

A photograph of two men in a professional setting. The man on the right, with a beard and wearing a dark jacket with a yellow circular logo on the chest, is holding a clipboard with a small house icon on it and writing with a blue pen. The man on the left, with curly hair and glasses, is looking at the clipboard. The background shows a large window with a curved frame. The entire image has a teal overlay.

2023 HOMELESS COUNT IN GREATER VANCOUVER

FINAL DATA REPORT – OCTOBER 2023

Prepared by the Homelessness Services Association of BC
for Reaching Home's Community Entity for Greater Vancouver

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2023 Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver took place on the ancestral, traditional and unceded Indigenous land, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), sə́ilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh), Stó:lō, kʷikʷə́ləm (Kwikwetlem), s̓cəwaθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), áíćəý (Katzie), áʷa:ńłəń (Kwantlen), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), and SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) Nations. They have been custodians of this land for thousands of years and we would like to pay our respect to the elders and knowledge keepers both past and present.

The count is a community-driven initiative of the Reaching Home Designated and Indigenous Community Entity, Lu'ma Native Housing Society, in partnership with Vancity Community Foundation together with the Greater Vancouver Community Advisory Board and the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee as well as community groups, individuals, and agencies who work with individuals experiencing homelessness across the region.

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With Support From



THANK YOU

The Homeless Count (Point in Time Count, PiT Count) is the result of the collaborative efforts of individuals and organizations in both the time they committed to this project, and their ongoing work in the communities they serve.

We Would Like to Thank

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- Staff at Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health for helping collect data on patients with no fixed address on the night of the Count.

Introduction and How to Interpret and Use This Report

Point-in-Time Homeless Counts (PiT Counts; Homeless Counts, Counts) have taken place in Greater Vancouver every three years since 2005. These are collaborative efforts by service providers, volunteers, and researchers to enumerate and survey the population experiencing homelessness in the region. This year's Count was conducted in the evening of March 7th in shelters, transition houses, safe houses, hospitals, and police holding cells, and from 6am-midnight on March 8th.

The most important part of interpreting these results are **the trend over time**, and an **understanding of the limitations**. The trend over time is the strength of the PiT methodology. Because the same data collection process was used on March 7th and 8th as was done on Count Day in 2020 and beyond back to 2005, changes are indicators that there is most likely to be an actual change in the population experiencing homelessness in a community. This comparison has been presented in this report for some survey questions and results.

The limitations of this methodology have to do with the timeframe the Count is conducted, and the nature of the process being a voluntary survey. A more thorough discussion of limitations is made here and here, but it is important to understand that this methodology will create a result that is an absolute minimum number of people who are experiencing homelessness on the specific day of the Count, and this methodology means that those who are not currently accessing services or are easily found will most likely be excluded.

For example, people who identify as male, are in an adult age range, identify as white, and heterosexual are more likely to be included in these results than those who do not identify as one or more of these parts of identity, because they are less likely to be experiencing hidden homelessness. The reason for this is that a person experiencing homelessness must be found, either in a sheltered or unsheltered location, to be able to be counted. Those who are not known or found will not be included, and this group is known from other research to include more persons who are made more vulnerable, such as youth, seniors, Indigenous and racialized persons, those in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and others detailed in this report.

This report also does not include those who are not experiencing homelessness on March 8th, including those with unstable tenancies or those living in substandard housing, which generally number greater than those experiencing homelessness.

Community members who took part in this process ask that when you review these data, remember that every number represents a person who is unhoused in the region, and took the time to tell their story through the survey to hope to help improve services for all. Also remember that not everyone is included in this report, so decisions about projects or community investments should take into consideration other data sources and the lived experience of persons experiencing homelessness and the organizations who support them, particularly those representing communities made vulnerable, who will have perspectives and data that can complement this report.

How to Cite This Report

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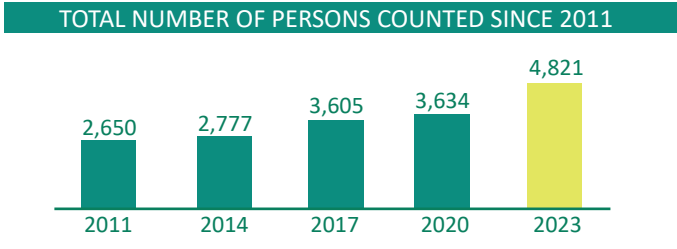
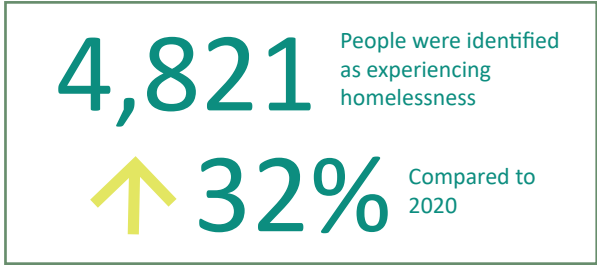
For data requests and requests for more information, email ReachingHome@vancity.com



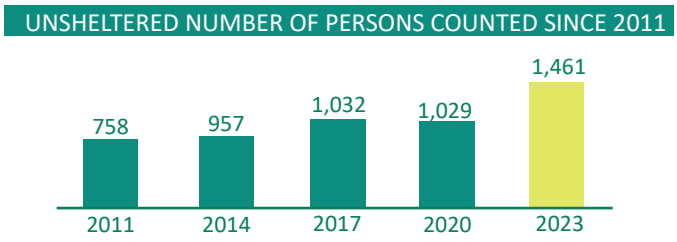
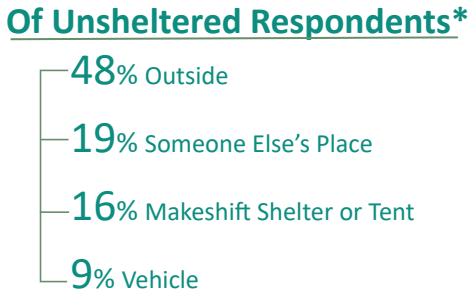
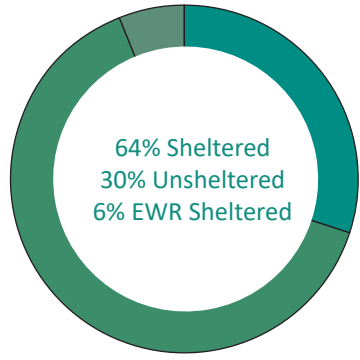
Photographs in this report provided by Oxford Films Media and BC Non-Profit Housing Association

2023 Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver - Summary Infographics

Point-in-Time (PiT) homeless counts provide a snapshot of people who are experiencing homelessness in a 24-hour period, their demographic characteristics, service use and other information. While PiT Counts are an accepted methodological tool, the numbers are understood to be the minimum number of people who are experiencing homelessness on a given day in a community. Percentages are based on numbers of respondents to each question, not the total population experiencing homelessness



Where did individuals stay the night of the count?



NEW FOR 2023 - DID UNSHELTERED RESPONDENTS FEEL SAFE IN THE PLACE THEY STAYED?



INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

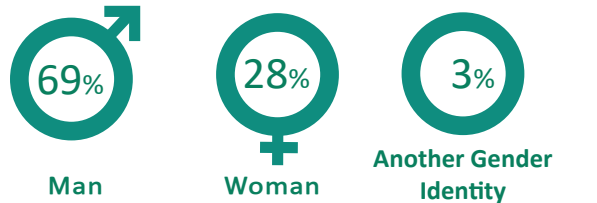


Compared with 2% of the Census population

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL



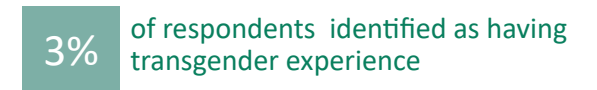
GENDER



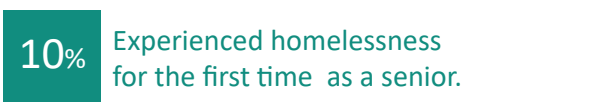
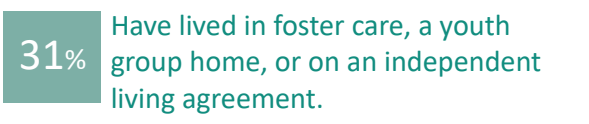
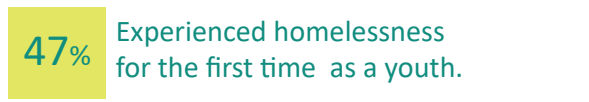
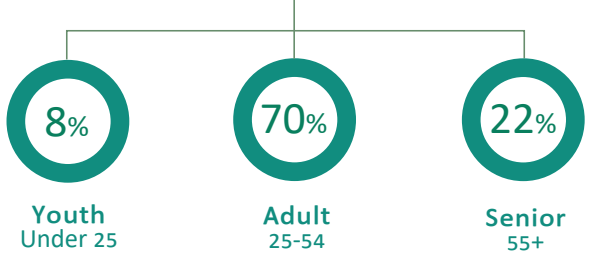
SEXUAL ORIENTATION



TRANSGENDER EXPERIENCE



AGE BREAKDOWN

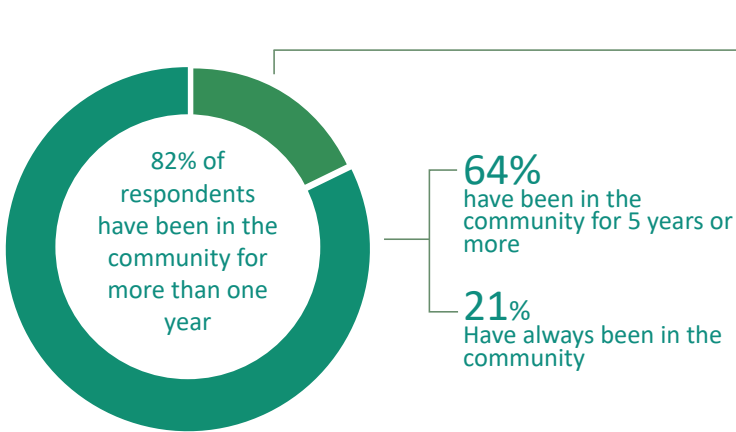


RACIAL IDENTITY*



* Top responses highlighted

In these figures, “community” is defined as the Sub-Region of Greater Vancouver the respondent was in when they took the survey (e.g. Vancouver, New Westminster, Tri-Cities, etc.) For more information about the Count Sub-Regions used in this report, see page X



26% of those who had not always been in the community moved from elsewhere in Metro Vancouver

81% of respondents were in the community they currently reside in the last time they were housed

LENGTH OF TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

20% Under 6 months 69% 1 year or more

REASONS FOR HOUSING LOSS*



NEW FOR 2023 - WAS YOUR HOUSING LOSS CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

15% Yes 85% No

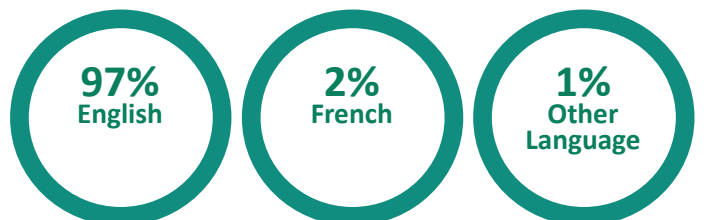
NEW FOR 2023 - ARE YOU ON A HOUSING WAIT LIST?

47% Yes 53% No

OVERNIGHT LOCATIONS IN LAST YEAR*

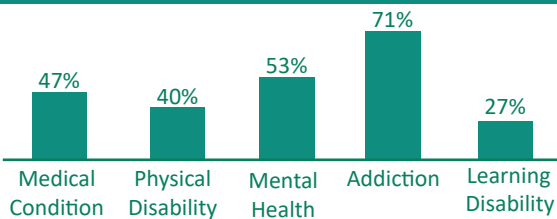


NEW FOR 2023 - PREFERRED LANGUAGE*



* Top responses highlighted

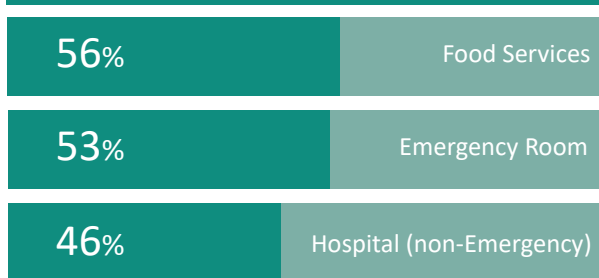
HEALTH CONCERNS



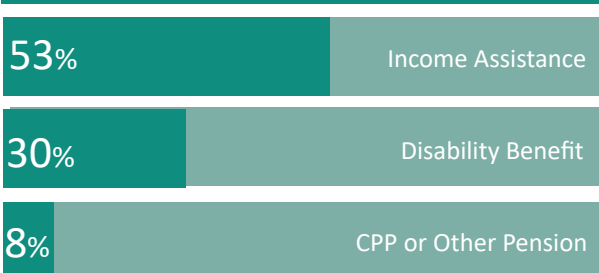
30% Reported an acquired brain injury

62% Reported two or more health concerns

SERVICES ACCESSED*



INCOME SOURCES



93% Reported having at least one income source

9% Reported having a full or part-time job

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Key Findings



Key Findings

Below is a selection of key findings from the 2023 Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver. Clicking the heading will skip ahead to the relevant data table(s) and more detailed explanation.

Homelessness Measured in this Project Increased by 32% Compared to 2020

4,821 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in this year's count, compared to 3,634. **This is the largest increase measured between Counts since the regional Counts began in 2005.** In this same time frame, housing has been built and tenanted in many Sub-Regions, and the individuals in these units are not counted in this number.

Homelessness Measured in All Count Sub-Regions Increased Compared to 2020

For the first time since Counts began in 2005, all Sub-Regions saw an increase in numbers of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness from 2020. Combining this with the finding below indicates that the increase in homelessness measured in this report is predominantly by people who are now without a home in their own communities.

Most People Experiencing Homelessness Lost Their Housing in The Community They Reside In

All respondents were asked separate questions about how long they had been experiencing homelessness, and how long they had been in the community they were taking the survey in. **81% of people were in the community the last time they were housed.** This indicates that people prefer to access supports in their own community when an experience of homelessness starts, not leave and go to another community.

Economic Pressures, Unmet Mental Health Needs, and the COVID-19 Pandemic Cause Housing Loss

When respondents were asked what caused their most recent housing loss, the most common response was that they did not have enough income (35%). The two other most common reasons were a substance use issue (24%) and a mental health issue (16%). Both of these are treatable medical conditions, and this finding shows that these needs are often unmet in persons who are at risk of housing loss. This unmet health need also prevents return to housing, with 53% of respondents reporting a mental health condition, and 71% reporting an addiction. However, meeting these needs is not sufficient, as income to pay for housing costs remains the most common reason for most recent housing loss, a finding that is consistent with 2020 results.

This year, respondents were also asked if their housing loss was related to the COVID-19 pandemic, in any way. 15% of those who reported losing their housing in the past three years considered the COVID-19 pandemic a reason for their most recent housing loss.

Individuals who Identify as Indigenous Continue to be Overrepresented in Homelessness

Consistent with 2020 results, 33% of respondents identified as Indigenous, compared with 2% of the Census population. As in previous Counts, a specific Indigenous Count was carried out in parallel with this Count.

The Indigenous Count Report can be found here.

64% of Indigenous Respondents had Lived or Generational Experience of Residential School

New for this Count, in partnership with the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee and the Indian Residential School Survivor's Society, respondents were asked if they, a parent, or grandparent had attended a Residential School. For more information about Indigenous homelessness, see [here](#). For more information about indigenous homelessness in this Count, see [here](#).

2SLGBTQIA+ Overrepresentation Continues

Members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community continue to be overrepresented in homelessness in the region. 282, or 12% of all respondents, identified as part of this community, an increase from 220 and 11% in the 2020 Count.

Racial Overrepresentation Continues

When asked a specific question about their racial identity 154 respondents identified as Black (6%), 84 identified as Latin American (3%), 57 identified as East Asian (2%), 52 identified as South-East Asian (2%), 76 identified as South Asian (3%), 50 identified as West Asian (2%), and 1 identified as Arab (less than 1%). Compared to 2020, when this question was included for the first time, 98 people identified as Black (6%), 52 identified as Latin American (3%) and 19 identified as Arab (1%).

Numbers of Youth and Seniors Increased

In this year's Count, 8% of respondents were youth (under the age of 25), and 22% were seniors (55 years or older). While this is a slight decrease from 2020, when 9% were youth and 24% were seniors, because the overall number of persons counted increased, this represents an increase for both groups, with 196 youth, and 568 seniors identified in this Count. It is important to note that these age groups are more likely to be experiencing hidden homelessness, and less likely to be found on Count Day.

Number of Reported Health Needs Increased

The overall proportions of individuals who identified as having each of a medical condition, physical disability, mental health issue, addiction, learning disability or cognitive impairment, or an acquired brain injury remained relatively consistent from 2020, however the overall number for people with each increased. This represents a continued need for health service integration with homelessness services to help meet these needs.

Men Continue to Be More Likely to Be Included

69% of respondents in this year's Count identified as male. It is important when interpreting this to note the limitations presented in the introduction and limitations sections. There are more shelter beds available to men, and men are more likely to be found living unsheltered, meaning this methodology overrepresents men as a proportion of the population experiencing homelessness.

Locations in the Last Year

In previous counts, respondents were asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the past year. In the 2023 Count, this question was changed to ask if respondents had stayed in any of a list of locations in the past year, that included various shelter, housing, treatment, and unsheltered options to better highlight the role of these locations in experiences of homelessness. 79% of respondents identified as having stayed in a shelter in the past year, 41% reported staying at someone else's place, and 20% reported staying overnight in a vehicle. Other responses are reported in this question's section further in the report.

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About

About the 2023 Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver

This year's Count was conducted in the evening of March 7th in shelters, transition houses, safe houses, hospitals, and police holding cells, and from 6am-midnight on March 8th. This collaborative effort began planning stages in August, 2022, and was conducted in a method consistent with previous counts that have been held in Greater Vancouver every three years since 2005. The previous count in 2020 was held approximately a week before the COVID-19 pandemic was declared a public health emergency in BC, so this report represents a timely update in the homelessness situation through the pandemic period.

In total, the 2023 Homeless Count involved the participation of 679 community volunteers, approximately 200 shelter staff and outreach workers, and for the first time, almost 100 persons with lived and living experience of homelessness. This team was led by 11 Local Coordinators, and a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator in the City of Vancouver, supported and directed by the HSABC team.

Using a Point-in-Time (PiT) Count method, the 2023 Count provides a 24-hour snapshot of the **minimum** number of people experiencing homelessness in Metro Vancouver. The numbers presented in this report will always be an undercount of the experience of homelessness in the region. The purpose of the count is to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness, obtain a demographic profile of those individuals, and identify trends that can be comparable to previous counts that used similar methodology.

The definition of homelessness used in this report is someone who does not have a place to pay rent. Rent is considered a regular monthly payment of money to a landlord, who is a person or a corporation, for the ability to stay in a place of your own (or shared with roommates) for 30 days or more.

To be included in the results, an individual must have either completed a survey on March 8th and indicated that they do not have a place where they pay rent, or have stayed in a homeless shelter, transition house, or health or correctional facility the night of March 7th and not have a place to pay rent to return to. Based on where they stayed, respondents are considered to be either “sheltered” or “unsheltered.”

Individuals were counted if they:

- **Stayed overnight on March 7th** in homeless shelters, including transition houses for women fleeing violence and youth safe houses, people with no fixed address (NFA) staying temporarily in hospitals, jails or detox facilities (defined as “sheltered”); or,
- **Were found by interviewers on March 8th**, and stayed in a place where they did not pay rent the previous night. This includes those staying outside in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks, vehicles, temporarily at someone else's place (couch surfing), or will be evicted before the end of the month.

Those who stayed in shelters and transition houses had the option to complete a demographic survey if they wanted, but they were added to the enumerated as experiencing homelessness simply by staying there. Those who were considered unsheltered completed screening questions to ensure that individuals were not double counted.

Some important considerations about the survey:

- Participation is anonymous, confidential, and voluntary. This is one reason the PiT Count will be an undercount – if an individual does not want to participate, and were unsheltered, they are not counted. However, volunteers were trained to encourage respondents to complete the screening questions (the first four questions) to be counted.
- Participation relies on an individual being found; either staying in a transition house or shelter or found on March 8th by an interviewer. If they are not found or did not attend a community event to complete the survey, these individuals would not be counted. Youth, seniors, Indigenous and racialized persons, those in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and those who do not access homelessness services are populations understood to be underrepresented in the Count.

Similarity to Previous PiT Counts is Important

Similar to previous Counts, this project was coordinated in parallel with a designated Indigenous Count, coordinated by InFocus Consulting on behalf of the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee. Resources including mapping routes, training sessions, and printing and material preparation, were shared between both Counts. Both projects used the same survey, which was developed in collaboration with a sub-committee of the Community Advisory Board.

The Count was coordinated at a regional level, and 11 Local Coordinators were responsible for implementing the day of the Count in each of 11 Sub-Regions. These Sub-Regions are based on areas that have been grouped together previously, who share a Community Homeless Table. These Sub-Regions are:

- The North Shore (incl. District of North Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, and District of West Vancouver)
- The City of Vancouver
- Richmond
- Delta
- Burnaby
- Surrey
- New Westminster
- Langley (incl. City of Langley and Township of Langley)
- Tri-Cities (incl. Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, and Coquitlam)
- Ridge Meadows (Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows)
- White Rock



Figure 1 - Geography of the Count Area and Sub-Regions

One of the strongest values of the PiT Count methodology is its comparability over time, and although the result is always an undercount (see “Limitations”), the trend over time in the overall total number and the demographic questions provides valuable information for government and local organizations in their advocacy and grant writing processes.

That said, each Count efforts are made to better include people who are left out of the process previously, because of the potential for this advocacy work. As a result of this work, three new strategies were implemented as part of the 2023 Count.

What is new in the 2023 PiT Count?

The School and Youth strategy, based on work by BCNPHA and their teams in the 2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver and the 2018 Youth Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver, was formalized and broadened to include dozens of new youth-serving agencies and schools who serve youth over the age of 13. Dedicated youth magnet events were held in Surrey, Ridge Meadows, Tri Cities, Langley, and Vancouver. The support of the TRUUST network helped include new organizations who would survey their own youth clients in the City of Vancouver.

A Marginalized Gender Strategy included engagement with agencies serving this population throughout the region in planning and implementation stages of the Count. In the planning stage, changes were made to the survey, including:

- Addition of “A client’s place” for persons who engaged in sex work to identify they were staying with a client the night of the count. These individuals were included as “unsheltered”.
- Addition of “Sex work” as an option as an income source.
- Addition of a question to the unsheltered survey that asks whether the person felt safe in the location they stayed the night of the count.

In the implementation phase, magnet events were held specifically to encourage women to complete the survey in Vancouver and Surrey. The Count Date coincided with International Women’s Day, which reduced the capacity for some organizations to support their own staff, but the HSABC team helped mitigate this by supporting with their own staff and volunteers.

A Vehicle, Peer, and Encampment Strategy involved survey administration by project team staff at a dedicated event in Crab Park, outreach workers from The City of Vancouver’s Carnegie Outreach Team for the Hastings Encampment, and dedicated outreach and peer teams who received additional training to approach vehicles and encampments in Vancouver, the North Shore, Richmond, Burnaby, New Westminster, the Tri Cities, Ridge Meadows, Delta, Surrey, and Langley.

This additional training involved the use of a revised script that avoided the word “homeless” when approaching vehicles, and safety considerations specific to approaching vehicles and encampments. Only individuals who normally work with persons experiencing homelessness in vehicles and encampments were assigned to these routes.

As part of this strategy over **100 peers with lived and living experience of homelessness** were engaged in each community in conducting the survey and supporting events across the region. Separate training and a mapping session were provided in Vancouver in partnership with the PHS, and peers were assigned to conduct surveys at a handful of their locations individuals would access during the day of the count. In all other Sub-Regions, peers were supported through the main volunteer training. Honoraria were provided for time at training and at the day of the count.

The **icebreakers** are an important part of the Count. These are small gifts provided to interviewers to give to individuals experiencing homelessness to start a conversation. These are not incentives for doing the survey. As in 2020, tobacco ties were prepared by the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee and their member organizations and provided to all interviewers. New for 2023, in order to be able to provide a more substantial and meaningful food option than were used before, white chocolate dipped Oreo cookies were purchased from [Hype Chocolate](#), an Indigenous owned, independent vendor.

All Sub-Regions held magnet events with food available to anyone, regardless of whether they completed a survey. Interviewers were also provided contact information for an outreach worker or system navigator in each community to help direct respondents to services if needed; only one call was made across the region. This call resulted in a successful referral to services.

Overall, the project team considers the implementation of these strategies a success and recommends their integration in future PiT Counts.

Survey Changes

There were other changes to the survey based on feedback from either Community Advisory Board sub-committee members, to align with the Provincial Homelessness Count, or Infrastructure Canada's Reaching Home program. These changes were:

- “A client’s place” was added for persons who engaged in sex work to identify they were staying with a client the night of the count. These individuals were included as “unsheltered”.
- Adding the question “Do you prefer to access services in English, French or another language?” Interviewers were trained to emphasize the word prefer in this question; someone who can access services in English may prefer Spanish, and the response in that case would be recorded as “Spanish.”
- Replacing the question “Have you stayed in a homeless shelter in the last 12 months?” with “Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?” This was a check all that apply question, and included options for shelter, transitional housing, an encampment, and others.
- Adding “Experienced abuse by child/dependent” to the list of reasons housing might be lost.
- Added two new options for income sources: “Sex Work” and “Honoraria” (ad-hoc payment either for casual employment with homelessness service programs or as recognition of volunteer work).
- Adding a question about lived or generational experience of Residential School and adding a question about safety at the place the respondent stayed the night of the count for those who took the daytime survey on March 8th; both of which are detailed further below.

Residential School Question

A new question “Did you, your parents, or grandparents ever attend residential school?” in partnership with the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee and the Indian Residential School Survivor’s Society. Interviewers were trained to prompt with “can I ask you a question about residential school?” before asking the question. Additionally, the Indian Residential School Survivor’s Society, and local organizations, were available to support interviewers and respondents who might want to talk more about this experience and what emotional response might come up. There were no reported cases where this support was needed.

While this question was asked to everyone, due to reports from interviewers about confusion with this question in some respondents who did not identify as Indigenous, notably confusion of Residential Schools operated by Indian Affairs Canada, with boarding schools common in some communities. Therefore, only individuals who identified as Indigenous are included in the analysis. The recommendation for future counts is to explicitly use the term “Indian Residential School”.

Safety Question

A new pilot question “Did you feel safe there?” was asked on the daytime survey used on March 8th, immediately following the question of “Where did you stay last night?” This question was omitted from the survey used in shelters, out of concern of a perceived power imbalance between the client and the interviewer. This question was included out of interest in trying to include those who choose to not stay in shelter, and instead choose to stay in unsafe temporary or transactional relationships.

Interviewers were instructed that this question is optional and will not affect the respondent’s screening. Training also clarified that “safety” is an inherently subjective assessment, and can include things like neighborhood safety, physical safety, safety of belongings, emotional safety, and others.

3

**Number of Individuals
Experiencing
Homelessness**



Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

It is important to highlight when discussing the total number of persons identified as experiencing homelessness using the PiT Methodology is that it is always an undercount, and those who access services and shelters are more likely to be included than those who do not.

However, because the methodology is relatively consistent every time a PiT Count takes place, the trend over time is a useful piece of information **when framed with local context**. For example, since 2020, more shelter spaces have been opened in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of which remained open on March 8th, 2023, in many municipalities. This means that more people who would otherwise be experiencing unsheltered homelessness and are not always found on the day of the PiT Count, are instead in shelter, where they are enumerated automatically.

On the other hand, there are municipalities that had housing open since 2020, and have since housed individuals who would otherwise be experiencing homelessness. This should also be considered along with the trend over time.

Total Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

This table presents the results of the total number of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness in each Sub-Region.

Note the separation of EWR from Shelters; EWR shelters are temporary shelters that are only open on the coldest nights of the year, from around November to April. If the weather had been warmer the night of the Count and these shelters closed, those in the EWR category would be unsheltered.

Similarly, the number of individuals categorized as having **No Fixed Address (NFA)** are staying in health facilities or police holding cells, with the vast majority – 266 across the region – being in health facilities with no place to return to when they are discharged, and that discharge is expected in around 30 days or less from March 8th.

Total sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness by sub-region (2023)

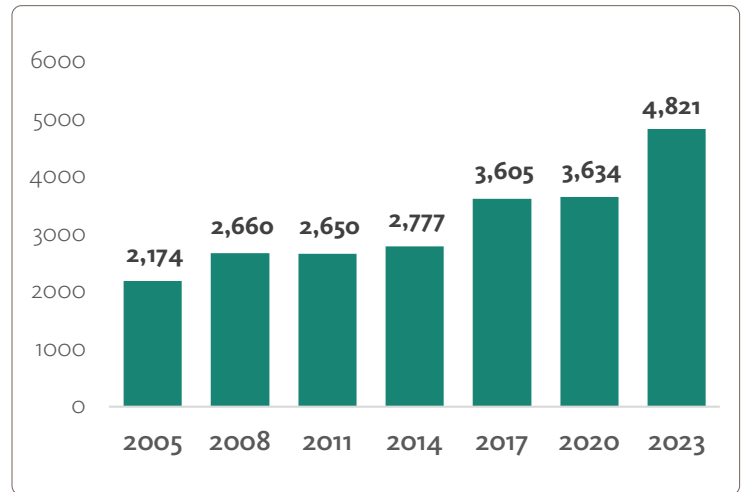
Sub-region	Unsheltered Total	Sheltered				Total
		EWR	Shelters	No Fixed Address	Total	
Burnaby	77	14	92	26	132	209
Delta	27	6	10	1	17	44
Langley	133	15	76	11	102	235
New Westminster	57	0	110	36	146	203
North Shore	51	11	104	2	117	168
Richmond	80	32	46	4	82	162
Ridge Meadows	49	7	62	17	86	135
Surrey	301	109	589	61	759	1,060
Tri-Cities	62	10	80	8	98	160
Vancouver	605	96	1,599	120	1,815	2,420
White Rock	11	0	0	6	6	17
UEL*	8	0	0	0	8	8
Total	1,461	300	2,768	292	3,360	4,821

*UBC Campus Security, in partnership with on-campus groups, conducted an independent count on March 8th on the University Endowment Lands using the same survey as the rest of the 2023 Count, but was not funded by Reaching Home.

Changes in the Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Sub-Region

Most communities saw an all-time high number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in this Count. This is the absolute minimum number of persons experiencing homelessness in each Sub-Region on March 8th. It excludes anyone who did not complete a survey or stay in a shelter, transition house, safe house, or health or police facility and did not have a place to return to when released (individuals categorized as NFA).

Please Note: In White Rock, a shelter program was closed in the weeks before the Count and opened in South Surrey. These 12 individuals were counted in the Surrey-Sub Region, but most regularly spent the days in White Rock.

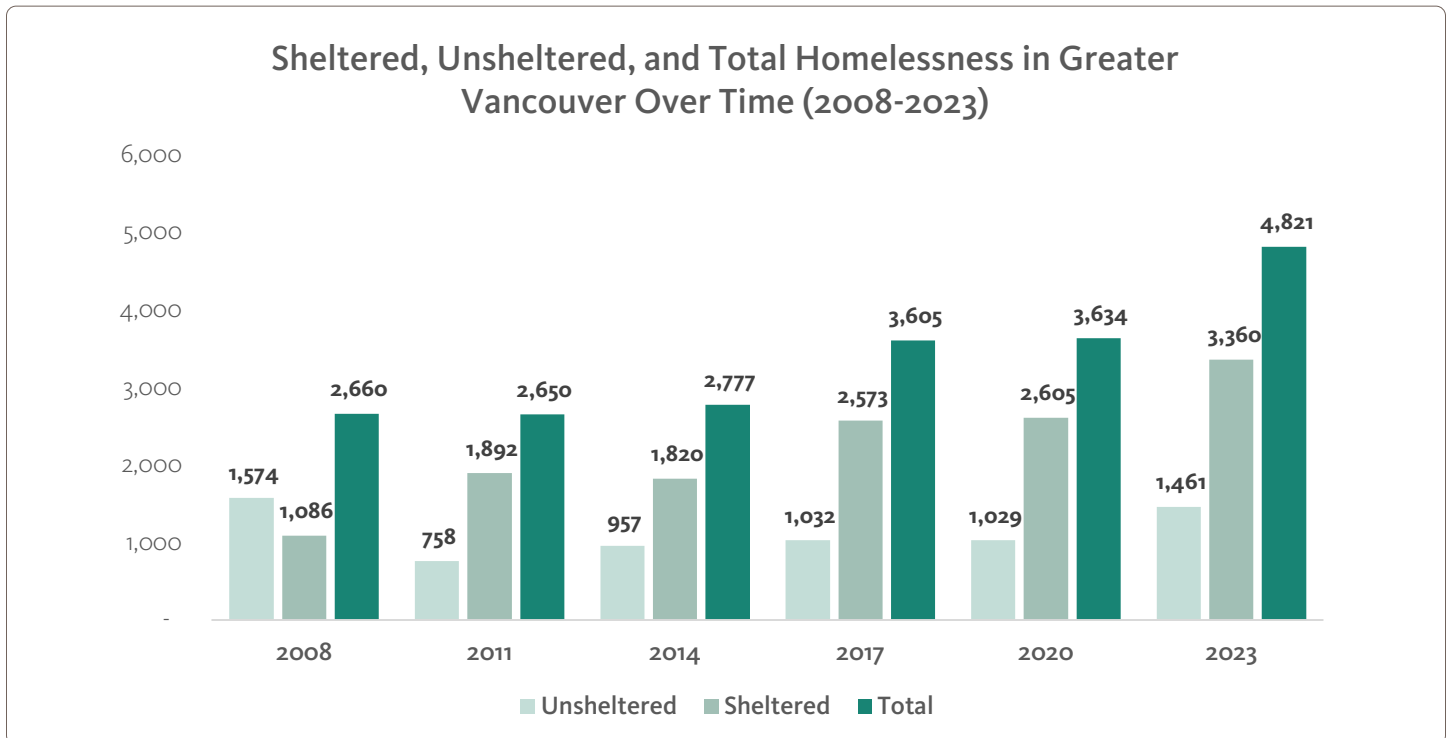


Changes in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness by sub-region (2005-2023)									
Sub-region	2005	2008	2011	2014	2017	2020	2023	2020-2023 Change	
								#	%
Burnaby	42	86	78	58	69	124	209	85	69%
Delta	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19	17	44	27	159%
White Rock	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27	16	17	1	6%
Langley	57	86	103	92	206	209	235	26	12%
New Westminister	97	124	132	106	133	123	203	80	65%
North Shore	90	127	122	119	100	121	168	47	39%
Richmond	35	56	49	38	70	85	162	77	91%
Ridge Meadows	44	90	110	84	124	114	135	21	17%
Surrey	392	402	400	403	602	644	1060	416	65%
Tri-Cities	40	94	48	55	117	86	160	74	86%
Vancouver	1,364	1,576	1,581	1,803	2,138	2,095	2,420	325	16%
UEL	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	-
Unspecified	1	2	13	0	0	0	0	-	-
Total	2,174	2,660	2,650	2,777	3,605	3,634	4,821	1,187	32%

Changes in Sheltered and Unsheltered Homelessness

Please Note (as on the previous page): In White Rock, a shelter program was closed in the weeks before the Count and opened in South Surrey. These 12 individuals were counted in the Surrey-Sub Region, but most regularly spent the days in White Rock.

Unsheltered and sheltered homelessness - trends (2008-2023)												
Type of Experience of Homelessness	2008		2011		2014		2017		2020		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Unsheltered	1,574	59%	758	29%	957	34%	1,032	29%	1,029	28%	1,461	30%
Sheltered	1,086	41%	1,892	71%	1,820	66%	2,317	64%	2,364	65%	3,060	63%
EWR - Sheltered							256	7%	241	7%	300	6%
Total	2,660	100%	2,650	100%	2,777	100%	3,605	100%	3,634	100%	4,821	100%



Unsheltered Homelessness

This table includes those who were unsheltered on the night of the Count (sleeping outside, in makeshift shelters or tents, in vacant buildings, in vehicles, or staying informally with others).

Changes in unsheltered homelessness by sub-region (2020-2023)			
Sub-region	2020 Unsheltered Total	2023 Unsheltered Total	Absolute Change
Burnaby	19	77	+58
Delta	9	27	+18
Langley	108	133	+25
New Westminster	41	57	+16
North Shore	46	51	+5
Richmond	25	80	+55
Ridge Meadows	35	49	+14
Surrey	173	301	+128
Tri-Cities	24	62	+38
Vancouver	547	605	+58
White Rock	2	11	+9
UEL	-	8	+8
Total	1,029	1,461	+432

Sheltered Homelessness

This table presents those who were sheltered on the night of the Count in either sheltering facilities (shelters, transition houses, safe houses), or who were in hospital or police holding cells without a place to return to when they left and would most likely leave in less than 30 days (No fixed address; NFA). Note that some of this change will correspond with new shelter spaces made available since 2020.

Note that individual shelter programs vary in terms of hours of operation, layout, services available, and other factors. Individuals who are sheltered at this point in time may be unsheltered at other points in the year, or other times of day. In particular, those who are in EWR shelters would have been unsheltered if the weather was warmer on Count Day.

Changes in sheltered homelessness by sub-region (2020-2023)						
Sub-region	2020 Sheltered			2023 Sheltered		
	Shelters & NFAs	EWR	Total	Shelters & NFAs	EWR	Total
Burnaby	97	8	105	118	14	132
Delta	5	3	8	11	6	17
Langley	101	n/a	101	87	15	102
New Westminster	71	11	82	146		146
North Shore	57	18	75	106	11	117
Richmond	60	0	60	50	32	82
Ridge Meadows	67	12	79	79	7	86
Surrey	403	68	471	650	109	759
Tri-Cities	58	4	62	88	10	98
Vancouver	1,443	105	1,548	1,179	96	1,815
White Rock	2	12	14	6	n/a	6
Total	2,364	241	2,605	3,060	300	3,360

A photograph of two men outdoors. The man on the left is wearing a dark grey hoodie, a blue baseball cap worn backward, glasses, and a black face mask hanging from his neck. He is holding a white paper cup and a brown paper bag. The man on the right is wearing a light green hoodie, a grey baseball cap with a brown patch, and a yellow circular badge with a black silhouette of a person. He is holding a clipboard and a pen, looking down at it. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a building.

4

Profile of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Profile of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

This section presents the findings of the demographic questions on this survey. It is important to note that each of these questions are voluntary, so respondents can choose to skip any question they want or end the survey at any time. The **percentages presented are of those who answered each question, not of the total number of persons identified as experiencing homelessness.** It is also important to consider that like the total number of persons experiencing homelessness, many of the demographics will be under representations as well. See Limitations for more information.

Indigenous Identity

Respondents were asked “Do you identify as Indigenous, including First Nations (with or without status, Treaty/Non-Treaty), Métis, or Inuit, or do you have other North American Indigenous ancestry?”

Responses were categorized as “yes” or “no,” with additional option to specify First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or other North American Indigenous ancestry.

- In total, 821 respondents identified as Indigenous.
- While the overall percentage of respondents identifying as Indigenous remains the same as in 2020 (33%), note that because the total number of respondents also increased, an additional 110 persons were counted identifying as Indigenous in 2023 than 2020.
- It is important to note that Indigenous persons continue to be overrepresented in populations experiencing homelessness.

Indigenous Identity						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous	341	26%	480	41%	821	33%
Not Indigenous	983	74%	693	59%	1,676	67%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,324	100%	1,173	100%	2,497	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,917		273		2,324	
Total	3,241		1,446		4,821	

Changes in homelessness by Indigenous identity (2008-2023)						
Indigenous Identity	2008	2011	2014	2017	2020	2023
Indigenous	688	394	582	746	711	821
Percentage of Total Respondents	32%	27%	31%	34%	33%	33%

Residential School Experience

New for this year's Count, and in consultation with the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee, respondents were asked "Have you, a parent, or grandparent ever attended Residential School?" The Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee member organizations and the Indian Residential School Survivor's Society made sure supports were available for interviewers and respondents if needed.

The impact of Residential Schools is profound, and continues to be felt today. This excerpt from The [National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation's Residential School History teaching resource](#) provides this background:

"For a period of more than 150 years, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation children were taken from their families and communities to attend schools which were often located far from their homes. More than 150,000 children attended Indian Residential Schools. Many never returned.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) concluded that residential schools were "a systematic, government-sponsored attempt to destroy Aboriginal cultures and languages and to assimilate Aboriginal peoples so that they no longer existed as distinct peoples." The TRC characterized this intent as "cultural genocide."

The schools hurt the children. The schools also hurt their families and their communities. Children were deprived of healthy examples of love and respect. The distinct cultures, traditions, languages, and knowledge systems of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples were eroded by forced assimilation.

The damages inflicted by Residential Schools continue to this day."

Note in the table on the following page the numbers of respondents who identified a parent or grandparent having attended residential school, which highlights the generational experience of Residential School. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's [What We Have Learned Report](#) discusses the generational impact of Residential Schools:

"Many students were permanently damaged by residential schools. Separated from their parents, they grew up knowing neither respect nor affection. A school system that mocked and suppressed their families' cultures and traditions destroyed their sense of self-worth and attachment to their own families. Poorly trained teachers working with an irrelevant curriculum left them feeling branded as failures. Children who had been bullied and physically or sexually abused carried a burden of shame and anger for the rest of their lives. Overwhelmed by this legacy, many succumbed to despair and depression. Countless lives were lost to alcohol and drugs. Families were destroyed, and generations of children have been lost to child welfare.

The Survivors are not the only ones whose lives have been disrupted and scarred by the residential schools. The legacy has also profoundly affected the Survivors' partners, their children, their grandchildren, their extended families, and their communities. Children who were abused in the schools sometimes went on to abuse others. Some students developed addictions as a means of coping. Students who were treated and punished as prisoners in the schools sometimes graduated to real prisons."

The table below presents the results of this question for all respondents who identified as Indigenous who answered it.

Some notes:

- The proportion of those who has an experience with Residential School, either lived or generational (those who identified a parent or grandparent having attended Residential School) was about the same for those who were sheltered and those who were unsheltered.
- This table only represents those who answered the question; those who skipped this question or ended the survey before this point are not included, so these can be considered to be underestimates.

Experience with Residential School (Indigenous respondents)						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered Total		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	169	63%	245	64%	414	64%
Yes - self	15	6%	22	6%	37	6%
Yes - parent	84	31%	128	34%	212	33%
Yes - grandparent	96	36%	128	34%	224	34%
No	101	37%	135	36%	236	36%
Total Respondents	270	100%	380	100%	650	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	3,090		1,081		4,171	
Total	3,360		1,461		4,821	

Count Project Team member and Indigenous scholar Rocky James, himself a generational survivor of Residential School, shares his reflection on these results:

“I almost don’t even know how to respond except the legacy of the Indian Residential School system continues to have a profound impact on Indigenous health disparities. It really does need to be addressed through an upstream approach. It moves the narrative on disparities from abstract to ongoing living experiences with systemic oppression, injustice, and a failure to reconcile with Indigenous people on equitable access to housing. If we are to see housing as a human right, than this data represents the ongoing violation of Indigenous human rights to access safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing.”

For more information about Residential Schools, child welfare systems, and Indigenous Homelessness, see this report from the Surrey Indigenous Leadership Committee [here](#).

Racial Identity

After responding to the question of “Do you identify as Indigenous?” respondents were asked “In addition to your response, what racial groups do you identify with (e.g. Black, South Asian, White, etc.)?” An option was included for the respondent to identify as Indigenous only. Categories were created for comparability to categories used by the Census.

Interviewers were trained to follow up with respondents who identified as “Canadian”, or with another cultural identity, to see if they wanted to choose an option from the list. “Not Listed” includes mostly respondents who chose to write in a cultural identity. This was a check all that apply question; many of those who responded as such did include another response.

For more information about racial identity and homelessness in Canada, see this topic on the Homeless Hub [here](#).

Racial Identity						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Arab	31	2%	5	0%	36	1%
Asian - East	36	3%	21	2%	57	2%
Asian - South East	33	3%	19	2%	52	2%
Asian - South	60	5%	16	1%	76	3%
Asian - West	41	3%	9	1%	50	2%
Black	111	9%	43	4%	154	6%
<i>Black - Caribbean and Latin America</i>	29	2%	12	1%	41	2%
<i>Black - African</i>	57	4%	19	2%	76	3%
<i>Black - Canadian/American</i>	37	3%	17	1%	54	2%
Latin American	52	4%	32	3%	84	3%
White	787	60%	766	67%	1,553	63%
Not Listed	52	4%	48	4%	100	4%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,305		1,148		2,453	
	1,936		298		2,368	
Total	3,241		1,446		4,821	

Age

Respondents were asked “How old are you, or what year were you born?” with only one response being required. Note that youth and seniors are more likely to experience hidden homelessness, and thus not be included in the Count, than adults. Age-related health problems are an important consideration in homelessness supports.

To learn more about youth homelessness in Canada, click [here](#). For this topic on the Homeless Hub, and to learn more about homelessness in seniors in Canada, click [here](#).

Age (groups)						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	96	7%	100	8%	196	8%
Adult (25-54 Years)	899	66%	921	75%	1,820	70%
Senior (55+)	366	27%	202	17%	568	22%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,361	100%	1,223	100%	2,584	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,880		223		2,237	
Total	3,241		1,446		4,821	

Age						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 19 Years	15	1%	34	3%	49	2%
19-25 Years	81	6%	66	5%	147	6%
25-34 Years	284	21%	296	24%	580	22%
35-44 Years	300	22%	356	29%	656	25%
45-54 Years	315	23%	269	22%	584	23%
55-64 Years	260	19%	155	13%	415	16%
65-74 Years	90	7%	41	3%	131	5%
75+ Years	16	1%	6	0%	22	1%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,361	100%	1,223	100%	2,584	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,880		223		2,237	
Total	3,241		1,446		4,821	

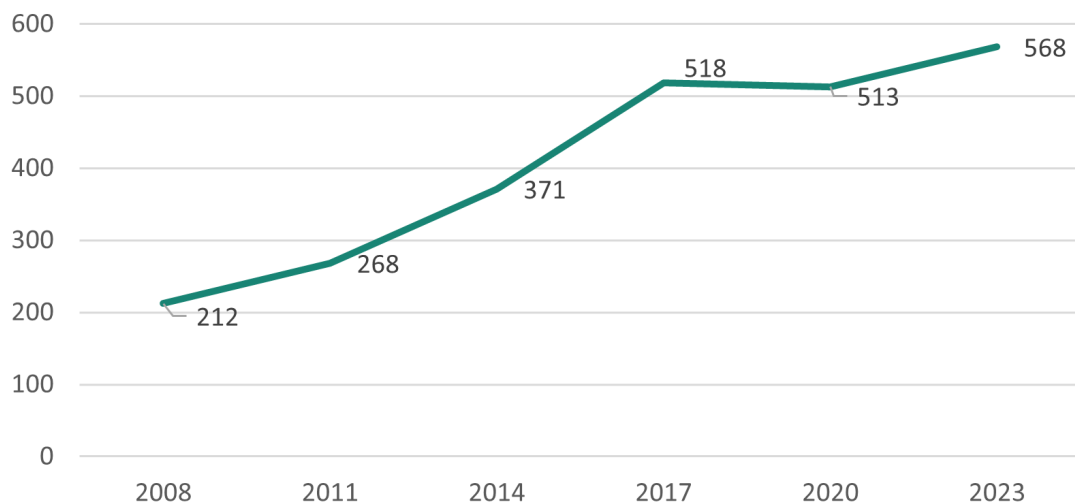
Changes in homelessness by age groups (2008-2023)

Age groups	2008 Total		2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total		2020 Total		2023 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (under 25 years)	364	15%	397	24%	410	20%	386	16%	193	9%	196	8%
Adults (25-54 years)	1,823	76%	1,000	60%	1,257	62%	1,509	63%	1,463	67%	1,820	70%
Seniors (55 years or over)	212	9%	268	16%	371	18%	518	22%	513	24%	568	22%
<i>Total respondents</i>	2,399	100%	1,665	100%	2,038	100%	2,408	100%	2,169	100%	2,584	100%
Don't know/No answer	261		985		739		1,197		1,465		2,237	
Total	2,660		2,650		2,777		3,605		3,634		4,821	

Changes in homelessness by age (2011-2023)

Age Groups	2011		2014		2017		2020		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 19 years	102	6%	191	9%	199	8%	54	2%	49	2%
19-24 years	221	13%	219	11%	179	8%	139	6%	147	6%
Youth - unknown age	74	4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
25-34 years	275	17%	332	16%	419	18%	422	19%	580	22%
35-44 years	328	20%	413	20%	504	21%	508	23%	656	25%
45-54 years	397	24%	512	25%	524	22%	533	25%	584	23%
55-64 years	210	13%	281	14%	380	16%	380	18%	415	16%
65+ years	58	3%	90	4%	176	7%	133	6%	n/a	n/a
65-74 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	131	5%
75+ years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	1%
<i>Total respondents</i>	1,665	100%	2,038	100%	2,381	100%	2,169	100%	2,584	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	985		739		1,224		1,465		2,237	
Total	2,650		2,777		3,605		3,634		4,821	

Number of Seniors Experiencing Homelessness
2008-2023



Gender Identity and Transgender Experience

Respondents were asked “What gender do you identify with?” Response options were: agender, man, non-binary, two-spirit, woman, and an option for not listed for the respondent to specify. Gender identity and trans experience are important when discussing homelessness for many reasons, including how to improve safety in spaces, and understanding needs for supports that are welcoming and effective for everyone.

- 70% of respondents identified as men. It is important to note that men are most likely to be observed and “found” to be experiencing homelessness, and as such tend to be overrepresented in the PiT Methodology.
- 26% of respondents identified as women.
- The proportion of those who identifies as women and men remained relatively consistent with the previous PiT Count (73% and 25% respectively).
- Note that the number of individuals who identified as non-binary, agender, or two spirit was higher in the unsheltered population than those in shelters.

Gender						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man	931	69%	863	70%	1,794	69%
Woman	396	29%	322	26%	718	28%
Agender	1	0%	8	1%	9	0%
Non-binary	10	1%	21	2%	31	1%
Two-spirit	12	1%	13	1%	25	1%
Not listed	7	1%	7	1%	14	1%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,357	100%	1,234	100%	2,591	100%
Don't know / no answer	1884		212		2,230	
Total	3,241		1,446		4,821	

This table presents the change in homelessness by gender over time since 2011. Note that in 2011 and 2014, “transgender” was a response option. Since then, there has been a separate question that asks if an individual identifies as having trans experience, either in the past or present, which is reported below.

Changes in homelessness by gender identity (2011-2023)										
Gender Identity	2011		2014		2017		2020		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man	1,452	69%	1,419	73%	1,688	72%	1,570	73%	1,794	69%
Woman	652	31%	527	27%	628	27%	546	25%	718	28%
Non-binary	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	1%	42	2%	80	3%
Transgender	8	0%	9	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Total respondents</i>	2,112	100%	1,955	100%	2,341	100%	2,158	100%	2,591	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	538		822		1,264		1,476		2,230	
Total	2,650		2,777		3,605		3,634		4,821	

As a separate question, respondents were asked whether they identify as someone with trans experience (meaning their gender identity is different than what they were assigned at birth).

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Trans Experience	37	3%	40	3%	77	3%
No Trans Experience	1,282	97%	1,119	97%	2,401	97%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,319	100%	1,159	100%	2,478	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	2,035		302		2,343	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

Sexual Orientation

Respondents were asked “How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example gay, straight, lesbian?” As with the question on gender, sexual orientation is an important consideration when planning support and homelessness prevention services.

2SLGBTQIA+ includes those who identified as asexual, bisexual, gay, lesbian, pansexual, two-spirit, questioning, or queer.

For more information about sexual orientation and homelessness in Canada, click [here](#).

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/ Heterosexual	1,149	89%	957	85%	2,106	88%
2SLGBTQA+	133	10%	156	14%	289	12%
Another response (not listed/ multiple responses)	6	0%	4	0%	10	0%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,292	100%	1,124	100%	2,405	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	2,062		337		2,416	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

Changes in homelessness by sexual orientation (2020-2023)				
Sexual orientation	2020		2023	
	#	%	#	%
2SLGBTQA+	220	11%	289	12%
Straight/Heterosexual	1,850	89%	2,106	88%
Other	n/a	n/a	10	0%
<i>Total respondents</i>	2,070	100%	2,405	100%
Don't know/No answer	1,564		2,416	
Total	3,634		4,821	

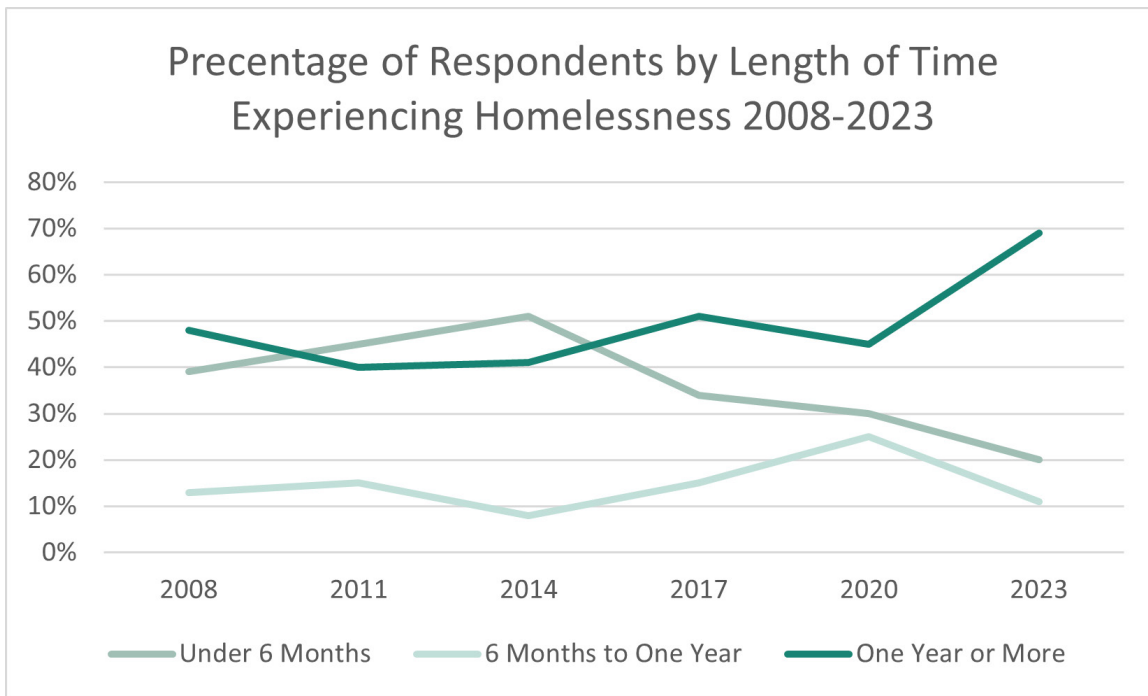
Length of Time Experiencing Homelessness

Respondents were asked “How long have you been without a place of your own?” with interviewers trained to specify that this means how long has it been since you had a place where you paid rent, not how long have you lived with roommates or another communal living arrangement.

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 6 months	313	26%	158	14%	471	20%
<i>Up to and including 7 days</i>	29	2%	18	2%	47	2%
<i>8 days to < 1 Month</i>	85	7%	31	3%	116	5%
<i>1 month < 6 months</i>	199	17%	109	10%	308	13%
6 months to <1 year	145	12%	107	10%	252	11%
1 year and over	745	62%	852	76%	1,597	69%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,203	100%	1,117	100%	2,320	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	2,151		344		2,501	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

Compared to 2020, a higher proportion of respondents had experiences of chronic homelessness, those greater than one year, in this year's survey.

Changes in length of time experiencing homelessness (2008-2020)												
Length of time experiencing homelessness	2008 Total		2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total		2020 Total		2023 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 6 months	828	39%	685	45%	921	51%	778	34%	548	30%	471	20%
<i>Under 1 month</i>	272		233		337		190		151		163	
<i>1 month to under 6 months</i>	556		452		584		588		397		308	
6 months to under 1 year	271	13%	222	15%	145	8%	331	15%	443	25%	252	11%
1 year or more	1,017	48%	610	40%	751	41%	1,153	51%	810	45%	1,597	69%
<i>Total respondents</i>	2,116	100%	1,517	100%	1,817	100%	2,262	100%	1,801	100%	2,320	100%
Don't know/No answer	544		1,133		960		1,343		1,833		2,501	
Total	2,660		2,650		2,777		3,605		3,634		4,821	



As a separate question, respondents were asked “In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the past year?” 41% of respondents indicated they had not experienced homelessness for the entire year.

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 6 months	382	34%	200	21%	582	28%
<i>Up to and including 7 days</i>	25	2%	6	1%	31	1%
<i>8 days to < 1 Month</i>	74	7%	37	4%	111	5%
<i>1 month < 6 months</i>	283	25%	157	16%	440	21%
6 months to <1 year	139	12%	121	13%	260	13%
1 year	592	53%	643	67%	1,235	59%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,113	100%	964	100%	2,077	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	2,241		497		2,744	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

Length of Time in Community

Respondents were asked “How long have you been in (community)?” with **community** replaced by the Sub-Region the survey took place in.

It is important to note that persons experiencing homelessness, like anyone, travel throughout the region for a variety of reasons. In 2020, 60% of individuals identified as being in the community they took the survey in for 5 years or more. This year, 64% identified as such. In addition to this, **81% of people were in the community they reside in the last time they were housed**, suggesting that any new shelters or initiatives through the COVID-19 pandemic did not cause large groups of individuals to choose to move to another community and that individuals experiencing homelessness prefer to access services in their home community.

Length of time in Community						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 Year	273	23%	123	12%	396	18%
1 year to under 5 years	210	18%	185	18%	395	18%
5 years to under 10 years	124	10%	130	13%	254	11%
10 years or more	361	30%	348	34%	709	32%
Always been here	231	19%	227	22%	458	21%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,199	100%	1,013	100%	2,212	100%
Don't know / no answer	2,155		448		2,609	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

Location When Homelessness Started	
In Community Survey Took Place	81%
Not In Community Survey Took Place	19%
Total	100%

Health Conditions

Respondents were asked about each of the health conditions included below separately, for example “Do you identify as having a medical condition or illness?” then “Do you identify as having a physical disability?” and so on. Interviewers were trained to provide prompts if needed, including:

- A medical condition, such as diabetes or asthma,
- A mental health issue, such as depression or anxiety.

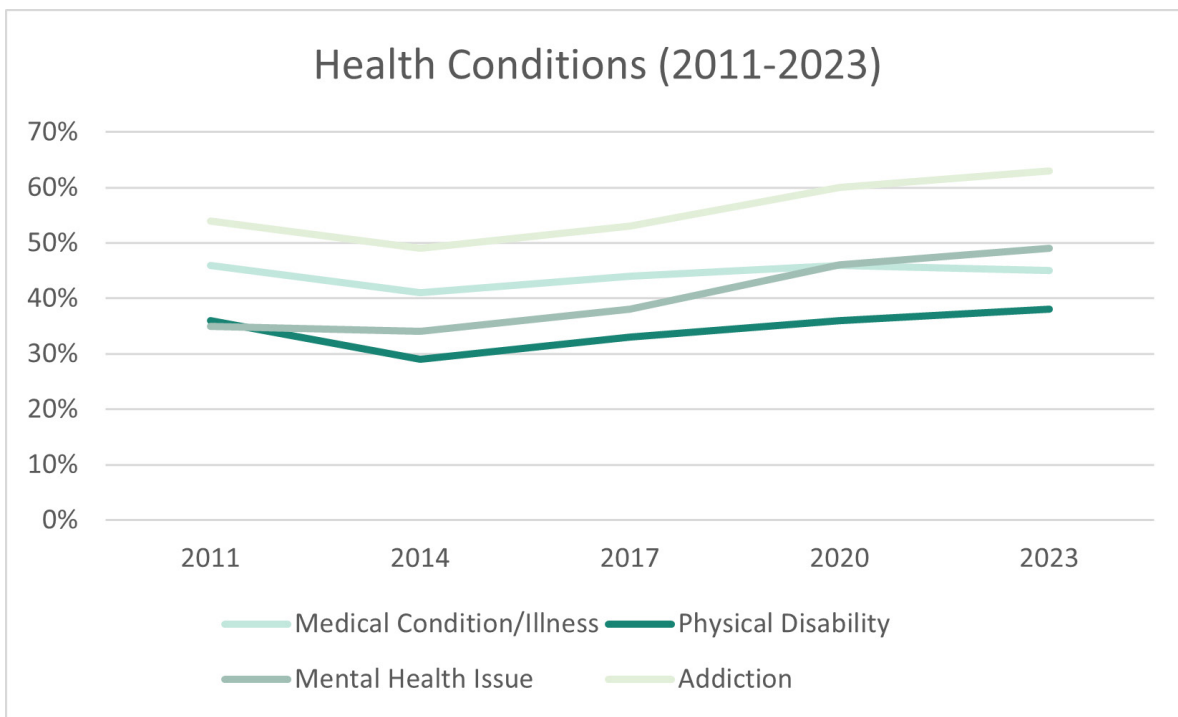
All health conditions were self-reports. If a respondent said they thought they had a medical condition, but they haven’t; been treated or diagnosed, the interviewer was trained to ask “would you say you have that medical condition?”

“Addictions Issue” can include, if the respondent identified as such, both substance and behavioural addictions. Substances used include alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, stimulants, and opiates. Behavioural addictions can include gambling, shopping, and many others.

While it was not asked in this survey, in [2019 the Point in Time Count in the City of Vancouver](#) asked respondents who identified as having an addiction what substances they use. The most common substance indicated was cigarettes.

Health Conditions						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Medical Condition/Illness	583	44%	532	47%	1,115	45%
Physical Disability	481	36%	455	40%	936	38%
Mental Health Issue	595	45%	603	53%	1,198	49%
Addictions Issue	733	55%	809	71%	1,542	63%
Learning Disability or Cognitive Impairment	254	19%	286	25%	540	22%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,331	100%	1,136	100%	2,467	
Don't Know/ No Answer	2,023		325		2,354	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

Changes in health conditions (2011-2023)										
Health conditions (more than one response possible)	2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total		2020 Total		2023 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Medical condition/illness	608	46%	723	41%	967	44%	991	46%	1,115	45%
Physical disability	470	36%	507	29%	742	33%	786	36%	936	38%
Mental health issue	463	35%	610	34%	848	38%	990	46%	1,198	49%
Addiction	712	54%	871	49%	1,172	53%	1,306	60%	1,542	63%
Learning disability or cognitive impairment	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	506	23%	540	22%
<i>Total respondents</i>	1,314		1,775		2,221		2,160		2,467	
Don't know/No answer	1,336		1,002		1,384		1,474		2,354	
Total	2,650		2,777		3,605		3,634		4,821	



Number of Health Concerns						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
No Health Concerns	252	19%	112	10%	364	15%
One Health Concern	316	24%	258	23%	574	23%
Two Health Concerns	282	21%	254	22%	536	22%
Three Health Concerns	232	17%	228	20%	460	19%
Four Health Concerns	175	13%	185	16%	360	15%
Five Health Concerns	74	6%	99	9%	173	7%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,331	100%	1,136	100%	2,467	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	2,023		325		2,354	
Total	33,54		1,461		4,821	

Acquired Brain Injury						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Acquired brain injury	321	25%	384	36%	705	30%
No acquired brain injury	964	75%	686	64%	1,650	70%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,285	100%	1,070	100%	2,355	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	2,069		391		2,466	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

Age First Time Experiencing Homelessness

Respondents were asked “How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?” If needed, interviewers clarified that this meant how old they were when they did not have a place of their own, or how old they were when their family did not have a place of their own.

As in previous years, it is most common for a respondent who is experiencing homelessness now to have had a first experience before the age of 25.

Age First Homeless						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	456	38%	577	56%	1,033	47%
Adult (25-54 Years)	566	48%	393	38%	959	43%
Senior (55+)	164	14%	52	5%	216	10%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,186	100%	1,022	100%	2,208	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	2,055		424		2,613	
Total	3,241		1,446		4,821	



Sources of Income

Respondents were asked “What are your sources of income?” Interviewers were trained to show and read this list to the respondent. This is a check all that apply question. Some notes:

- “Honoraria” was added to the survey this year, and is defined as a type of income individuals receive on an ad-hoc basis either for casual employment with homelessness service programs, or as recognition of volunteer work.
- “Sex work” was added to the survey this year. Previously, sex work was recorded in the “Other” field.
- 10% of individuals identified as having full or part time employment.

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Welfare/ Income Assistance	669	51%	623	55%	1,292	53%
Disability benefit (e.g. PWD, PPMB)	410	31%	328	29%	738	30%
GST/HST refund	188	14%	112	10%	300	12%
Informal Employment	79	6%	174	15%	253	10%
Money from family/ friends	89	7%	112	10%	201	8%
No Income	103	8%	96	9%	199	8%
Job Casual (e.g. Contract work)	100	8%	97	9%	197	8%
CPP or other pension	124	9%	60	5%	184	8%
Other Sources	77	6%	93	8%	170	7%
Job Part Time	73	6%	61	5%	134	6%
Job Full Time	61	5%	31	3%	92	4%
Sex work	33	3%	56	5%	89	4%
Old Age Security (OAS)/ guaranteed income supplement	58	4%	26	2%	84	3%
Honouraria	29	2%	37	3%	66	3%
Employment Insurance	20	2%	11	1%	31	1%
Child and Family Tax Benefit	23	2%	8	1%	31	1%
Youth Agreement	2	0%	7	1%	9	0%
Veteran VAC benefits	4	0%	4	0%	8	0%
Total Respondents	1,308	100%	1,126	100%	2,434	
Don't know / no answer / unclear	2,046		335		2,387	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

38% of respondents identified as having two or more income sources.

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
No Income Source Identified	92	7%	79	7%	171	7%
One Income Source	717	55%	620	55%	1,337	55%
Multiple Income Sources	499	38%	427	38%	926	38%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,308	100%	1,126	100%	2,434	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	2,046		335		2,387	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	



Service Usage

Respondents were asked “What services have you used in the past 12 months?” Interviewers were trained to show and read this list to the respondent. This is a check all that apply question. Some notes:

- A Supervised Consumption Site is an umbrella term that covers both safe injection and safe smoking sites. These programs are designed for individuals to bring their own substances and use them under supervision by staff if an overdose occurs. Some offer drug testing.
- Some dental care is provided as a benefit for individuals receiving Persons With Disabilities (PWD) or Persons With Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB) benefits from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Food Services	695	54%	652	59%	1,347	56%
Emergency Room	681	53%	579	53%	1,260	53%
Hospital (non-emergency)	604	47%	507	46%	1,111	46%
Housing Services	623	48%	408	37%	1,031	43%
Health Clinic	555	43%	423	39%	978	41%
Ambulance	525	41%	426	39%	951	40%
Employment and Financial Services	432	33%	339	31%	771	32%
Mental Health Services	394	30%	316	29%	710	30%
Legal Services	355	27%	281	26%	636	27%
(Other) addiction services	287	22%	308	28%	595	25%
Supervised Consumption Site	262	20%	332	30%	594	25%
Dental Clinic or dentist	327	25%	224	20%	551	23%
Cultural Services	139	11%	120	11%	259	11%
Other Services	74	6%	76	7%	150	6%
No services Accessed	60	5%	60	5%	120	5%
Total Respondents	1,292		1,098		2,390	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	2,062		363		2,431	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

Housing Wait List Status – New for 2023

Respondents were asked “Are you on a housing wait list?” This was defined as any housing wait list, including the BC Housing Registry, as well as individual wait lists for specific programs.

These tables suggest that measures of numbers of individuals on housing wait lists does not include everyone.

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	579	53%	371	40%	950	47%
No	520	47%	560	60%	1,080	53%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,099	100%	931	100%	2,030	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	2,255		530		2,791	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

Reasons for Most Recent Housing Loss (Following Page)

Respondents were asked “What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?” Interviewers were trained to ask this as an open-ended question, to listen to the story that the person told, and then check responses as they hear them come up in the story. After, interviewers checked responses with respondents to make sure everything they wanted to include was included. This is a check all that apply question. This year, response options were added for:

- “Guest policy” to reflect housing loss from conflict with landlord/housing operator’s guest policy.
- “Experienced abuse by child/dependent” to reflect this type of abuse, that is different from abuse by a partner or parent.

It is important to note that the causes of homelessness are multifaceted and complex. It is rare for a person to cite one cause of their housing loss, and even for those who list one cause, there are other factors that contribute to housing loss in most cases. Some of these factors are included as responses, and others include structural factors such as housing affordability, employment stability, and connection to supports and resources.

	Sheltered		Unsheltered Total		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Not enough income for housing	433	35%	359	34%	792	35%
Addiction/ substance use issue	268	22%	287	28%	555	24%
Landlord/ Tenant conflict	194	16%	169	16%	363	16%
Mental health issue	180	14%	179	17%	359	16%
Conflict with spouse/ partner	192	15%	154	15%	346	15%
Physical health issue	144	12%	134	13%	278	12%
Other reason	128	10%	132	13%	260	11%
Unfit/Unsafe housing condition	128	10%	127	12%	255	11%
Conflict with parent/guardian	110	9%	104	10%	214	9%
conflict with other	100	8%	88	8%	188	8%
Experienced abuse by spouse/ partner	106	9%	66	6%	172	8%
Death or departure of family member	70	6%	93	9%	163	7%
Building sold or renovated	75	6%	64	6%	139	6%
Incarceration (jail or prison)	74	6%	65	6%	139	6%
Experienced discrimination	52	4%	63	6%	115	5%
Hospitalization or treatment program	65	5%	47	5%	112	5%
Left the community	66	5%	45	4%	111	5%
Complaint (E.g. Pets/noise/ damage)	37	3%	43	4%	80	4%
Experienced abuse by parent/ guardian/ caregiver	41	3%	39	4%	80	4%
Experienced abuse by Other	28	2%	19	2%	47	2%
Owner moved in	23	2%	18	2%	41	2%
Guest policy	17	1%	24	2%	41	2%
Rent supplement expired	22	2%	14	1%	36	2%
Place not physically accessible	13	1%	17	2%	30	1%
Experienced abuse by child/ dependent	7	1%	6	1%	13	1%
Rent supplement expired	22	2%	14	1%	36	2%
Unfit/Unsafe housing condition	128	10%	127	12%	255	11%
Building sold or renovated	75	6%	64	6%	139	6%
Owner moved in	23	2%	18	2%	41	2%
Landlord/ Tenant conflict	194	16%	169	16%	363	16%
Guest policy	17	1%	24	2%	41	2%
Complaint (E.g. Pets/noise/ damage)	37	3%	43	4%	80	4%
Place not physically accessible	13	1%	17	2%	30	1%
Left the community	66	5%	45	4%	111	5%
Conflict with spouse/ partner	192	15%	154	15%	346	15%
Conflict with parent/guardian	110	9%	104	10%	214	9%
Conflict with other	100	8%	88	8%	188	8%
Experienced abuse by spouse/ partner	106	9%	66	6%	172	8%
Experienced abuse by parent/ guardian/ caregiver	41	3%	39	4%	80	4%
Experienced abuse by child/ dependent	7	1%	6	1%	13	1%
Experienced abuse by Other	28	2%	19	2%	47	2%
Death or departure of family member	70	6%	93	9%	163	7%
Experienced discrimination	52	4%	63	6%	115	5%
Physical health issue	144	12%	134	13%	278	12%
Mental health issue	180	14%	179	17%	359	16%
Addiction/ substance use issue	268	22%	287	28%	555	24%
Hospitalization or treatment program	65	5%	47	5%	112	5%
Incarceration (jail or prison)	74	6%	65	6%	139	6%
Other reason	128	10%	132	13%	260	11%
Total Respondents	1,244		1,041		2,285	
Don't Know/ No Answer	2,110		420		2,536	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

Most Recent Housing Loss Caused by COVID-19 – New for 2023

As a separate question after the question above about housing loss, respondents were asked “Was your most recent housing loss caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic?” Volunteers were trained to explain this could mean caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in any way, including illness, public health measures, landlord’s use of their unit, loss of in-person supports, isolation, or any others.

Of those whose experiences of homelessness were three years or less, 15% of respondents identified that the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to their housing loss.

Ministry Care

Respondents were asked “As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care, in a youth group home, on an Independent Living Agreement?” This is a check one question, so a yes to any of these options is a yes to the question. This includes experience with any child welfare-like system, in BC or elsewhere.

As in previous counts, individuals with experience with Ministry Care are overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. Katherine McParland, co-founder and former CEO of A Way Home Kamloops, described foster care as “the superhighway to homelessness.” If foster homes are not meeting kids’ needs, they tend to run away but have nowhere to go. *“They are making decisions with their feet. They are running away from these placements and are told they are choosing homelessness. I beg to differ. I say they are choosing to find a sense of belonging and we, as communities, need to create this for them.”*

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	331	26%	402	37%	733	31%
No	966	74%	699	63%	1,665	69%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,297	100%	1,101	100%	2,398	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	2,057		360		2,423	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces or RCMP

Respondents were asked “Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? (Includes army, navy, air force, - regular forces and reserve, RCMP, or Canadian Rangers)”. Responses for both Yes – Canadian Forces and Yes - RCMP are combined as Yes in the table below.

Interviewers were trained to specify that this is the definition used by Veterans Affairs Canada; excluding, for example, municipal police or another country’s military service.

For more information about Veterans experiencing homelessness in Canada, click [here](#).

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	67	5%	74	7%	141	6%
No	1,235	95%	1,005	93%	2,240	94%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,302	100%	1,079	100%	2,381	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	2,052		382		2,440	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	



Immigrants or Refugees to Canada

Respondents were asked “Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or a refugee claimant (e.g. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada), or on a temporary visa?” In 2020, 14% of respondents, or 290 people identified as coming to Canada as an immigrant or refugee, representing an increase in the 2023 Count. At the same time, the number of individuals who had arrived in Canada and have been here for less than 5 years decreased from 17% in 2020 to 5% in this year’s Count. Three respondents across the region identified that they were from Ukraine and had arrived within the last year.

To learn more about homelessness among newcomers to Canada, click [here](#).

Newcomers - Immigrants or Refugee						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Immigrant or Refugee	281	22%	114	10%	395	17%
Non-Immigrant/ Refugee	1,013	78%	983	90%	1,996	83%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,294	100%	1,097	100%	2,391	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	2,060		364		2,430	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

This table presents a comparison of sheltered and unsheltered respondents who entered Canada by their immigration status upon arrival.

Newcomers - Entry into Canada						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Immigrant	167	60%	79	72%	246	63%
Refugee	40	14%	18	16%	58	15%
Refugee Claimant	51	18%	4	4%	55	14%
Work Visa	7	3%	4	4%	11	3%
Student Visa	10	4%	3	3%	13	3%
Temporary Foreign Visa	4	1%	2	2%	6	2%
<i>Total Newcomer Respondents</i>	279	100%	110	100%	389	100%
Don't know / no answer	3,075				3,944	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,333	

Of note, 42% of individuals who identified as arriving in Canada as an immigrant, refugee, or refugee claimant have been in Canada for more than 10 years.

Newcomers - Time in Canada						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 Year	60	5%	8	1%	68	3%
1 year to under 5 years	33	3%	4	0%	37	2%
5 years to under 10 years	18	1%	7	1%	25	1%
10 years or more	124	10%	55	5%	179	8%
Non-Immigrant/ Refugee	1,013	81%	983	93%	1,996	87%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,248	100%	1,057	100%	2,305	100%
Don't know / no answer	2,106		404		2,516	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	



Accompanying People Experiencing Homelessness

Respondents were asked “Do you have family members or anyone else who stayed with you last night?” If the respondent identified as having a child under the age of 19 with them the night of the count, these individuals were added as accompanied children. If the respondent identified as having any adults staying with them who also met the definition of homeless, the interviewer asked them to get in touch with that other person and encourage them to complete a survey that day.

With someone the night of the count						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered Total		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
With Someone	170	13%	281	24%	451	18%
<i>Partner</i>	56	4%	127	11%	183	7%
<i>Child/Children</i>	73	5%	21	2%	94	4%
<i>Pet(s)</i>	15	1%	48	4%	63	3%
<i>Not listed</i>	26	2%	75	7%	101	4%
<i>Not Specified</i>	11	1%	33	3%	44	2%
Alone	1,174	87%	871	76%	2,045	82%
Total Respondents	1,344	100%	1,152	100%	2,496	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	2,010		309		2,325	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	



Preferred Language – New for 2023

New for 2023, respondents were asked “Do you prefer to access services in English, French or another language?”

Volunteers were trained to specify the importance of the word prefer in this question. For example, if someone was able to access services in English but would prefer French, the response would be French.

In interpreting this response, consider that most services are provided in English, and people who are connected to services are more likely to be counted in this methodology.

Preferred Language						
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
English	1,257	96%	1,099	98%	2,356	97%
French	25	2%	29	3%	54	2%
Other preferred language	59	5%	21	2%	80	3%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,306		1,119		2,425	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	2,048		342		2,396	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

This table presents the written in “other” options, in alphabetical order, as they were written in, for languages with more than one response:

Language	Count
Spanish	29
Farsi	15
Arabic	7
Cantonese or Chinese written in	7
Punjabi	7
Portuguese	5
Vietnamese	4
Amharic	2
Esperanto	2
Tagalog	2
Ukrainian	2
All other languages with one response each	9

Where the Unsheltered Respondents Stayed

This year, the survey had three new options for respondents to identify where they stayed on the night of the Count; two options for hotel, and one option for “a client’s place,” meaning staying with a person who had paid the respondent for sex.

“Not listed” includes those who may have stayed in an overnight drop-in centre that is not designated as a shelter, in their own place they will be evicted from in less than 30 days, or those who reported that they did not sleep.

Location on March 7th	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	697	48%
Someone else's place or couch surfing	270	19%
Makeshift shelter or tent	233	16%
Vehicle	124	9%
Abandoned/vacant building	36	2%
Not listed	32	2%
A client's place	14	1%
Hotel/ motel where I pay to stay for less than 30 days	15	1%
Hotel/ motel where an organization pays	10	1%
Parent or Guardian's place - This is a temporary situation and I do not have a house or apartment I can safely return to	15	1%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,446	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	15	
Total	1,461	

Safety Question – New for 2023

A new pilot question “Did you feel safe there?” was asked on the daytime survey used on March 8th, immediately following the question of “Where did you stay last night?” This question was omitted from the survey used in shelters, out of concern of a perceived power imbalance between the client and the interviewer. This question was included out of interest in trying to include those who choose to not stay in shelter, and instead choose to stay in unsafe temporary or transactional relationships.

Interviewers were instructed that this question is optional and will not affect the respondent’s screening. Training also clarified that “safety” is an inherently subjective assessment, and can include things like neighborhood safety, physical safety, safety of belongings, emotional safety, and others.

This table presents the results of this question for all respondents. Shelter is excluded, because individuals were not asked this question on the shelter survey, so responses are not representative.

	Unsheltered		Felt Safe There - Yes
	#	%	%
Outside	697	48%	48%
Makeshift shelter or tent	233	16%	55%
Abandoned/vacant building	36	2%	55%
Vehicle	124	9%	76%
Someone else's place or couch surfing	270	19%	77%
A client's place	14	1%	67%
Hotel/ motel, where the respondent pays to stay for less than 30 days	15	1%	83%
Hotel/ motel, where an organization pays	10	1%	89%
Parent or Guardian's place - This is a temporary situation and the respondent does not have a house or apartment they can safely return to	15	1%	78%
Not listed	32	2%	63%
Total Respondents	1,446	100%	58%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	15		
Total	1,461		

Below presents the percentages of respondents who said yes, they felt safe at each location, and identified as women.

Of those who identified as agender, non-binary, or two-spirit, only 48% of respondents said they felt safe in the location they stayed the night before.

Felt Safe There -Women	
	% Felt Safe There - Yes
Outside	37%
Makeshift shelter or tent	45%
Abandoned/vacant building	33%
Vehicle	43%
Someone else's place or couch surfing	78%
A client's place	80%
Hotel/ motel, where the respondent pays to stay for less than 30 days	100%
Hotel/ motel, where an organization pays	80%
Parent or Guardian's place - This is a temporary situation and the respondent does not have a house or apartment they can safely return to	67%
Not listed	45%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	58%



Locations Stayed in the Past Year – Updated for 2023

In previous Counts, respondents were asked “Have you stayed in a homeless shelter in the past 12 months?” with response options of Yes, No, or Don’t Know/No Answer.

This year, a new format of this question was piloted. All respondents were asked “Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year?” with response options presented in the table below. This was a check all that apply question. Some notes:

- “Homeless Shelter” included temporary and permanent homeless shelters, transitions for women fleeing domestic violence, and youth safe houses.
- There were two options for “Second Stage Housing.” One was for the type of second stage housing people access after attending a transition house for women fleeing domestic violence. The other was for the type of second stage housing people access after attending a residential substance use treatment program. These types of second stage housing involve sober living agreements.
- “Transitional Housing” includes temporary modular housing, and other housing options accessed by persons exiting homelessness that are meant to be lived in on a temporary basis, usually a number of years.
- “Hotel/Motel” was specifically for those who stayed in hotels that an organization or government paid for, which was common as part of the COVID-19 response.

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Homeless shelter	1,196	92%	681	63%	1,877	79%
Outside or unsheltered in a public place	549	42%	661	61%	1,210	51%
Someone else's place or couch surfing	440	34%	550	51%	990	41%
Encampment	239	18%	362	33%	601	25%
Vehicle	213	16%	274	25%	487	20%
Hotel/ motel (funded by government organization)	243	19%	212	20%	455	19%
Transitional housing	104	8%	62	6%	166	7%
Second stage housing - AFTER transition house	56	4%	39	4%	95	4%
Second stage housing - AFTER addictions treatment	50	4%	37	3%	87	4%
None of the listed	13	1%	33	3%	46	2%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	1,302		1,087		2,389	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	2,052		374		2,432	
Total	3,354		1,461		4,821	

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Methodology and Limitations

PART 1: SCREENING

Location: _____

Shelter, Safe House, Transition House.
Name: _____ (> Q.4)

Detox/Hospital/Jail. Name: _____ (> Q.4)

Hotel/motel where I pay to stay for <30 days (> Q.4)

Hotel/motel where an organization is paying (> Q.4)

Parent(s) or guardian's house

I can safely stay as long as I want (END)

This is a temporary situation and I have a house or apartment to safely return to (END)

This is a temp. situation and I do not have a house or apartment where you pay rent.

Own place inside where you pay rent.
Specify: _____ (END)

Not listed. Specify: _____ (> Q.4)

Don't know/No answer (END)

4. Did you feel safe there? [check one]

Yes (Go to Q.5)

No (Go to Q.5)

Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.5)

PART 2: SURVEY

9. How long have you been without a place of your own?
Refer to Definition of Rent Above

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Year

Don't know/No answer

10. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?
Age _____ Year _____

Don't know/No answer

11. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or a refugee claimant (e.g. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada), or on a temporary visa?
Yes. Check one:

Immigrant (Go to Q.11a)

Refugee (Go to Q.11a)

Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.11a)

Work Visa (Go to Q.11a)

Student Visa (Go to Q.11a)

Temporary Foreign Worker (Go to Q.11a)

Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.12)

Methodology and Limitations

Point-In-Time Methodology

Shelter Count

The shelter count took place on the evening of Tuesday, March 7th, 2023. This part of the Count involved obtaining information from individuals staying overnight in emergency homelessness shelters, Emergency Weather Response shelters (EWRs), transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, safe houses, detox facilities, and people with No Fixed Address (NFA) staying in hospitals and jails.

As in past years, transition houses, youth safe houses and detox facilities had staff conduct the interviews. New for 2023, shelter organizations were encouraged to conduct surveys themselves, and honoraria were provided to organizations to help cover costs as needed.

To ensure that the Count was as accurate as possible, each emergency shelter, transition house for women and children fleeing violence, youth safe house and detox facility was asked to complete a “shelter statistics form” to record the total number of people who stayed overnight on 7th. Not all clients in the shelters agreed to or were available to be surveyed; however, because of the shelter statistics form, the total number of people staying in a shelter facility was available. The shelter statistics form includes information on the capacity and total number of occupants for adults, unaccompanied youth and accompanied children. The number of individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness is solely derived from the shelter statistics form to ensure no one is double counted if they are interviewed the day after the Shelter Count.

Similar to the shelter statistics form, police holding cells and hospitals conducted a person-by-person tally of individuals with No Fixed Address (NFA) staying overnight on the night of March 7th.

Street Count

Planning this 24-hour event started in September, to ensure that the survey was available to as many individuals who were experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness as possible. The three main activities used to make the survey available in each community were:

- Volunteer teams walking pre-mapped routes in the community from 6am to midnight in some communities.
- Peers with lived and living experience walking pre-mapped routes, or stationed at locations where they had rapport with individuals who would take the survey.
- Outreach workers tasked with supporting these volunteers, or finding their clients to offer the survey.
- Magnet events, or volunteers stationed at regular community meals, to help encourage people to come to a designated place to complete a survey.

Planning these activities was the responsibility of a local coordinator in each Sub-Region. Routes were mapped with experts, including RCMP, Bylaw staff, outreach workers, and peers with lived and living experience in January-February.

From February 21st to March 6th, the HSABC team led 20 community training sessions across Greater Vancouver, and an additional 20 training sessions in-house at various agencies, most notably being school district staff across the region. Local Coordinators were also provided scripts for day-of refresher training on how to approach people, and how to use icebreakers to encourage conversation. Over 900 survey packages were prepared for the count.

Volunteer Interviewers

As in previous counts, volunteers were an important part of making sure as many areas as possible were covered. In total, 679 volunteers participated across the region. The implementation team is grateful to their contribution of time and expertise that was foundational to being able to present the results in this report.

This number is smaller than in 2020 because:

- Volunteers were asked how long they wanted to volunteer, with most selecting more than 4 hours. In past counts, volunteers were by default assigned one two-hour shift.
- Increased interest in staff surveying their own clients, potentially due to previous isolation and scaling down of some volunteer programs from the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was better coverage of routes and activities as a result of these compared to 2020.

Survey Participation

A response rate can only be calculated for the Shelter Count. Of 3,071 individuals counted in shelters and other sites where they had the opportunity to complete a survey, 1,092 surveys were completed, a response rate is 36%. This is lower than the response rate of 41% in 2020.

Limitations

While the Point in Time homeless count methodology is generally considered to produce an undercount of those experiencing homelessness, various other factors may have also impacted the accuracy of the 2023 Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver. The value of the Count remains the comparison of trends over time.

Community Geography

Seventeen distinct communities participate in the Metro Vancouver homeless count and with a wide variety of local terrain, certain circumstances may impact a community's ability to locate and include all those experiencing homelessness in their community.

Low-density neighbourhoods, forests, shorelines, and park land are especially difficult for volunteers to cover even with teams being deployed in cars and on bicycles. Professional park rangers and by-law officers provide some support for the count in many communities, but even so, areas with more complex terrain may see lower count numbers given the nature of the space that needs to be covered, and the decreased likelihood of these individuals accessing services.

Weather

Weather can impact homeless counts in a variety of ways and can pose a challenge to the accuracy of longitudinal comparability between count years. For example, the 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver took place during a rain/snow storm, while the 2020 Homeless Count took place on an unexpectedly sunny and relatively warm day, though it had been forecasted to be cold. The weather on Count Day in 2023 was clear and about seasonal temperature for most of the day.

Emergency Weather Response Shelters

Had the weather been different, more individuals may have been counted as sheltered (as opposed to unsheltered) and in general. It is not possible to fully account for the impact of weather.

Survey-based Methodology and Hidden Homelessness

Like any survey, an individual must come across a survey to be able to complete it. As has been discussed throughout this report, those who cannot be found living unsheltered, those who do not access services, and those who do not stay in shelters are less likely to be found by an interviewer than those who do. This particularly impacts those in communities made vulnerable, including those who are racialized, do not identify as male, are members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, or are youth or seniors.

List of Shelters

Organization Name	Shelter Name	Spaces/ Units	City
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society	Aboriginal Shelter / 240 Northern	88	Vancouver
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Vancouver	Catholic Charities Men's Hostel	95	Vancouver
The Vi Fineday Family Shelter Society	Vi Fineday Family Shelter	18	Vancouver
Lookout Housing and Health Society	Lookout Yukon St Shelter	71	Vancouver
Lookout Housing and Health Society	Lookout Al Mitchell Shelter	46	Vancouver
First United Church Community Ministry Society	First United Church Shelter	49	Vancouver
Raincity Housing and Support Society	RainCity HPP & Triage Emergency Shelter	28	Vancouver
The Bloom Group Community Services Society	Springhouse Shelter	32	Vancouver
The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Association	Downtown Eastside Women's Shelter	57	Vancouver
The Bloom Group Community Services Society	Powell Place Emergency Shelter	52	Vancouver
PHS Community Services Society	The Lark	14	Vancouver
PHS Community Services Society	New Fountain Shelter	60	Vancouver
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Vancouver	Belkin House	75	Vancouver
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Vancouver	Belkin House - Community Court	6	Vancouver
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Vancouver	The Haven	34	Vancouver
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Vancouver	The Beacon	66	Vancouver
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Vancouver	Crosswalk	36	Vancouver
Covenant House Vancouver	Covenant House	22	Vancouver
Atira Women's Resource Society	Pierce House	6	Vancouver
The Governing Council of The Salvation Army in Canada, Vancouver	Temp Shelter - Harbour Light, Anchor	40	Vancouver
Atira Women's Resource Society	Temp Shelter - Sisters Shelter	16	Vancouver
Atira Women's Resource Society	Temp - Capacity Expansion - Sisterhood	21	Vancouver
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Vancouver	Temp Shelter - Men's Hostel	16	Vancouver
City of Vancouver	Temp Shelter - Gathering Place	34	Vancouver
City of Vancouver	Temp Shelter - Evelyn Saller	42	Vancouver
Community Builders Benevolence Group	Temp Shelter - 1st Ave	32	Vancouver
Community Builders Benevolence Group	Temp Shelter - Winter 1st Ave	20	Vancouver
Community Builders Benevolence Group	Temp Shelter - 1401 Hornby St	40	Vancouver
Community Builders Benevolence Group	Temp Shelter - Metson	38	Vancouver
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	Temp Shelter - Directions Youth Services Centre	12	Vancouver
Lu'ma Native BCH Housing Society	Temp Shelter - Terminal	60	Vancouver
PHS Community Services Society	Temp Shelter - Osborn	59	Vancouver
PHS Community Services Society	Temp Shelter - Winter Osborn	40	Vancouver

The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Association	Temp - Capacity Expansion 265 Hastings	32	Vancouver
Wish Drop-In Centre Society	Temp Shelter - WISH	23	Vancouver
Lookout Housing and Health Society	Temp - Capacity Expansion - Lookout Walton Hotel	15	Vancouver
Lookout Housing and Health Society	Temp Shelter - Lookout Tenth Church	25	Vancouver
Lookout Housing and Health Society	EWR - Lookout Langara YMCA	30	Vancouver
Lookout Housing and Health Society	EWR - Lookout Cascades Church	10	Vancouver
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	EWR - Directions Youth Resource Centre	10	Vancouver
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Vancouver (Belkin House)	EWR - Belkin House	20	Vancouver
PHS Community Services Society	EWR - PHS Osborn	18	Vancouver
Atira Women's Resource Society	ERC Vancouver 1	68	Vancouver
Atira Women's Resource Society	ERC Vancouver 2	10	Vancouver
Community Builders Benevolence Group	ERC Vancouver 3	13	Vancouver
Lu'ma Native BCH Housing Society	ERC Vancouver 4	120	Vancouver
Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver	Rosewood	60	Surrey
Options Community Services Society	Options Community Services Society (Hyland House)	45	Surrey
Lookout Housing and Health Society	Lookout Gateway Shelter and Outreach	40	Surrey
Options Community Services Society	Bill Reid Place	16	Surrey
Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver	Sheena's Place	10	Surrey
Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver	Cynthia's Place	14	Surrey
Raincity Housing and Support Society	Foxglove Shelter	27	Surrey
Atira Women's Resource Society	Katherine's House - Expansion Program	10	Surrey
Atira Women's Resource Society	Maxxine Wright Shelter	12	Surrey
Lookout Housing and Health Society	CES - Lookout Guildford	6	Surrey
Lookout Housing and Health Society	Temp Shelter Lookout Guildford	40	Surrey
Lookout Housing and Health Society	Temp Shelter Lookout Parkway	40	Surrey
Options Community Services Society	Temp Shelter - Cloverdale	25	Surrey
Options Community Services Society	Temp Shelter - South Surrey & White Rock	25	Surrey
Surrey Urban Mission Society	Temp Shelter - SUM	40	Surrey
Surrey Urban Mission Society	Temp Shelter - The Cove	43	Surrey
Surrey Urban Mission Society	Temp Shelter - The Olive Branch	45	Surrey
Atira Women's Resource Society	EWR - Shimai House	6	Surrey
Lookout Housing and Health Society	EWR - Lookout Fleetwood Reform Church	14	Surrey
Lookout Housing and Health Society	EWR - Lookout Surrey Alliance	30	Surrey
Pacific Community Resources Society	EWR - PCRS	10	Surrey
Surrey Urban Mission Society	EWR - SUMs NightShift	15	Surrey
Surrey Urban Mission Society	EWR - SUMs Nourish	15	Surrey
Options Community Services Society	ERC Surrey 1	29	Surrey
Options Community Services Society	ERC Surrey 2	24	Surrey
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Richmond	Richmond House Emergency Shelter	30	Richmond
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Richmond	Temp - Capacity Expansion Richmond House Emergency Shelter	15	Richmond

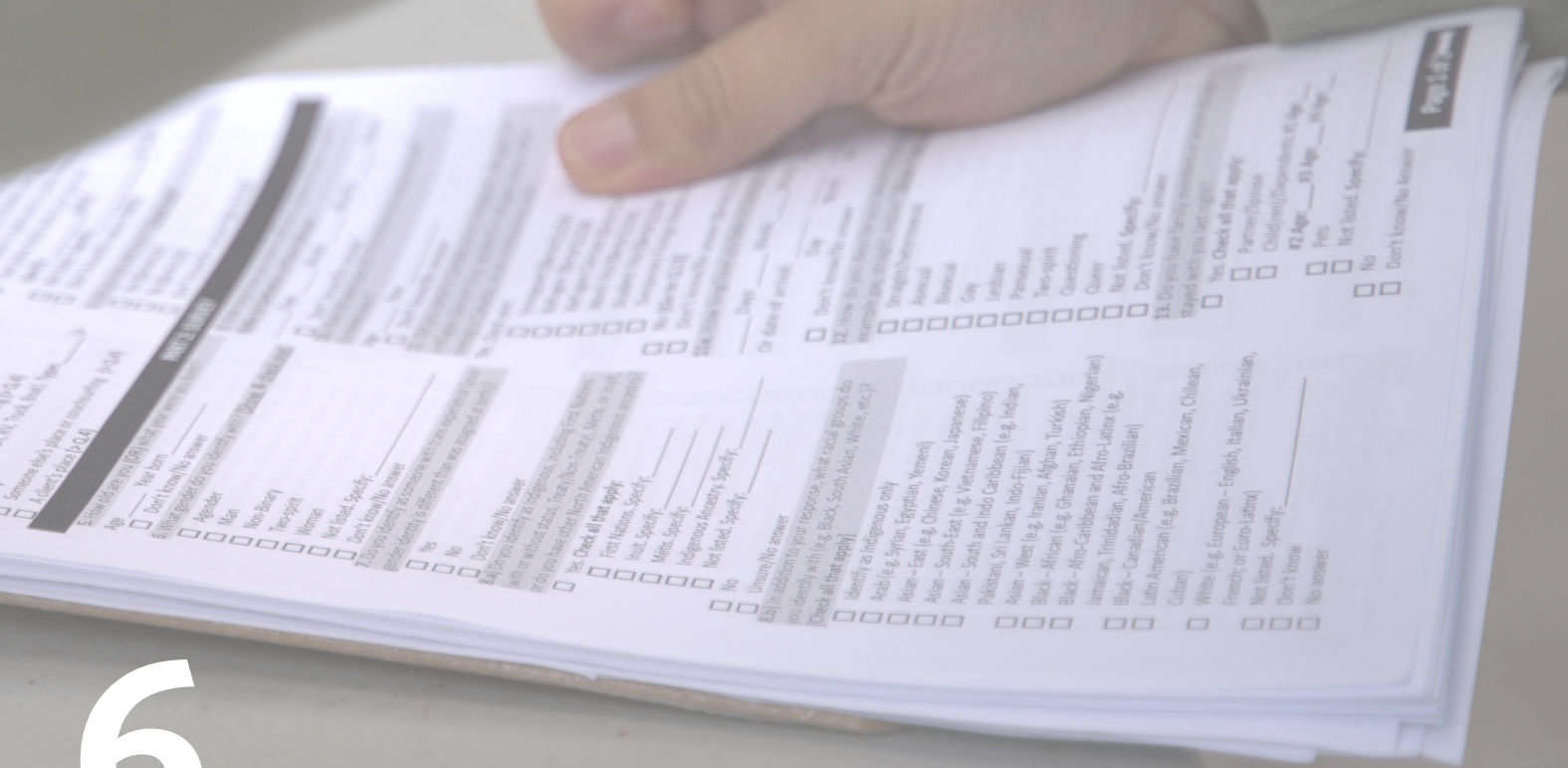
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Richmond	South Arm Warming Centre	20	Richmond
Turning Point Recovery Society	Brighthouse Warming Centre	20	Richmond
Phoenix Drug & Alcohol Recovery and Education Society	EWR - Tri-Cities	15	Port Moody
Lookout Housing and Health Society	Lookout North Shore Shelter and Outreach	45	North Vancouver
Lookout Housing and Health Society	EWR - Lookout North Shore 705 2nd W	20	North Vancouver
Lookout Housing and Health Society	EWR - Lookout North Shore 225 2nd E	16	North Vancouver
Lookout Housing and Health Society	ERC North Vancouver	30	North Vancouver
Fraserside Community Services Society	Fraserside Emergency Shelter	12	New Westminister
Lookout Housing and Health Society	Lookout New West Shelter and Outreach	15	New Westminister
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, New Westminister	Stevenson House	14	New Westminister
Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver	Elizabeth Gurney House	12	New Westminister
The Lower Mainland Purpose Society for Youth and Families	Army and Navy	50	New Westminister
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Maple Ridge	Ridge Meadows Ministries	25	Maple Ridge
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Maple Ridge	Temp Shelter - Ridge Meadows Ministries	30	Maple Ridge
Coast Foundation Society (1974)	EWR - Maple Ridge Coast	30	Maple Ridge
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Langley South	Gateway of Hope	30	Langley
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Langley South	Temp Shelter - Gateway of Hope	30	Langley
Lookout Housing and Health Society	EWR - Lookout Langley	30	Langley
The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Langley South	EWR - Gateway of Hope	15	Langley
Lookout Housing and Health Society	EWR - Lookout New Hope Church	15	Delta
Options Community Services Society	EWR - Ladner United Church	9	Delta
Raincity Housing and Support Society	3030 Gordon	30	Coquitlam
Tri-City Transitions Society	Joy's Place	14	Coquitlam
Raincity Housing and Support Society	Temp - Capacity Expansion 3030 Gordon	12	Coquitlam
The Progressive Housing Society	Temp Shelter - Tri-Cities	25	Coquitlam
Phoenix Drug & Alcohol Recovery and Education Society	ERC Coquitlam	28	Coquitlam
The Progressive Housing Society	Temp Shelter - Progressive Housing	40	Burnaby
Lookout Housing and Health Society	EWR - Lookout Burnaby 7540 6th	27	Burnaby
Lookout Housing and Health Society	EWR - Lookout Burnaby 7135 Walker	20	Burnaby
The Progressive Housing Society	ERC Burnaby	40	Burnaby

List of No Fixed Address Sites

Type	Name	City
Hospital	Lion's Gate	Vancouver
Hospital	St. Paul's	Vancouver
Hospital	Vancouver General	Vancouver
Hospital	UBC	Vancouver
Hospital	Mount St. Joseph	Vancouver
Hospital	Richmond	Richmond
Detox	Vancouver	Vancouver
Detox	Harbour Light	Vancouver
Detox	Onsite	Vancouver
Hospital	Surrey Memorial	Surrey
Detox	Creekside	Surrey
Sobering Assessment Centre	Quibble Creek	Surrey
Hospital	Royal Columbian	New Westminster
Hospital	Delta	Delta
Hospital	Peace Arch	White Rock
Hospital	Langley Memorial	Langley
Hospital	Eagle Ridge	Tri-Cities
Hospital	Ridge Meadows	Ridge Meadows
Hospital	Burnaby	Burnaby Hospital
Corrections	Surrey RCMP	Surrey
Corrections	Delta Police	Delta
Corrections	Ridge Meadows RCMP	Ridge Meadows
Corrections	Vancouver Police	Vancouver
Corrections	Richmond RCMP	Richmond
Corrections	Burnaby RCMP	Burnaby

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Appendices



5. How old are you (in years)?
A. Check the box [X] that best describes your age:
 18-24
 25-34
 35-44
 45-54
 55-64
 65-74
 75+

6. What is your gender?
A. Check the box [X] that best describes your gender:
 Male
 Female
 Other (Specify: _____)

7. Do you identify as someone with a sexual orientation that is different from heterosexual?
A. Check the box [X] that best describes your sexual orientation:
 Yes
 No
If Yes, specify: _____

8. Do you identify as someone who is indigenous?
A. Check the box [X] that best describes your response:
 Yes
 No
If Yes, specify: _____

9. In addition to your response, what racial groups do you identify with? (Check all that apply)
A. Check the box [X] that best describes your response:
 Arab (e.g. Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni)
 Asian - East (e.g. Chinese, Korean, Japanese)
 Asian - South-East (e.g. Vietnamese, Filipino)
 Black - African (e.g. Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian)
 Black - Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latinx (e.g. Jamaican, Trinidadian, Afro-Brazilian)
 Latin American (e.g. Mexican, Chilean, Cuban)
 White (e.g. European - English, Italian, Ukrainian, French) or Euro-Latinx
 Not listed. Specify: _____
 Don't know
 No answer

10. How long have you lived in this area?
A. Check the box [X] that best describes your response:
 Less than 1 year
 1-5 years
 6-10 years
 11-15 years
 16-20 years
 21-25 years
 26-30 years
 31-35 years
 36-40 years
 41-45 years
 46-50 years
 51-55 years
 56-60 years
 61-65 years
 66-70 years
 71-75 years
 76-80 years
 81+ years

11. How often do you use the internet?
A. Check the box [X] that best describes your response:
 Daily
 Several times a week
 Once a week
 A few times a month
 Once a month
 A few times a year
 Never

12. How do you describe your sexual orientation?
A. Check the box [X] that best describes your response:
 Straight/Heterosexual
 Bisexual
 Gay
 Lesbian
 Transsexual
 Two-spirit
 Queer
 Other (Specify: _____)
 Not listed. Specify: _____
 Don't know/No answer

13. Do you have family members or friends who have been in the military?
A. Check the box [X] that best describes your response:
 Yes
 No
If Yes, specify: _____

Appendix A. Survey Instrument

Survey #:

Interviewer Name: _____



STREET Survey | 2023 Homeless Count Location: _____

PART 1: SCREENING

1. Have you already answered this survey today or last night (with someone wearing a yellow button)?

- Yes (END)
 No (Go to Q.2)
 Don't know/No answer (END)

INTERVIEWER: The definition of "rent" is a fixed amount of money the person pays to be allowed to stay there for 30 days +, and can expect to do so for the foreseeable future.

2. Do you currently have a place to stay where you pay monthly rent? [check one]

- Yes (Go to Q.3)
 No (Go to Q.3)
 Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.3)

3. Where did you stay last night? [check one]

- Outside (> Q.4)
 Makeshift shelter, tent (> Q.4)
 Abandoned/vacant building (> Q.4)
 Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck, Boat). Type: _____ (> Q.4)
 Someone else's place or couchsurfing (> Q.4)
 A client's place (> Q.4)

Shelter, Safe House, Transition House.

Name: _____ (> Q.4)

Detox/Hospital/Jail. Name: _____ (> Q.4)

Hotel/motel where I pay to stay for <30 days (> Q.4)

Hotel/motel where an organization is paying (> Q.4)
 Parent(s) or guardian's house

I can safely stay as long as I want (END)

This is a temporary situation and I have a house or apartment I can safely return to (END)

This is a temp. situation and I do not have a house or apartment to safely return to (> Q.4)

Own place inside where you pay rent.

Specify: _____ (END)

Not listed. Specify: _____ (> Q.4)

Don't know/No answer (END)

4. Did you feel safe there? [check one]

Yes (Go to Q.5)

No (Go to Q.5)

Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.5)

PART 2: SURVEY

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

Age _____ Year born _____

Don't know/No answer

6. What gender do you identify with? [Show & check one]

- Agender
 Man
 Non-Binary
 Two-spirit
 Woman
 Not listed. Specify: _____
 Don't know/No answer

7. Do you identify as someone with trans experience (your gender identity is different than was assigned at birth)?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know/No answer

8.a) Do you identify as Indigenous, including First Nations (with or without status, Treaty/Non-Treaty), Métis, or Inuit, or do you have other North American Indigenous ancestry?

- Yes. Check all that apply:
 First Nations. Specify: _____
 Inuit. Specify: _____
 Métis. Specify: _____
 Indigenous Ancestry. Specify: _____
 Not listed. Specify: _____

- No
 Unsure/No answer

8.b) In addition to your response, what racial groups do you identify with (e.g. Black, South Asian, White, etc.)? [Check all that apply]

- Identify as Indigenous only
 Arab (e.g. Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni)
 Asian – East (e.g. Chinese, Korean, Japanese)
 Asian – South-East (e.g. Vietnamese, Filipino)
 Asian – South and Indo Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Indo-Fijian)
 Asian – West (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, Turkish)
 Black – African (e.g. Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian)
 Black – Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latinx (e.g. Jamaican, Trinidadian, Afro-Brazilian)
 Black – Canadian/American
 Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Mexican, Chilean, Cuban)
 White (e.g. European – English, Italian, Ukrainian, French; or Euro-Latinx)
 Not listed. Specify: _____
 Don't know
 No answer

9. How long have you been without a place of your own?

Refer to Definition of Rent Above

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years

(#) (#) (#) (#)

Don't know/No answer

10. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

Age _____ Year _____

Don't know/No answer

11. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or a refugee claimant (e.g. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada), or on a temporary visa?

Yes. Check one:

- Immigrant (Go to Q.11a)
 Refugee (Go to Q.11a)
 Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.11a)
 Work Visa (Go to Q.11a)
 Student Visa (Go to Q.11a)
 Temporary Foreign Worker Visa (Go to Q.11a)
 No (Go to Q.12)
 Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.12)

11a. How long have you been in Canada?

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years

(#) (#) (#) (#)

Or date of arrival: _____

Day Month Year

Don't know/No answer

12. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example gay, straight, lesbian? [Show or read list]

- Straight/heterosexual
 Asexual
 Bisexual
 Gay
 Lesbian
 Pansexual
 Two-spirit
 Questioning
 Queer
 Not listed. Specify: _____
 Don't know/No answer

13. Do you have family members or anyone else who stayed with you last night?

- Yes. Check all that apply:
 Partner/Spouse
 Child(ren)/Dependents: #1 Age: _____ #2 Age: _____ #3 Age: _____ #4 Age: _____
 Pets
 Not listed. Specify: _____
 No
 Don't know/No Answer

Page 1 of 2 →

PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

14. Do you identify as having the following health challenges at this time? [Read list & Check all that apply]

	Yes	No	Don't know/ No Answer
Medical Condition/Illness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental Health Issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Addiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning Disability or Cognitive Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth? (e.g. from injury related to an accident, violence, an overdose, stroke or brain tumour)
 Yes No Don't Know/No Answer

16. How long have you been in (city name)?
 ___ Days ___ Weeks ___ Months ___ Yrs (Go to Q.16a)
 (#) (#) (#) (#)

Always been here (Go to Q.17)
 Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.17)

16a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. city)?

Community: _____ AND province: _____

OR country: _____

Don't know/No answer

17. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care, in a youth group home, on an Independent Living Agreement?

Yes
 No
 Don't know/No answer

INTERVIEWER: The following question is sensitive and can be prefaced by asking for consent ("can I ask you a question about residential school?")

18. Did you, your parents, or grandparents ever attend residential school?

Yes. **Check all that apply:**
 I did
 One or more parents did
 One or more grandparents did
 No
 Don't know/No answer

19. What services have you used in the past 12 months?

[Read list & Check all that apply]

Cultural Supports
 Ambulance
 Emergency room
 Hospital (non-emergency)
 Dental clinic or dentist
 Mental health services
 Safe consumption site (e.g OPS)
 (Other) addiction services
 Health clinic
 Food Services
 Legal Services
 Employment and Financial services
 Housing Services
 Other Services. **Specify:** _____
 No services used in the past 12 months
 Don't know/No answer

20. Do you prefer to access services in English, French or another language?

English
 French
 Other Preferred Language: _____
 Don't know/no answer

21. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? (Includes army, navy, airforce, - regular forces and reserve, RCMP, or Canadian Rangers). [Check all that apply]

Yes, Canadian military (reg forces, reserve, Rangers)
 Yes, RCMP
 No
 Don't know/No answer

22. In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR (the last 12 months)?

___ Days ___ Weeks ___ Months
 Don't know/No answer

23. What are your sources of income? [Read list & Check all that apply]

Welfare/income assistance
 Job full time
 Job part time
 Job casual (e.g Contract work)
 Honoraria
 Informal employment (binning, panhandling)
 Sex Work
 Money from family/friends
 Employment insurance
 Disability benefit (e.g. PWD, PPMB)
 Old age security (OAS)/ guaranteed income supplement (GIS)
 CPP or other pension
 Youth agreement
 Veteran/VAC benefits
 Child and family tax benefits
 GST/HST refund
 Other source(s): _____
 No income
 Don't know/No answer

24. Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year? [Check all that apply]

Homeless Shelter (Emergency Shelter, Family Shelter, Transition House)
 Second Stage Housing - AFTER Transition House
 Second Stage Housing - AFTER Addictions Treatment
 Transitional Housing
 Someone else's place or couchsurfing
 Hotel/Motel (Funded by Government/Organization)
 Outside or Unsheltered in a public place (e.g. street, park, forest, abandoned building)
 Encampment (e.g. group of tents, makeshift shelters, or other long-term outdoor settlement)
 Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck, Boat)
 None of the above. Specify: _____
 Don't know/No answer

25. Are you on a housing wait list?

Yes No Don't Know/No Answer

26. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read list & Check all that apply]

A. Housing and Financial Issue:

Not enough income for housing (e.g. Lost benefit, Income, or job)
 Rental supplement (HPP, HOP, etc.) expired
 Unfit/unsafe housing condition
 Building sold or renovated
 Owner moved in
 Landlord/tenant conflict
 Guest policy
 Complaint (e.g. Pets/noise/damage)
 Place not physically accessible
 Left the community

B. Interpersonal and Family Issues

Conflict with: spouse / partner
 Conflict with: parent / guardian / caregiver
 Conflict with: other: _____
 Experienced abuse by: spouse /partner
 Experienced abuse by: parent /guardian / caregiver
 Experienced abuse by: child / dependent
 Experienced abuse by: other: _____
 Death or departure of family member
 Experienced discrimination

C. Health or Corrections

Physical health issue
 Mental health issue
 Addiction/substance use issue
 Hospitalization or treatment program
 Incarceration (jail or prison)

D. Other

Other reason: _____
 Don't know/No answer

27. Was your most recent housing loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes No Don't Know/No Answer

Survey #:

SHELTER Survey | 2023 Homeless Count



Interviewer Name: _____

Facility Name: _____

PART 1: SCREENING

1. Have you already answered this survey today or last night (with someone wearing a yellow button)?

- Yes (END)
- No (Go to Q.2)
- Don't know/No answer (END)

2. Will you be sleeping here tonight? [check one]

- Yes (Go to Q.3)
- No (END)
- Don't know/No answer (END)

INTERVIEWER: The definition of "rent" is a fixed amount of money the person pays to be allowed to stay there for 30 days +, and can expect to do so for the foreseeable future.

3. Do you currently have a place to stay where you pay monthly rent?

- Yes (Go to Q.4)
- No (Go to Q.4)
- Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.4)

PART 2: SURVEY

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

Age _____ Year born _____

- Don't know/No answer

5. What gender do you identify with? [Show & check one]

- Agender
- Man
- Non-Binary
- Two-spirit
- Woman
- Not listed. Specify: _____
- Don't know/No answer

6. Do you identify as someone with trans experience (your gender identity is different than was assigned at birth)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/No answer

7.a) Do you identify as Indigenous, including First Nations (with or without status, Treaty/Non-Treaty), Métis, or Inuit, or do you have other North American Indigenous ancestry?

- Yes. **Check all that apply:**
 - First Nations. Specify: _____
 - Inuit. Specify: _____
 - Métis. Specify: _____
 - Indigenous Ancestry. Specify: _____
 - Not listed. Specify: _____
- No
- Unsure/No answer

7.b) In addition to your response, what racial groups do you identify with (e.g. Black, South Asian, White, etc.)? [Check all that apply]

- Identify as Indigenous only
- Arab (e.g. Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni)
- Asian – East (e.g. Chinese, Korean, Japanese)
- Asian – South-East (e.g. Vietnamese, Filipino)
- Asian – South and Indo Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Indo-Fijian)
- Asian – West (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, Turkish)
- Black – African (e.g. Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian)
- Black – Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latinx (e.g. Jamaican, Trinidadian, Afro-Brazilian)
- Black – Canadian/American
- Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Mexican, Chilean, Cuban)
- White (e.g. European – English, Italian, Ukrainian, French; or Euro-Latinx)
- Not listed. Specify: _____
- Don't know
- No answer

8. How long have you been without a place of your own?

Refer to Definition of Rent Above

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years
(#) (#) (#) (#)

- Don't know/No answer

9. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

Age _____ Year _____

- Don't know/No answer

10. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or a refugee claimant (e.g. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada), or on a temporary visa?

Yes. Check one:

- Immigrant (Go to Q.10a)
- Refugee (Go to Q.10a)
- Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.10a)
- Work Visa (Go to Q.10a)
- Student Visa (Go to Q.10a)
- Temporary Foreign Worker Visa (Go to Q.10a)
- No (Go to Q.11)
- Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.11)

10a. How long have you been in Canada?

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years

(#) (#) (#) (#)

Or date of arrival: _____

Day Month Year

- Don't know/No answer

11. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example gay, straight, lesbian? [Show or read list]

- Straight/heterosexual
- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Pansexual
- Two-spirit
- Questioning
- Queer
- Not listed. Specify: _____
- Don't know/No answer

12. Do you have family members or anyone else who stayed with you last night?

- Yes. **Check all that apply:**
 - Partner/Spouse
 - Child(ren)/Dependents: #1 Age: _____ #2 Age: _____ #3 Age: _____ #4 Age: _____
 - Pets
 - Not listed. Specify: _____
- No
- Don't know/No Answer

PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

13. Do you identify as having the following health challenges at this time? [Read list & Check all that apply]

	Yes	No	Don't know/ No Answer
Medical Condition/Illness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental Health Issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Addiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning Disability or Cognitive Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth? (e.g. from injury related to an accident, violence, an overdose, stroke or brain tumour)
 Yes No Don't Know/No Answer

15. How long have you been in (city name)?
 ___ Days ___ Weeks ___ Months ___ Yrs (Go to Q.15a)
 (#) (#) (#) (#)
 Always been here (Go to Q.16)
 Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.16)

15a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. city)?
 Community: _____ AND province: _____
 OR country: _____
 Don't know/No answer

16. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care, in a youth group home, on an Independent Living Agreement?
 Yes
 No
 Don't know/No answer

INTERVIEWER: The following question is sensitive and can be prefaced by asking for consent ("can I ask you a question about residential school?")

17. Did you, your parents, or grandparents ever attend residential school?
 Yes. **Check all that apply:**
 I did
 One or more parents did
 One or more grandparents did
 No
 Don't know/No answer

18. What services have you used in the past 12 months? [Read list & Check all that apply]

- Cultural Supports
- Ambulance
- Emergency room
- Hospital (non-emergency)
- Dental clinic or dentist
- Mental health services
- Supervised Injection Site
- (Other) addiction services
- Health clinic
- Food Services
- Legal Services
- Employment and Financial services
- Housing Services
- Other Services. **Specify:** _____
- No services used in the past 12 months
- Don't know/No answer

19. Do you prefer to access services in English, French or another language?
 English
 French
 Other Preferred Language: _____
 Don't know/no answer

20. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? (Includes army, navy, airforce, - regular forces and reserve, RCMP, or Canadian Rangers). [Check all that apply]
 Yes, Canadian military (reg forces, reserve, Rangers)
 Yes, RCMP
 No

21. In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR (the last 12 months)?
 ___ Days ___ Weeks ___ Months
 Don't know/No answer

22. What are your sources of income? [Read list & Check all that apply]

- Welfare/income assistance
- Job full time
- Job part time
- Job casual
- Honoraria
- Informal employment (binning, panhandling)
- Sex work
- Money from family/friends
- Employment insurance
- Disability benefit (e.g. PWD, PPMB)
- Old age security (OAS)/ guaranteed income supplement (GIS)
- CPP or other pension
- Youth agreement
- Veteran/VAC benefits
- Child and family tax benefits
- GST/HST refund
- Other source(s): _____
- No income
- Don't know/No answer

23. Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year? [Check all that apply]

- Homeless Shelter (Emergency Shelter, Family Shelter, Transition House)
- Second Stage Housing - AFTER Transition House
- Second Stage Housing - AFTER Addictions Treatment
- Transitional Housing
- Someone else's place or couchsurfing
- Hotel/Motel (Funded by Government/Organization)
- Outside or Unsheltered in a public place (e.g. street, park, forest, abandoned building)
- Encampment (e.g. group of tents, makeshift shelters, or other long-term outdoor settlement)
- Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck, Boat)
- None of the above. Specify: _____
- Don't know/No answer

24. Are you on a housing wait list?

Yes No Don't Know/No Answer

25. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read list & Check all that apply]

A. Housing and Financial Issue:

- Not enough income for housing (e.g. Lost benefit, Income, or job)
- Rental Supplement (HPP, HOP, etc.) Expired
- Unfit/unsafe housing condition
- Building sold or renovated
- Owner moved in
- Landlord/tenant conflict
- Guest policy
- Complaint (e.g. Pets/noise/damage)
- Place not physically accessible
- Left the community

B. Interpersonal and Family Issues

- Conflict with: spouse / partner
- Conflict with: parent / guardian / caregiver
- Conflict with: other: _____
- Experienced abuse by: spouse / partner
- Experienced abuse by: parent / guardian / caregiver
- Experienced abuse by: child / dependent
- Experienced abuse by: other: _____
- Death or departure of family member
- Experienced discrimination

C. Health or Corrections

- Physical health issue
- Mental health issue
- Addiction/substance use issue
- Hospitalization or treatment program
- Incarceration (jail or prison)

D. Other

- Other reason: _____

26. Was your most recent housing loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes No Don't Know/No Answer

Appendix B. Shelter Statistics Form

2023 Homeless Count *SHELTER AND NIGHT-TIME STATISTICS FORM*



_____, 2023
(Night Count Date – Day BEFORE Street Count)

Important: if you have more than one program/location, please use more than one form!

Full Organization Name:

Program/Location Name:

Type of program (please select one)

- Shelter (including Temporary Winter Shelters)
- EWR Shelter (opened in inclement weather, as per BC Housing guidelines)
- Safe House
- Transition House
- Detox Centre

Staff Contact Name:

Staff Phone Number:

Staff Email Address:

Please complete the following for your facility **on the night of March 7th**

Note: This information is confidential and anonymous. Responses will be aggregated and presented in a way so as not to identify an individual facility.

It is important that all information is filled accurately and complete.

TURN PAGE →

For the purpose of the Homeless Count, please use the following definitions and fill in the information:

- **Adult:** 25 years of age or older
- **Unaccompanied Youth:** age 16-24 years of age and **unaccompanied** by guardian or parent
- **Accompanied Children:** 18 years of age or younger and **accompanied** by guardian or parent
- **Capacity:** Number of beds/mats/spaces available as per your operational guidelines. Some facilities may have dedicated youth/children’s beds/spaces. Please indicate dedicated spaces below.

The **total** capacity of this program is .

Of these are reserved only for Adults

Of these are reserved only for Accompanied Children

Of these are reserved only for Unaccompanied Youth

- **Occupants:** Number of people who entered your facility on the above evening AND stayed overnight. In some circumstances the number could exceed your capacity.

	Occupants	Notes (Anything of interest)
Adults (>25)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Unaccompanied Youth	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Accompanied Children	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Were there any unusual events or circumstances that might have affected your operations this evening?

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact: james.caspersen@hsa-bc.ca

Please include this form with the completed surveys in the envelope for pick-up.



7

About the Author

About The Author

The Homelessness Services Association of British Columbia (HSABC) is an umbrella organization of shelters, drop-in centres, homeless outreach teams and other service providers addressing the needs of persons experiencing homelessness with the goal to ending homelessness. Our over 280 Members Organizations can access regular workshops and webinars, participate in regional and provincial coordination and research initiatives, and benefit from advocacy on behalf of our sector.



Our key areas of focus include:

Training – we provide skills training and professional development opportunities to build the confidence and capacity of the homelessness serving sector across BC.

Program Implementation – we coordinate and implement programs such as the Extreme Weather Response Program to increase shelter beds available during critical weather conditions, as well as supporting the sector to deliver other essential services for those experiencing homelessness.

Conference and Networking – we provide networking opportunities to build resilience and connectivity across the sector.

Research – we develop and implement research and evidence-based best practices to address the causes and solutions to homelessness.

Sector Support – we unify and strengthen the voice of the sector to represent distinct and unique regional perspectives, and approaches addressing the needs of diverse communities experiencing homelessness.

