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), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumíxw (Squamish), səl̓ílwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), Stó:lō, kʷikʷəƛ̓əm (Kwikwetlem), sc̓áwaθan masteyaxʷ (Tsawwassen), q̓i̓c̓əy (Katzie), q̓ʷɑ:n̓ƛ̓ən (Kwantlen), q̓iqéyt (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.

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy

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

- All those individuals experiencing homelessness who took their time to share their experience with us.
- Individuals with lived and living experience of homelessness who made an invaluable contribution to planning and data collection.
- Lauren Warbeck and the team of peer experts at PHS Community Services Society who helped with the mapping of areas in Vancouver, and data collection.
- The 679 volunteers across the region who gave their time to make sure as many people as possible had the opportunity to participate in the survey.
- TransLink for the donation of bus tickets for youth experiencing homelessness.
- The members of the Community Advisory Board and its’ subcommittees for helping guide this process and inform survey changes.
- All staff and organizations who dedicated time and resources to completing surveys with their clients, and attending planning sessions.

- The implementation team for the Count, including James Caspersen, Rocky James, Patricia Masur, Stephen D’Souza, Dustin Lupick, Chloe Good, Kelly Thoreson, Sara Black, Carol Ann Flanigan, Teresa Rossiello, Jonquil Hallgate, Peter Greenwell, Mariam Larson, Polly Krier, Jon Kirby, Nicole Kiniski, and Anthony Prior.
- Staff at BCNPHA, notably Erika Sagert and Jackson Freidman for their assistance in knowledge translation from previous Counts and day-of implementation.
- Community staff and volunteers who supported their Local Coordinators in mapping street routes, planning events, and ensuring overall participation in this project was accessible to as many as possible.
- 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

To cite this Greater Vancouver Community Entity Report:


Or:

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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
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.

**Total Number of Persons Counted Since 2011**

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**Unsheltered Number of Persons Counted Since 2011**

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**New for 2023 - Did Unsheltered Respondents Feel Safe in the Place They Stayed?**

- **58%** Yes
- **42%** No

**Age Breakdown**

- **8%** Youth Under 25
- **70%** Adult 25-54
- **22%** Senior 55+

**Experienced homelessness for the first time as a youth.**

- **47%**

**Have lived in foster care, a youth group home, or on an independent living agreement.**

- **31%**

**Experienced homelessness for the first time as a senior.**

- **10%**

**Indigenous Identity**

- **33%** of respondents identified as Indigenous

**Compared with 2% of the Census population**

**Residential School**

- **64%** of Indigenous-identifying respondents reported having lived or generational experience with residential school

**Gender**

- **69%** Man
- **28%** Woman
- **3%** Another Gender

**Sexual Orientation**

- **12%** of respondents identified as 2SLGBTQIA+

**Transgender Experience**

- **3%** of respondents identified as having transgender experience

**Racial Identity**

- **6%** Black
- **3%** South Asian
- **3%** Latin American

*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.

- **82%** of respondents have been in the community for more than one year.
- **64%** have been in the community for 5 years or more.
- **21%** have always been in the community.

**Reasons for Housing Loss**

- **35%** Not Enough Income
- **24%** Substance Use Issue
- **16%** Mental Health Issue

**Services Accessed**

- **56%** Food Services
- **53%** Emergency Room
- **46%** Hospital (non-Emergency)

**Health Concerns**

- **47%** Medical Condition
- **40%** Physical Disability
- **53%** Mental Health
- **71%** Addiction
- **27%** Learning Disability

- **30%** Reported an acquired brain injury
- **62%** Reported two or more health concerns

**Income Sources**

- **53%** Income Assistance
- **30%** Disability Benefit
- **8%** CPP or Other Pension

- **93%** Reported having at least one income source
- **9%** Reported having a full or part-time job

**New for 2023 - Preferred Language**

- **97%** English
- **2%** French
- **1%** Other Language

**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**

- **79%** Homeless Shelter
- **51%** Outside
- **41%** Someone Else’s Place

- **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

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.
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 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

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.
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.

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<td>77</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langley</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Shore</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridge Meadows</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-Cities</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>1,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Rock</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEL*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,461</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>2,768</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burnaby</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Rock</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langley</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Shore</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridge Meadows</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>1060</td>
<td>416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-Cities</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>1,364</td>
<td>1,576</td>
<td>1,581</td>
<td>1,803</td>
<td>2,138</td>
<td>2,095</td>
<td>2,420</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEL</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,174</td>
<td>2,660</td>
<td>2,650</td>
<td>2,777</td>
<td>3,605</td>
<td>3,634</td>
<td>4,821</td>
<td>1,187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Experience of Homelessness</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>1,574</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>1,032</td>
<td>1,029</td>
<td>1,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td>1,086</td>
<td>1,892</td>
<td>1,820</td>
<td>2,317</td>
<td>2,364</td>
<td>3,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWR - Sheltered</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,660</td>
<td>2,650</td>
<td>2,777</td>
<td>3,605</td>
<td>3,634</td>
<td>4,821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sheltered, Unsheltered, and Total Homelessness in Greater Vancouver Over Time (2008-2023)
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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-region</th>
<th>2020 Unsheltered Total</th>
<th>2023 Unsheltered Total</th>
<th>Absolute Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burnaby</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>+58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>+18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langley</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>+25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>+16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Shore</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>+5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>+55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridge Meadows</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>+14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>+128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-Cities</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>+38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>+58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Rock</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>+9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEL</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>+8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,029</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,461</strong></td>
<td><strong>+432</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-region</th>
<th>2020 Sheltered</th>
<th>2023 Sheltered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shelters &amp; NFAs</td>
<td>EWR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnaby</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langley</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Shore</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridge Meadows</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-Cities</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Rock</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,364</strong></td>
<td><strong>241</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Indigenous</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,324</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know/ No Answer</td>
<td>1,917</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,241</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in homelessness by Indigenous identity (2008-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Total Respondents</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 damages inflicted by Residential Schools continue to this day.”
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience with Residential School (Indigenous respondents)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes - self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes - parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes - grandparent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/ No Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial Identity</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian - East</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian - South East</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian - South</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian - West</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black - Caribbean and Latin America</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black - African</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black - Canadian/American</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin American</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Listed</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,305</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>2,453</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (groups)</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth (Under 25 Years)</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (25-54 Years)</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior (55+)</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,361</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/ No Answer</td>
<td>1,880</td>
<td></td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,241</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 19 Years</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-25 Years</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 Years</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 Years</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 Years</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 Years</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 Years</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+ Years</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,361</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/ No Answer</td>
<td>1,880</td>
<td></td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,241</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Changes in homelessness by age groups (2008-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age groups</th>
<th>2008 Total</th>
<th>2011 Total</th>
<th>2014 Total</th>
<th>2017 Total</th>
<th>2020 Total</th>
<th>2023 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth (under 25 years)</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults (25-54 years)</td>
<td>1,823</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>1,257</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors (55 years or over)</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total respondents</strong></td>
<td>2,399</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,665</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2,038</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/No answer</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2,660</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2,650</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2,777</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Changes in homelessness by age (2011-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 19 years</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-24 years</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth - unknown age</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 years</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 years</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 years</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 years</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ years</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 years</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+ years</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total respondents</strong></td>
<td>1,665</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2,038</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/No Answer</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>1,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2,650</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2,777</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>3,605</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number of Seniors Experiencing Homelessness 2008-2023

- 2008: 212
- 2011: 268
- 2014: 371
- 2017: 518
- 2020: 513
- 2023: 568
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>931</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agender</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-binary</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-spirit</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not listed</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td>1,357</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / no answer</td>
<td>188.4</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>2,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,241</td>
<td>1,446</td>
<td>4,821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender Identity</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>1,452</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>1,419</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>1,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-binary</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total respondents</td>
<td>2,112</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,955</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/No Answer</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>1,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,650</td>
<td>2,777</td>
<td>3,605</td>
<td>3,634</td>
<td>4,821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelters</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans Experience</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Trans Experience</td>
<td>1,282</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,319</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / no answer / unclear</td>
<td>2,035</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td>1,461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight/Heterosexual</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2SLGBTQA+</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another response (not listed/multiple responses)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,292</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/No Answer</td>
<td>2,062</td>
<td></td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in homelessness by sexual orientation (2020-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual orientation</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2SLGBTQA+</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight/Heterosexual</td>
<td>1,850</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total respondents</td>
<td>2,070</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/No answer</td>
<td>1,564</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,634</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of Time Experiencing Homelessness</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 6 months</td>
<td>313  26%</td>
<td>158  14%</td>
<td>471  20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to and including 7 days</td>
<td>29    2%</td>
<td>18    2%</td>
<td>47    2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 days to &lt; 1 Month</td>
<td>85    7%</td>
<td>31    3%</td>
<td>116   5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 month &lt; 6 months</td>
<td>199   17%</td>
<td>109   10%</td>
<td>308   13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to &lt; 1 year</td>
<td>145   12%</td>
<td>107   10%</td>
<td>252   11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year and over</td>
<td>745   62%</td>
<td>852   76%</td>
<td>1197  69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,203 100%</td>
<td>1,117 100%</td>
<td>2,320 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / no answer / unclear</td>
<td>2,151 100%</td>
<td>344   100%</td>
<td>2,501 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354 100%</td>
<td>1,461 100%</td>
<td>4,821 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Percentage of Respondents by Length of Time Experiencing Homelessness 2008-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Under 6 months</strong></td>
<td>382</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Up to and including 7 days</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8 days to &lt; 1 Month</strong></td>
<td>74</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 month &lt; 6 months</strong></td>
<td>283</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6 months to &lt;1 year</strong></td>
<td>139</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 year</strong></td>
<td>592</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td>1,113</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Don't know / no answer / unclear</strong></td>
<td>2,241</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location When Homelessness Started</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 1 Year</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year to under 5 years</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years to under 10 years</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years or more</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always been here</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,199</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>2,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / no answer</td>
<td>2,155</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>2,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td>1,461</td>
<td>4,821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Conditions</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Condition/Illness</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Issue</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addictions Issue</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Disability or Cognitive Impairment</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,331</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Don’t Know/ No Answer              | 2,023 | 13% | 325 | 3% | 2,354 | 4% |

| Total                              | 3,354 | 100% | 1,461 | 100% | 4,821 | 100% |

Changes in health conditions (2011-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health conditions (more than one response possible)</th>
<th>2011 Total</th>
<th>2014 Total</th>
<th>2017 Total</th>
<th>2020 Total</th>
<th>2023 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical condition/illness</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical disability</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health issue</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addiction</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>1,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning disability or cognitive impairment</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total respondents</td>
<td>1,314</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1,775</td>
<td>1,221</td>
<td>2,160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Number of Health Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Health Concerns</td>
<td>252 (19%)</td>
<td>112 (10%)</td>
<td>364 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Health Concern</td>
<td>316 (24%)</td>
<td>258 (23%)</td>
<td>574 (23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Health Concerns</td>
<td>282 (21%)</td>
<td>254 (22%)</td>
<td>536 (22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Health Concerns</td>
<td>232 (17%)</td>
<td>228 (20%)</td>
<td>460 (19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Health Concerns</td>
<td>175 (13%)</td>
<td>185 (16%)</td>
<td>360 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Health Concerns</td>
<td>74 (6%)</td>
<td>99 (9%)</td>
<td>173 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td>1,331 (100%)</td>
<td>1,336 (100%)</td>
<td>2,667 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know / no answer / unclear</td>
<td>2,023</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>2,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td>1,461</td>
<td>4,815</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Acquired Brain Injury

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquired brain injury</td>
<td>321 (25%)</td>
<td>384 (36%)</td>
<td>705 (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No acquired brain injury</td>
<td>964 (75%)</td>
<td>686 (64%)</td>
<td>1,650 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td>1,285 (100%)</td>
<td>1,070 (100%)</td>
<td>2,355 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know/ No Answer</td>
<td>2,069</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>2,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td>1,461</td>
<td>4,815</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Health Conditions (2011-2023)**

![Graph showing health conditions over time](image-url)
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age First Homeless</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth (Under 25 Years)</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (25-54 Years)</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior (55+)</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td>1,186</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/ No Answer</td>
<td>2,055</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,241</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of Income</th>
<th>Sheltered #</th>
<th>Sheltered %</th>
<th>Unsheltered #</th>
<th>Unsheltered %</th>
<th>Total #</th>
<th>Total %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welfare/ Income Assistance</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>1,292</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability benefit (e.g. PWD, PPMB)</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST/HST refund</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal Employment</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money from family/ friends</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Income</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Casual (e.g. Contract work)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPP or other pension</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Part Time</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Full Time</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex work</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Age Security (OAS)/ guaranteed income supplement</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honouraria</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Insurance</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child and Family Tax Benefit</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Agreement</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran VAC benefits</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,308</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,126</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,434</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,821%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know / no answer / unclear</td>
<td><strong>2,046</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>335</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,387</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,821%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,354</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,461</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4,821</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
38% of respondents identified as having two or more income sources.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,099</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/ No Answer</td>
<td>2,255</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough income for housing</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addiction/ substance use issue</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landlord/ Tenant conflict</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health issue</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict with spouse/partner</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical health issue</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other reason</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfit/Unsafe housing condition</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict with parent/guardian</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict with other</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced abuse by spouse/partner</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death or departure of family member</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building sold or renovated</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incarceration (jail or prison)</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced discrimination</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalization or treatment program</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left the community</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint (E.g. Pets/noise/damage)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced abuse by parent/guardian/caregiver</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced abuse by Other</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner moved in</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest policy</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent supplement expired</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place not physically accessible</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced abuse by child/dependent</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,297</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/ No Answer</td>
<td>2,057</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>2,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th></th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1,235</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>1,005</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>2,240</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,302</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,079</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2,381</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/ No Answer</td>
<td>2,052</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2,440</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,461</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,815</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newcomers - Immigrants or Refugee</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant or Refugee</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Immigrant/ Refugee</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>1,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,294</td>
<td>1,097</td>
<td>2,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/ No Answer</td>
<td>2,060</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>2,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td>1,461</td>
<td>4,821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newcomers - Entry into Canada</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Claimant</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Visa</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Visa</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Foreign Visa</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Newcomer Respondents</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know / no answer</td>
<td>3,075</td>
<td>3,944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td>1,461</td>
<td>4,333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newcomers - Time in Canada</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 1 Year</td>
<td>60 5%</td>
<td>8 1%</td>
<td>68 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year to under 5 years</td>
<td>33 3%</td>
<td>4 0%</td>
<td>37 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years to under 10 years</td>
<td>18 1%</td>
<td>7 1%</td>
<td>25 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years or more</td>
<td>12.4 10%</td>
<td>55 5%</td>
<td>179 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Immigrant/ Refugee</td>
<td>1,013 81%</td>
<td>983 93%</td>
<td>1,996 87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,248 100%</td>
<td>1,057 100%</td>
<td>2,305 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know / no answer</td>
<td>2,106</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>2,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td>1,461</td>
<td>4,821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With someone the night of the count</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With Someone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child/Children</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet(s)</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not listed</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Specified</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alone</td>
<td>1,174</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>2,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,344</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2,496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know/ No Answer</td>
<td>2,010</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preferred Language</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>1,257</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>1,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other preferred language</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,306</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know/ No Answer</td>
<td>2,048</td>
<td></td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farsi</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantonese or Chinese written in</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjabi</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amharic</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esperanto</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagalog</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other languages with one response each</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Felt Safe There - Yes</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outside</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makeshift shelter or tent</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned/vacant building</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone else's place or couch surfing</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A client's place</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel/ motel, where the respondent pays to stay for less than 30 days</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel/ motel, where an organization pays</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not listed</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,446</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>58%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Don't know / no answer / unclear</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,461</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>% Felt Safe There - Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outside</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makeshift shelter or tent</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned/vacant building</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone else's place or couch surfing</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A client's place</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel/ motel, where the respondent pays to stay for less than 30 days</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel/ motel, where an organization pays</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not listed</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td><strong>58%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless shelter</td>
<td>1,196</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside or unsheltered in a public place</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone else's place or couch surfing</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encampment</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel/ motel (funded by government organization)</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional housing</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second stage housing - AFTER transition house</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second stage housing - AFTER addictions treatment</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the listed</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1,302</td>
<td>1,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / no answer / unclear</td>
<td>2,052</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Methodology and Limitations
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

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<td>Delta</td>
<td>Delta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Peace Arch</td>
<td>White Rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Langley Memorial</td>
<td>Langley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Eagle Ridge</td>
<td>Tri-Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Ridge Meadows</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Burnaby</td>
<td>Burnaby Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corrections</td>
<td>Surrey RCMP</td>
<td>Surrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrections</td>
<td>Delta Police</td>
<td>Delta</td>
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<td>Ridge Meadows RCMP</td>
<td>Ridge Meadows</td>
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<td>Vancouver Police</td>
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<td>Richmond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrections</td>
<td>Burnaby RCMP</td>
<td>Burnaby</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendices
Appendix A. Survey Instrument

Survey #: ___________________________  Interviewer Name: ___________________________

STREET Survey | 2023 Homeless Count

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

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. Where did you stay last night?
   [check one]
   - Shelter, Safe House, Transition House.
   - Detox/Hospital/Jail.
   - Hotel/motel where I pay to stay for <30 days.
   - Hotel/motel where an organization is paying.
   - Parent(s) or guardian’s house
   - I can safely stay as long as I want
   - This is a temporary situation and I have a house or apartment I can safely return to
   - This is a temp. situation and I do not have a house or apartment to safely return to
   - Own place inside where you pay rent.
   - Specify: _________________________________

4. Did you feel safe there?
   [check one]
   - Yes (Go to Q.4)
   - No (Go to Q.4)
   - Don’t know/No answer (Go to Q.4)

5. How old are you
   - Age ______   Year _____________
   - Don’t know/No answer

6. What gender do you identify with? [Show & check one]
   - Man
   - 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]
   - Identifying 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-Latino (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-Latino)
   - 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 ______
    - 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)/Dependants: #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]
   - Medical Condition/Illness
   - Physical Disability
   - Mental Health Issue
   - Addiction
   - Learning Disability or Cognitive Impairment

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
   - Years
   - 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:______________

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

18. Did you, your parents, or grandparents ever attend a 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
     - Experienced abuse by: 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
### 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.3)
   - 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 ______
   - 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: _______ _______ _______
   - 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]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical Condition/illness</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don't know/No answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Issue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addiction</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Disability or Cognitive Impairment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
- Years

15a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. city)?

Community: __________ AND province: __________

- 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]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Supports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital (non-emergency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental clinic or dentist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervised Injection Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Other) addiction services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment and Financial services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services. Specify: __________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupants</th>
<th>Notes (Anything of interest)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults (&gt;25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied Youth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompanied Children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.