

Tri-Region: Stony Plain, Spruce Grove,
and Parkland County

Rural Housing and Service Needs Estimation Project



2022

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About this Report

This report was developed by the Rural Development Network (RDN) with oversight from the Tri-Municipal Region, which includes the Town of Stony Plain, the City of Spruce Grove, and Parkland County.

In 2022, RDN partnered with the Town of Stony Plain, City of Spruce Grove, and Parkland County to conduct the third iteration of the housing and service needs estimation in the Tri-Region.

This report outlines the overall Tri-Region results and each community's individual results from the estimation, highlighting the number of residents who are housing insecure and their experiences with housing insecurity.

This report is intended to support decision-making across organizations, funders, and government around housing and homelessness by providing reliable and up-to-date data on housing and service needs in the Tri-Region. It can also be used in the community for program and advocacy purposes related to housing, homelessness, and service needs.

Acknowledgements

RDN's physical office is located on the Traditional Territories of Treaty 6 and is home to Métis Nation Region 4. We also acknowledge with respect and gratitude the many Nations and Traditional Territories across Turtle Island.

Inuit, Métis, and First Nations Peoples are experiencing homelessness at disproportionately high rates compared to non-Indigenous people in Canada. Unlike the common, colonialist definition of homelessness, Indigenous homelessness is not simply defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully understood as a loss or breakdown of relationships between individuals, families, and/or communities and their land, water, place, family, kin, animals, cultures, languages, and identities. RDN recognizes the ways in which settler relationships to both the land and the Peoples of this land have been broken and misused, causing and contributing to Indigenous homelessness. We also recognize the ways in which our presence on this land continues to uphold colonialism and reproduces dispossession and violence for Indigenous people, further perpetuating experiences of Indigenous homelessness.

In an ongoing effort to support Indigenous communities in addressing issues of housing, homelessness, and service needs, we are committed to working to decolonize homelessness research. We are advocates for Indigenous self-determination in the housing and social sectors.

We share this acknowledgement to reaffirm our responsibility and commitment to reconciliation.

We also recognize that this land acknowledgement is just that, an acknowledgement; it is but one step in our journey. We commit to working to uphold the conditions of the treaties that govern this land.

We thank you.

This report and the information within were made possible by the efforts of many dedicated individuals and groups. We wish to thank the front-line staff at participating service agencies in Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, and Parkland County for their support, dedication, and commitment to this project.

Contact info@ruraldevelopment.ca for more information on Housing and Service Needs Estimations.

Contact connect@stonyplain.com or fcss@sprucegrove.org for more information on housing and homelessness in the Tri-Region.



Executive Summary

In the fall of 2022, the Town of Stony Plain and the City of Spruce Grove participated in the third iteration of a large-scale housing and service needs estimation called, “A Tri-Region Housing and Service Needs Estimation.” This needs estimation was conducted to better understand what homelessness looks like in their communities. The project was also an opportunity to understand the service needs of residents in the Tri-Region, as well as to collect meaningful data to support future decisions around housing and services. Surveys were administered to community members by service agencies across the region and online as an open Survey Monkey link for four weeks from October 1 - 31 in 2022.

A total of 396 survey respondents were identified as housing insecure. An additional 450 dependents and 287 adults were reported as living with survey respondents. In total, at least 1,133 people were living in housing insecurity in the Tri-Region area.

The top three reasons for housing insecurity across the Tri-Region, as reported by survey respondents, are:

1. Low wages
2. Inability to afford rent or mortgage payments
3. Mental health issues

Additionally, respondents identified three main reasons for accessing services in the Tri-Region: help with basic needs (53%); financial support (10%); and, health and wellness (7%).

Definitions: What Does "Homelessness" Mean?

Homelessness

According to the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (2012), homelessness is the situation of an individual, family, or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means, and ability to acquire it. Homelessness can stem from systemic or societal barriers, domestic violence, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination.

Further, Indigenous homelessness considers the traumas imposed on Indigenous Peoples through colonialism. It is defined as a human condition that describes First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals, families or communities lacking stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means or ability to acquire such housing. . . . Indigenous homelessness is not defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully described and understood through a composite lens of Indigenous worldviews. (Jesse Thistle, 2017)

Most people do not choose to be homeless, and the experience is generally negative, unpleasant, stressful, and distressing. The national definition of homelessness notes that individuals who become homeless can experience a range of physical living situations, including:

Unsheltered: Absolutely homeless, living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation (e.g., living on sidewalks, squares, parks, vehicles, garages, etc.).

Emergency Sheltered: People who are staying in shelters due to homelessness or family violence.

Provisionally Accommodated: People with an accommodation that is temporary or that lacks security for tenure (e.g., couch-surfing, living in transitional housing, living in abandoned buildings, living in places unfit for human habitation, people who are housed seasonally, people in domestic violence situations, etc.).

At Risk of Homelessness: People who are not yet homeless but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards (e.g., people who are one rent payment missed away from eviction, people whose housing may be condemned for health, by-law, or safety violations, etc.).

(Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2012).

In this report, we will use “insecure housing.” The term will be used to encompass the entire spectrum of homelessness, including unsheltered, emergency sheltered, provisionally accommodated, and at risk of homelessness.

Introduction

When it comes to understanding the causes of homelessness, the urban experience tends to dominate the conversation, mainly due to the “visibility” of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in urban centres. The issue of homelessness in rural and remote areas is far less understood and acknowledged because of its “hidden” nature. Further, recent data suggests that rural homelessness is prevalent at rates equivalent to or greater than urban per capita rates (Schiff et al., 2022).

In an attempt to better understand what homelessness looks like, the Town of Stony Plain and the City of Spruce Grove contracted the Rural Development Network to conduct a housing and service needs estimation in the Tri-Region area. The purpose of the estimation was to:

1. Provide a comprehensive picture of housing instability and homelessness in the Tri-Region area, including demographic information on who is experiencing homelessness, as well as access to services and missing services.
2. Help inform service providers and municipal, provincial, and federal policies, practices, and funding decisions on homelessness, housing, and support services.
3. Elevate and incorporate the voices of people experiencing homelessness in the solutions to end homelessness.

This is the third iteration of the Housing and Service Needs Estimation in the Tri-Region; it was also conducted in 2018 and 2020.

In 2018, the Tri-Region surveyed 264 community members, 142 of which were identified as housing insecure.

In 2020, 359 community members were surveyed, with 197 identified as housing insecure. An additional 219 dependents and 216 adults were reported as sharing living conditions with the 197 housing insecure respondents, totalling 632 housing insecure individuals in the Tri-Region.

Methodology

The methodology employed in this Housing and Service Needs Estimate comes from the *Step-by-Step Guide to Estimating Rural Homelessness*, published by RDN. RDN developed the *Step-by-Step Guide to Estimating Rural Homelessness* because of the lack of available, accurate, and current data on rural homelessness. A lack of data limits the ability of rural communities like Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, and Parkland County to advocate for better resources for their residents.

RDN's guide is unique. It tackles the issue of housing insecurity and homelessness from a rural perspective and recognizes the difficulties that come with conducting standard Point-in-Time (PiT) counts in rural and remote areas. These difficulties include geographical location and distance across communities, lack of volunteer capacity, and the hidden nature of rural homelessness. In contrast, RDN's guide allows anyone, including small non-profits and local front-line agencies, to gather data on gaps in local housing and service needs without adding additional strain on workloads and capacities. The estimation is an accepted methodological tool for collecting data on housing instability.

Please note: As with a PiT count, this estimation is an undercount and represents only those individuals identified during the four-week period. The number of people who are experiencing housing instability is greater than what is presented in this report.

Following the model proposed in the Step-by-Step Guide, RDN provided the Town of Stony Plain and the City of Spruce Grove with a standardized survey to identify housing and service needs in the region. The survey was developed in accordance with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness' definitions of homelessness. As a result of feedback from service providers, the survey itself was advertised as a housing and service needs survey rather than a homelessness survey. This shift in advertising minimizes triggering potential stigma associated with homelessness, which may cause distress to their clients. By re-framing the language of the survey, service providers were able to encourage all clients to participate instead of targeting specific individuals, producing increased data.

To further minimize stigma throughout the survey, respondents were not asked to label themselves as homeless or housing insecure. Instead, they were asked whether they consider their living conditions to be secure and to fill out checkboxes that determine their objective housing situation. Based on responses to the latter survey questions and subsequent data analysis, RDN was able to determine which respondents were housing insecure. As shown in the results outlined within this report, some individuals who do not consider themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness actually are actually considered housing insecure or homeless based on national definitions of homelessness.

Across the region, survey administration was advertised at local and regional service provider locations and online as an open Survey Monkey link across the community.

14 community partners completed training and participated as survey administration locations:

- Alberta Parenting for the Future Association
- Bredin Institute
- Community Aim
- Native Counselling services
- NeighbourLink Parkland
- Parkland Wellness Centre and Refugee Welcoming Space
- Parkland FCSS
- Parkland Food Bank
- WestView PCN
- Spruce Grove FCSS
- Stony Plain Community and Social Development
- TriRegion Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response
- Tri-Community Adult Learning & Literacy Association

Online surveys were advertised throughout the community. Surveys were available through these locations and online for a period of four week from October 1 to 31, 2022.

Before the survey period began, members of the Town of Stony Plain and the City of Spruce Grove trained participating agencies in the process and methodology. This training included ensuring respondents' confidentiality and privacy; securing informed consent; offering the survey in an open, non-intrusive manner; and, placing extra consideration on meeting the individuals' reasons for visiting the survey agency before offering the survey.

It is important to note that consent was required from survey participants both at the beginning and end of the survey. In addition, a unique identifier was created to protect the identity of all participants. The unique identifier also allows RDN to maintain the integrity of the data without knowing respondent identities. The unique identifier is a combination of letters and numbers from a participant's name and birthdate.

To ensure no duplicate survey entries are included during data analysis, RDN data analysts cleaned the data by scanning surveys first for their unique identifiers and second for any anomalies. If multiple of the same unique identifiers are found, the most recent response from that respondent is included in the analysis. The surveys are also reviewed for anomalies that could suggest survey duplicates.

Figure 1: Housing & Service Needs Estimation Survey Question #4: Anonymous Unique Identifier

Q4. Anonymous Unique Identifier (ex. John Smith, born on 15th November 1964)

J	O	What are the first two letters of your FIRST name?
S	M	What are the first two letters of your LAST name?
1	5	What is the DAY you were born?
6	4	What are the last two numbers of the YEAR you were born?

A total of 500 surveys were submitted during the four weeks; 56 were completed online, and 444 were completed as paper copies. Of the 500 surveys, 72 were excluded. Surveys deemed unsuitable were excluded for one or more of the following reasons:

- Survey respondent(s) declined to give consent;
- Survey respondent(s) declined to provide the unique identifier or provided improper unique identifier information (i.e., characters instead for numbers, etc.);
- Survey respondent(s) submitted multiple surveys (determined based on unique identifier(s)); or,
- Survey respondent(s) indicated they lived in a community other than the Tri-Region area.

Based on this, 428 respondent submissions were determined to be suitable for further analysis and will be the focus of the results outlined below, as well as for each community report results section.

Limitations

Despite our best attempts to reduce stigma and increase the accessibility of the survey, not all clients who were offered a survey chose to participate. Additionally, staff at participating agencies were informed that participants under the age of 14 years old required guardian consent to participate in the survey. We recognize that this is inherently problematic and exclusionary, as most youth experiencing homelessness would not have a guardian to provide consent. However, to maintain survey ethics, this requirement complies with the Alberta College of Social Workers' guidelines.

Additionally, the data may not be a true representation of the County as a whole, rather, only those that access services in the Tri-Municipal region.

As a result, there remains a portion of people experiencing homelessness or housing instability in the Tri-Region whose voices were not captured in this project. While the trends and highlights discussed are informative, it is always important to remember that this report presents a conservative picture of the housing and services needs in the Tri-Region as a whole.



Results and Analysis

Data Highlights for the Entire Tri-Region

The Tri-Region, including the Town of Stony Plain, City of Spruce Grove, and Parkland County, received 428 survey responses. They can be broken down by community:

- Stony Plain: 114
- Spruce Grove: 221
- Parkland County: 93

When asked where they heard about the survey, respondents indicated the following:

- Parkland Foodbank: 79% (339 of 427)
- Bredin Institute: 9% (37 of 427)
- Westview PCN: 4% (19 of 427)
- NeighbourLink Parkland: 3% (14 of 427)
- Parkland FCSS: 1% (4 of 427)
- Stony Plain Community and Social Development: 1% (4 of 427)
- Alberta Parenting for the Future Association: 0.5% (2 of 427)
- Community Aim: 0.2% (1 of 427)
- Parkland and Wellness Centre and Refugee Welcoming Space: 0.2% (1 of 427)
- Spruce Grove FCSS: 0.2% (1 of 427)
- TriCala: 0.2% (1 of 427)
- Other (library, family referral, combination of several agencies): 1% (4 of 427)

Objective Housing Situation

As part of the survey, participants were asked the following question: “Do you consider your housing situation to be unstable or feel you could easily lose your housing?” Respondents were given the options “yes,” “no,” and “I’m not sure” to guide their responses.

Of the 428 survey respondents, 186 self-identified as housing insecure and 82 indicated “I’m not sure.” Through further analysis, additional respondents were identified as housing insecure, as shown in Table 1. Table 2 highlights the number of dependents and adults reported as sharing living conditions with housing insecure respondents. In total, there are at least 1,133 community members experiencing housing insecurity in the Tri-Region.

Table 1**Total Respondent Breakdown by Community and Housing**

# of Individuals	Stony Plain	Spruce Grove	Parkland County
Housing Secure	13	13	6
Housing Insecure	101	208	87

Table 2**Total Additional Individuals Sharing Secure Housing Situations Breakdown by Community**

# of additional Individuals	Stony Plain	Spruce Grove	Parkland County
Dependents	102	245	103
Adults	59	146	82

The top five reasons for housing instability in the Tri-Region, as reported by survey respondents, are:

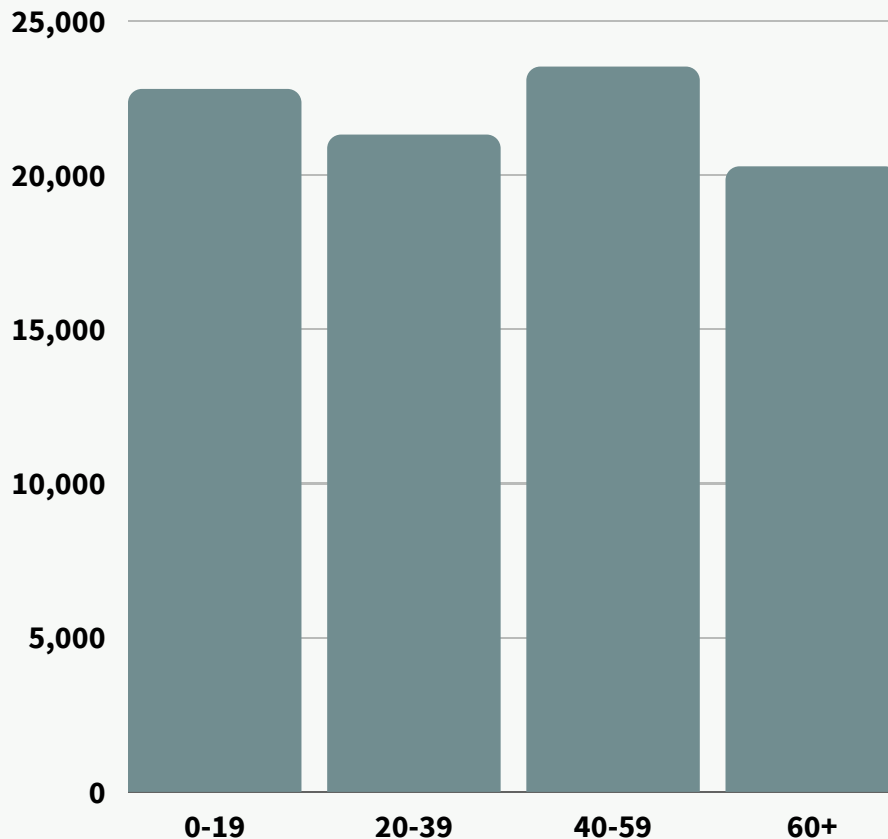
- Low wages
- Inability to afford rent or mortgage payments
- Mental health
- Physical disability
- Illness or medical condition

Tri-Region Population Overview

According to Statistics Canada (2021), Tri-Region covers 2448.64 square km geographical land base and has a population size of 87,843, making up 2% of Alberta’s total population.

50% (45,165) of Tri-Region’s population is reported as female, while 50% (43,940) reports as male. Additionally, Tri-Region has a varied distribution of age across its population, as seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Tri-Region Population Age Breakdown (2022)



The average age of the population for someone in the Tri-Region is 40.2 years.

According to Statistics Canada Census numbers in 2021, 8% (7,290) of the Tri-Region’s population immigrated to Canada and 6% (5,560) of the population identify as a visible minority. Further, 3% (2,290) of the population identified as Indigenous ancestry only; 1% (1,155) identified as First Nations, 1% (1,000) as Métis, 40 individuals identified as Inuit, and 100 identified as multiple Indigenous ancestry.

The 2021 Census also reports that Tri-Region has 35,771 private dwellings with an average of 2.4 people per household. The average size of a census family is 2.9.

Further, 23% (20,055) of Tri-Region residents have employment income, while 56% (49,495) did not report employment income in 2020.

Housing and Service Needs Estimation

Survey Population Overview

Gender and Sexuality

428 community members responded to the Tri-Region survey. 63% (264 of 421) of participants identified as female; 34% (143 of 421) as male; 0% (2 of 421) as two-spirit; 0% (2 of 421) as trans-male; and, 0% (1 of 421) respondent as trans-female. 1% (4 of 421) respondents selected “other.”

Additionally, 90% (377 of 418) of respondents identified as straight; 5% (22 of 418) as bisexual; 0% (2 of 418) as lesbian; 0% (1 of 418) as gay; and, 0% (1 of 418) as two-spirit. Additionally, 0% (2 of 418) of respondents were questioning their sexual orientation, and 1% (3 of 418) indicated “other.”

Age

Of the 428 respondents, 2% (7 of 428) were between the ages of 0-19. We know from their unique identifier, which asks for their birth year, as well as our ethical standards on the age of consent when administering the survey that these respondents are between 14-18 years old. Additionally, 33% (140 of 428) were 20-39, 45% (193 of 428) were 40-59, and 21% (88 of 428) were 60 or older.

Immigration

89% (378 of 424) of respondents were born in Canada, while 11% (45 of 424) reported being born outside of Canada. Of the 41 responses who immigrated to Canada, 44% (18 of 41) arrived as landed immigrants; 20% (8 of 41) as permanent residents; 20% (8 of 41) as temporary foreign workers; 7% (3 of 41) as refugees/claimants; 5% (2 of 41) with student visas; 2% (1 of 41) as economic workers; and, 2% (1 of 35) respondents preferred not to answer.

Race

77% (314 of 406) of respondents identified as Caucasian, compared to 18% (74 of 406) of respondents who are racialized. Racialized respondents identified as Indigenous (13%), Asian (3%), Hispanic/Latino (1%), and Middle Eastern (0.2%). An additional 4% (18 of 406) respondents selected “other.”

Child Protective Services History

11% (49 of 428) of respondents stayed in foster care, a youth group home, or under a youth/young adult agreement in the past.

Services and Veterans

Lastly, in terms of demographics, respondents were asked to indicate if they have ever served in the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), or local Emergency Services (EMS, Police, Fire Department). Of the 419 respondents who answered the question, 2% (10 of 419) indicated they serve(d) in the Canadian Armed Forces or Foreign Military Service and 2% (10 of 419) in local Emergency Services.

Table 3: Housing Secure Versus Housing Insecure Population Overview

Demographic Characteristic	Housing Secure	Housing Insecure
# of survey respondents	32	396
Gender	Male: 7	Male: 136
	Female: 24	Female: 240
	Trans-male: 0	Trans-male: 2
	Trans-female: 0	Trans-female: 1
	Non-binary: 0	Non-binary: 2
	Two-spirit: 0	Two-spirit: 2
	Don't know: 0	Don't know: 0
	Not Listed: 0	Not Listed: 4
Sexual orientation	Straight: 30	Straight: 347
	Gay/Lesbian: 1	Gay/Lesbian: 3
	Bisexual: 0	Bisexual: 22
	Two-spirit: 0	Two-spirit: 1
	Asexual: 0	Asexual: 0
	Queer: 0	Queer: 0
	Questioning: 0	Questioning: 0
	Don't know: 0	Don't know: 0
	Not Listed: 0	Not Listed: 3
Age	0-19 years old: 1	0-19 years old: 6
	20-39 years old: 7	20-39 years old: 133
	40-59 years old: 12	40-59 years old: 181
	60+ years old: 12	60+ years old: 76
Immigration status	Born in Canada: 23	Born in Canada: 355
	Not born in Canada: 7	Not born in Canada: 38
Racial identity	African: 1	African: 3
	Asian: 2	Asian: 9
	Caucasian: 23	Caucasian: 291
	Hispanic/Latino: 0	Hispanic/Latino: 4
	Indigenous: 4	Indigenous: 50
	Middle Eastern: 0	Middle Eastern: 1
	Not Listed: 0	Not Listed: 18
Indigenous Identity	First Nations: 1	First Nations: 31
	Métis: 4	Métis: 29
	Inuit: 0	Inuit: 1
Time in Foster Care, Youth Group Home, or Youth/Young Adult Agreement	Spent time in care: 1	Spent time in care: 48
Served in Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, Emergency Services	Canadian Armed Forces: 0	Canadian Armed Forces: 10
	RCMP: 0	RCMP: 0
	Emergency Services: 0	Emergency Services: 10

Based on this survey population overview breakdown, we can determine the following:

- 65% of housing insecure respondents are 40 years or older.
- 13% of housing insecure respondents are Indigenous.
- 10% of housing insecure respondents were not born in Canada.
- 13% of housing insecure respondents have spent time foster care, a youth group home, and/or in a youth/young adult agreement.

Living Situation

22% (89 of 410) of all respondents—89% (79 of 89) of who were housing insecure— have always lived in and around the area. Of the housing insecure respondents who were not born there, 61% (232 of 381) have lived in the area for more than one year.

Respondents who were not from the Tri-Region area were also asked to indicate the reasons why they came to their community. The top four reasons respondents came to the area are:

1. To find housing (15% - 75 of 493)
2. My family moved here (15% - 74 of 493)
3. To look for work (14% - 69 of 493)
4. To start a job (10% - 51 of 493)

Further analysis suggests that the top four reasons respondents who were not born in Canada came to the Tri-Region are:

1. To look for work or start a job (28% - 15 of 53)
2. For fear of their safety (11% - 6 of 53)
3. To find housing (11% - 6 of 53)
4. To access services/supports (11% - 6 of 53)

Additional Data Highlights: Housing Insecure Respondents' Living Situation

- 53% of housing insecure respondents have been in their living arrangements for over two years
- 32% of housing insecure respondents are in a single-parent household situation
- 7% (21 of 292) of housing insecure respondents have moved between three and six times in the past 12 months

Education, Employment, and Income Sources

Education

Results show that 21% (81 of 377) of housing insecure respondents have some grade school or some high school education, while 76% (285 of 377) have at least a high school diploma or GED (General Educational Development). Additionally, only 1% (2 of 377) of housing insecure respondents report having no formal education.

Employment

65% (247 of 380) of housing insecure respondents report being unemployed at the time of the survey, while 34% (128 of 380) were employed. Of those employed, 57% (71 of 125) were full-time; 28% (35 of 125) were part-time; 10% (12 of 125) reported casual employment; and, 4% (5 of 125) reported “other.” Of those who indicated “other,” respondents noted being on maternity leave, doing freelance work, or being in a temporary work situation.

The top three sectors housing insecure in which respondents are employed were :

1. Retail/Personal Services (15% - 18 of 119)
2. Health (10% - 12 of 119)
3. Education (9% - 11 of 119)

Income Sources

The top five sources of income housing insecure on which respondents relied were:

1. Employment (20% - 122 of 617)
2. Child and Family Tax Benefits (16% - 101 of 617)
3. Income Assistance (13% - 83 of 617)
4. Disability Benefits (11% - 69 of 617)
5. Partner/Spouse’s Income (10% - 62 of 617)

Community Supports

In an attempt to better understand service needs and gaps within the Tri-Region, respondents were asked, “What is the main reason(s) for accessing services today?”

The main reasons respondents accessed services were for help with basic needs (53%), financial support (10%), and health and wellness (7%).

Table 4: Main Reasons Housing Insecure Respondents Access Support Services

Services Accessed	Housing Insecure
Basic Needs (e.g., food, emergency shelter, clothing, etc.)	54% (330 of 611)
COVID-19 Assistance (e.g., PPE, information, supports, etc.)	3% (18 of 611)
Crisis Financial Support (e.g., eviction notice, utility bill problems, damage deposits, etc.)	5% (30 of 611)
Family/Parenting (e.g., childcare, parenting/family issues, relationship issues, child developmental assessment tools/referrals, etc.)	4% (25 of 611)
Financial (e.g., employment, housing [emergency rental assistance, utility bill support, etc.], training/education, etc.)	10% (62 of 611)
Health and Wellness (e.g., addictions, mental health, physical health care, spiritual/cultural, etc.)	7% (41 of 611)
Legal (e.g., family law, wills/estates, employment/labour standards, landlord/tenant issues, immigration issues, criminal/misdemeanour, etc.)	4% (24 of 611)
Support Services (e.g., help with government forms, help with accessing government/other programs or services, access to technology, etc.)	5% (31 of 611)
Transportation Needs (e.g., to access to basic services/education/employment, medical transportation, etc.)	5% (28 of 611)
Prefer Not to Answer	2% (13 of 611)
Not Listed	1% (9 of 611)

5% (21 of 386) of housing insecure respondents reported staying at an emergency shelter in the past year. Further, some respondents needed to stay at a shelter, but did not. The top five reasons for not staying at a shelter were:

1. No shelters in their area (7% - 28 of 386)
2. Did not feel safe (7% - 28 of 386)
3. Separation from family member/partner (6% - 24 of 386)
4. Lack of transportation (5% - 20 of 386)
5. No pets allowed (5% - 18 of 386)

Lastly, respondents were asked to identify their perceptions of service provisions in Tri-Region, as seen in Table 5.

Table 5: Housing Insecure Respondents’ Perceptions of Tri-Region’s Service Provision

Does your community provide enough:	Yes	No	Unsure
Employment Opportunities	31% (112 of 362)	28% (103 of 362)	41% (147 of 362)
Free/Accessible Recreational and Social Opportunities	32% (111 of 250)	35% (122 of 350)	33% (117 of 350)
Social Services	31% (104 of 335)	33% (112 of 335)	36% (119 of 335)
Accessible and Affordable Housing	11% (40 of 358)	58% (209 of 358)	30% (109 of 358)

Using the respondents’ perceptions of service provision in Tri-Region, we generated an overall service availability satisfaction score.

Overall service availability satisfaction score: 26.25%

- 89% of respondents felt that there is not enough accessible/affordable housing or were unsure there is enough accessible/affordable housing.
- 41% of housing insecure respondents were not sure if Tri-Region offers enough employment opportunities, and 36% were unsure if the area provided enough social services.

Please note that these scores only reflect the sentiments surrounding the availability of or lack of listed service provisions of the community. They are not tied to expressed dissatisfaction with the current service providers.

**Detailed
Results by
Community:
Stony Plain,
Spruce Grove,
and Parkland
County**

Objective Housing Situation

As part of the survey, participants were asked the following question: “*Do you consider your housing situation to be unstable or feel you could easily lose your housing?*” Respondents were given the options “yes,” “no,” and “I’m not sure” to guide their responses.

In Stony Plain, 52 respondents self-identified as housing insecure and 18 indicated “I’m not sure.” Using the national definitions of homelessness, we determined that 101 survey respondents are housing insecure. An additional 102 dependents and 59 adults were reported as living with housing insecure survey respondents.

In Spruce Grove, 93 respondents self-identified as housing insecure and 50 indicated “I’m not sure.” Using the national definitions of homelessness, we determined that 208 survey respondents are housing insecure. An additional 245 dependents and 146 adults were reported as living with housing insecure survey respondents.

In Parkland County, 41 respondents self-identified as housing insecure and 14 indicated “I’m not sure.” Using the national definitions of homelessness, we determined that 87 survey respondents are housing insecure according to the national definitions of homelessness. An additional 103 dependents and 82 adults were reported as living with housing insecure survey respondents.

Based on survey results, there were, therefore, at least 262 community members experiencing housing insecurity in Stony Plain, 599 in Spruce Grove, and 272 in Parkland County, totalling at least 1,133 community members experiencing housing insecurity in the Tri-Region at the time of the survey.

The top three reasons for housing instability in all three communities, as reported by survey respondents, are:

1. Low wages
2. Inability to afford rent or mortgage payments
3. Mental health issues

Exploring the Spectrum of Homelessness in the Tri-Region

Recognizing that the national definition of homelessness is complex, encompassing various housing situations across a continuum, it is important to better understand what housing insecurity looks like in the Tri-Region. This understanding can be achieved by exploring the experiences of the 101 housing insecure respondents in Stony Plain, 208 housing insecure respondents in Spruce Grove, and 87 housing insecure respondents in Parkland County.

To accurately place respondents along the spectrum of homelessness, a series of measures were used to understand their situations. These measures included their self-identified housing stability response, their calculated housing stability, their current housing situation, and the amenities they lack in their current home.

Early in the survey, respondents were asked to outline their current housing situation and were able to choose all situations that applied to them from a variety of statements. Statements included “I own the house I am currently in” to “I lived in supportive housing” to “I slept in a public space.” Respondents were able to select more than one statement. To accurately present what housing insecurity might look like for respondents over a month, all responses have been included.

An important thing to consider when reading this table is that people experiencing housing insecurity often fluctuate in and out of their situation. Someone who was unsheltered one night, may have been emergency sheltered or provisionally accommodated the next night. As a result, we have highlighted every incident of insecurity respondents experienced in the past month to understand the complexities of housing insecurity in the Tri-Region in Table 6.

Table 6: Respondents by Housing Situation in the Homelessness Spectrum

Place on the Homelessness Spectrum	# of Respondents in Each Category by Community		
	Stony Plain	Spruce Grove	Parkland County
Unsheltered	12	27	9
Emergency Sheltered	3	7	1
Provisionally Accommodated	19	47	16
At Risk of Homelessness	64	157	59

The above table demonstrates respondents' diverse experiences with housing insecurity in Tri-Region, emphasizing that homelessness presents itself in more ways than simply sleeping outside.

Respondents that have been identified as **at risk** emphasized their difficulty in being able to afford their rent/mortgage and/or have stayed in a home that needs major repairs such as no windows, no electricity, etc. Many of these respondents also live in overcrowded housing, where there are too many people compared to the number of bedrooms in the home.

Respondents who indicated they experienced being **provisionally accommodated** noted stays in jail/prison/remand centre, medical/detox facilities, and/or supported housing. Some respondents also indicated staying with a stranger because they have nowhere else to go.

Those that had experiences of being **emergency sheltered or unsheltered** noted stays in women's domestic violence shelters, emergency shelters, makeshift shelters such as a vehicle, tent, or shack, and/or stays in public spaces.



Spotlight: What Does Homelessness Look Like for Someone in Spruce Grove?

In a report that is composed of mainly quantitative data, it can be easy to overlook the humanity behind the numbers reported. Using the most common responses from the survey, we were able to compile a profile of a “typical” respondent facing housing instability.

In the case of Spruce Grove, a typical person facing housing instability is a this is a woman who is between 40 and 59 years old. She is currently renting a unit with her partner and two dependents. She is currently unemployed and finds it difficult to pay rent, spending more than 30% of her income on housing. As a result, she relies on her partner's income and the child and family tax benefit to help make ends meet. Additionally, she, her partner, and her dependents live in a unit that is very crowded and does not have enough bedrooms for them. She originally came to the community to find employment and better housing options.

The true diversity of respondents is illustrated throughout the Results and Analysis section, but this highlights what someone experiencing housing insecurity might look like in Spruce Grove.

Housing & Service Needs Estimation

Survey Respondent Population Overview

428 community members responded to the Tri-Region survey, 114 from Stony Plain, 221 from Spruce Grove, and 93 from Parkland County. Table 7, below, is a breakdown of demographic information for each community.

Based on the survey population overview breakdown, we can determine the following:

- 62% (63 of 101) of housing insecure respondents in Stony Plain are 40 years or older.
- Women in Spruce Grove are 1.4 times more likely to be housing insecure than their male counterparts.
- 62% (129 of 208) of housing insecure respondents in Spruce Grove are 40 years or older.
- Women in Parkland County are 1.9 times more likely to be housing insecure than their male counterparts.
- 75% (65 of 87) of housing insecure respondents in Parkland County are 40 years or older.



Table 7: Housing & Service Needs Estimation Survey Population Overview Comparison by Housing Stability

Demographic Characteristic		Stony Plain			Spruce Grove			Parkland County		
		Overall	Housing Secure	Housing Insecure	Overall	Housing Secure	Housing Insecure	Overall	Housing Secure	Housing Insecure
Number of Survey Respondents		114	13	101	221	13	208	93	6	87
Gender	Male	30	5	25	82	0	82	31	2	29
	Female	79	8	71	127	13	114	58	3	55
	Trans-male	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Trans-female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Non-binary	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
	Two-spirit	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Not Listed	1	0	1	3	0	3	0	0	0
Sexual Orientation	Straight	100	13	87	192	13	179	85	4	81
	Gay/Lesbian	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	0
	Bisexual	8	0	8	12	0	12	2	0	2
	Asexual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Queer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Questioning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Not Listed	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Age	0-19 years old	2	1	1	3	0	3	2	0	2
	20-39 years old	39	2	37	81	4	76	21	1	20
	40-59 years old	48	4	44	93	4	89	52	4	48
	60+ years old	25	6	19	45	5	40	18	1	17
Immigration Status	Born in Canada	103	9	94	189	9	180	86	5	81
	Not born in Canada	9	3	6	30	4	26	6	0	6
Racial Identity	African	1	0	1	3	1	2	0	0	0
	Asian	1	0	1	10	2	8	0	0	0
	Caucasian	86	12	74	160	8	152	68	3	65
	Hispanic/Latino	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0
	Indigenous	14	1	13	27	1	26	13	2	11
	Middle Eastern	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Not Listed	6	0	6	7	0	7	5	0	5
Indigenous Identity	First Nations	9	0	9	14	0	14	9	1	8
	Métis	10	2	8	17	1	16	6	1	5
	Inuit	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Time in Foster Care, Youth Group Home, or Youth/Young Adult Agreement	Spent Time in Care	15	1	14	26	0	26	8	0	8
Served in Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, Emergency Services	Canadian Armed Forces	2	0	2	5	0	5	3	0	3
	RCMP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Emergency Services	0	0	0	7	0	7	3	0	3

Education, Employment, and Income Sources

Education

Respondents indicated various education levels when responding to “What is the highest level of education you’ve completed?”

In Stony Plain,

- 1% (1 of 94) of respondents had no formal education
- 4% (4 of 94) had some grade school, 21% (20 of 94) have completed some high school
- 28% (26 of 94) had completed high school or received their GED,
- 13% (12 of 94) had an apprenticeship, trades certificate, or diploma
- 18% (17 of 94) had a college certificate or diploma
- 9% (8 of 94) had some post-secondary
- 2% (2 of 94) have a Bachelor’s degree
- 1% (1 of 94) had a Graduate or Professional Degree (Master’s, Ph.D., MD, JD, etc.)

Additionally, 3% (3 of 94) respondents either did not know or preferred not to answer.

In Spruce Grove,

- 5% (10 of 201) of respondents had some grade school education
- 16% (32 of 201) had completed some high school
- 29% (58 of 201) had completed high school or received their GED
- 9% (18 of 201) had an apprenticeship, trades certificate, or diploma
- 25% (50 of 201) had a college certificate or diploma
- 9% (18 of 201) had some post-secondary
- 4% (8 of 201) had a Bachelor’s degree
- 1% (3 of 201) have a Graduate or Professional Degree (Master’s, Ph.D., MD, JD, etc.)

Additionally, 1% (4 of 201) respondents either did not know or preferred not to answer.

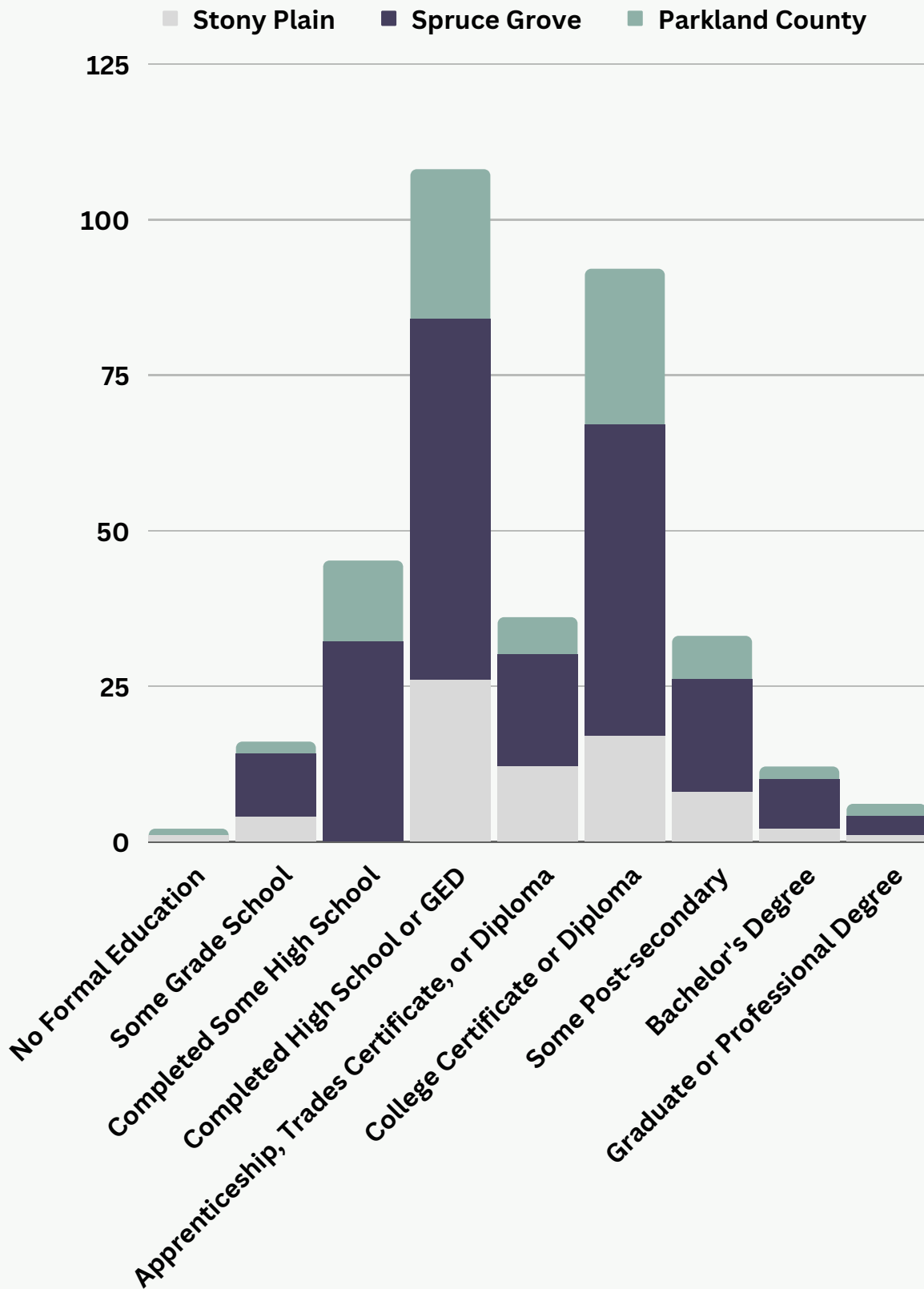
In Parkland County,

- 1% (1 of 82) had no formal education
- 2% (2 of 82) had some grade school
- 16% (13 of 82) have completed some high school
- 29% (24 of 82) have completed high school or received their GED
- 7% (6 of 82) have an apprenticeship, trades certificate, or diploma
- 30% (25 of 82) have a college certificate or diploma
- 9% (7 of 82) have some post-secondary
- 2% (2 of 82) have a Bachelor’s degree
- 2% (2 of 82) have a Graduate or Professional Degree (Master’s, Ph.D., MD, JD, etc.)

Additionally, 2% (2 of 82) respondents either did not know or preferred not to answer.

These breakdowns can also be seen in Figure 3, below.

Figure 3: Respondents' Education Levels Breakdown



Employment and Income

In Stony Plain 34% (32 of 94) of respondents were employed at the time of the survey:

- 52% (16 of 31) were full time
- 29% (9 of 31) were part time
- 13% (4 of 31) were casual

An additional respondent indicated that they worked freelance. Of those respondents who were unemployed 20 are unable to work due to a disability, 15 are retired, and two respondents are on maternity leave and/or are stay-at-home parents.

Similarly, in Spruce Grove, 34% (69 of 201) of respondents were employed at the time of the survey:

- 57% (39 of 68) were full time
- 26% (18 of 68) were part time
- 10% (7 of 68) were casual

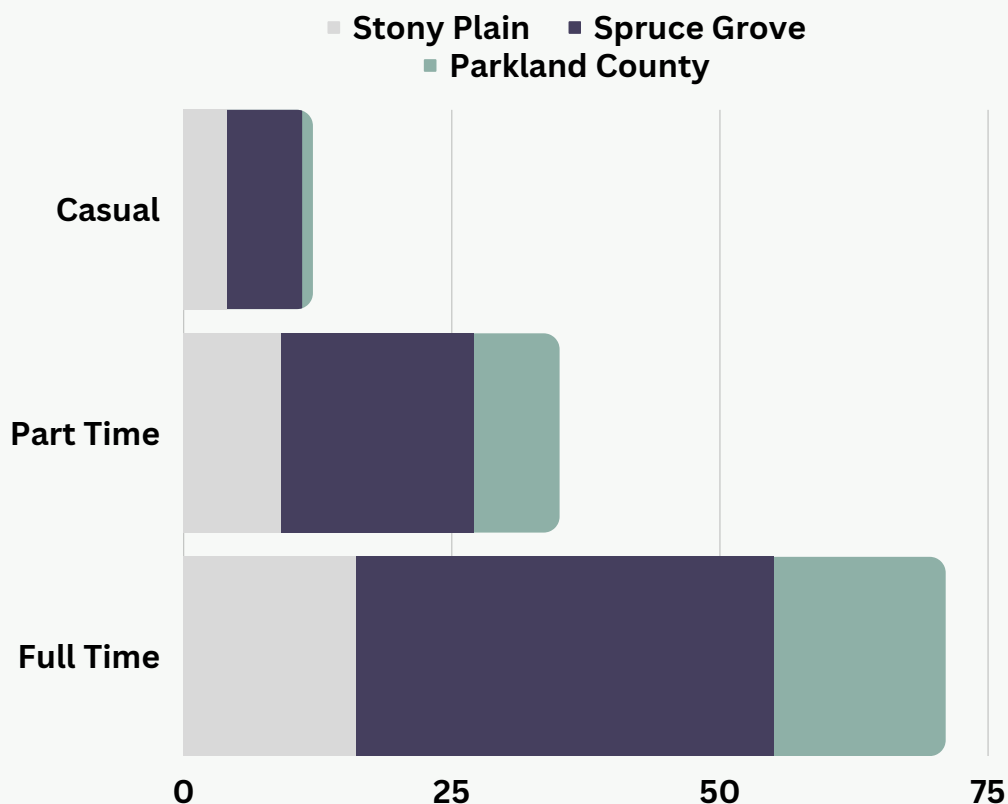
6% (4 of 68) of respondents indicated “other” to the question, noting that they have a temporary work placement or are on maternity leave.

In Parkland County, 32% (27 of 85) of respondents were employed at the time of the survey:

- 62% (16 of 26) were full time
- 31% (8 of 26) were part time
- 4% (1 of 26) were casual

Respondents who indicated they were employed were also asked to specify in which sector they are employed. Their responses are outlined in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Breakdown of Employment Sectors Respondents' are Employed Within



Recognizing that many respondents were not employed full-time, we asked them, “What are your sources of income?” Respondents were encouraged to check all that apply from the following list of options:

- Job-related (e.g., employment, partner/spouse’s income, alimony/child support, etc.),
- Government-related (e.g., Seniors Benefits, Veterans’ Benefits, Disability Benefits, Employment Insurance, Student loans, etc.),
- Tax-related (e.g., child and family tax benefits, GST refunds, etc.), or
- Informal (e.g., bottle returns, panhandling, money from family and friends, etc.).

In all three communities, the two main sources of income for respondents were, at the time of surveying, employment (20% in all three communities) and child and family tax benefits (17% in Stony Plain, 16% in Spruce Grove, and 15% in Parkland County). In Stony Plain, the third main source of income for respondents was disability benefits (13%), while in Spruce Grove and Parkland County the third main source of income among respondents was income assistance (15% in Spruce Grove and 14% in Parkland County).



Spotlight: What Does Homelessness Look Like for Someone in Parkland County?

In a report that is composed of mainly quantitative data, it can be easy to overlook the humanity behind the numbers reported. Using the most common responses from the survey, we were able to compile a profile of a “typical” respondent facing housing instability.

In the case of Parkland County, a typical person facing housing instability is a woman between the ages of 40 and 59 years old who has been in the community for over a year. She came to the Parkland County to look for work and find better housing options. She rents an apartment with her partner and one dependent. With a mental disability that has resulted in her inability to find work, she relies on her partner’s income, disability benefits, and child and tax benefits to make ends meet. With a lack of income, she regularly accesses basic needs services, specifically the food bank.

The true diversity of respondents is illustrated throughout the Results and Analysis section, but this highlights what someone experiencing housing insecurity might look like in Parkland County.

Community Supports

At the time of the survey, respondents in all three communities were experiencing or had experienced domestic or intimate partner violence and abuse, with seven respondents in Stony Plain experiencing domestic or intimate partner violence, 15 in Spruce Grove, and seven in Parkland County.

In Stony Plain, six of the seven respondents identified as women and one as a trans-male. Of them, two were Indigenous. Further, of the seven unique respondents experiencing violence, respondents noted having mental health issues five times, a physical disability four times, and struggles with addictions/substance use twice.

Of the 15 respondents who were experiencing violence in Spruce Grove, nine identified as women, five as men, and one did not provide their gender in the survey. Nine reported struggling with mental health issues and five with addictions/substance use. Upon further analysis, 10 were unemployed, seven were single-parents households, and five had moved to Spruce Grove originally out of fear for their safety.

In Parkland County, six respondents experiencing violence identified as women and one as male. Of the seven unique respondents who were experiencing violence, respondents noted having mental health issues four times and a physical disability three times. Additionally, two had moved to Parkland County out of fear for their safety.

Access to Services

In an attempt to better understand service needs and gaps in the Tri-Region, respondents were asked: “What is the main reason(s) for accessing services today?”

The main reasons respondents accessed services were for (see Table 8):

- help with basic needs (55% in Stony Plain, 63% in Spruce Grove, and 70% in Parkland County);
- financial supports (10% in Stony Plain, 9% in Spruce Grove, and 12% in Parkland County); and,
- health and wellness (7% in Stony Plain, 6% in Spruce Grove, and 4% in Parkland County).

Table 8: Reasons Why Respondents Access Support Services

Support Services	Stony Plain	Spruce Grove	Parkland County
Basic Needs (e.g., food, emergency shelter, clothing, etc.)	55% (80 of 145)	63% (168 of 266)	70% (71 of 101)
COVID-19 Assistance (e.g., PPE, information, supports)	4% (6 of 145)	0% (1 of 266)	0
Crisis Financial Support (e.g., eviction notice, utility bill problems, damage deposits, etc.)	6% (9 of 145)	3% (9 of 266)	1% (1 of 101)
Family/Parenting (e.g., childcare, parenting/family issues, relationship issues, child developmental assessment tools/referrals, etc.)	3% (5 of 145)	3% (8 of 266)	1% (1 of 101)
Financial (e.g., employment, housing [emergency rental assistance, utility bill support, etc.], training/education, etc.)	10% (14 of 145)	9% (25 of 266)	12% (12 of 101)
Health and Wellness (e.g., addictions, mental health, physical health care, spiritual/cultural, etc.)	7% (10 of 145)	6% (16 of 266)	4% (4 of 101)
Legal (e.g., family law, wills/estates, employment/labour standards, landlord/tenant issues, immigration issues, criminal/misdemeanour, etc.)	3% (5 of 145)	3% (7 of 266)	1% (1 of 101)
Support Services (e.g., help with government forms, help with accessing government/other programs or services, access to technology, etc.)	6% (8 of 145)	4% (10 of 266)	2% (2 of 101)
Transportation Needs (e.g., access to basic services/education/employment, medical transportation)	3% (4 of 145)	3% (9 of 266)	4% (4 of 101)
Prefer Not to Answer	1% (2 of 145)	3% (7 of 266)	4% (4 of 101)
Not Listed	1% (2 of 145)	2% (6 of 266)	1% (1 of 101)

Respondents were further asked “Which ones did they feel they needed the most help with?”

Responses were varied but several themes emerged in their responses. In all three communities, basic needs were something many respondents needed the most help with. Specifically, respondents indicated needing support with accessing affordable food. Similarly, respondents in all three communities indicated that crisis financial support were the main things they need help with. Respondents across all three communities mentioned struggling with rent costs, rising utility bills, and overall inflation rates.

In Stony Plain, many respondents also highlighted legal support as a major need, especially family legal support focusing on child support and custody agreements.

Health and wellness services are what many Spruce Grove respondents need most. Many noted they or their family members require specialized health and wellness supports, specifically for mental health and illnesses such as PTSD, addictions and substance use, and suicidal ideation.

In Parkland County, respondents noted the need for support services, highlighting employability classes and support finding employment as significant needs.

Spotlight: What Does Homelessness Look Like for Someone in Stony Plain?

In a report that is composed of mainly quantitative data, it can be easy to overlook the humanity behind the numbers reported. Using the most common responses from the survey, we were able to compile a profile of a “typical” respondent facing housing instability.

In the case of Stony Plain, a typical person facing housing instability is a woman between the ages of 40 to 59. She is currently renting a unit with her partner and one dependent. They came to the community over two years ago to find better housing options. She relies on her spouse’s income and the child and family tax benefit to make ends meet. She feels that they can’t afford to pay rent due to overall rising costs and regularly accesses basic needs support services for food and clothing. She also feels that the community does not provide enough social services and recreation/social opportunities that are accessible to her low-income family.

The true diversity of respondents is illustrated throughout the Results and Analysis section, but this highlights what someone experiencing housing insecurity might look like in Stony Plain.

Shelter Use

9% (5) of housing insecure respondents accessed an emergency shelter in the past 12 months: 20% (1) accessed a standard emergency shelter; 20% (1) an emergency weather shelter (also known as a MAT shelter); and, 40% (2) a women’s/domestic violence shelter.

Of the respondents who needed shelter services but did not access them, several reasons were provided as to why, as outlined in Table 9. The main reason why respondents did not access shelter services when they needed them in Stony Plain was because there was no shelter in their area. In Spruce Grove and Parkland County, because respondents didn’t feel safe.

Table 9: Reasons Respondents Did Not Access Shelter Services When Needed

Reasons for not accessing shelter services	Stony Plain	Spruce Grove	Parkland County
“The shelter was full”	10% (3 of 31)	8% (10 of 122)	7% (3 of 45)
“No shelters in my area”	23% (7 of 31)	12% (15 of 122)	13% (6 of 45)
“I didn’t feel safe”	10% (3 of 31)	14% (17 of 122)	18% (8 of 45)
Health Concerns (bed bugs, dirty, etc.)	3% (1 of 31)	9% (11 of 122)	11% (5 of 48)
Hours of Operation	0	4% (5 of 122)	2% (1 of 45)
Lack of Disability Accommodations	0	7% (8 of 122)	2% (1 of 45)
Lack of Transportation	6% (2 of 31)	12% (15 of 122)	7% (3 of 45)
No Pets Allowed	13% (4 of 31)	7% (9 of 122)	11% (5 of 45)
Separation From Family Member/Partner	6% (2 of 31)	14% (17 of 122)	11% (5 of 45)
Prefer Not to Answer	23% (7 of 31)	10% (12 of 122)	16% (7 of 45)
Not Listed	6% (2 of 31)	2% (3 of 122)	2% (1 of 45)

Additionally, one respondent in Stony Plain noted feeling too much shame to access shelter services. In Spruce Grove, two respondents noted that they had several children/dependents and were unable to access shelter services for this reason.

"What Would You Like to See More of in Your Community?"

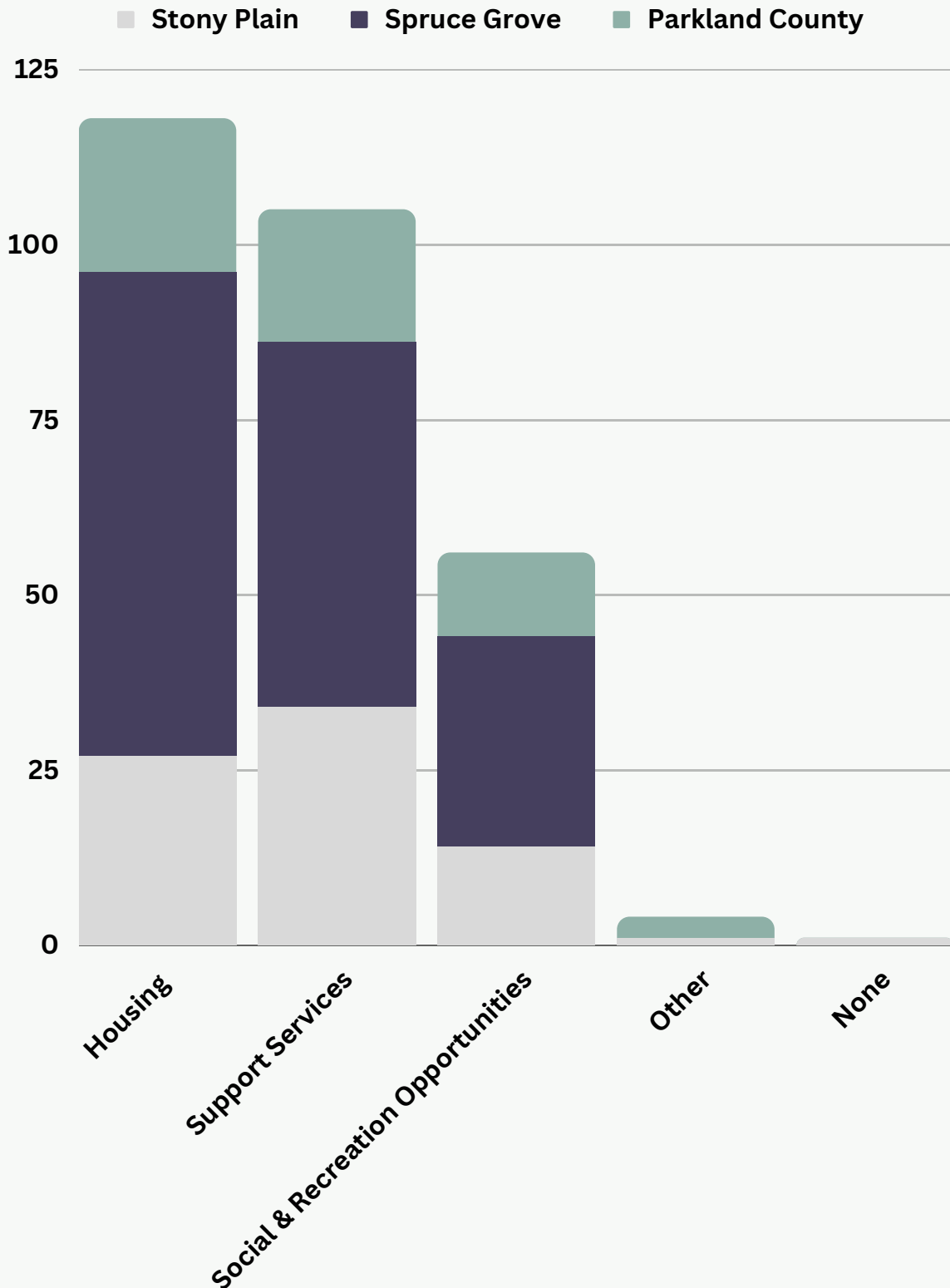
Respondents, both housing secure and housing insecure, outlined many things they would like to see more of in the community. We categorized their needs into three main themes: (1) housing; (2) support services; and, (3) social and recreation opportunities. These themes align well with respondents' answers to a previous question they were asked: *“Does your community provide enough...employment opportunities; free/accessible recreational and social opportunities; social services; accessible and affordable housing; public transportation; access to food?”*

Table 10: Respondents' Perceptions of their Community's Provision of Services

Does your community provide enough:	YES	NO	UNSURE
Stony Plain			
Employment Opportunities	29% (26 of 89)	26% (23 of 89)	45% (40 of 89)
Free/Accessible Recreational and Social Opportunities	28% (24 of 87)	37% (32 of 87)	36% (31 of 87)
Social Services	22% (18 of 81)	42% (34 of 81)	36% (29 of 81)
Accessible and Affordable Housing	12% (11 of 91)	60% (55 of 91)	27% (25 of 91)
Spruce Grove			
Employment Opportunities	31% (61 of 194)	27% (53 of 194)	41% (80 of 194)
Free/Accessible Recreational and Social Opportunities	33% (62 of 187)	32% (60 of 187)	35% (65 of 187)
Social Services	36% (64 of 179)	26% (46 of 179)	39% (69 of 179)
Accessible and Affordable Housing	10% (19 of 189)	58% (110 of 189)	32% (60 of 189)
Parkland County			
Employment Opportunities	32% (25 of 79)	34% (27 of 79)	34% (27 of 79)
Free/Accessible Recreational and Social Opportunities	33% (25 of 76)	39% (30 of 76)	28% (21 of 76)
Social Services	29% (22 of 75)	43% (32 of 75)	28% (21 of 75)
Accessible and Affordable Housing	13% (10 of 78)	56% (44 of 78)	31% (24 of 78)

In Table 10, there is a significant discrepancy in respondents who, at the time of survey, believed there is enough accessible and affordable housing in their community (12% in Stony Plain, 10% in Spruce Grove, and 13% in Parkland County) versus the number of respondents who believed more housing is needed (60% in Stony Plain, 58% in Spruce Grove, and 56% in Parkland County).

Figure 5: Quantitative Breakdown of Respondents Community Needs



Housing: Respondents overwhelmingly noted that there is a need for more affordable housing units across all three communities. In Stony Plain, respondents want to see housing rates (both rent and mortgage) that equate to no more than 30% of their income rather than the closer to 60% of their income their current housing costs. Additionally, many Stony Plain respondents noted the need for wheelchair accessible housing options, both at market rate and below market rate.

In Spruce Grove, respondents emphasized the need for rent controlled apartment unit or rental caps on apartment units as well as an interest in seeing more affordable housing options for people with pets.

In Parkland County, many respondents want to see more seniors-specific housing options.

Interestingly, respondents across all three communities highlighted the need for emergency shelter and warming centre options.

Support Services: Across all three communities, respondents noted wanting help finding employment opportunities and employment development courses or sessions. Similarly, respondents in all three communities indicated their need for help in navigating and accessing the services that are available to them, including Assured Income Support for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) and other disability benefits. Respondents also noted that it would be helpful if front-line staff at service agencies across the Tri-Region were trained in trauma-informed practice.

In Stony Plain specifically, respondents spoke of wanting increased access to affordable and healthy food. They also specifically noted that current wages in the area do not match cost of living or rising inflation rates, indicating a desire to minimize the gap between the two.

In Spruce Grove, respondents highlighted their interest in seeing things like laundry services, addictions and substance use supports, mental health programming, and legal aid support. They also specifically emphasized the need for affordable and accessible day care options in the area, as well as transportation services or options to get to and from these services.

Respondents in Parkland County noted the need for family and parenting support; increased and improved medical facilities like doctor and dentist offices; and, crisis financial support for situations when their utilities are shut off.

Social and Recreation Opportunities: Overall, at the time of survey, respondents in all three communities were keen to see more affordable recreation opportunities, including low-cost recreation programs or subsidized recreation passes for low-income community members and families.

In Stony Plain, respondents also noted wanting seniors specific recreation and social opportunities like dance classes, as well as increased social opportunities for the general community. One respondent stated, “I feel very isolated and lonely...community social gatherings that are regular would be lovely.”

In Spruce Grove, respondents wanted to see new recreation infrastructure, including a hockey rink, a public swimming pool, and basketball hoops for public use. Respondents also wanted to see more parenting and family social events.

Additionally, respondents in Stony Plain and Spruce Grove wanted to see more volunteer opportunities.

In Parkland County, respondents indicated the need for improved outdoor recreation infrastructure, specifically in terms of sidewalks and outdoor lighting in public parks and on community trails. They also wanted to see more recreation activities for children.

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Tri-Region: Stony Plain, Spruce Grove,
and Parkland County

Rural Housing and Service Needs Estimation Project



2022