

2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver

Preliminary Data Report – July 2025



Prepared for Lu'ma Native Housing Society
by the Homelessness Services Association of BC
in consultation with the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee

How To Cite

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Thank You

The 2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver (“the 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.
- The 383 volunteers and agency staff across the region who gave their time to make sure as many people as possible had the opportunity to participate in the survey.
- The 220 individuals with lived and living experience of homelessness that participated in conducting surveys on the day of the Count.
- The members of the Greater Vancouver Designated Community Advisory Board (DCAB) and the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee (IHSC) for their guidance and support. In particular, the Project Management Team and Project Spokespersons: Lorraine Copas (Chair of the DCAB), David Wells (Chair of the IHSC), Dr. Patrick Stewart (Lu’ma), Linda Lavallee (Lu’ma), Dr. Dave Baspaly (Infocus), Cheryl Hogg (Infocus) and Stephen D’Souza (HSABC).
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- 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.
- The BC Society of Transition Houses for supporting training and implementation of the survey in their member organizations.
- Staff at the Fraser Health Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, and BC Corrections, for helping collect data on individuals with no fixed address within their facilities on the night of the Count.
- TransLink for the donation of bus tickets for youth experiencing homelessness.

About the 2025 Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver

Point-in-time 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 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.

The definition of homelessness used in the 2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver (“the Count”) is someone who does not have a place to pay rent¹. Individuals were counted if they:

- **Stayed overnight on March 10th** in a homeless shelter, transition or safe house, or temporarily in a hospital, jail or detox facility and do not have a place where they pay rent (defined as “sheltered”); or,
- **Were found by interviewers on March 11th** and completed a survey indicating that they do not have a place where they paid rent (defined as “unsheltered”).

¹ 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.

As in prior years, this definition ignores those “who have no security of tenure beyond a thirty-day period” and lacks an understanding of Indigenous homelessness in its entirety – which “describes those who have suffered from the effects of colonization and whose social, economic, and political conditions have placed them in a disadvantaged position”. The count’s definition of homelessness is “problematic from an Indigenous perspective” and “serves to under-report and mischaracterize the magnitude of Indigenous homelessness”. [Infocus Consulting \(2023\), Understanding Indigenous Homelessness: Indigenous Homelessness Count in Metro Vancouver 2023, Lu’ma Native Housing Society, Vancouver, BC](#)

Some important considerations about the point-in-time homeless counts:

- Participation is anonymous, confidential, and voluntary. This is one reason that point-in-time counts are typically undercounts – if an individual does not want to participate, and were unsheltered, they are not counted. However, for the 2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver, interviewers were trained to encourage respondents to complete the screening questions (the first four questions) to be counted, and specific strategies were implemented to engage with traditionally undercounted communities (Indigenous people, youth, women and people of gender diverse experiences) to mitigate the limitations of the methodology.
- The benefit of continuing with point-in-time counts is how the relatively consistent use of the methodology reveals trends over time. Therefore, the snapshot that comes from point-in-time counts, when framed with local context (i.e. new supportive housing or housing support programs), can help guide policy development and program decision-making.

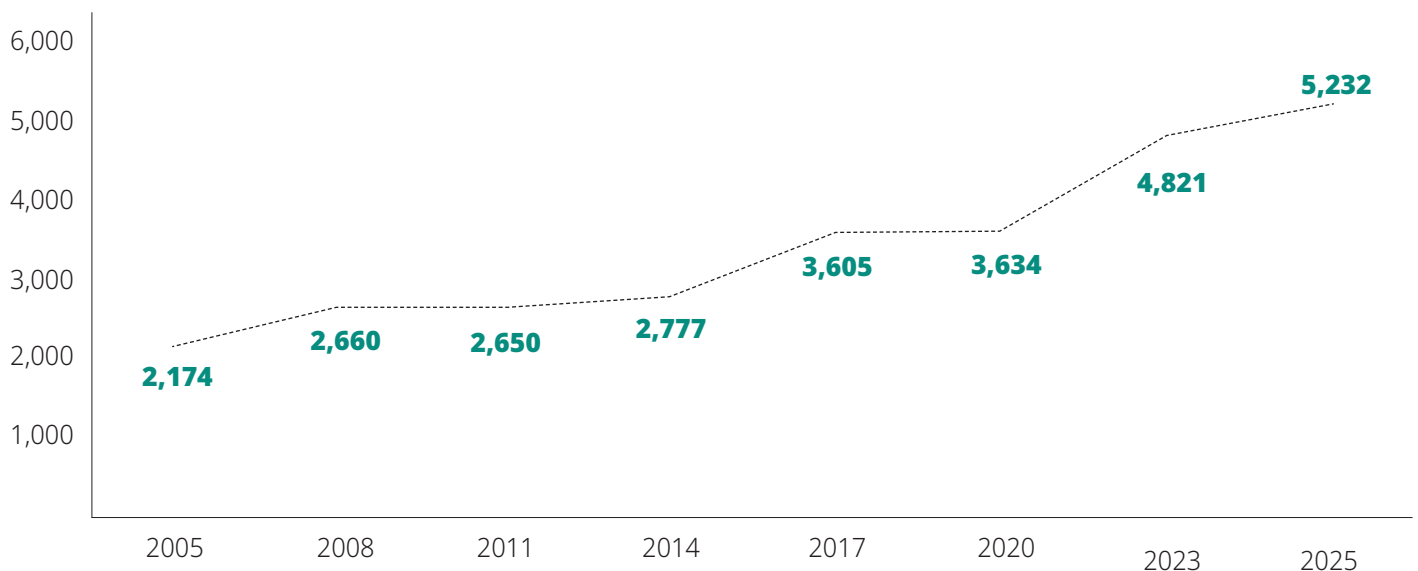
This Preliminary Report presents some high-level data from the 2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver. **A more fulsome Final Report with additional findings from the Count and some meaningful analysis is anticipated in the Fall 2025.**

Results from the 2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver

5,232 individuals were experiencing homelessness on March 10th and 11th, across Greater Vancouver (see Figure 1).

The total number of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness includes people who were counted by either completing a survey, or were counted in a shelter, transition house, safe home, hospital, local holding cells or detox centre.

Figure 1: Total number of individuals counted as part of point-in-time homeless counts in Greater Vancouver (2005-2025)



The total number of **individuals experiencing homelessness from 2023 to 2025 increased by 9% across the region.**

This increase is consistent with the growth trend since regional point-in-time homeless counts began in 2005, with the total number of **individuals experiencing homelessness from 2005 to 2025 increasing by 141%**. Comparatively, Statistics Canada estimates that the Vancouver census metropolitan area's total population from 2005 to 2024 has increased by 44%².

Of important note, the over-representation of Indigenous Peoples among the homeless population has remained relatively similar from 2005 to 2025, at 34%, with the number of **respondents who identified as Indigenous increasing from 515 in 2005 to 1,068 in 2025** (see Table 9). This continued over-representation reflects the "enduring effects of colonization, the legacy of the residential school system and the impact of child welfare and the foster care system continue to impact the daily experience of many Indigenous Peoples and families, and directly contribute to the high incidence of Indigenous homelessness"³.

² [Statistics Canada \(2025\), Population estimates, July 1, by census metropolitan area and census agglomeration, 2021 boundaries](#)

³ [Infocus Consulting \(2023\), Understanding Indigenous Homelessness: Indigenous Homelessness Count in Metro Vancouver 2023, Lu'ma Native Housing Society. Vancouver, BC](#)

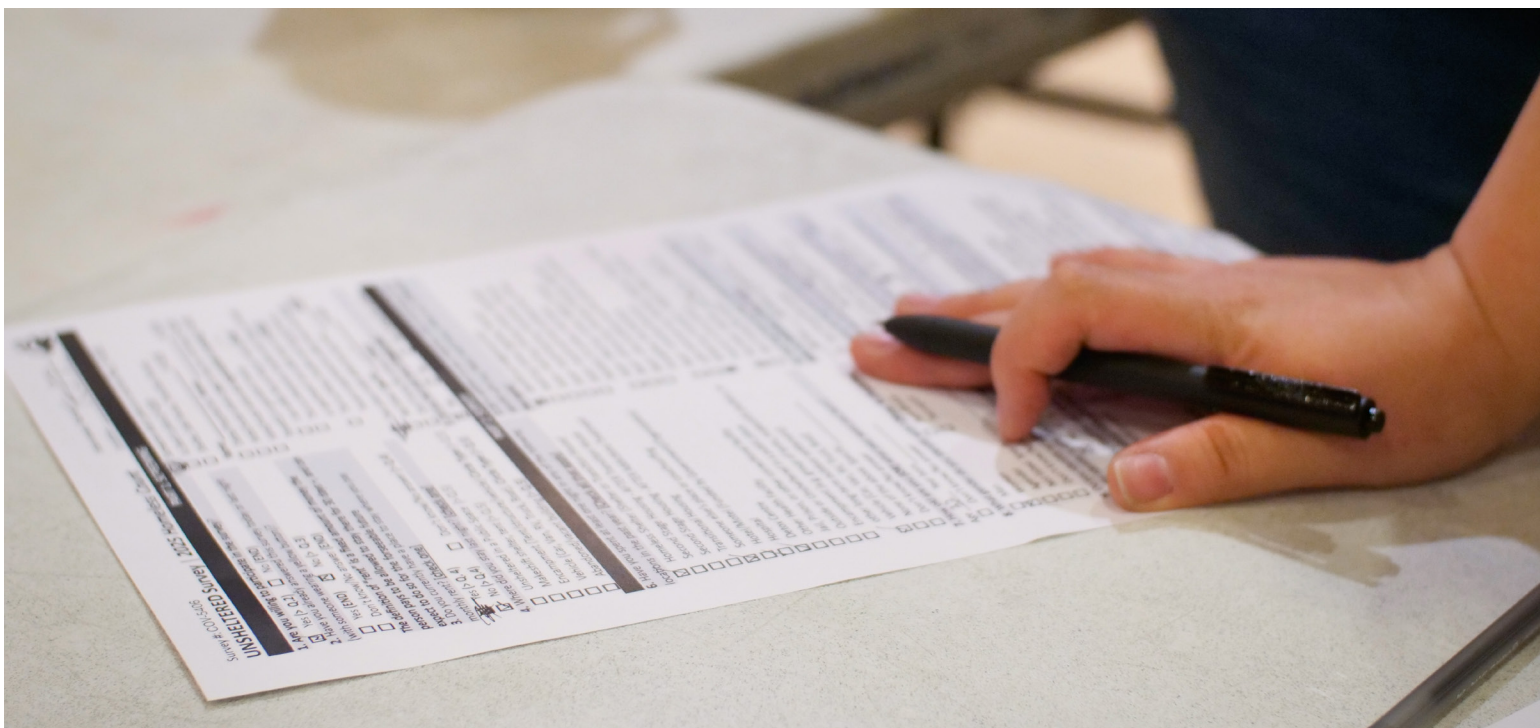
Sheltered and Unsheltered Homelessness Greater Vancouver

Based on where they stayed, survey respondents are considered to be either unsheltered or sheltered. Table 1 shows the number of respondents since 2005 who were sheltered or unsheltered on the night of March 10th, 2025, and the percentage of each compared to the total enumeration for that year.

The number of **respondents who were unsheltered increased by 30% from 1,461 individuals in 2023**, to 1,893 in 2025. And, the proportion of those who are experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered is increasing, from 30% in 2023 to 36% in 2025.

Table 1: Unsheltered and sheltered homelessness - Trends (2005-2025)

Type of Experience of Homelessness	2005		2008		2011		2014		2017		2020		2023		2025	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Unsheltered	1,047	48	1,574	59	758	29	957	34	1,032	29	1,029	28	1,461	30	1,893	36
Sheltered	1,127	52	1,086	41	1,892	71	1,820	66	2,573	71	2,605	72	3,360	70	3,339	64
Total	2,174		2,660		2,650		2,777		3,605		3,634		4,821		5,232	



Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Community

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. The following three tables present the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (table 2), sheltered homelessness (table 3) and total homelessness in each Sub-Region (table 4). These tables provide a comparison of the 2023 and 2025 Counts, expressed as an absolute change and percentage change.

The number of individuals found to be experiencing **unsheltered homelessness from 2023 to 2025 increased by 434 people across the region.**

Unsheltered includes survey respondents who do not have a place to pay rent and stayed on the night of March 10th, 2025:

- in an encampment;
- in an alley, doorway, parkade, park or vehicle;
- temporarily at someone else's place (couch surfing);
- temporarily in a hotel paid for by themselves or an organization/government; or
- a client's place (referring to a sex work transaction).

Unsheltered also includes survey respondents who indicated that they had been evicted from their current housing and had to vacate before the end of March, with no prospects for immediate rehousing.

Table 2: Changes in unsheltered homelessness by sub-region (2023-2025)

Sub-region	2023 Unsheltered	2025 Unsheltered	2023-2025 Change	
			#	%
Burnaby	77	97	+20	+26%
Delta	27	58	+31	+115%
Langley	133	138	+5	+4%
New Westminster	57	74	+17	+30%
North Shore	51	85	+34	+67%
Richmond	80	71	-9	-11%
Ridge Meadows	49	78	+31	+66%
Surrey	301	439	+138	+46%
Tri-Cities	62	69	+7	+11%
Vancouver	605	763	+158	+26%
White Rock	11	18	+7	+64%
UEL ⁴	8	3	-5	-63%
Total	1,461	1,893	+434	+30%

⁴ UBC Campus Security, in partnership with on-campus groups, conducted an independent count on March 11th, 2025, on the University Endowment Lands using the same survey as the rest of the Count, but was not funded by Reaching Home.

The number of individuals experiencing homelessness who were **sheltered from 2023 to 2025 was relatively similar.**

Table 3: Changes in sheltered homelessness by sub-region (2023-2025)

Sub-region	2023 Sheltered	2025 Sheltered	2023-2025 Change	
			#	%
Burnaby	132	108	-24	-18%
Delta	17	17	0	0%
Langley	102	105	+3	+3%
New Westminster	146	143	-3	-2%
North Shore	117	83	-34	-29%
Richmond	82	104	+22	+27%
Ridge Meadows	86	105	+19	+22%
Surrey	759	639	-120	-16%
Tri-Cities	98	75	-23	-23%
Vancouver	1,815	1,952	+137	+8%
White Rock	6	8	+2	+33%
Total	3,360	3,339	-21	-1%

Sheltered includes those who stayed on the night of March 10th, 2025, in:

- an Emergency Shelter, a Temporary Winter Shelter or an Extreme Weather Response Shelter;
- a Transition House for those fleeing gender-based violence or a youth safe house;
- a hotel or motel, but this accommodation was a temporary situation and they had no housing to safely return to; or
- a hospital, local holding cell or detox facility who are expected to be discharged or released in 30 days or less from March 10th and have no fixed address to return to when they have been discharged or released.

Administrative data collected from these locations is used to determine the sheltered enumeration. Those who stayed in a shelter and transition house were asked to complete surveys and, on March 11th, interviewers completed surveys with respondents who had stayed in a shelter the night before. To avoid “double counting”, surveys conducted with those who were sheltered on March 10th are not included in the unsheltered enumeration (because they are already included in the sheltered enumeration), but their survey responses are included in the demographic characteristics and service use information.

The total number of individuals experiencing homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered, from 2023 to 2025 **increased by 9% across the region.**

Table 4: Changes in the number and percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness by sub-region (2023-2025)

Sub-region	2023 Total	2025 Total	2023-2025 Change	
			#	%
Burnaby	209	205	-4	-2%
Delta	44	75	+31	+70%
Langley	235	243	+8	+3%
New Westminster	203	217	+14	+7%
North Shore	168	168	0	0%
Richmond	162	175	+13	+8%
Ridge Meadows	135	183	+50	+38%
Surrey	1,060	1,078	+18	+2%
Tri-Cities	160	144	-16	-10%
Vancouver	2,420	2,715	+295	+12%
White Rock	17	26	+9	+53%
UEL ⁴	8	3	-5	-63%
Total	4,821	5,232	+411	+9%

⁴ UBC Campus Security, in partnership with on-campus groups, conducted an independent count on March 11th, 2025, on the University Endowment Lands using the same survey as the rest of the Count, but was not funded by Reaching Home.

High-level Profile of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

This preliminary profile 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.

A more fulsome Final Report with additional findings from the Count and some meaningful analysis is anticipated in the Fall 2025.

Age

Respondents were asked “How old are you, or what year were you born?” with only one response (age or year born) being required.

Over one in five respondents identified as being a senior (fifty-five years of age or older⁵).

Table 5: Age groups by sheltered, unsheltered and total

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	86	5%	86	6%	172	6%
Adult (25-54 Years)	1,110	68%	1,071	76%	2,171	72%
Senior (55+)	433	27%	244	17%	677	22%
Total Respondents	1,619		1,401		3,020	
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,720		492		2,212	
Total	3,339		1,893		5,232	

⁵ Fifty-five years of age or older is used as the benchmark for “senior” in this report as it aligns with the eligibility for [BC Housing's Seniors' Supportive Housing program](#). Additionally, it is consistent with previous count reporting.

Gender Identity and 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.

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

Gender identity and 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.

31% of respondents identified as a woman, this is an increase from 28% in 2023⁶.

Table 6: Gender identity by sheltered, unsheltered and total

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man	1,008	64%	1,037	69%	2,125	67%
Woman	554	33%	423	28%	977	31%
Another Gender Identity (including multiple responses)	48	3%	45	3%	93	3%
Total Respondents	1,690		1,505		3,195	
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,649		388		2,037	
Total	3,339		1,893		5,232	

4% of respondents identified as someone with trans experience, this is an increase from 3% in 2023.

Table 7: Transgender experience by sheltered, unsheltered and total

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Trans Experience	70	4%	34	3%	104	4%
No Trans Experience	1,527	96%	1,274	97%	2,801	96%
Total Respondents	1,597		1,308		2,905	
Don't know / no answer / unclear	1,742		585		2,327	
Total	3,339		1,893		5,232	

⁶ Homelessness Services Association of BC (2023). 2023 Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver. Prepared for the Greater Vancouver Reaching Home Community Entity. Vancouver, BC.

Sexual Orientation

Respondents were asked “How do you describe your sexual orientation?”, Response options were Straight/heterosexual, Asexual, Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Pansexual, Two-Spirit, Questioning and Queer.

As with the question on gender, sexual orientation is an important consideration when planning support and homelessness prevention services.

12% of respondents described their sexual orientation as Asexual, Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Pansexual, Two-Spirit, Questioning and/or Queer.

Table 8: Sexual orientation by sheltered, unsheltered and total

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/heterosexual	1,381	87%	1,201	89%	2,582	88%
Asexual, Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Pansexual, Two-Spirit, Questioning and/or Queer	201	13%	148	11%	349	12%
Total Respondents	1,582		1,349		2,931	
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,757		544		2,301	
Total	3,339		1,893		5,232	



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”.

In total, **1,068 respondents identified as Indigenous**. The percentage of respondents who identify as Indigenous increased from 33% in 2023 to 34% in 2025.

Table 9: Indigenous identity by sheltered, unsheltered and total

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous	488	29%	580	40%	1,068	34%
Not Indigenous	1,181	71%	872	60%	2,053	66%
Total Respondents	1,669		1,452		3,121	
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,670		441		2,111	
Total	3,339		1,893		5,232	

It is important to note that Indigenous persons are overrepresented in unsheltered populations experiencing homelessness (Table 10). While 42% of non-Indigenous respondents were unsheltered, **54% of Indigenous respondents were experiencing unsheltered homelessness**.

Table 10: Sheltered and unsheltered by Indigenous identity

	Indigenous		Not Indigenous		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered	488	46%	1,181	58%	1,669	53%
Unsheltered	580	54%	872	42%	1,452	47%
Total Respondents	1,068		2,053		3,121	

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 Census⁷.

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 national identity. This was a check all that apply question; many of those who responded as such did include another response.

60% of respondents identified as White.

This is a decrease from 63% in 2023.

9% of respondents identified as Black.

This is an increase from 6% in 2023.

Table 11: Racial identity by sheltered, unsheltered and total

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Arab	21	1%	15	1%	36	1%
Asian - East	45	3%	31	2%	76	3%
Asian - South East	30	2%	17	1%	47	2%
Asian - South	69	4%	42	3%	111	4%
Asian - West	37	2%	16	1%	53	2%
Black	188	12%	67	5%	255	9%
<i>Black - Caribbean and Latin America</i>	43	3%	23	2%	66	2%
<i>Black - African</i>	65	4%	27	2%	92	3%
<i>Black - Canadian/American</i>	88	5%	26	2%	114	4%
Latin American	60	4%	54	4%	114	4%
White	955	59%	830	61%	1,785	60%
Not Listed	47	3%	30	2%	77	3%
Total Respondents	1,631		1,358		2,989	
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,708	68%	535		2,243	
Total	3,339		1,893		5,232	

⁷ Statistics Canada (2022), Visible Minority and Population Group Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021

