Calgary Emergency Shelter Occupancy Analysis Report

**Key Trends in Occupancy and Capacity Utilization:**

* There is a general upward trend in overnight shelter occupancy over the past few years.
* Shelter capacity and overnight occupancy show a strong positive correlation. As capacity increases, occupancy tends to increase as well.
* Capacity utilization varies significantly across different shelter types and organizations. Some shelters consistently operate near capacity, while others experience periods of underutilization.
* **Calgary Drop-In Centre** has the highest total and average occupancy, followed by **The Mustard Seed**.
* Smaller organizations with specialized services often have lower occupancy rates compared to larger, general-purpose shelters.

**Seasonal and Organizational Patterns:**

* Shelter occupancy tends to be higher during colder months (October to March) and lower during warmer months (April to September).
* Certain shelter types, such as **Emergency Shelters for Men**, see the most significant seasonal fluctuations in occupancy.
* The **Calgary Drop-In Centre** consistently shows the highest occupancy throughout the year, while organizations like **Alpha House Society** and **CUPS** have lower overall occupancy. This could be a result of difference in the services provided, but no substantial data has been provided in the dataset.

**Recommendations for Improving Resource Allocation and Addressing Underutilization:**

* Optimize resource allocation by considering seasonal variations in demand for shelter services. Consider allocating more resources to high-demand shelters during peak seasons and adjusting staffing levels accordingly.
* Explore potential partnerships or collaborations between organizations to better utilize available capacity. For example, during periods of low demand, shelters with excess capacity could offer temporary accommodations to clients from other organizations facing overcrowding.
* Consider reviewing and adjusting the capacity of underutilized shelters to better match actual demand. This could involve repurposing space or reallocating resources to other programs or services.
* Investigate factors contributing to underutilization in specific shelters. This could involve conducting surveys or focus groups to understand client preferences and identify any barriers to accessing services.
* Implement data-driven decision-making processes to continuously monitor occupancy trends, identify emerging needs, and adjust resource allocation accordingly. This could involve developing dashboards or reports that provide real-time insights into shelter utilization patterns.

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