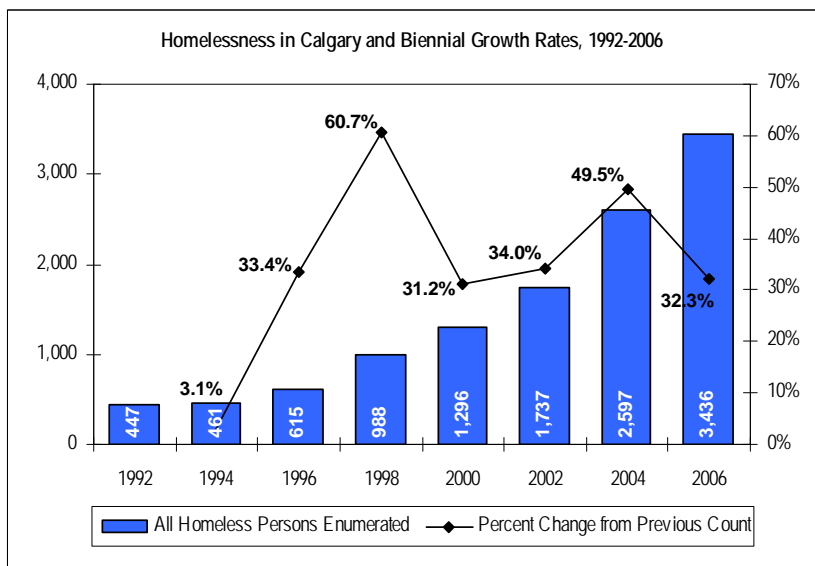


## Fast Facts #07

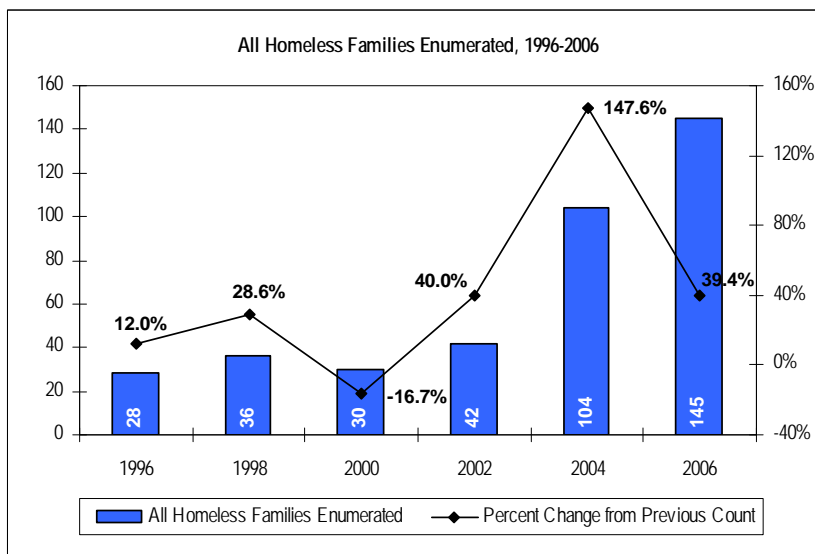
### Facts and Stats on Homelessness and Affordable Housing

#### Biennial Count of Homeless Persons in Calgary, 1992-2006



The formal definition of *homelessness* that has been used for every count of homeless persons conducted by The City of Calgary since 1996 is:

*Homeless persons are considered to be those who do not have a permanent residence to which they can return whenever they so choose.*



For every count of homeless persons conducted by The City of Calgary since 1996:

*Families are defined as a couple, a couple with one or more children, or a lone adult with one or more children.*

## Who are the Homeless?

### 2006 Count of Homeless Persons in Calgary

City of Calgary. 2006. *Results of the 2006 Count of Homeless Persons in Calgary: Enumerated in Emergency and Transitional Facilities, by Service Agencies, and On the Streets – 2006 May 10.*  
 Calgary: City of Calgary, Community and Neighbourhood Services, Policy and Planning Division.

Indicator	Number
<b>Total Number of Homeless Persons Enumerated</b>	<b>3,436</b>
Percent increase over previous count in 2004	32.3%
<b>Homeless Persons Enumerated in Facilities</b>	<b>2,823</b>
• Number in emergency beds	1,383
• Number in transitional beds	1,440
Persons staying in facilities vs. all persons enumerated (2,823 vs. 3,436)	82.2%
Percent increase in persons counted in facilities over previous count in 2004	15.7%
<b>Homeless Persons Enumerated by Service Agencies</b>	
(all hospital emergency departments in the city, emergency social services and children's services, the Calgary Police Service's Arrest Processing Unit, the Calgary Remand Centre, and Calgary Transit)	<b>184</b>
Persons counted by service agencies vs. all persons enumerated (184 vs. 3,436)	5.4%
Percent increase in persons counted by service agencies over previous count in 2004	513.3%
<b>Homeless Persons Enumerated on the Streets</b>	<b>429</b>
Persons counted on the streets vs. all persons enumerated (429 vs. 3,436)	12.5%
Percent increase in persons counted on the streets over previous count in 2004	237.8%

All Homeless Persons Enumerated in Calgary, by Location and Observed Sex, 2006 May 10						
Location Enumerated	Observed Sex				Total Persons Enumerated	
	Male		Female		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Facilities	2,168	76.8%	655	23.2%	2,823	82.2%
Service Agencies	155	84.2%	29	15.8%	184	5.4%
On the Streets	347	80.9%	82	19.1%	429	12.5%
<b>Total – All Locations</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>77.7%</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>3,436</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

All Homeless Persons Enumerated, by Location and Observed Age Group, 2006 May 10								
Observed Age Group	Location Enumerated						Total Persons Enumerated	
	Facilities		Service Agencies		On the Streets		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Preschoolers (age 5 or younger)	124	4.4%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	125	3.6%
School-Age Children (age 6-12)	73	2.6%	2	1.1%	3	0.7%	78	2.3%
Youth (age 13-17)	85	3.0%	2	1.1%	14	3.3%	101	2.9%
Sub-Total – Children and Youth Under 18	282	10.0%	5	2.7%	17	4.0%	304	8.8%
Young Adults (age 18-24)	268	9.5%	8	4.3%	67	15.6%	343	10.0%
Working Age Adults (age 25-44)	1,307	46.3%	54	29.3%	232	54.1%	1,593	46.4%
Middle-Aged Adults (age 45-64)	865	30.6%	13	7.1%	91	21.2%	969	28.2%
Seniors (age 65 or older)	97	3.4%	1	0.5%	8	1.9%	106	3.1%
Unknown Age	4	0.1%	103	56.0%	14	3.3%	121	3.5%
Total – All Ages	2,823	100.0%	184	100.0%	429	100.0%	3,436	100.0%

## 2002 Calgary Homelessness Study

Gardiner, Helen P., and Kathleen V. Cairns. 2002. *2002 Calgary Homelessness Study. Final Report, October 2002*. Calgary: Calgary Homeless Foundation.

While the demographic composition of the survey sample cannot be generalized to Calgary's homeless population overall (due to the stratified sampling method used), ***some characteristics of the sample can be generalized*** (e.g., mental illness and addictions issues) since these were allowed to emerge out of the random sample.

### In general:

- 26% of all homeless individuals surveyed had a ***mental health problem*** (vs. 25% reported in the literature reviewed for the study)
- 69% of all homeless individuals surveyed had a ***history of substance abuse*** (vs. 50% reported in the literature reviewed for the study)
- 32% of the absolutely homeless population surveyed had been ***homeless for more than one year but less than five years***, and
- 8% of the absolutely homeless population surveyed had been continuously homeless for more than five years and were considered to be ***chronically homeless*** by the study team.

**Absolute Homelessness** – “Individuals living in the street with no physical shelter of their own, including those who spend their nights in emergency shelters.”

**Relative Homelessness** – “People living in spaces that do not meet the basic health and safety standards” including protection from the elements; access to safe water and sanitation; security of tenure and personal safety; affordability; access to employment, education and health care; and the provision of minimum space to avoid overcrowding. Often referred to as ‘couch surfers.’

Source: United Nations, cited in Gardiner and Cairns (2002).

**Among the *absolutely homeless* surveyed:**

- 50% were working full-time, part-time, or occasionally
- 16% had been born in Calgary and had lived in the city all their lives
- 73% had lived in Calgary for less than 15 years
- 10% had been in Calgary for less than one month
- 28% had been in the city for more than one month but one year or less
- 12% had lived in Calgary for more than 15 years but were not born in the city, and
- 22% were from British Columbia, the most frequently reported province of origin for those not born in Calgary.

**Among the *relatively homeless* surveyed:**

- 28% were working full-time, part-time, or occasionally
- 24% had been born in Calgary and had lived in the city all their lives
- 59% had lived in Calgary for less than 15 years
- 6% had been in Calgary for less than one month
- 20% had been in the city for more than one month but one year or less
- 17% had lived in Calgary for more than 15 years but were not born in the city, and
- 20% were from British Columbia, the most frequently reported province of origin for those not born in Calgary.

**Among *absolutely homeless* individuals who were surveyed, the most frequently cited reasons for coming to Calgary were:**

- 62% – economic reasons including work
- 20% – looking for a better life (including fleeing difficult situations)
- 16% – social connections (relatives, friends or families lived here or moved here)
- 7% – better access to services (health or social services, including schools)
- 6% – more / better shelter accommodations
- 5% – transient (traveling though Calgary and stopped), and
- 2% – seasonal patterns (respondent always comes here for part of the year).

**Among *relatively homeless* individuals who were surveyed, the most frequently cited reasons for coming to Calgary were:**

- 39% – social connections (relatives, friends or family lived here or moved here)
- 25% – looking for a better life (including fleeing difficult situations)
- 16% – economic reasons including work
- 14% – better access to services health or social services, including schools), and
- 2% – more / better shelter accommodations.

## Routes into Homelessness

There are a number of **root causes** known to contribute to homelessness and marginalization.

### Individual Circumstances

- **Poverty** and its intergenerational effects on educational attainment, employment, parenting, etc.
- **Mental illness** (26% in *Calgary Homelessness Study*, 25% in literature reviewed for the study)
- A range of **addictions** – substance abuse, gambling, etc. (69% in *Calgary Homelessness Study*, 50% in literature reviewed for the study)
- The so-called “**dual diagnosis**” of **mental illness and addictions**
- Persons **fleeing violence**
- **Relocating to seek employment** – For single individuals, usually males, as well as for entire families, many of whom are recent immigrants who move from elsewhere in Canada and who have atypical kinship patterns (e.g., large number of children and/or extended family, therefore requiring accommodation that is larger than that typically found in the Calgary rental market), and
- **Population group** – Visible minorities are thought to be underrepresented among the absolutely homeless, whereas Aboriginal persons are generally overrepresented compared to their relative proportion in the resident population of the city.

### Systemic Issues

- **Federal and provincial withdrawal from non-market (social or subsidized) housing initiatives** starting in the mid-1980s, followed by new funding in 1999 for community-based initiatives to address the burgeoning problem of homelessness seen nationally, and new cost-shared affordable housing programs in 2002 (slow uptake due to loss of community capacity in the intervening years)  
Note: Canada’s housing system is now the most private-sector market-based of any Western nation.
- Provincial **deinstitutionalization of psychiatric patients** who were housed in specialized facilities up until the early 1990s, without the transfer of comparable funding levels to community-based mental health service providers
- **Low-income due to: low earned income** (minimum wage versus living wage); **scaled-back and clawed-back federal and provincial social support benefits** such as Income Supports, Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), Employment Insurance, and child and family benefits (National Child Benefits and Supplements, child care subsidies, etc.); or **lack of income for those leaving the foster care or child welfare systems** (e.g., youth aged 16 to 17) **and those exiting prison**, and
- The **high cost of housing** (owned and rented) compounded by **low vacancy rates**.

Note: Canada Mortgage and Housing’s 2006 *Rental Market Report* for Calgary states that for a two-bedroom apartment in an existing structure in Calgary, the average rent increased by 19.5% in October 2006 over the previous year. Vacancy rates plummeted to an all-time low of 0.5%. The drop in rental vacancies is attributed to Calgary’s robust economy in which jobs were being created, the unemployment rate remained near record lows, and rising wages attracted many newcomers to the city. Net migration to Calgary in 2006 reached 25,794, a staggering 89% gain over 2005 “and the strongest performance on record.” A contributing factor leading to a reduction in rental vacancies was the shortage of “resale active listings” early in the year, “prolonged construction periods for new units, and escalating prices in both the new and resale markets” (CMHC, 2006: 3).

## Costs of Homelessness

### Costs of Homelessness in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and Halifax

Pomeroy, Steve. 2005. *The Cost of Homelessness: Analysis of Alternate Responses in Four Canadian Cities*. Prepared for the National Secretariat on Homelessness. Ottawa: Focus Consulting Inc.

Indicator	Number
<b>Range of Average Costs per Person per Year for Different Responses to Homelessness in Four Canadian Cities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Institutional Responses</b> (prison, detention, and psychiatric hospitals)</li> </ul>	\$66,000 – \$120,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Emergency Shelters</b> (cross section of youth, men's, women's, and family facilities, and shelters for victims of violence)</li> </ul>	\$13,000 – \$42,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Supportive and Transitional Housing</b></li> </ul>	\$13,000 – \$18,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Affordable Housing without Supports</b> (singles and family)</li> </ul>	\$5,000 – \$8,000

### Cost Data from Recent Literature Reviews

Berry, Mike, *et al.*, 2003. *Counting the Cost of Homelessness: A Systematic Review of Cost Effectiveness and Cost Benefit Studies of Homelessness*. Melbourne: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, RMIT Research Centre. Cited in Pomeroy, 2005.

- For homeless individuals with severe mental illness who are placed in supportive housing, there was a cost savings of 40% due to a reduction in shelter use, hospitalization, and time incarcerated (*Housing Policy Debate*, 2002).
- Service and shelter costs for homeless individuals ranged from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per person over a one-year period but cost savings of 30% could accrue from providing stable housing (British Columbia, 2001).
- Public and private providers spent over \$20 million annually to provide service to 4,000 homeless in Dallas. Also, \$4.1 million in tax revenue was lost due to depressed land prices in areas with a higher concentration of visible homelessness and shelters (Dallas, 2000).
- For Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Columbus, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix, San Francisco, and Seattle, jail and prison costs were at least double that of supportive housing, mental health facilities were at least 10 times higher, and emergency hospital treatment costs were substantially higher still (*Costs of Serving Homeless Individuals in Nine Cities*, 2004).

## Toronto's Emergency Homelessness Pilot Project (EHPP)

Carlucci, Paul. 2004. "A Fix for Homelessness." *EyeWeekly.com*. July 8, 2004.

Indicator	Number
Number of Shelter Beds in Toronto	4,598
<b>Annual Cost to Taxpayers per Bed (\$53.88 per night)</b>	<b>\$19,666</b>
<b>Annual Cost to House a Homeless Person through the EHPP</b>	<b>\$11,631</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average Annual Rent for a 1-Bedroom Apartment (\$800 per month)</li> <li>• Annual Cost of Necessary Supports</li> </ul>	\$9,600 \$2,031
<b>Annual Cost Savings per Person Over Emergency Shelter Option</b>	<b>\$8,035</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-monetary outcomes included improved eating habits, mental health status, and quality of life, as well as stable housing</li> </ul>	Priceless

## Toronto's 2006 Budget for Homeless Shelters and Services

City of Toronto. 2006. *Shelter, Housing and Support Administration, 2006 Budget*.

Indicator	Number
<b>City of Toronto Budget for Homeless Shelters and Services, 2006</b>	<b>\$172,500,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Operating Costs (of this, provincial contribution is \$105 million)</li> <li>• Annual Capital Improvement Costs</li> </ul>	\$159,000,000 \$13,500,000

## Paths Out of Homelessness

Sustained Policy Reduction Initiative. 2007. *Learnings from U.S. Initiatives to End Homelessness: Avoiding the Pitfalls of Implementation* (Draft). Calgary: United Way of Calgary and Area, Sustained Poverty Reduction Initiative.

Create a comprehensive plan for Calgary that includes a range of approaches, as well as strategies aimed at a variety of subpopulations. By addressing the root causes of poverty and creating affordable housing, for example, we could ensure that those at risk would be diverted from homelessness, while those placed in housing would have the supports and opportunities needed to maintain it.

## Facts and Stats on Homelessness and Affordable Housing

### Integrated Data on Homelessness in Calgary

Indicator	Number
<b>Full-Year Shelter Utilization, 2000 and 2002</b>	
(number of different homeless persons served at least once during the year by five operators of nine emergency shelters in Calgary)	
• 2000	11,000
• 2002	14,181
<b>Individuals Sheltered in 2002 Who Were Sheltered in 2000</b>	
• Repeat Users (6,000 vs. 14,181)	42%
<b>Comparative Point in Time Counts, May 2000 and May 2002</b>	
(homeless count vs. full-year shelter utilization count)	
<i>Note: Insufficient data to generalize findings</i>	
• 2000 May 17 Count vs. Shelter Users, 2000 (1,296 vs. 11,000)	11.8%
• 2002 May 15 Count vs. Shelter Users, 2002 (1,737 vs. 14,181)	12.2%
<b>Growth Rate for Homelessness in Calgary, 2000 to 2002</b>	
• Growth Rate for Calgary's Population, 2000 to 2002	5%
<b>Prevalence Rate for Homelessness in Calgary, 2000 and 2002</b>	
(homeless population vs. resident population)	
• 2000 (11,000 vs. 860,749)	1.3%
• 2002 (14,181 vs. 904,987)	1.6%
<b>Using Prevalence Rate to Estimate Homelessness in Calgary, 2007</b>	
Assuming a steady prevalence rate for homelessness of 1.6% and a resident population of 1,000,000, current homelessness can be estimated	16,000

Homelessness is not *only* a housing problem, but it is *always* a housing problem. The central observation about the diverse group of Canadians known as 'the homeless' is that they are people who once had housing but are now unhoused. Canada's housing system once had room for virtually everyone; now it does not.

– David Hulchanski, 2002

## Emergency and Transitional Housing in Calgary

Indicator	Number
<b>All Homeless Persons Enumerated in Calgary, 2006 May 10</b>	<b>3,436</b>
• Increase over Previous Count in 2004	32.3%
<b>Emergency Shelter Beds, 2006 May 10:</b>	
<b>Available</b>	<b>1,442</b>
Occupied	1,383
<b>Transitional Shelter Beds, 2006 May 10:</b>	
<b>Available</b>	<b>1,635</b>
Occupied	1,440

## Rental Housing in Calgary - Market and Non-Market Units

Indicator	Number
<b>All Non-Market Rental Units, 2005</b> (social, subsidized, or public housing – with and without supportive care)	<b>13,596</b>
<b>Total – Primary Market Rental Units, 2006</b> (apartments or row homes in “purpose built rental structures”)	<b>44,393</b>
• Apartments	39,893
• Row Homes	4,500
<b>Vacancy Rate, 2006</b> (primary rental housing market)	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Known Secondary Market Rental Units – Condos, 2006</b> (rented in buildings that are <u>not</u> “purpose built rental structures”)	<b>2,927</b>
<b>Total – All Primary and Known Secondary Market Rental Units, 2006</b>	<b>47,320</b>
<b>Total – All Known Rental Units</b> (all non-market rental units, <u>2005</u> , and all primary and known secondary market rental units, <u>2006</u> )	<b>60,916</b>
<b>Non-Market Rental Units, 2005 vs. All Known Rental Units</b> (13,596 vs. 60,916)	<b>22%</b>
Non-Market Rental Units, 2005 vs. All Dwelling Units, 2005 (13,596 vs. 395,779)	3.4%

## Rental Housing in Calgary – Market Rental Units Lost, 2006

Indicator	Number
<b>Total Remaining Primary Market Rental Units, 2006</b> (apartments or row homes in “purpose built rental structures”)	<b>44,393</b>
<b>Total Market Rental Units Lost, 2006</b> (removed from the rental market due to demolition or conversion to owner occupied condominiums)	<b>1,329</b>
• Apartments	1,083
• Row Homes	246
<b>Market Rental Units Lost to Condominium Conversion, 2006</b>	<b>946</b>
• Apartments	767
• Row Homes	179
<b>Market Rental Units Converted vs. All Units Lost (946 vs. 1,329)</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Total Market Rental Units Lost in Calgary, 2001-2006</b>	<b>4,794</b>

## Rental Housing in Calgary – Average Market Rent, 2006

<b>Average Monthly Rent, 2006, and Change from 2005 – Apartments</b>		
• Bachelor Apartments	\$618	(↑ \$94)
• 1 Bedroom Apartments	\$781	(↑ \$115)
• 2 Bedroom Apartments	\$962	(↑ \$153)
• 3+ Bedroom Apartments	\$887	(↑ \$111)
<b>Average Monthly Rent, 2006, and Change from 2005 – Row Homes</b>		
• Bachelor Row Homes		n/a
• 1 Bedroom Row Homes	\$705	(↑ \$62)
• 2 Bedroom Row Homes	\$907	(↑ \$118)
• 3+ Bedroom Row Homes	\$971	(↑ \$130)
<b>Affordable Monthly Rent for Low-Income Calgary Households, 2001</b> (CMHC: Affordable rent is no more than 30% of gross household income)		
Rent Range for Households with Annual Income of:	< \$10,000	\$0 – \$250
	\$10,000-\$19,999	\$250 – \$500
	\$20,000-\$29,999	\$500 – \$750
	\$30,000-\$37,999	\$750 – \$941

## Low-Income Renter Households in Calgary, 2001

Indicator	Number
<b>Total Renter Households with Income &lt; \$38,000 Who Spend &gt; 30% of Gross Household Income on Shelter, 2001</b>	<b>34,650</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gross income of &lt; \$20,000 Spending &gt; 50% on shelter</li> <li>Gross income of &lt; \$20,000 Spending 30-49% on shelter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14,695</li> <li>7,015</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gross income of \$20,000-\$29,999 Spending &gt; 50% on shelter</li> <li>Gross income of \$20,000-\$29,999 Spending 30-49% on shelter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,380</li> <li>7,935</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gross income of \$30,000-\$37,999 Spending &gt; 50% on shelter</li> <li>Gross income of \$30,000-\$37,999 Spending 30-49% on shelter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>155</li> <li>3,470</li> </ul>
<b>Low-Income Renter Households Overspending on Shelter vs. All Calgary Renter Households (34,650 vs. 101,565)</b>	<b>34.1%</b>

## Low Income and Affordable Rent

Indicator	Number
<b>Monthly Income from Social Supports, 2006, and Affordable Rent</b> (CMHC: Affordable rent is no more than 30% of gross household income)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income Supports – Not Expected to Work</li> <li>Income Supports – Expected to Work</li> <li>Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$635 (rent of \$190)</li> <li>\$1,100 (rent of \$330)</li> <li>\$1,000 (rent of \$300)</li> </ul>
<b>Monthly Income from Employment, 2007, and Affordable Rent</b> (CMHC: Affordable rent is no more than 30% of gross household income)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alberta Minimum Wage – \$7.00 per hour</li> <li>Proposed Living Wage for Calgary, with Benefits – \$12.00 per hour</li> <li>Proposed Living Wage for Calgary, without Benefits – \$13.25 per hour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,213 (rent of \$364)</li> <li>\$2,080 (rent of \$624)</li> <li>\$2,297 (rent of \$689)</li> </ul>

There is a linear relationship between the number of homeless persons counted in the *Biennial Count of Homeless Persons in Calgary* and real MLS housing prices in Calgary (adjusted for inflation). From 1992 through 2006, for every \$1,000 increase in housing prices, 51 more people in Calgary became homeless.

Source: City of Calgary, Corporate Economics and Geodemographics (2007).

## Minimum Housing Wage for Calgary, 2006

Indicator	Number	
<b>Minimum Housing Wage Needed for Average Monthly Rent for Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), 2006</b>		
• Bachelor Apartment	CMA average monthly rent = \$617	\$11.87 per hour
• 1 Bedroom Apartment	CMA average monthly rent = \$780	\$15.00 per hour
• 2 Bedroom Apartment	CMA average monthly rent = \$960	\$18.46 per hour
• 3 + Bedroom Apartment	CMA average monthly rent = \$884	\$17.00 per hour
<b>Number of Full-Time, Full-Year Minimum Wage Workers (earning \$7.00 per hour) Required to Afford CMA Average Market Rent, 2006</b>		
• Bachelor Apartment	CMA average monthly rent = \$617	1.7
• 1 Bedroom Apartment	CMA average monthly rent = \$780	2.1
• 2 Bedroom Apartment	CMA average monthly rent = \$960	2.6
• 3 + Bedroom Apartment	CMA average monthly rent = \$884	2.4

## Basic Living Expenses

Indicator	Number	
<b>Average Basic Monthly Expenses for Calgary Households – Total</b>		<b>\$1,517</b>
• <b>Rent</b> – 2 Bedroom Apartment in the Calgary CMA (2005)		\$808
• <b>Food</b> – Family of 3 with 2 School-Aged Children (2005)		\$396
• <b>Utilities</b> – includes telephone, power, water, sewage, garbage collection, drainage services, and natural gas (2006)		\$190
• <b>Transportation</b> – Low-income Transit Pass (2006)		\$35
• <b>Alberta Health Care Premiums</b> – Family (2006)		\$88
<b>Additional Monthly Expenses for Families with Children, Canadian Average, 2006</b>		
• <b>Infant Child Care</b> (\$800-\$900/month) less subsidy (\$575/month)		\$225 – \$325
• <b>Toddler Child Care</b> (\$600-\$750/month) less subsidy (\$500/month)		\$100 – \$150
• <b>Basic School Supplies</b> – Average Annual Cost per Student – \$337 (excluding clothing, school resource fees, transportation fees, music and extracurricular fees, computer lab fees, field trips, athletic fees, locker rentals, yearbooks, and graduation fees)		\$28

## Homelessness Prevention and Intervention

Indicator	Number
<b>Street Outreach Programs and Shelters</b>	
• Street Outreach Programs – Listed on Inform Alberta website, 2007	11
• Facilities Sheltering the Homeless, 2006 May 10	51
<b>In-Home Supports</b> (supportive services provided to people living in the community)	
• <b>Independent Living Supports and Community Extension Team</b> – In-home support for clients with mental illness (CMHA, 2005)	750
• <b>Approved Home Program</b> – Family homes support adults with severe and persistent mental health problems (CHR, 2007)	n/a
• <b>Personal Care Homes</b> – Services, lodging and meals for adults who need 24-hour support and help with daily activities (CHR, 2007)	110 (in 24 homes)
<b>Rent and Utility Assistance</b>	
• Rental Assistance and Housing Support Programs – Listed on Inform Alberta website, 2007; and Integrated Intake Form, 2007	6
• Utility Assistance Programs – Listed on Inform Alberta website, 2007	7
<b>Affordable Housing Strategies</b>	
Housing units kept in the Calgary market each year by maximizing the use of CMHC's Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)	<b>100 – 150</b>
<b>Affordable Housing Partnerships Initiatives (AHPI) Funding Leveraged in Calgary, 2002-2006</b>	
• Affordable Housing Partnerships Initiative (AHPI) Funding, 2002-2006	\$36,839,200
• City Contribution, 2002-2006	\$17,062,000
• Other Contributions, 2002-2006	\$16,406,757
Non-Market Units Funded through AHPI, 2002-2006	658
<b>New Non-Market (Subsidized) Rental Housing Units, 2002-2006</b> (units funded through AHPI <u>and</u> units funded from other sources)	
• City of Calgary Initiated Projects	339
• Private and Non-Profit Initiated Projects	349
<b>New Emergency and Transitional Units, 2002-2006</b>	
• Number of Beds	577
<b>New Affordable Home Ownership Units, 2002-2006</b>	
	<b>130</b>
<b>Temporary Emergency Housing Units, 2002-2006</b> (e.g., The Brick)	
	<b>345</b>

## Research Gaps

**Information Management System on Homelessness:** Integrated data on homelessness creates better information for better decisions about helping the homeless and, ultimately, ending homelessness. The use of integrated data management systems to be used by all service providers is a critical element in most American 10-year plans to end homelessness. Fully 91% of the plans completed to the end of June 2006 outline strategies to create a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The Department of Housing and Urban Development in the United States provides examples of centres that have implemented HMIS.

Data can be compiled manually but is tedious, time consuming, and difficult to do well. This process was undertaken in 2000 and 2002 by five providers of emergency shelters in Calgary, and has produced valuable, albeit limited, information on the homeless populations they serve. Full-year shelter utilization data have not been collected in Calgary since 2002 due to the enormous time commitment required that takes shelter staff away from their core business of serving the homeless. The national standard used in Canada is the *Homeless Individuals and Families Information System* (HIFIS), which is again under consideration for use in Calgary.

There are many advantages to implementing a Homeless Management Information System:

- Uses standardized intake forms
- Eliminates need for “point in time” counts
- Registers street homeless persons receiving non-shelter services (assuming all providers participate)
- Permits a detailed local understanding of the root causes of homelessness
- Permits integrated case management for clients, and
- Provides full year shelter utilization data (assuming all providers participate), which can be used for monitoring progress and adjusting actions to meet emerging needs.

**Housing Need for Recruited Workers:** Another research gap is the missing link between economic development and housing affordability for workers in businesses and industries that are being recruited to Calgary. Planning for affordable housing for employees could be undertaken if that data were available.

**Housing Need for Immigrant Newcomers:** With increasing immigration to Canada from non-traditional source countries (and migration to Calgary by newcomers who may arrive elsewhere in Canada), there is a gap in knowledge about how various kinship patterns among new Canadians affect housing need. Non-market housing for large families could be planned if that information were more readily available.

## Additional Information

This summary is based on the major research report, *Background Research for the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Calgary*. It can be found on the City of Calgary website at:

[Major Research Papers on Affordable Housing and Homelessness](#)

Please visit [www.calgary.ca/affordablehousing](http://www.calgary.ca/affordablehousing) and click on the link to “Research on Affordable Housing and Homelessness.” **Direct Link:** [Research on Affordable Housing and Homelessness](#).