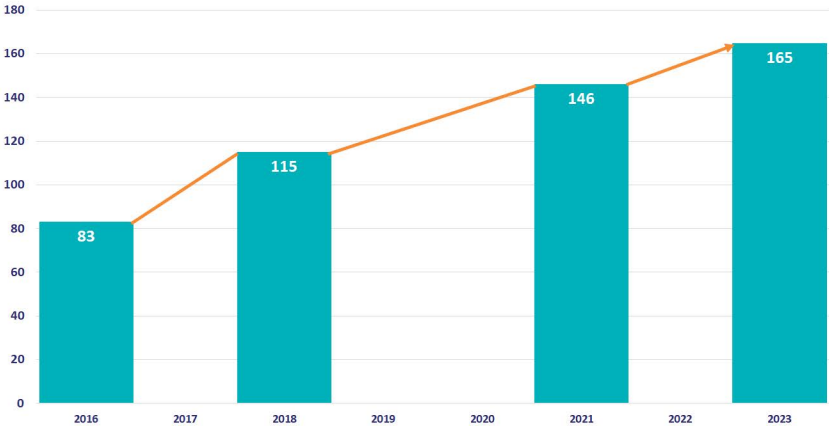


# Salt Spring Island - 2023 Homeless Count

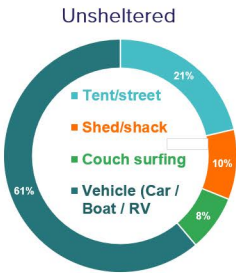
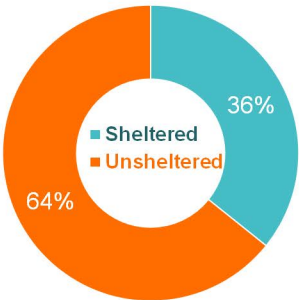
165

People were identified as experiencing homelessness

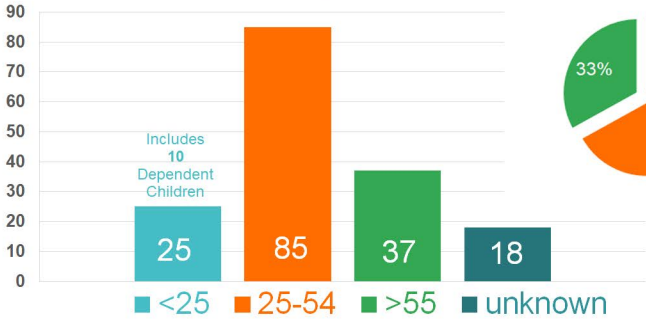
Point-in-Time Homeless Count  
Salt Spring Island  
2016-2023



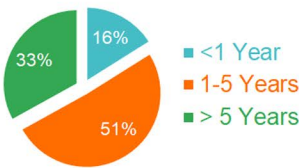
Where Did Individuals Stay?



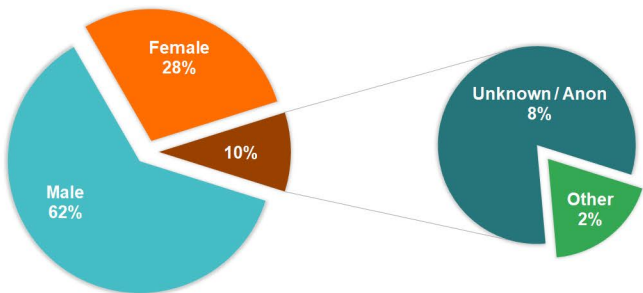
Age



Length of Time in Community



Gender



For the purpose of this count, an individual **was defined as experiencing homelessness if they did not have a place of their own where they paid rent and could expect to stay for at least 30 days.** This included people who:

- Stayed overnight on the night of the count 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”); and,
- Stayed outside in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks and vehicles or were staying temporarily at someone else’s place (couch surfing) and/or using homelessness services (defined as “unsheltered”).

**A note about boats:**

Salt Spring Island has a sizeable population of homeless individuals finding shelter on derelict boats and living offshore in a number of harbours and bays. These are not seaworthy boats in properly serviced moorage.

This manner of shelter is extremely high-risk and is of great concern to service providers and first responders. Health and safety risks that have occurred include:unsanitary living, fire, weather exposure, complicated access for police and first responders as well as the stress experienced by occupants being ill-equipped to reside in a marine environment.

Island Community Services operates the Emergency Shelter on Salt Spring Island with a capacity of 30 year-round. During the winter of 2022-2023 there was also added capacity of 10 for Extreme Weather Response.

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services