons for not staying in shelters included overcrowding, lack of privacy, and feeling unsafe (M.A.P.S. Alberta Capital Region, 2023). Young people

find themselves staying in encampments for many of the same reasons as their adult counterparts (Youth Empowerment & Support Services, 2023; Farha & Schwan, 2020).

When the research was being conducted, encampments in Edmonton were addressed through the Encampment Response Team (ERT), The Encampment Response Team (ERT) is a partnership between: The City of Edmonton, Homeward Trust, Boyle Street Community Services, Bissell Centre, Edmonton Police Service (EPS). The ERT process uses a risk matrix to determine the level of health and safety risk present at an encampment site to determine the response. Agency workers are connected to residents at low-risk sites with the goal of providing support and, if possible, immediate connections to shelter or housing, before an encampment is removed. Sites that are determined as high-risk are removed within 1-3 days, with communications about available shelter options provided to residents.

III. Purpose and Research Approach

Purpose

An earlier research initiative in 2017–18 the North Edmonton Youth Survey explored whether “young people in Northeast Edmonton felt welcome, safe, and supported” (p.5 2020). While this study provided a background to issues important to youth, it did not address youth houselessness and life outdoors in encampments where the effects on youth may differ from those of their adult counterparts. The current study focuses on youth experiences of survival on the street.

The goal for this research was to share the perspectives and experiences of unhoused youth currently living in encampments or staying outside, with the goal of learning how the City of Edmonton can best support this population. It is important that any initiatives regarding encampments and supporting unhoused individuals should take into consideration the needs of young people. The findings from this research will be used by the Social Development Branch of the City of Edmonton to inform policy. This research will also be shared through academic, stakeholder, and community presentations.

Research Approach

This community-based research universally recognized the strengths and perspectives of others by including youth with lived experience in the development and implementation of the project. Community service providers and service users informed the process, vetted, and made meaning of the results.

In this research, those without housing are referred to as houseless rather than homeless. In recent years there has been a shift to the term houseless Indigenous scholar Jesse Thistle explains that “Houselessness deprives an Indigenous person from culturally, spiritually, emotionally, or physically reconnecting with their Indigenous identity or lost

relationship”, whereas houselessness is the absence of a physical structure to live in. (Thistle, 2017).

Guiding Principles

Collectively, the community partners and researchers defined the following guiding principles as the framework for the project:

- Work with an Indigenous Elder and/or Wisdom Holder to integrate Indigenous practice as required in the community and to center our research team.
- Honour the truth and experiences of research participants.
- Work with partners to nurture working relationships and emphasize ethical practice in the community.
- Hire research staff who have lived experience and a strong knowledge and awareness of the community, as well as Indigenous individuals.
- Work with agencies to appropriately engage with community members.
- Be sensitive to the demands placed on agencies and research participants. This included being informed about other local data collection projects to be careful not to over-engage the same people participating in other projects.

Setting and Background

Community-based research is grounded in the understanding that community members have the most expertise to address complex needs of their own situations and environments. This approach is subject to change, refocus, redesign, and differential perspectives and understanding. Researchers must be comfortable with ambiguity and must be able to move outside the realm of expert to stand beside, and be guided and challenged by all involved. Community involvement is imperative throughout the entire research project. Agency staff brought understanding through many lenses of inquiry, and

through their subsequent perceptions and directions. Life experiences shaped the framework for the inquiry from which the project emerged.

Community Partners

The Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion (AAYI) is a collaboration of youth-serving agencies and community partners who work as allies for youth in high-risk situations. AAYI provided insight, advice and support to the project. Their membership includes:

- Boyle Street Community Support Services
- CHEW Project / fYrefly Institute
- City of Edmonton – Affordable Housing & Houselessness
- City of Edmonton – Community Social Worker Team
- Edmonton Public Library – Community Librarian
- iHuman Youth Society (iHuman)
- MacEwan University
- M.A.P.S. Alberta Capital Region
- Neighbourhood Empowerment Team
- NiGiNan Housing Ventures
- Old Strathcona Youth Society (OSYS)
- REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities
- Youth Empowerment and Support Services

Community Supports

Indigenous support and knowledge sharing was initiated with a feast ceremony before the data collection process began, led by two Indigenous Community Leaders. Another well-known Indigenous and advisor to the project, brought his wisdom and lived experience to the project. This individual regularly cares for and checks on people within the houseless community and has previous experience in shelters, data collection with

street level populations. He also worked on previous M.A.P.S. projects surrounding houseless adults and is a trusted, respected, and invaluable resource and community member who helped recruit young people to participate in this project.

Throughout the research process, the research team met with the community partners to keep them updated. Community partners had opportunities to provide their feedback on data collection materials and the direction of the project through monthly virtual meetings where updates were provided, and feedback was incorporated for the next meeting. Community partners consisted of the youth-serving agencies comprising the AAYI and are listed earlier in this report. iHuman, Edmonton Public Library (EPL) Strathcona, and OSYS provided spaces for the research team to host the data collection events and helped in recruiting young people to participate in the project.

M.A.P.S. partnered with MacEwan University to carry out the project and the research team consisted of:

- M.A.P.S. – Executive Director and Partnership Enhancement Facilitator
- MacEwan – Assistant Professor: Allied & Health & Human Performance
- Indigenous Project Advisor
- Project Coordinator
- 3 Research Assistants with lived experience
- M.A.P.S. – Community Engagement Specialist
- Research Consultant

IV. Methodology

Research was conducted in October 2023. Three data collection events were held at EPL Strathcona, iHuman, and OSYS. Promotional posters detailed the project and sent to AAYI members for distribution at their agencies. The posters included a description of the project and its purpose, details about compensation (lunch and refreshments), and a point of contact if they had any questions about the project. Fifty dollars in cash was also given to participants who completed all components of the study, information that was not listed on the poster to ensure that participants were participating out of free will. A total of 35 participants were recruited, exceeding the initial goal of 15–20 participants.

Thirty-five (35) youth participated, with 32 included in the data analysis to conform with the prescribed age range of 16 to 25 years of age. This study for youth participants consisted of three parts:

- One-on one audio-recorded interviews
- Completing a printed questionnaire (Appendix 1)
- Focus Group Discussion (Appendix 2)

The second part of the study consisted of three focus groups with six front-line staff: at the agencies, the researchers, and one City of Edmonton employee. The focus groups with front-line staff and one City of Edmonton employee were facilitated by the Project Coordinator and recorded over Zoom. All focus group discussions were audio recorded. The format followed a set of 8–10 open-ended questions to create an open and free-flowing discussion with participants about their thoughts and individual experiences.

V. Research Findings

The frequencies and Descriptives follow this report and are found in Appendix 3.

Age, Gender, Origin, and Indigenous Status

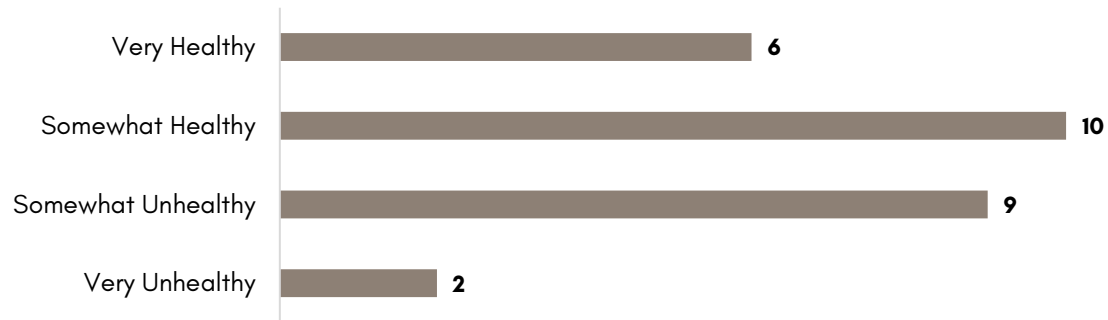
The average age of participants was 21 years old. Twenty-six participants reported their gender with 14 males, 11 females and 1 non-binary person. Seventeen participants identified as straight or heterosexual, 11 as 2SLGBTQIA+, and one person as other.

Except for one individual, all participants were born in Canada. Twenty-four (77%) identified as First Nation, Metis, or Indigenous (FNMI), and 13 of them knew which Nation they belonged to, 11 did not know and 8 did not answer the question. Indigenous respondents were also asked if they held Status, with 13 (54%) indicating First Nations Treaty. Seven participants had personal experience with the foster care system.

Education and Health

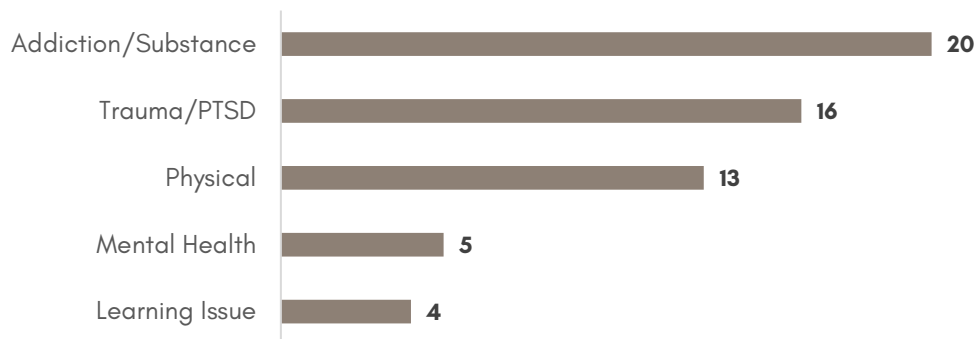
One participant reported completing Primary (grade 6) education. The majority (19) reported having completed Junior High School and 11 had completed High School. Participants were asked to rate their overall health by considering their mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health using a scale from 1 to 4 where 1 = very unhealthy; 2 = somewhat unhealthy; 3 = somewhat healthy; and 4 = very healthy. Eleven participants were in the bottom two health categories.

Self Rated Overall Health by Number of Participants



Participants were asked if they experienced any of six health specific challenges. Eight participants reported 4 health challenges, 9 reported three, three reported two and nine participants reported one health challenge. When asked about diagnosis or treatment for health challenges 5 reported diagnosis or treatment for mental health issues and 4 reported the same for learning issues. Eleven participants indicated that their mobility issues limited their daily activities.

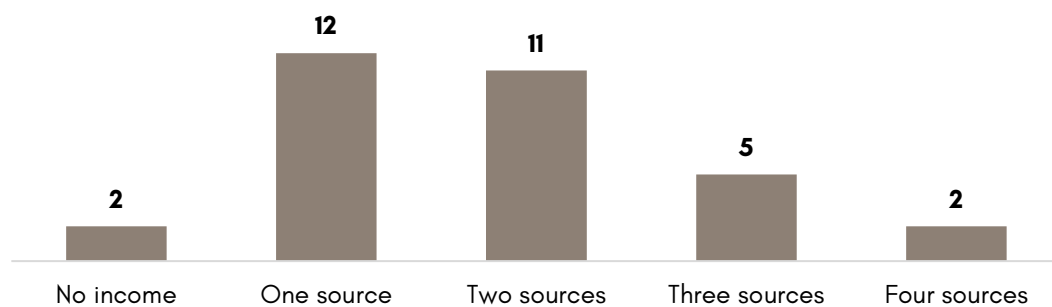
Types of Health Challenges by Number of Participants



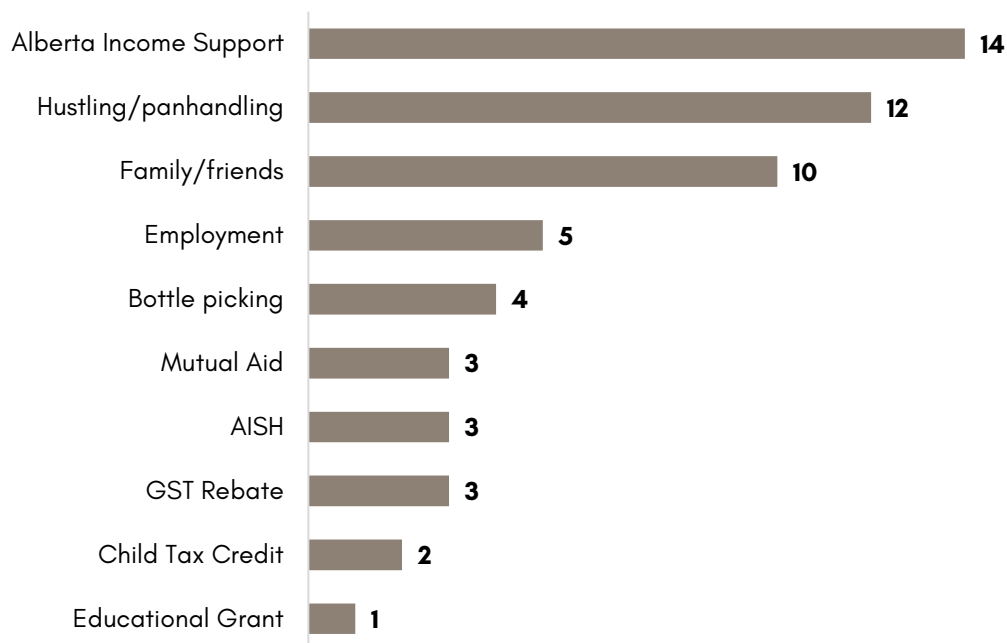
Income

Sustaining oneself requires one or more sources of steady income, whether one is housed. Most participants reported either one (12) or two (11) sources of income. The most prevalent source was Alberta Income Support at 14 followed by hustling and/or panhandling with 12 participants.

Number of Income Sources by Number of Participants



Sources of Income by Number of Participants

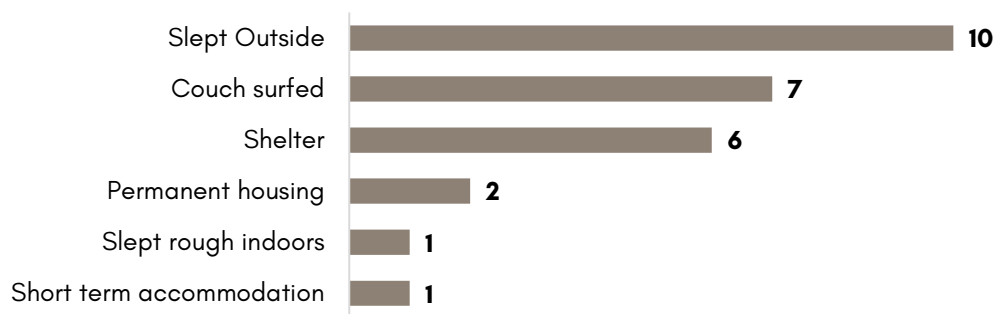


Experiences Outside

Staying Outside

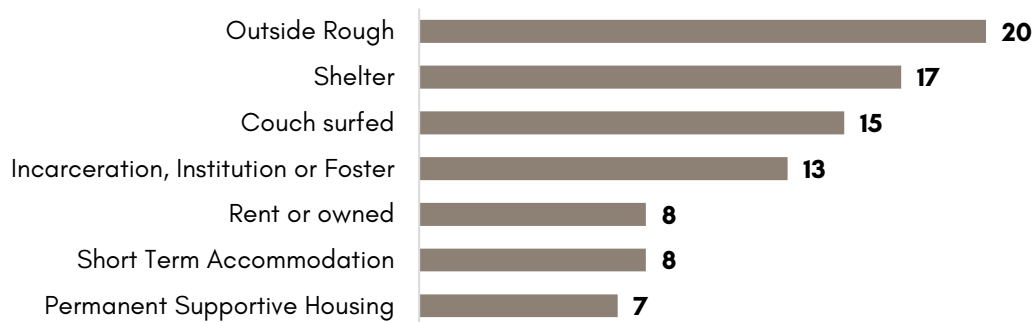
Participants were asked where they stayed the night before the data collection event, where they stayed in the last 12 months, and what led them to stay outside. Ten respondents reported that they stayed outside the night before the data collection event. A total of twenty-four stayed in very precarious housing while only two had permanent housing.

Place Stayed Night Before Data Collection by Number of Participants



Within the 12 months prior to data collection participants stayed in a variety of locations, the most prevalent being staying outside or sleeping rough at 20 persons, followed by staying at a shelter at 17. Nineteen participants reported staying outside for less than three months, while 4 stayed outside for the entire year. Two in three participants indicated that they prefer to stay outside (21 vs. 10). Twenty-three respondents reported that they felt safe with their current staying situation.

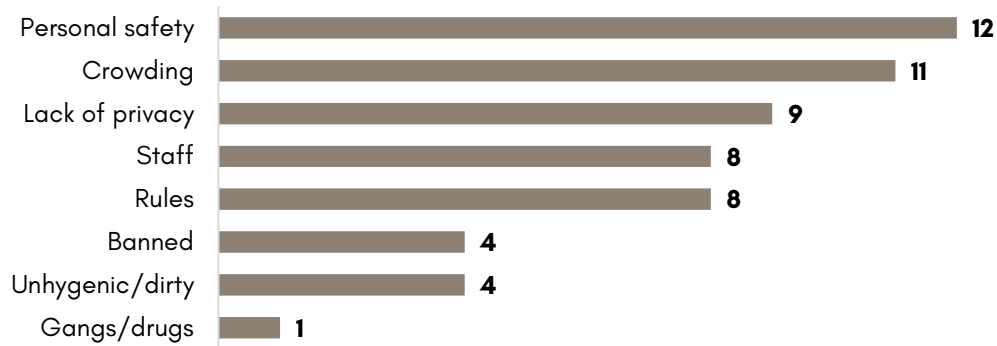
Places Stayed in past 12 Months by Number of Participants



Shelters

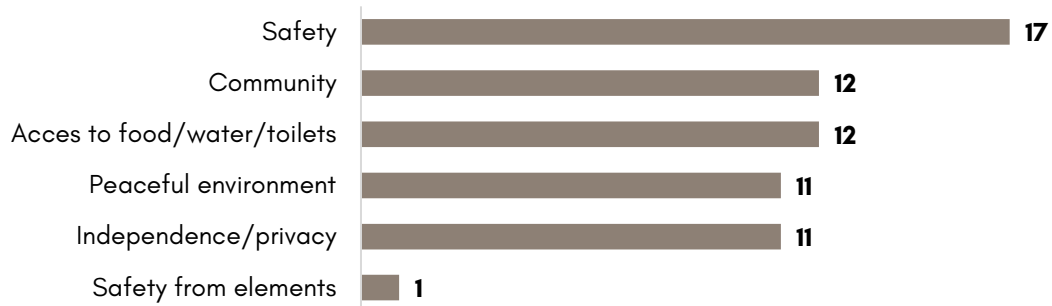
Participants were asked the reasons they would not stay in shelters. This open-ended question allowed for multiple responses. Personal safety and crowding were the most prominent reasons not to stay in shelters. Participants elaborated by saying that they have friends or street family members who sleep with them and check on them, or the shelters they stay at have cameras and places to put their belongings. Thus, there is a connection between perceived safety while staying outside with some sort of safety measures, whether that be through surveillance from technology, shelter staff, or social supports.

Reasons Not to Stay in Shelters by Number of Participants



A subsequent open-ended question asked what affects one's decision about where to stay outside. Five participants were not currently living in an encampment or staying outside leaving 27 valid responses. The most reported factor in deciding where to stay was safety at 17 responses, followed by community and access to food, water and toilets at 12 participants.

Factors in Deciding Where to Stay Outside by Number of Participants

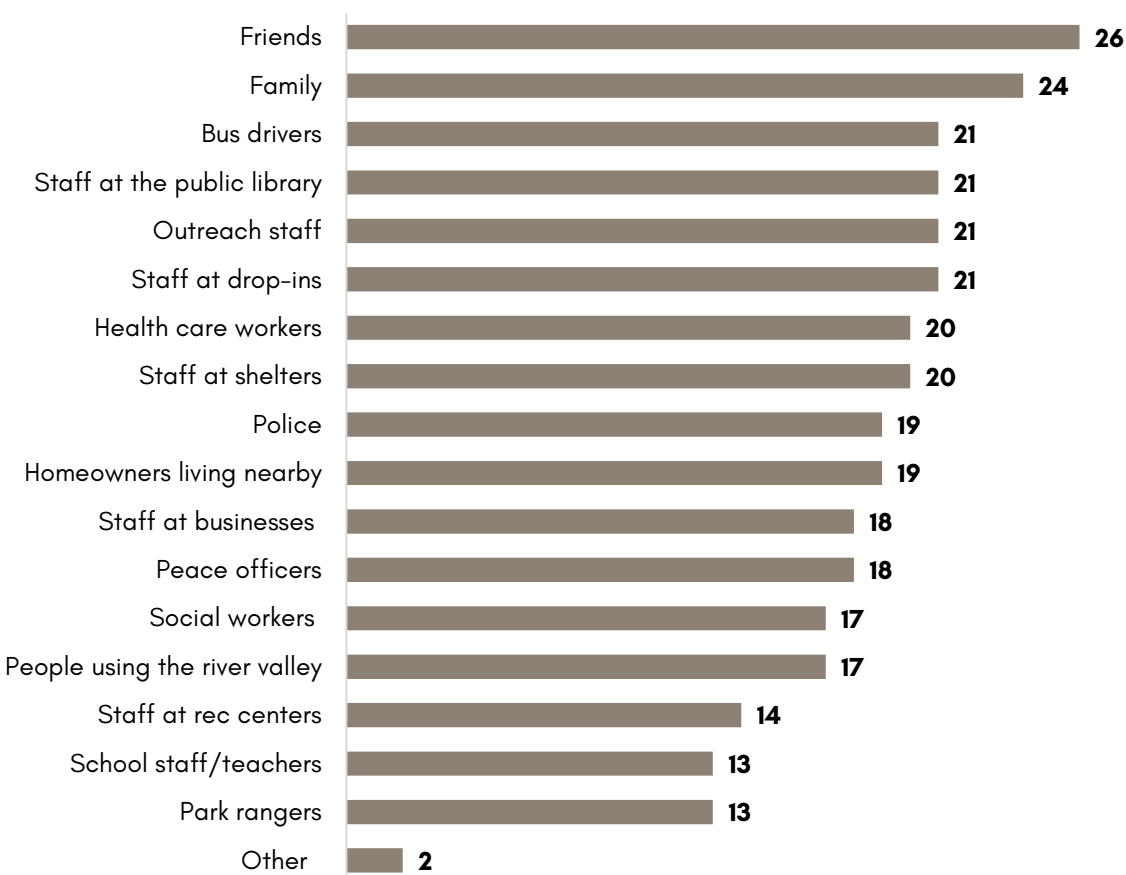


Experiences with the Public and Agency Workers

To learn about the experiences of houseless youth, it is important to consider the interactions they have with the public and people within the agencies they attend or rely on. On average, participants had 10.8 distinct types of contact. While 4 participants reported having 17 types of contacts, one person reported only one type of contact.

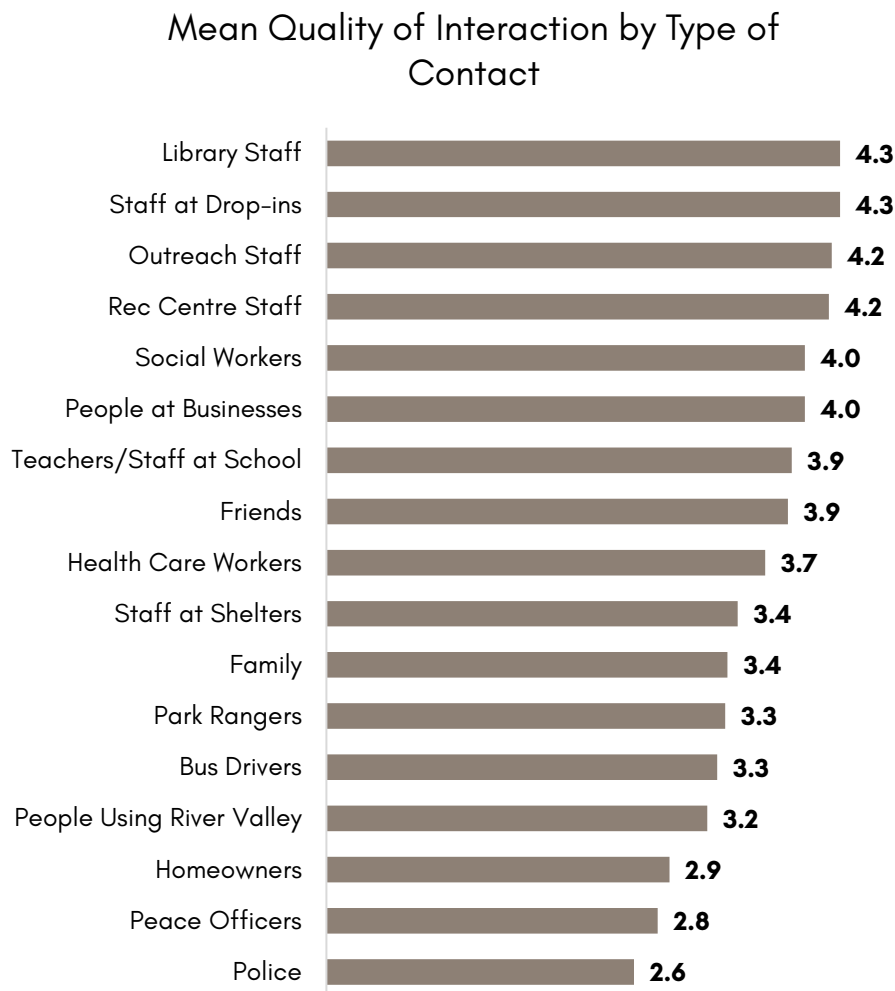
Participants were asked to mention who helped them when they started staying outside. Friends (26) and family (24) formed the most prevalent responses.

Types of Contact Over Past 12 Months by Number of Participants



Next, researchers asked participants to rate the quality of their contacts using a scale of 1 to 5 as follows: 1 = Very Negative; 2 = Somewhat Negative; 3 = Neutral; 4 =

Somewhat Positive; and 5 = Very Positive. The most positive average rating was with interactions with the staff at the public library and staff at drop-in centres at 4.3, followed by outreach and recreation centre staff at 4.2. It is important to note that the most positive ratings went to people who were seen as being helpers. The most negatively rated interactions were with police officers at 2.6, and peace officers at 2.8, both groups who are responsible for dismantling encampments and enforcing laws.

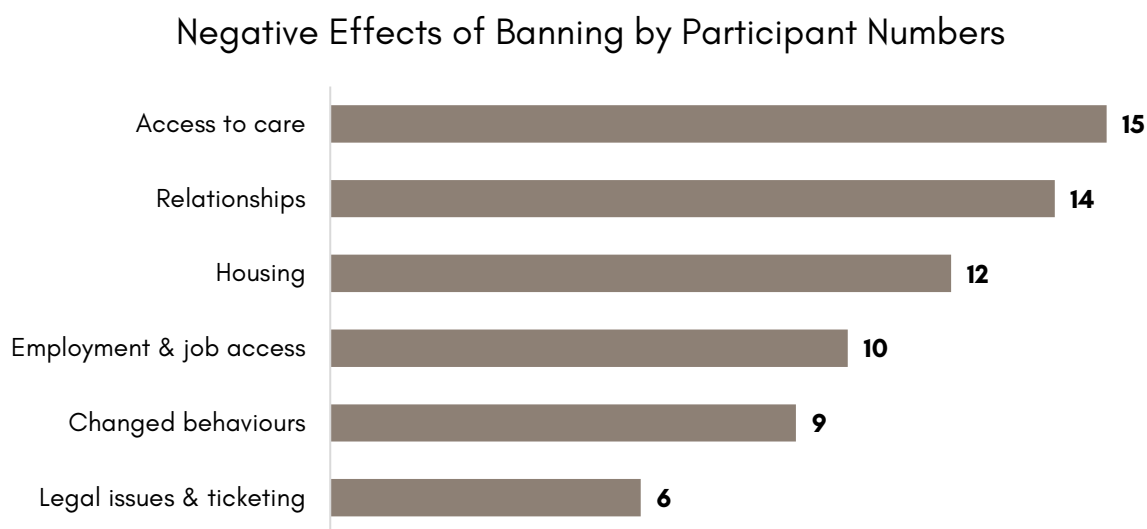


Helping agencies provide food, clothing, harm-reduction supplies, and for essential needs. Libraries could also be a safe haven of sorts for houseless youth that want to escape from the cold weather and utilize free internet access, charge their devices, or

read a book. Peace and Police Officers, along with the Encampment Response Team, are tasked with closing encampments, an activity that has large and often very negative impacts on residents' lives.

Banning Experience

Participants were asked if they were or ever had been banned. Seven respondents had not been banned while 2 had been banned from three types of places. Half of the participants (16) were banned from one type of place. They were most banned from malls, stores or restaurants, or shelters or drop-ins at 9 participants, followed by public transportation (6) and the Library (4). When asked about the effects of banning, participants reported a wide range of negative effects.



Focus Groups

Youth Participants

At every data collection event, participants were given the option to stay after the interview concluded to share in the focus group that followed. This further discussion

allowed for a more conversational format to speak about experiences staying outside and opinions about their current situations. The main reasons youth cited for staying outside or in encampments were negative relationships with family, being banned, or their friends/ or street family also staying outside.

Research Team

After every data collection event, the research assistants, project coordinator, and support staff debriefed either through a journal entry or through an audio recorded conversation. Because most of their lived experience and the guidance of the Indigenous Leader, the team felt well suited to create an atmosphere where youth participants felt comfortable and respected. The research team discussed how much the participants talked about feeling misunderstood as well as a lack of understanding and compassion they felt from the public. The researchers found the data collection experience to be eye-opening and incredibly insightful. The participants left a lasting impact on the researchers and solidified their belief that these youth know what is best for them and they are the drivers of their own lives.

Agency Workers & The City of Edmonton

Agencies and front-line workers who engage with the population on a regular basis provided perspectives on work with houseless youth through their experiences. Focus groups with six workers from agencies that houseless youth access, and one City of Edmonton employee who works with encampment residents participated in focus group discussions (this group of individuals will be referred to as “workers”).

Discussion

Youth participants, workers, and the research team all agreed that the solution to youth houselessness is safe housing appropriate support services focused on this young population. The HF4Y model, like the one put forth by Gaetz and colleagues provides a

good model (2021). This program houses transient youth unconditionally and works together with an interdisciplinary team to help youth create and set goals and plans to move forward. Numerous successful housing-first models exist in Canada such as the Upstream Project in Kelowna, B.C. and Pimatisiwin, which is run by NiGiNan Housing Ventures in Edmonton, (Boys and Girls Club Okanagan, 2024; NiGiNan Housing Ventures, 2024).

Overarching themes included staying outside and encampment experiences, shelter experiences, financial and systemic barriers, public interactions and supports, housing and housing supports, community and how agencies can help.

Staying Outside - Encampments

Stigmatization and pathways that result in youth becoming houseless were discussed. People may immediately believe that an individual is staying outside due to being addicted to a substance, when it could be the result of many other factors. Most of the youth in the study stated that negative relationships with family members was the significant factor that contributed to why they were staying outside. As a result of being on the street, these youth are put at increased risk for victimization, traumatization, developing a substance use issue, and engaging in high-risk behaviors (Kidd et al., 2021). Researchers concluded that the reason why substance use/addiction remains so high in houseless populations is because it could be used as a coping mechanism for dealing with the jarring experiences of staying outside.

The workers offered reasons for youth staying outside noting that these reasons are multiple, multifaceted, and cyclical:

- Poor relationships with family
- Substance use and subsequent mental health issues
- Standards and rules of shelters (and subsequent lack of beds)
- Lack of accurate and applicable resources and services

- Generational trauma and houselessness.

The primary themes were the unsafe nature of staying outside or in an encampment, the roles of the public, and the people involved in encampment response. While the unsafe nature of staying outside was briefly mentioned by the youth in their focus groups, the workers stressed this point. They mentioned the high likelihood of being assaulted, preyed upon, taken advantage of by older individuals, as well as the risk of contracting diseases, and using dangerous illicit substances.

"The hardcore encampments, the entrenched encampments – they're unsafe. I mean there's gangs in there, you know over the past four or five months we've learned of a street tax, which is if you want to stay in an encampment you have to pay a street tax to the gang in the area for being on their turf. If you don't pay it, they take it out of you forcefully or physically. [There are] encampments where there's blood on the ground and [people] being assaulted and beaten..." **Worker**

"I think that the longer [youth are] on the street, the more likely it is they're going to get exposed to or involved in something that potentially could be life altering for them; and you know that's a huge concern... The systems that we have can take anywhere from 90 days before they get in contact with the houseless person. And in the meantime, they're trying to navigate the streets, for however long until they get that support. Now imagine being a kid, or somebody 19 or 20 years old, trying to navigate [that] and not necessarily knowing where to go. How do you navigate that?" **Worker**

Workers pointed out that many Edmontonians are at risk of houselessness as inflation and an acute housing crisis have all contributed to this issue.

"You know you hear this 'three pay cheques' kind of phrase about people [being] three pay cheques away from being on the street... And I saw that in [location] last year where [someone] was living in a house and appeared to have a good life, but lost [their] job and couldn't pay rent, couldn't find a job, and ended up moving and creating [their] own encampment in front of the house that [they were] evicted from." **Worker**

Workers reported that while youth understand that it is unsafe to be staying in encampments, they may not be thinking about the longer-term consequences of doing so. For example, a gang may threaten, abuse, and exploit a young person into joining them, leading to participation in dangerous and illegal activities. The young person may see this as a trade-off where they do what the gang tells them in return for some sort of safety and protection.

Shelter Experiences

The conditions of staying in shelters, interacting with shelter employees and residents, the lack of beds, restrictive rules, and being banned made it difficult to stay there. Shelter rules were inconsistent, and shelter staff choose who the rules apply to. Breaking the rules differentially leads to being kicked out of the shelter or banned, leaving no other alternative than staying outside in the freezing weather. When youth leave or are kicked out of shelters, they often wait for an employee to either enter or leave the building to be able to gain entry back inside.

"It's really frustrating after you've seen someone else getting away with stuff, something you tried, and you get punished but they're like 'oh it's no big deal for them.'" Then [the staff will] restrict you for like an hour and stuff, so then you're stuck outside in the cold waiting for the next staff to come on, so you can go inside."

Youth Participant

Youth stated that as the weather gets colder, it is increasingly difficult to secure a bed, even if they show up before entry time. Another issue was not being allowed access to the table of leftover food if one was late for a meal.

"We went in around 3:00 o'clock two days ago and there was some lunch left on the table - we weren't allowed [to have] it because we didn't get in at lunchtime. Even though there was food left over, they're just going to throw it out. ..., it was really frustrating because we didn't eat, and we were waiting for [a] snack to come up." **Youth Participant**

Despite the negatives that were discussed regarding shelters, one participant shared a positive aspect of shelter-life, in that there are some opportunities to socialize. Staying outside is a particularly isolated experience, given that many participants were outside due to poor relationships with family members.

Financial & Systemic Barriers

The majority of participants received some form of financial assistance from government, and a few had some employment, however, funds received were often temporary and sporadic. Regardless of income sources, participants were unable to afford any type of housing. Breaks in education and difficulties in procuring employment to build a better future were also issues for some participants.

"I'm a third-year carpenter, third year scaffolder, I've worked heavy duty mechanics all through high school. But [now I'm] out of a job and trying to convince people to give me a chance because I'm living in a tent." **Youth Participant**

Participants stated how unsafe it is to stay outside. The possibility of encountering violent individuals and unsafe situations remains a significant and ever-present threat. One participant discussed that while living in the encampment provides him with some sense of

community, he has no choice but to be okay with whoever shows up. One youth discussed the unpredictability of staying outside and the people you meet and see:

"If you don't see someone the next day, you don't know what's happened; you don't know if they're incarcerated, if they're in handcuffs... if they're six feet under, or if they're admitted in hospital." **Youth Participant**

Public Interactions & Supports

Participants discussed interactions with people in the community. They shared diverse experiences of citizens who were sympathizing and supportive, as well as those who looked down on them and treated them badly. They expressed a wish for members of the public to have more compassion and understanding regarding their situations.

They voiced their deep appreciation for outreach workers as well as their negative interactions with police and peace officers. While the *Staying Outside* study reported that all respondents most appreciated their interaction with outreach workers, the importance of this relationship was even more important to the youth respondents in this study (M.A.P.S., 2023). Given that many youths are houseless because of broken relationships with family, and becoming houseless most often means no longer being connected to school, relationships with outreach workers are central. Outreach workers are often seen as parents, mentors, and friends.

Youth were asked what could be done to improve the current housing and houseless situation. They recommended more housing opportunities, increased numbers of beds at shelters, more public washrooms, and HELP Vans cruising hot spots with resources, wellness checks, and supplies for people staying outside.

"Wherever there's hot spots for tents and stuff, it [could] be like - handing out sweaters and water and stuff. You [could] have outreach workers going around and finding tents and handing out supplies and stuff too. Just [things] like that, but more routine - [a] daily kind of thing rather than like every couple of days. Cause at

that point I feel like if nobody goes to check up on them, it could be too late. And imagine how many people that has happened to, or how many people [freeze] to death because they didn't have anybody go check up on them. Some of these people have been left for days and nobody goes and checks on them. Cause for a lot of people, just knowing that people care [and] that there are people out there that do give an [explicit] about them, sometimes that's all they need." **Youth Participant**

Housing & Housing Supports

Participants discussed the lack of housing opportunities that were available to them. Long wait times to be housed through organizations, conditional housing, and the lack of affordable, long-term housing were prominent themes. They stated that it is common to secure some sort of housing and find it be infested with bugs, mold, or genuinely inhabitable. They also discussed how frequently their landlords engaged in illicit activities and would kick them out after a brief period of time.

Given their experiences regarding finding adequate housing, they did have suggestions on interim solutions that could be helpful. One participant discussed their experience with the implementation of shelter pods in Drayton Valley, Alberta. The initial purpose of the pods was to create a short-term emergency shelter option for those staying outside, but it turned into a permanent option for some individuals (Huncar, 2024). The pods in Edson are now closed because of lack of funding to keep them running as the city's Mayor cited a cost of \$11,000 per month (Huncar, 2024).

Another youth participant suggested hotel-style group homes which can provide on-site support such as addictions counseling, mental health support for staff and residents, and caseworkers. He suggested that residents could pay rent to achieve a more stable place to live, learn essential skills, and work towards a more successful future with their caseworkers.

"The idea would be that we have longer living [locations] to create stability and a different impact... It would allow someone to rehabilitate and [reintegrate into] society in a way that would provide them time to work on their personalized goals and traumas with caseworkers, counselors, and mental health teams to make an action plan. It would allow more opportunity for people to be educated in simple things such as how to continue education, how to have peer motivation and self-esteem."

Participant

While shelters are helpful, they are only holding spaces that do not provide a setting to develop life skills.

"So overall you can give someone shelter and say you can stay here six months, and try to help them find a place, but did you help them learn how to live in a place? Do they know how to cook; do they know how to clean?"

Youth Participant

Workers pointed out that while housing is key, there are numerous reasons that housing may not be sustained without needed support. It is also a struggle for someone to become housed and subsequently be unable to help the community they are leaving.

"I think some people kind of have this perception that [if] you get somebody off the street ... that they're going to be on the fast track to not being houseless anymore and that's not the case... you're talking about intergenerational trauma, experience of trauma and abuse, mental health, you have narcotics and drug addiction, opioid addiction... So, putting somebody in a room by themselves without taking those factors into consideration basically means that they're very likely going to end up back on the street at some point, in my opinion."

Worker

"If there's ten people living in an encampment and one person's eligible for housing and social workers come and take that one person out of those ten people, and you're that person – you're looking at your friends, your people; the people that have been with you on the street that have been [through] and endured all the challenges that you have. They feel guilty – like 'why me over them?'" **Worker**

Community

The researchers learned about the sense of responsibility the youth must support and care for their street family and friends, as well as the drive and perseverance they have to get themselves out of this situation despite the numerous hurdles and barriers they may face.

"[One participant] sleeps like one or two hours a day and their street family watch over them basically to make sure that they're safe, that they don't get hurt or robbed or anything like that. I feel like street families are a very big part of a lot of these youths' lives and a large factor in why they're alive today." **Researcher**

"I have noticed that the reason why a lot of the youths preferred to sleep outside instead of a shelter was because of their street family and the fact that they feel safer with them." **Researcher**

Community involvement was mentioned by both youth participants and the workers who stated that community members would give them items or food that they needed. As well, Nekum, a community-based organization that aims to help individuals overcome societal and cultural barriers, took initiative to provide encampment residents and houseless individuals with agency to choose what they wanted to throw out or keep when camps were torn down. This initiative can help curate an understanding that houseless people have agency.

“And things like that just make such a difference for people, people then have the agency to also choose what is important to them and what can they get rid of to keep their camp a bit more contained and hopefully ease some of the heat from people living around them. It’s such a seemingly simple thing, but it’s sort of something innovative to have happened.”

Worker

Workers mentioned how the youth are more transient than adults making it more difficult to help youth because they move around so much. This worker believed that the reason they are so transient is because they are following their friends or street family, or simply trying to find a place that is safer for them.

“A lot of times when we come across youth in a camp, the next time we go they might not be there, or maybe there’s like 10 or 15 different youth who cycle through one camp at various times... it’s a lot more transient. I find that street outreach in particular, actually works with very few youth because we just don’t have consistency with them, like when we try to get things going with them, or try to be consistent [with] going out there, often times it’ll be an entirely different group after two weeks.” **Worker**

How Agencies Can Help

Based on their experiences and knowledge, youth participants, the research team and helping agencies and the city offered many suggestions on how to improve the life situation and trajectories of houseless youth. They all recognized the importance of outreach workers and called for these workers to receive the support needed to best serve the houseless. Noting that many youth stop attending school before graduation or even entering high school, it was suggested that more initiatives to help youth stay in school were needed.

"I'm just thinking about some of the schools with young people that have really wanted to continue to go to school but were not able to live at home anymore, and were ending up living in encampments, or on the street."

Worker

When the researchers were asked how agencies and the City of Edmonton can help houseless youth, they responded that more well-supported outreach workers are needed.

"I think there should be more outreach workers and stuff like that, however I think there needs to be support for those outreach workers as well. And we're not talking about those, cause the people who get burnt out will react differently as the job goes on, and then [due to] the stress of that, you will not be able to smile at people as often as you did; and now you're bringing that energy into someone's home. I'll say this now, as an outreach person, I got burnt out by just doing the work that I've been doing, because I did not have support." **Researcher**

Many of the suggestions were very specific and could be implemented relatively easily, for example, the HELP van signage.

"I'm not sure who had mentioned how the HELP Van was being seen as the police and how they wouldn't go to them. It seems like a small detail, but the groups that need the resources these vans have are not accessing them because they don't feel safe to do so." **Researcher**

Policy & Practice Recommendations

The research team was asked if they had any policy recommendations that could be suggested because of having learned about the experiences of these young people.

Suggestions included:

- Relationships with outreach workers are especially important. Outreach workers have the time and resources to help youth in their journey and be facilitators in helping them build further healthy relationships and trust.
- Transparency and clear direction regarding what services and resources young people can utilize and access
- Better communication between the police and outreach agencies prior to encampment takedowns.
- Collaboration of mutual aid groups, outreach agencies, city employees to support houseless youth.
- More Outreach workers who have the support they need to do their work.
- A youth focused and paid response team.
- Outreach for houseless youth that is specific to their needs and that helps them to address predatory behaviours and traumatization
- More housing opportunities and supports that are long-lasting or permanent.
- Creation of in-school resources to help at-risk youth to stay in school and address housing needs
- Include consultation and engagement with Elders, knowledge keepers, and other community members from Indigenous communities to protect against perpetuating colonial practices and ensure that all initiatives to help Indigenous youth include cultural and spiritual supports that help Indigenous maintain or create connection to their culture.
- Establish a 24/7, barrier free, inclusive shelter space for young people where they are not forced to leave in the morning.
- Create prevention services that include family reconciliation

VI. Discussion and Conclusion

Across all who were consulted in this project, a need for more resources and services for youth was commonly brought forward. The City of Edmonton was called on to implement a youth-focused approach to houselessness, and increasing youth-focused supports, policies, and preventative interventions. For example, offering diverse housing opportunities; greater understanding of the individual and knowledge sharing; and collaborative efforts with community partners.

The lack of available beds in shelters, the treatment from staff, and shelter standards are all deterrents for youth to access and utilize these facilities, leading them to stay outside and in encampments. All participants agreed that staying in encampments is unsafe for youth presenting a heightened risk and likelihood of further entrenchment, traumatization, and victimization. The issues with barriers in shelters, and the lack of diverse, affordable, long-term housing options and limited options for programs and services geared towards youth experiencing houselessness press youth to make choices to stay outside individually or in encampments.

The City of Edmonton may find it opportune to work alongside existing youth-serving organizations, rather than creating new generic reception centers. Funding true housing-first programs for youth across Edmonton and preventative and/or early intervention services would better serve houseless or at-risk youth. An example of such collaboration would be developing school policies that flag students who may be at high-risk of becoming houseless and connecting them to appropriate services or agencies. A youth-specific rapid response for that respond to encampments could also facilitate support for houseless youth. Success within collaborative efforts could be strengthened by using an interdisciplinary approach, so that the factors keeping the young person outside are addressed and thus, becoming entrenched in the encampment is prevented.

Further Studies

Further research that helps community and government to understand issues of at-risk youth could include:

- Exploring how schools retain and support marginalized youth
- Determining the jeopardies when transitioning out of youth care
- Youth experiences in shelters with a focus on standards for youth clients
- Tracking the effects of long-term support for youth leaving houselessness, this could include a cost analysis.

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APPENDIX 1

Youth Encampment Survey



Youth Encampment Questionnaire

Revised: October 10, 2023

Community Partners:

- A Way Home Canada
- Boyle Street Community Support Services
- CHEW Project/fYrefly Institute
- City of Edmonton - Affordable Housing & Homelessness
- Edmonton Public Library - Community Librarian
- iHuman Youth Society
- MacEwan University
- MAPS Alberta Capital Region
- Neighbourhood Empower Team
- NiGiNan Housing Ventures
- Old Strathcona Youth Society
- REACH Edmonton
- Youth Empowerment and Support Services

Research Assistant Name:

Date of Data Collection:

Agency Host:

(PLEASE READ THE INFORMED CONSENT INFORMATION DOCUMENT AND IF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE STILL INTERESTED, PROCEED WITH THE INFORMED CONSENT PROCESS.)

Thank you for participating in this important community project. Your feedback is important to help understand the effects of banning and barring, and to learn how to best serve our community.

The survey will take about 20 minutes and will be followed by a group discussion. We are also serving refreshments and at the end of the discussion you will receive \$50 cash to thank you for your time with us. The group discussion will take about 45 minutes.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. If there are any questions you do not wish to answer, just let me know and we can go on to the next question, or you can stop the interview at any time.

Is it okay for us to begin?

ABOUT YOU: We will begin by asking some questions about where you are from.

1. Were you born in Canada?

- ☐ No (*skip to >>Question 3*) ☐ Yes

2. Do you identify as an Indigenous person?

- ☐ No (*skip to >>Question 3*) ☐ Yes

2a. To what Nation do you belong? (Read only if participant lists more than one nation – If you belong to more than one nation, please indicate the Nation you are most strongly attached to.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Alexander First Nation | <input type="radio"/> Bigstone Cree First Nation |
| <input type="radio"/> Dene Tha First Nation | <input type="radio"/> Ermineskin First Nation |
| <input type="radio"/> Louis Bull First Nation | <input type="radio"/> Mikisew Cree First Nation |
| <input type="radio"/> Saddle Lake Cree Nation | <input type="radio"/> Samson First Nation |
| <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ | |

2b. What is your status?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> First Nations – Treaty | <input type="radio"/> Non-Status Treaty |
| <input type="radio"/> Métis | <input type="radio"/> Inuit |
| <input type="radio"/> Indigenous – not specified | |
| <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ | |

2c. Who do you know who attended Residential School or was part of the Foster Care System? (I WILL READ A LIST AND PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Myself | <input type="radio"/> Parent(s) |
| <input type="radio"/> Brother(s) or sister(s) | <input type="radio"/> Grandparent(s) |
| <input type="radio"/> Partner or Spouse | <input type="radio"/> Friend(s) |
| <input type="radio"/> Extended relatives | <input type="radio"/> My children |
| <input type="radio"/> No one (<i>All who answered Q2 yes – skip to >Question 4</i>) | |

3. Which race category BEST describes you? (READ LIST)

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> African/Black/Caribbean | <input type="radio"/> South Asian |
| <input type="radio"/> East or Southeast Asian | <input type="radio"/> Latino |
| <input type="radio"/> Middle Eastern | <input type="radio"/> White |
| <input type="radio"/> Don't know | <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ |

4. In what country were you born?

4a. How old were you when you came to Canada?

Age in years _____

5. Where did you stay last night? (CHECK ONE RESPONSE IN 'LAST NIGHT' COLUMN))

Now I would like you to think about where you stayed at any time during the past twelve months. I will read a list and please tell me if you have slept in any of these places. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY IN PAST 12 MONTHS COLUMN)

	Last Night	Past 12 Months
Slept outside (park, roadside, doorway) _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Couch surfed _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shelter space (Emergency shelters) _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Short term accommodations (Transitional housing) ____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Permanent supportive housing (Group home) _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rented or owned accommodation _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jail, Temporarily Detained, or other Incarceration_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Institutionalized (i.e.: Hospitalization) _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth shelter or primarily adult shelter _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family Shelter _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transitioned from Child Welfare _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. In the past 12 months what is the total amount of time you have stayed outside?

- ☐ Less than 3 months
- ☐ 3 to 6 months
- ☐ 6 to 9 months
- ☐ 9 to 12 months
- ☐ For the whole year

7. While some people stay outside because they feel they have no other choice, others stay outside because they want to. Do you prefer to stay outside?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

8. If you choose NOT to stay at a shelter what are the reasons? (DO NOT READ LIST, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ Pets not allowed
- ☐ Children not allowed
- ☐ Rules of behaviour
- ☐ Over-crowded
- ☐ Don't feel safe
- ☐ Parental or Guardian consent (if under 16)
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Partners not allowed
- ☐ Lack of privacy
- ☐ Required religious participation
- ☐ Dislike staff
- ☐ Not allowed (banned)
- ☐ Underage or Overage

9. What affects your decision about where to stay outside? (DO NOT READ LIST, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ Geographic location
- ☐ Access to drinking water
- ☐ Access to community
- ☐ Friends/Family near
- ☐ Safety of possessions
- ☐ Natural environment
- ☐ Being independent
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Because I want to
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Access to drop-ins
- ☐ Access to toilets
- ☐ Access to food
- ☐ Personal safety
- ☐ Access to outreach services
- ☐ A peaceful environment
- ☐ Privacy
- ☐ I have no choice

BANNING: Now we would like to ask you about your experience with being restricted, barred or banned.

10. Which of the following types of places have you been restricted, barred or banned from? (READ THE LIST AND SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Drop-ins | <input type="radio"/> Fast Food Restaurants |
| <input type="radio"/> Housing Facilities | <input type="radio"/> Libraries |
| <input type="radio"/> Malls | <input type="radio"/> Public Transportation (ETS) |
| <input type="radio"/> Shelters | <input type="radio"/> Stores |
| <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ | |

11. I am going to read a list with many of the ways that banning or restriction can affect people's lives. Please tell me which of the ways banning or restriction has affected you. (READ LIST AND SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Accessing personal care (shower, laundry, etc.) | |
| <input type="radio"/> Accessing food | |
| <input type="radio"/> Accessing healthcare | <input type="radio"/> Attending appointments |
| <input type="radio"/> Finding a place to sleep | <input type="radio"/> My income source |
| <input type="radio"/> Finding or keeping a job | <input type="radio"/> Relationships with friends |
| <input type="radio"/> Relationship with family | <input type="radio"/> Changed behaviours |
| <input type="radio"/> I had to leave my community | <input type="radio"/> Being ticketed by police |
| <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ | |

12. What led you to stay outside/sleep rough?

13. What led you to the encampment?

14. When you first lived in an encampment, who was the first person that helped you?

15. Do you feel safe where you're sleeping? Why or why not.

16. I am going to read a list of people that you may have had contact with in the past 12 months. Please tell me which people you have had contact *with and*, using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means a very negative and 5 is very positive, rate this contact. (READ LIST AND SELECT ALL THAT APPLY, AND RANK THE INTERACTION, USE FACIAL CHART)

	Had Contact	Very negative	Somewhat negative	Neutral	Somewhat positive	Very positive
Staff at drop-ins						
Staff at shelters						
Outreach staff						
Family						
Friends						
Homeowners living close by						
People using the river valley (e.g. runners, walkers)						
Staff at the public library						
Police						
Peace officers						
Park rangers						
Staff at businesses (e.g. convenience stores)						
Bus drivers						
Social workers (e.g. CFS)						
Health care workers						
Staff at rec centers						
School staff/teachers						
Other _____						

DEMOGRAPHICS: When planning supports for people who have been banned, it is important to understand who is affected by banning so agencies know how best to help. For that reason we would like to ask you some questions about yourself.

17. How old are you (OR) in what year were you born?

Age _____ or Year of Birth _____

18. What gender do you identify with?

- ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Non-binary ☐ 2S
☐ Other: _____

19. How do you describe your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Straight/Heterosexual ☐ 2SLGBTQIA+
☐ Other: _____

20. What is the highest level of schooling you have COMPLETED?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> No schooling | <input type="radio"/> Elementary (Grade 6) |
| <input type="radio"/> Junior high school (Grade 9) | <input type="radio"/> High school (Grade 12) |
| <input type="radio"/> Some college or university credit (certificate) | <input type="radio"/> College diploma |
| <input type="radio"/> Bachelor's degree | <input type="radio"/> Advanced degree |

21. On a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 is very unhealthy and 4 is very healthy, how would you rate your overall health (mental, physical, spiritual, emotional)?

- ☐ Very unhealthy ☐ Somewhat unhealthy ☐ Somewhat healthy ☐ Healthy

22. I am going to read a list of possible health challenges. Please let me know if you have any of the health challenges, and if any of these sound familiar to you or you been diagnosed with (READ LIST AND SELECT ALL THAT APPLY, THEN RECORD IF TREATMENT RECEIVED)

Diagnosis/Treatment	Challenge	
Medical condition or illness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical disability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Addiction/Substance use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health issue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trauma	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learning or cognitive disability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other _____		

23. Do you have any mobility issues that limit your daily activities? (eg. unable to climb stairs or walk long distances).

☐ No ☐ Yes

24. Please let me know which types of income you have received in the past 12 months?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT ASK IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME AND SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Alberta Income Support (Alberta Works) | <input type="radio"/> Job full time |
| <input type="radio"/> Job part-time | <input type="radio"/> Job casual (e.g. contract work) |
| <input type="radio"/> Bottle collecting | <input type="radio"/> Panhandling |
| <input type="radio"/> Money from family/friends | <input type="radio"/> Employment Insurance (EI) |
| <input type="radio"/> Disability benefit (AISH) | <input type="radio"/> Money from mutual aid |
| <input type="radio"/> Subsidy (childcare) | <input type="radio"/> Child and family tax benefits |
| <input type="radio"/> GST/HST refund | <input type="radio"/> No income |
| <input type="radio"/> Side hustle | <input type="radio"/> Don't know |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (e.g.: crowdsourcing, Venmo, etc.): _____ | |

WINTER QUESTIONS: The following questions ask specifically about how to best support you with the upcoming winter season.

1. What do you need to survive through this winter?

2. How can we support you while you're outside during the winter?

**This brings us to the end of our questions.
Thank you very much for your time and wisdom.**

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features multiple sets of horizontal lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. These lines are evenly spaced across the entire page to guide letter formation and size. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

APPENDIX 2

Focus Group Guides



Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion (AAYI) – Young People’s Experience in Encampments Community Based Research Project – Focus Group Questions

Focus Group Questions – Young People

1. What led you to stay outside/sleep rough?
2. What led you to living in an encampment?
3. What do you experience while living in encampments in the City of Edmonton?
4. How can Edmonton as a community best support you while living in encampments?
5. Who was the first person who helped you when you were/are in an encampment?
 - a. Police?
 - b. Peace officers?
 - c. Park Rangers?
 - d. Outreach worker from an agency?
 - e. Mutual aid worker?
 - f. Another person living in an encampment?
 - g. Friends? Family? Peers?
6. When you are staying in an encampment, what is your experience with different members of the public?
 - a. Park Rangers?
 - b. EPS?
 - c. Peace officers?
 - d. People using parks?
 - e. Neighbours?
 - f. Other people living in encampments?
7. How can agencies/mutual aid groups best support you while you are living in an encampment?
8. How does the City of Edmonton’s treatment of encampments affect you?
 - a. What needs to be changed?
9. What needs to be in place to help you while you are staying in encampments?
10. If you want to leave an encampment, what is needed to help you?
11. When you have to leave an encampment because your camp is torn down, what do you do?

Focus Group Questions – Agency Staff

1. What parts of the City of Edmonton's encampment response need to be adjusted?
2. What is the experience of young people living in encampments with different members of the public?
 - a. Park Rangers?
 - b. EPS?
 - c. Peace officers?
 - d. People using parks?
 - e. Homeowners?
 - f. Other people living in encampments?
3. How can agencies best support young people that are living in encampments?
4. What policies need to be in place to help young people while they are in encampments?
5. What is needed to help them transition out of encampments?
6. What supports could be offered to you to help support young people?

Focus Group Questions – Outreach Staff & Mutual Aid Groups

1. From what you have seen in the community, how do young people end up in encampments?
2. What are the experiences of youth in encampments in the City of Edmonton?
3. How can Edmonton as a community best support young people in encampments?
4. What parts of the City of Edmonton's encampment response will work well for young people?
 - a. Which needs to be adjusted?
5. Who is the first point of contact for a young person when they are in an encampment?
 - a. Police?
 - b. Peace officers?
 - c. Outreach worker from an agency?
 - d. Mutual aid worker?
 - e. Another person living in an encampment?
6. What is the experience of young people living in encampments with different members of the public?
 - a. Park Rangers?
 - b. EPS?
 - c. Peace officers?
 - d. People using parks?
 - e. Homeowners?
 - f. Other people living in encampments?
7. How can agencies best support young people that are living in encampments?
8. What policies need to be in place to help young people while they are in encampments?
9. What is needed to help them transition out of encampments?
10. What supports could be offered to you to help support young people?

Focus Group Questions – Research Assistants

1. What did you learn about these young people in doing the interviews?
2. What insight do you have about their experiences?
3. How can the mutual aid and agency groups better support young people in encampments?
4. How can the City of Edmonton better support young people in encampments?

APPENDIX 3

Frequencies & Descriptives



Descriptives & Frequencies – Youth Data

Do you identify as an Indigenous person?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Indigenous	24	75.0	77.4	77.4
	Non-Indigenous	7	21.9	22.6	100.0
	Total	31	96.9	100.0	
Missing	No Response	1	3.1		
Total		32	100.0		

To what Nation do you belong?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Saddle Lake Cree Nation	3	9.4	23.1	23.1
	Metis	2	6.3	15.4	38.5
	Ermineskin First Nation	1	3.1	7.7	46.2
	Samson First Nation	1	3.1	7.7	53.8
	Driftpile First Nation	1	3.1	7.7	61.5
	Inuit	1	3.1	7.7	69.2
	Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation	1	3.1	7.7	76.9
	Thunderchild First Nation	1	3.1	7.7	84.6
	Little Red River Cree First Nation	1	3.1	7.7	92.3
	Lac La Ronge Indian Band	1	3.1	7.7	100.0
	Total	13	40.6	100.0	
Missing	Do not know	11	34.4		
	System	8	25.0		
	Total	19	59.4		
Total		32	100.0		

What is your status?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	First Nation - Treaty	13	40.6	54.2	54.2
	Metis	6	18.8	25.0	79.2
	Non-Status Treaty	2	6.3	8.3	87.5
	Other	2	6.3	8.3	95.8
	Indigenous - not specified	1	3.1	4.2	100.0
	Total	24	75.0	100.0	
Missing	System	8	25.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Attended Residential School or part of Foster Care System - Self

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	17	53.1	70.8	70.8
	Yes	7	21.9	29.2	100.0
	Total	24	75.0	100.0	
Missing	Not applicable	8	25.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Attended Residential School or part of Foster Care System - Sibling(s)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	15	46.9	62.5	62.5
	Yes	9	28.1	37.5	100.0
	Total	24	75.0	100.0	
Missing	Not applicable	8	25.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Attended Residential School or part of Foster Care System - Partner/Spouse

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	22	68.8	91.7	91.7
	Yes	2	6.3	8.3	100.0
	Total	24	75.0	100.0	
Missing	Not applicable	8	25.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Attended Residential School or part of Foster Care System - My child

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	22	68.8	91.7	91.7
	Yes	2	6.3	8.3	100.0
	Total	24	75.0	100.0	
Missing	Not applicable	8	25.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Attended Residential School or part of Foster Care System - Parent(s)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	12	37.5	50.0	50.0
	Yes	12	37.5	50.0	100.0
	Total	24	75.0	100.0	
Missing	Not applicable	8	25.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Attended Residential School or part of Foster Care System - Grandparent(s)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	13	40.6	54.2	54.2
	Yes	11	34.4	45.8	100.0
	Total	24	75.0	100.0	
Missing	Not applicable	8	25.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Attended Residential School or part of Foster Care System - Other Relatives

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	16	50.0	66.7	66.7
	Yes	8	25.0	33.3	100.0
	Total	24	75.0	100.0	
Missing	Not applicable	8	25.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Attended Residential School or part of Foster Care System - Friend(s)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	19	59.4	79.2	79.2
	Yes	5	15.6	20.8	100.0
	Total	24	75.0	100.0	
Missing	Not applicable	8	25.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Which race category BEST describes you?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Indigenous	8	25.0	47.1	47.1
	White	5	15.6	29.4	76.5
	Metis	3	9.4	17.6	94.1
	East	1	3.1	5.9	100.0
	Total	17	53.1	100.0	
Missing	Mixed	1	3.1		
	Do not know	2	6.3		
	No Response	12	37.5		
	Total	15	46.9		
Total		32	100.0		

In what country were you born?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Canada	31	96.9	96.9	96.9
	El Salvador	1	3.1	3.1	100.0
	Total	32	100.0	100.0	

How old were you when you came to Canada? (years)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	12	1	3.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	Not Applicable	31	96.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Where did you stay last night?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Slept Outside	10	31.3	37.0	37.0
	Couch surfed	7	21.9	25.9	63.0
	Shelter	6	18.8	22.2	85.2
	Permanent housing	2	6.3	7.4	92.6
	Short term accommodation	1	3.1	3.7	96.3
	Slept rough indoors	1	3.1	3.7	100.0
	Total	27	84.4	100.0	
Missing	No response	3	9.4		
	System	2	6.3		
	Total	5	15.6		
Total		32	100.0		

Stayed in last 12 months - Shelter

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	17	53.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	15	46.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Stayed in last 12 months - Outside Rough

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	20	62.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	12	37.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Stayed in last 12 months - Short Term Accommodation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	8	25.0	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	24	75.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Stayed in last 12 months - Rent or owned

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	8	25.0	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	24	75.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Stayed in last 12 months - Permanent Supportive Housing

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	7	21.9	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	25	78.1		
Total		32	100.0		

Stayed in last 12 months - Couch Surfing

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	15	46.9	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	17	53.1		
Total		32	100.0		

Stayed in last 12 months - Incarceration, Institution, Foster

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	13	40.6	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	19	59.4		
Total		32	100.0		

What is the total amount of time you have stayed outside in the last 12 months?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 3 months	19	59.4	59.4	59.4
	3 to 6 months	6	18.8	18.8	78.1
	6 to 9 months	1	3.1	3.1	81.3
	9 to 12 months	2	6.3	6.3	87.5
	For the whole year	4	12.5	12.5	100.0
	Total	32	100.0	100.0	

Do you prefer to stay outside?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	21	65.6	65.6	65.6
	Yes	10	31.3	31.3	96.9
	No response	1	3.1	3.1	100.0
	Total	32	100.0	100.0	

Reasons choose not to stay at a shelter - Rules

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	8	25.0	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	24	75.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Reasons choose not to stay at a shelter - Crowding

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	11	34.4	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	21	65.6		
Total		32	100.0		

Reasons choose not to stay at a shelter - Unhygienic/Dirty

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	12.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	28	87.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Reasons choose not to stay at a shelter - Lack Privacy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	9	28.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	23	71.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Reasons choose not to stay at a shelter - Gangs/Drugs

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1	3.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	31	96.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Reasons choose not to stay at a shelter - Staff

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	8	25.0	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	24	75.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Reasons choose not to stay at a shelter - Personal Safety

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	12	37.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	20	62.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Reasons choose not to stay at a shelter - Banned

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	12.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	28	87.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Affects decision about where to stay outside - Access to food/water/toilets

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	12	37.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	20	62.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Affects decision about where to stay outside - Community

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	12	37.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	20	62.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Affects decision about where to stay outside - Safety

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	17	53.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	15	46.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Affects decision about where to stay outside - Independence/Privacy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	11	34.4	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	21	65.6		
Total		32	100.0		

Affects decision about where to stay outside - Natural/peaceful Environment

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	11	34.4	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	21	65.6		
Total		32	100.0		

Affects decision about where to stay outside - Shelter from elements

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1	3.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	31	96.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Places Banned or Barred from - Library

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	12.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	28	87.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Places Banned or Barred from - Housing

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1	3.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	31	96.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Places Banned or Barred from - Shelters/Drop-ins

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	9	28.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	23	71.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Places Banned or Barred from - Malls/Stores/Restaurants

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	9	28.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	23	71.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Places Banned or Barred from - Public Transportation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	6	18.8	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	26	81.3		
Total		32	100.0		

Places Banned or Barred from - Toilets

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1	3.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	31	96.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Places Banned or Barred from - Not Banned

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	12.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	28	87.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Effects of Banning - Employment or job access

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	10	31.3	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	22	68.8		
Total		32	100.0		

Effects of Banning - Relationships

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	43.8	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	18	56.3		
Total		32	100.0		

Effects of Banning - Access to care

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	15	46.9	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	17	53.1		
Total		32	100.0		

Effects of Banning - Housing

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	12	37.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	20	62.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Effects of Banning - Legal issues/ticketing

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	6	18.8	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	26	81.3		
Total		32	100.0		

Effects of Banning - Changed Behaviours

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	9	28.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	23	71.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Led you to stay outside/sleep rough - Eviction

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	8	25.0	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	24	75.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Led you to stay outside/sleep rough - Relationships

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	11	34.4	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	21	65.6		
Total		32	100.0		

Led you to stay outside/sleep rough - Abuse

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	2	6.3	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	30	93.8		
Total		32	100.0		

Led you to stay outside/sleep rough - Substance Use

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	12.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	28	87.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Led you to stay outside/sleep rough - Basic need for sleep

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	6	18.8	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	26	81.3		
Total		32	100.0		

First Person that helped - friend/acquaintance

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	12	37.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	20	62.5		
Total		32	100.0		

First Person that helped - family

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	7	21.9	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	25	78.1		
Total		32	100.0		

First Person that helped - Outreach or service provider

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	6	18.8	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	26	81.3		
Total		32	100.0		

Do you feel safe when you're sleeping? dichotomous

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	3	9.4	9.4	9.4
	Yes	23	71.9	71.9	81.3
	No response	6	18.8	18.8	100.0
	Total	32	100.0	100.0	

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Staff at Drop-ins

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Neutral	4	12.5	23.5	23.5
	Somewhat positive	4	12.5	23.5	47.1
	Very positive	9	28.1	52.9	100.0
	Total	17	53.1	100.0	
Missing	System	15	46.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Staff at Shelters

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Somewhat negative	3	9.4	18.8	18.8
	Neutral	7	21.9	43.8	62.5
	Somewhat positive	2	6.3	12.5	75.0
	Very positive	4	12.5	25.0	100.0
	Total	16	50.0	100.0	
Missing	System	16	50.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Outreach Staff

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Negative	1	3.1	5.6	5.6
	Somewhat negative	1	3.1	5.6	11.1
	Neutral	2	6.3	11.1	22.2
	Somewhat positive	3	9.4	16.7	38.9
	Very positive	11	34.4	61.1	100.0
	Total	18	56.3	100.0	
Missing	System	14	43.8		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Family

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Negative	3	9.4	17.6	17.6
	Somewhat negative	3	9.4	17.6	35.3
	Neutral	3	9.4	17.6	52.9
	Somewhat positive	1	3.1	5.9	58.8
	Very positive	7	21.9	41.2	100.0
	Total	17	53.1	100.0	
Missing	System	15	46.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Friends

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Negative	1	3.1	4.8	4.8
	Somewhat negative	1	3.1	4.8	9.5
	Neutral	5	15.6	23.8	33.3
	Somewhat positive	7	21.9	33.3	66.7
	Very positive	7	21.9	33.3	100.0
	Total	21	65.6	100.0	
Missing	System	11	34.4		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Homeowners

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Negative	2	6.3	13.3	13.3
	Somewhat negative	4	12.5	26.7	40.0
	Neutral	5	15.6	33.3	73.3
	Somewhat positive	2	6.3	13.3	86.7
	Very positive	2	6.3	13.3	100.0
	Total	15	46.9	100.0	
Missing	System	17	53.1		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - People Using the River Valley

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Negative	1	3.1	9.1	9.1
	Somewhat negative	3	9.4	27.3	36.4
	Neutral	3	9.4	27.3	63.6
	Somewhat positive	1	3.1	9.1	72.7
	Very positive	3	9.4	27.3	100.0
	Total	11	34.4	100.0	
Missing	System	21	65.6		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Library Staff

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Somewhat negative	1	3.1	5.9	5.9
	Neutral	3	9.4	17.6	23.5
	Somewhat positive	3	9.4	17.6	41.2
	Very positive	10	31.3	58.8	100.0
	Total	17	53.1	100.0	
Missing	System	15	46.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Police

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Negative	6	18.8	42.9	42.9
	Somewhat negative	2	6.3	14.3	57.1
	Neutral	1	3.1	7.1	64.3
	Somewhat positive	2	6.3	14.3	78.6
	Very positive	3	9.4	21.4	100.0
	Total	14	43.8	100.0	
Missing	System	18	56.3		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Peace Officers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Negative	3	9.4	23.1	23.1
	Somewhat negative	3	9.4	23.1	46.2
	Neutral	2	6.3	15.4	61.5
	Somewhat positive	4	12.5	30.8	92.3
	Very positive	1	3.1	7.7	100.0
	Total	13	40.6	100.0	
Missing	System	19	59.4		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Park Rangers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Negative	1	3.1	11.1	11.1
	Somewhat negative	1	3.1	11.1	22.2
	Neutral	3	9.4	33.3	55.6
	Somewhat positive	2	6.3	22.2	77.8
	Very positive	2	6.3	22.2	100.0
	Total	9	28.1	100.0	
Missing	System	23	71.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - People at Businesses

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Somewhat Negative	1	3.1	7.7	7.7
	Neutral	3	9.4	23.1	30.8
	Somewhat positive	4	12.5	30.8	61.5
	Very Positive	5	15.6	38.5	100.0
	Total	13	40.6	100.0	
Missing	System	19	59.4		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Bus Drivers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Negative	2	6.3	13.3	13.3
	Somewhat negative	4	12.5	26.7	40.0
	Neutral	1	3.1	6.7	46.7
	Somewhat positive	4	12.5	26.7	73.3
	Very positive	4	12.5	26.7	100.0
	Total	15	46.9	100.0	
Missing	System	17	53.1		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Social Workers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Negative	1	3.1	7.7	7.7
	Neutral	3	9.4	23.1	30.8
	Somewhat positive	3	9.4	23.1	53.8
	Very positive	6	18.8	46.2	100.0
	Total	13	40.6	100.0	
Missing	System	19	59.4		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Health Care Workers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Negative	3	9.4	20.0	20.0
	Neutral	3	9.4	20.0	40.0
	Somewhat positive	2	6.3	13.3	53.3
	Very positive	7	21.9	46.7	100.0
	Total	15	46.9	100.0	
Missing	System	17	53.1		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Rec Centre Staff

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Neutral	3	9.4	30.0	30.0
	Somewhat positive	2	6.3	20.0	50.0
	Very positive	5	15.6	50.0	100.0
	Total	10	31.3	100.0	
Missing	System	22	68.8		
Total		32	100.0		

Rated Contact last 12 Months - Teachers/Staff at School

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Somewhat negative	2	6.3	22.2	22.2
	Neutral	2	6.3	22.2	44.4
	Very positive	5	15.6	55.6	100.0
	Total	9	28.1	100.0	
Missing	System	23	71.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Number of Contacts in Community

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	1	3.1	4.2	4.2
	2	1	3.1	4.2	8.3
	3	1	3.1	4.2	12.5
	4	1	3.1	4.2	16.7
	6	3	9.4	12.5	29.2
	10	2	6.3	8.3	37.5
	11	2	6.3	8.3	45.8
	12	4	12.5	16.7	62.5
	14	2	6.3	8.3	70.8
	15	2	6.3	8.3	79.2
	16	1	3.1	4.2	83.3
	17	4	12.5	16.7	100.0
	Total	24	75.0	100.0	
Missing	System	8	25.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Number of Contacts in Community	24	1	17	10.83	5.079
Community Contact Mean Ratings	23	2.00	5.00	3.6717	.75340
Valid N (listwise)	23				

Community Contact Mean Ratings

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	2.00	1	3.1	4.3	4.3
	2.53	1	3.1	4.3	8.7
	2.67	1	3.1	4.3	13.0
	3.13	1	3.1	4.3	17.4
	3.14	1	3.1	4.3	21.7
	3.18	1	3.1	4.3	26.1
	3.20	1	3.1	4.3	30.4
	3.33	1	3.1	4.3	34.8
	3.41	2	6.3	8.7	43.5
	3.50	1	3.1	4.3	47.8
	3.73	1	3.1	4.3	52.2
	3.75	1	3.1	4.3	56.5
	3.83	1	3.1	4.3	60.9
	3.88	1	3.1	4.3	65.2
	4.00	1	3.1	4.3	69.6
	4.18	1	3.1	4.3	73.9
	4.30	1	3.1	4.3	78.3
	4.33	2	6.3	8.7	87.0
	4.79	1	3.1	4.3	91.3
	4.83	1	3.1	4.3	95.7
	5.00	1	3.1	4.3	100.0
	Total	23	71.9	100.0	
Missing	System	9	28.1		
Total		32	100.0		

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age in years	32	17	28	21.16	2.567
Valid N (listwise)	32				

Age in years

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	17	3	9.4	9.4	9.4
	18	2	6.3	6.3	15.6
	19	3	9.4	9.4	25.0
	20	5	15.6	15.6	40.6
	21	6	18.8	18.8	59.4
	22	4	12.5	12.5	71.9
	23	2	6.3	6.3	78.1
	24	5	15.6	15.6	93.8
	25	1	3.1	3.1	96.9
	28	1	3.1	3.1	100.0
	Total	32	100.0	100.0	

Sexual Orientation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Straight or Heterosexual	17	53.1	58.6	58.6
	2SLGBTQ1A+	11	34.4	37.9	96.6
	Other	1	3.1	3.4	100.0
	Total	29	90.6	100.0	
Missing	Other	1	3.1		
	No response	2	6.3		
	Total	3	9.4		
Total		32	100.0		

What is the highest level of schooling you have COMPLETED?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Elementary K-6	1	3.1	3.1	3.1
	Junior High 7-9	19	59.4	59.4	62.5
	High School 10-12	11	34.4	34.4	96.9
	No response	1	3.1	3.1	100.0
	Total	32	100.0	100.0	

		Gender			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	11	34.4	42.3	42.3
	Male	14	43.8	53.8	96.2
	Non-binary	1	3.1	3.8	100.0
	Total	26	81.3	100.0	
Missing	Other	5	15.6		
	No response	1	3.1		
	Total	6	18.8		
Total		32	100.0		

How would you rate your overall health?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Unhealthy	2	6.3	7.4	7.4
	Somewhat Unhealthy	9	28.1	33.3	40.7
	Somewhat Healthy	10	31.3	37.0	77.8
	Very Healthy	6	18.8	22.2	100.0
	Total	27	84.4	100.0	
Missing	No response	5	15.6		
Total		32	100.0		

Health Challenge - Physical

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	13	40.6	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	19	59.4		
Total		32	100.0		

Health Challenge - Addiction/Substance

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	20	62.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	12	37.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Health Challenge - Trauma/PTSD

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	16	50.0	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	16	50.0		
Total		32	100.0		

Diagnosis/treatment - Mental Health Issue

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	5	15.6	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	27	84.4		
Total		32	100.0		

Diagnosis/treatment - Learning Issue

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	12.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	28	87.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Mobility issues that limit your daily activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	20	62.5	64.5	64.5
	Yes	11	34.4	35.5	100.0
	Total	31	96.9	100.0	
Missing	No response	1	3.1		
Total		32	100.0		

Income Source Past 12 Months - Alberta Income Support

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	43.8	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	18	56.3		
Total		32	100.0		

Income Source Past 12 Months - Bottle Picking

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	12.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	28	87.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Income Source Past 12 Months - Employment

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	5	15.6	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	27	84.4		
Total		32	100.0		

Income Source Past 12 Months - Family/Friends

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	10	31.3	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	22	68.8		
Total		32	100.0		

Income Source Past 12 Months - Hustling/Panhandling

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	12	37.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	20	62.5		
Total		32	100.0		

Income Source Past 12 Months - GST rebate

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	3	9.4	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	29	90.6		
Total		32	100.0		

Income Source Past 12 Months - AISH/Disability Benefit

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	3	9.4	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	29	90.6		
Total		32	100.0		

Income Source Past 12 Months - Child Tax Credit

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	2	6.3	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	30	93.8		
Total		32	100.0		

Income Source Past 12 Months - Mutual Aid

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	3	9.4	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	29	90.6		
Total		32	100.0		

Income Source Past 12 Months - Educational Grant

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1	3.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	31	96.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Number of Income Sources

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	2	6.3	6.3	6.3
	1	12	37.5	37.5	43.8
	2	11	34.4	34.4	78.1
	3	5	15.6	15.6	93.8
	4	2	6.3	6.3	100.0
	Total	32	100.0	100.0	

Needs for Winter - Housing/tents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	11	34.4	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	21	65.6		
Total		32	100.0		

Needs for Winter - Food/water

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	7	21.9	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	25	78.1		
Total		32	100.0		

Needs for Winter - Clothing/blankets

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	22	68.8	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	10	31.3		
Total		32	100.0		

Needs for Winter - Toilets/showers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1	3.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	31	96.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Needs for Winter - Treatment for addiction/health/trauma

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	2	6.3	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	30	93.8		
Total		32	100.0		

Needs for Winter - Money

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1	3.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	31	96.9		
Total		32	100.0		

Needs for Winter - Phone/charging place

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	2	6.3	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	30	93.8		
Total		32	100.0		

Needs for Winter - P.O. box/storage

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1	3.1	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	31	96.9		
Total		32	100.0		

