

2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.

Prepared by Homelessness Services Association of BC,
Urban Matters and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association

December 2018



BC HOUSING
RESEARCH CENTRE

Acknowledgements

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With Gratitude

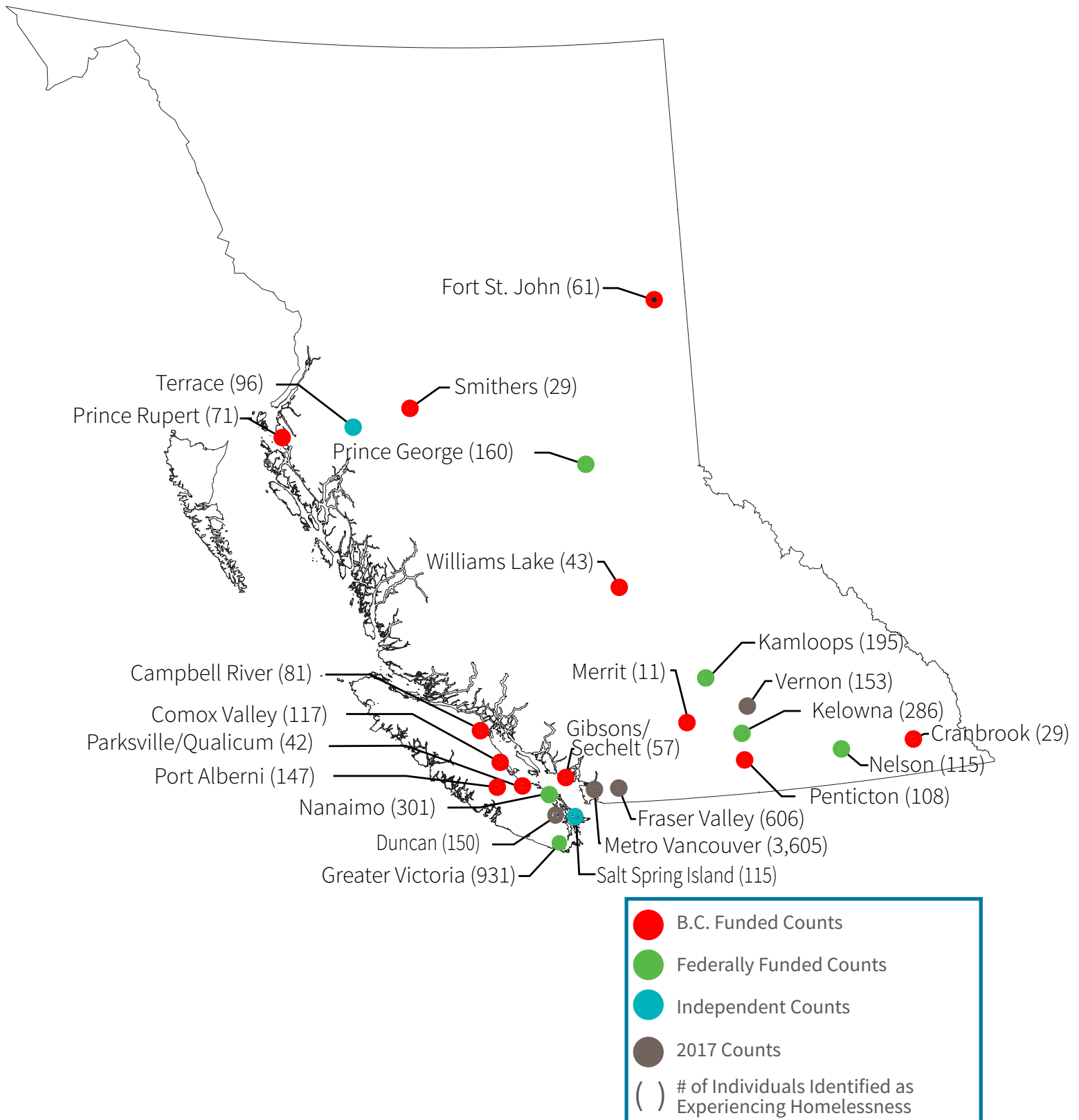
This research project would not have been possible without the participation and support of many individuals and organizations. The Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC), Urban Matters and BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) would like to thank all the agencies, service providers, government staff and others who helped organize and implement the count.

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- › All the individuals currently experiencing homelessness who gave their time to respond to our survey and share their personal information and stories which form the foundation of this report. Without their time and contribution, this project would not have been possible.
- › The almost 300 volunteers in the 12 count communities who gave so generously of their time to attend a training session and participate in one or more homeless count shifts to collect data.
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Map of Participating Communities



Executive Summary

2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.

This report summarizes findings from 24 homeless counts conducted in communities across British Columbia. It also includes shelter data from communities that were not involved in a homeless count. The result is an overall snapshot of homelessness in B.C. The data presented here will inform B.C.'s Homelessness Action Plan and provide a baseline to measure progress.

In spring of 2018, the Province of British Columbia funded homeless counts in 12 B.C. communities. The Homelessness Services Association of BC, Urban Matters and the BC Non-profit Housing Association coordinated these counts and combined the results with available data from 12 additional counts and shelters to prepare this report. Sources of data include:

- › 12 homeless counts funded by the provincial government (March/April 2018)
- › Six homeless counts funded by the federal government through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and two independent homeless counts (March/April 2018)
- › Four additional counts (2017)
- › Shelter data from other B.C. communities (collected by BC Housing)¹

Key findings from the report are provided below. Percentages are based on the number of people who responded to survey questions and not the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness.

Total Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

A total of 7,655 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in the 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. This included 219 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.² The majority were sheltered (63%) and 37% were unsheltered.

Fewer Women Counted

Among those who responded to the survey, 68% identified as male and 30% as female. Two percent (2%) of respondents self-identified a gender identity other than male or female.

Seniors and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Twenty percent (20%) of all survey respondents were seniors (55+ years of age) and 15% were youth (under 25 years of age).

Twenty-nine percent (29%) of survey respondents reported they had been in foster care, a youth group home, or under a youth agreement. In the Fraser Valley, Prince George, Williams Lake, and Campbell River, more than 40% of respondents reported that they had been in care. Fifty-one percent (51%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age.

1 This includes data obtained for the night of March 20, 2018 from BC Housing funded shelters, transition houses for women and their children at risk of violence, and safe homes located in communities that were not involved in a homeless count. The number of people staying in these facilities is included in the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

2 1,616 respondents did not report their age.

Indigenous People Overrepresented

A total of 1,904 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 38% of all respondents. According to the 2016 Census, Indigenous people accounted for six percent (6%) of B.C.'s total population.³ The proportion of survey respondents identifying as Indigenous was higher for unsheltered (42%) than sheltered respondents (32%).

High Rents, Low Incomes and Lack of Suitable Housing Options Main Barriers to Accessing Housing

The three main barriers to accessing housing identified by survey respondents were high rents (53%), low incomes (51%), and a lack of available, suitable housing (30%).

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in Poor Health

More than half of survey respondents (58%) reported two or more health conditions.⁴ The majority of respondents (56%) reported an addiction, 44% reported a medical condition, 40% reported a mental illness, and 33% reported a physical disability.

Sources of Income

Survey respondents identified a range of income sources. The most commonly reported sources of income identified by survey respondents were income assistance (40%), disability benefits (29%), informal/self employment (29%), and employment (18%). Ten percent (10%) of respondents reported having no income.

History of Homelessness

Nearly one-third of survey respondents (31%) reported being homeless for less than six months, while about half (52%) reported being homeless for one year or more. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than six months compared to unsheltered respondents (38% vs. 25%). Fifty-eight percent (58%) of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 45% of sheltered respondents.

Survey respondents were likely to be long term community residents – 31% of respondents had lived in the community where they were surveyed for ten or more years, and an additional 19% had lived there all their lives.

³ <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/rt-td/ap-pa-eng.cfm>

⁴ This data is only available for the 12 B.C. count communities.

Infographic⁵

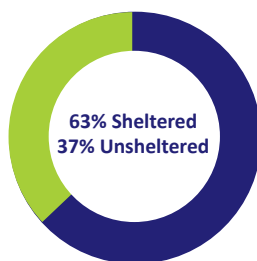
Highlights

This infographic includes data from 24 homeless counts conducted in communities across B.C. The counts took place in 2017 and the spring of 2018. This data provides an overall snapshot of homelessness in B.C., informs B.C.'s Homelessness Action Plan, and will provide a baseline to measure progress.

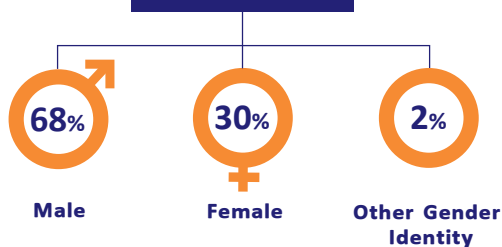


7,655

People were identified as experiencing homelessness



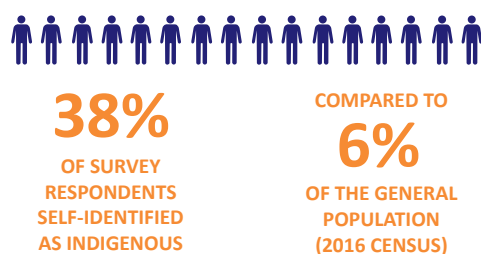
GENDER IDENTITY



AGE BREAKDOWN



INDIGENOUS OVERREPRESENTATION



MAIN BARRIERS TO ACCESSING HOUSING



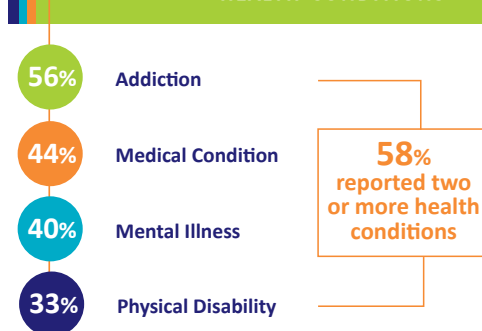
SOURCES OF INCOME



LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS



HEALTH CONDITIONS



LENGTH OF TIME LIVED IN COMMUNITY



5 Percentages are based on the number of people who responded to survey questions and not the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness.

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1 | Introduction

This report summarizes findings from 24 homeless counts conducted in communities across British Columbia. It also includes shelter data from communities that were not involved in a homeless count. The result is an overall snapshot of homelessness in B.C. The data presented here will inform B.C.'s Homelessness Action Plan and provide a baseline to measure progress.

1.1 About this Report

In spring of 2018, the Province of British Columbia funded homeless counts in 12 B.C. communities. The Homelessness Services Association of BC, Urban Matters and the BC Non-profit Housing Association coordinated these counts and combined the results with available data from 12 additional counts and shelters to prepare this report. Sources of data include:

- › 12 homeless counts funded by the provincial government (March/April 2018)⁶
- › Six homeless counts funded by the federal government through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and two independent homeless counts (March/April 2018)
- › Four additional counts (2017)
- › Shelter data from other B.C. communities (collected by BC Housing)⁷

For a list of communities included in this report, see Section 5.1.

This approach provides a broad picture of homelessness in British Columbia with coverage of more than 85 percent (85%) of the province by population. The Province plans to coordinate homeless counts every two years, with the next one scheduled for 2020. This timing will coincide with homeless counts that will be funded by the federal government.

1.2 About Homeless Counts

The 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. provides important baseline information on the estimated number, key demographic and service provision needs of people experiencing homelessness in communities across B.C.⁸ Point-in-Time (PiT) counts have been conducted every three years in Metro Vancouver since 2002. Several other communities have also carried out homeless counts over the years, and the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy has supported counts in designated communities across Canada in 2016 and 2018.

A PiT count provides a snapshot of people who are experiencing homelessness in a 24-hour period. For the purpose of the 2018 homeless counts conducted in the 12 provincially funded B.C. communities, an individual was defined as experiencing homelessness *if they do not have a place of their own where they pay rent and can 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, and people with no fixed address staying temporarily in hospitals, jails or detox facilities (defined as "sheltered");

⁶ In this report, these are referred to as the B.C. count communities or Core communities.

⁷ This includes data obtained for the night of March 20, 2018 from BC Housing funded shelters, transition houses for women and their children at risk of violence, and safe homes located in communities that were not involved in a homeless count. The number of people staying in these facilities is included in the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

⁸ Note that counts in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, and Greater Victoria included multiple communities.

- › Stayed outside in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks and vehicles or people who were staying temporarily at someone else's place (couch surfing) and/or those using homelessness services (defined as “unsheltered”).

PiT counts are an undercount and represent only those individuals identified during the 24-hour period. The number of people who are actually experiencing homelessness is greater than what is presented in this report. Despite this, the PiT count is an accepted methodological tool for collecting data on homelessness at a single Point-in-Time. When communities conduct counts at the same time of year using a common approach, the results can be used to build a better understanding of homelessness in B.C.

1.3 Limitations and Methodological Considerations

The following section outlines some of the challenges of accurately estimating homelessness as highlighted in the 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver.⁹ Please also see Section 4 for a more detailed methodological overview.

PiT counts provide a 24-hour snapshot of homelessness, which is not the same as estimating the number of people who move in and out of homelessness over time. Individual circumstances can change and over the course of a year, some people will become homeless for the first time, some will find permanent housing, and others will find temporary housing and cycle in and out of homelessness.

1. The PiT count methodology is most effective at counting one segment of the homeless population that is sometimes referred to as the “visible” homeless. This population is shown above the waterline in Figure 1. Using the metaphor of an iceberg, the visible homeless represent just the tip of the iceberg — and are the focus of this report.
2. The “hidden” homeless includes people who do not have a regular address of their own where they have security of tenure. The hidden homeless, for the purpose of the count, includes people who are staying temporarily with friends— often called “couch surfing.” They may also be living in forests or parks, vehicles, or in abandoned buildings, which makes it difficult for survey volunteers to find them. In developing and implementing counts in each of the 12 B.C. funded communities, HSABC worked with local agencies and service providers to ensure at least one event was held in each community that provided food or other services to community members. The goal of these magnet events was to draw people to services where they could complete the survey and be included in this report. While this approach likely resulted in some additional surveys being completed, it is likely still a small proportion of the total hidden homeless population. Furthermore, even if individuals who typically may not access services attended these events, they may have declined to be surveyed for various reasons and therefore are not included in the count.
3. Low vacancy rates and incomes not keeping pace with rising housing costs have resulted in a significant increase in the number of people at risk of losing their housing. Based on 2016 census data, 260,220 B.C. households were experiencing some form of housing need.¹⁰ These households are not included in this report.



Figure 1: Levels of Homelessness

⁹ <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/HomelessnessPublications/2017MetroVancouverHomelessCount.pdf>

¹⁰ A household may be experiencing a housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, affordability or suitability standards

2 | Summary of Provincial Findings

This section of the report provides aggregate data from 24 counts in communities across the province to create a provincial profile of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness. These profiles are based on the provincially funded counts in the 12 B.C. count communities,¹¹ the federally funded Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) counts, independent counts on Salt Spring Island and in Terrace, the 2017 counts in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Vernon and Duncan, and shelter data from other B.C. communities collected by BC Housing.¹²

In reviewing this section of the report, it is important to note that:

- › Percentages are based on the number of people who responded to survey questions and not the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in the community.
- › Some tables show large numbers of “Don’t Know/No Answer”. This is because surveys in the non-B.C. funded counts may not have asked the question or did not provide the data in a way that could be integrated with the aggregated tables. To the greatest extent possible, data from these communities were adjusted to align with the methodological parameters of the 12 B.C. count communities to enable direct comparisons, but in certain cases this was limited or not possible.

2.1 Sheltered and Unsheltered

A total of 7,655 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness. This included 219 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.¹³ The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness were sheltered (63%) and 37% reported being unsheltered.¹⁴

Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 37% reported sleeping outside and 30% reported couch surfing or staying with friends. Sixty percent (60%) of accompanied children who were sheltered were staying at a transition house and 19% were staying at a shelter. Thirty-five accompanied children were identified as unsheltered.¹⁵

and it would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay shelter costs (rent and associated utility costs). <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/chn-biml/index-eng.cfm>

11 Individual community profiles have been created and are available separately.

12 This includes data obtained for the night of March 20, 2018 from BC Housing funded shelters, transition houses for women and their children at risk of violence, and safe homes located in communities that were not involved in a homeless count.

13 The age of 1,616 respondents is not known.

14 Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch surfing.

15 Most of these children were couch surfing or sleeping in a vehicle with a parent or guardian.

Table 2.1: Sheltered and Unsheltered by Age and Shelter Type - All Communities

Sheltered and Unsheltered by Age	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth ¹⁶		Accompanied Children		Unknown Age		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	3,724	64%	184	84%	879	54%	4,787	63%
Shelters	2,647	45%	42	19%	609	38%	3,298	43%
Transition Houses	218	4%	132	60%	49	3%	399	5%
Detox Centres	138	2%	0	0%	0	0%	138	2%
No Fixed Address (NFA) ¹⁷	460	8%	3 ¹⁸	1%	65	4%	528	7%
Other ¹⁹	261	4%	7	3%	156	10%	424	6%
Unsheltered Total	2,096	36%	35	16%	737	46%	2,868	37%
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	5,820	100%	219	100%	1,616	100%	7,655	100%

Table 2.2: Sheltered and Unsheltered - All Communities

Sheltered and Unsheltered	#	%
Sheltered	4,787	63%
Unsheltered	2,868	37%
Total	7,655	100%

2.2 Gender

Among survey respondents, 68% identified as male and 30% as female.²⁰ Two percent (2%) of respondents identified another gender identity.

A similar proportion of sheltered and unsheltered respondents identified as female (31% and 29%).

Table 2.3: Gender - All Communities

Gender Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified ²¹		Total	
	#	%	#	% ²²	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	1,629	67%	1,485	70%	569	67%	3,683	68%
Woman/Female	761	31%	616	29%	276	33%	1,653	30%
Another Gender Identity	48	2%	35	2%	4	0%	87	2%
Respondents	2,438	100%	2,136	100%	849	100%	5,423	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	1,841		235		156		2,232	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

¹⁶ Unaccompanied youth refers to anyone under the age of 25 who was not physically accompanied by a parent during the count.

¹⁷ Includes individuals who may be staying in jails, hospitals, and/or short-term medical facilities.

¹⁸ This is typically a parent in hospital with a newborn or young infant.

¹⁹ Other includes Extreme Weather Response Shelters (EWR) or another unspecified shelter type.

²⁰ During the homeless count, survey respondents in the 12 B.C. count communities self-identified their gender identity. However, in some cases in HPS communities, shelter data was used to identify gender. Shelter data was also used to obtain gender for the communities that were not involved in a count i.e. data obtained by BC Housing.

²¹ "Unspecified" refers to survey respondents from communities where respondents were not broken out by sheltered or unsheltered.

²² Percentage total does not equal 100% due to rounding.

2.3 Age

The majority of survey respondents (65%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while 20% were seniors (55+ years of age), and 15% were unaccompanied youth (under 25 years of age).²³

The proportion of seniors was greater among sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (23% vs. 16%), while the proportion of adults was greater among the unsheltered respondents than the sheltered respondents (71% vs. 61%). Youth represented similar proportions among both sheltered and unsheltered respondents (15% and 13%).

Table 2.4: Age - All Communities

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	339	15%	279	13%	140	17%	758	15%
Adult (25-54 Years)	1,341	61%	1,492	71%	517	63%	3,350	65%
Senior (55+)	510	23%	345	16%	168	20%	1,023	20%
Respondents	2,190	100%	2,116	100%	825	100%	5,131	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	2,089		255		180		2,524	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

2.4 Indigenous Identity

A total of 1,904 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 38% of all respondents.²⁴

The proportion of respondents identifying as Indigenous was higher for unsheltered (42%) than sheltered respondents (32%).

Table 2.5: Indigenous Identity - All Communities

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	708	32%	874	42%	322	41%	1,904	38%
Not Indigenous Identity	1,486	68%	1,196	58%	459	59%	3,141	62%
Respondents	2,194	100%	2,070	100%	781	100%	5,045	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	2,085		301		224		2,610	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

²³ During the homeless count, survey respondents in the 12 B.C. Count Communities self-identified their age. There was only one HPS funded count where shelter data was used (as it was the only data available). For all other counts, only survey data was used.

²⁴ During the count, survey respondents in the 12 B.C. count communities self-identified their Indigenous identity. However, in some cases in HPS communities shelter data was used to identify indigenous identity.

2.5 Newcomers to Canada

Four percent (4%) of respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.²⁵ Among survey respondents who identified as an immigrant or refugee and reported on their length of time in Canada, 83% reported being in Canada for ten years or more.²⁶

Table 2.6: Newcomers to Canada - All Communities

Newcomers to Canada	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Immigrant or Refugee	36	4%	37	3%	7	4%	80	4%
Non-Immigrant/ Refugee	784	96%	1,058	97%	192	96%	2,034	96%
Respondents	820	100%	1,095	100%	199	100%	2,114	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	3,459		1,276		806		5,541	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

2.6 Sexual Orientation

Eight percent (8%) of respondents identified as LGBTQ2S. The proportion of respondents who identified as LGBTQ2S was the same for both sheltered and unsheltered respondents (8%). The majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (90%).

Table 2.7: Sexual Orientation - All Communities

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	1,830	90%	1,801	90%	536	91%	4,167	90%
LGBTQ2S	167	8%	167	8%	49	8%	383	8%
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	34	2%	35	2%	5	1%	74	2%
Respondents	2,031	100%	2,003	100%	590	100%	4,624	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	2,248		368		415		3,031	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

2.7 Who Was with Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count and could include as many responses as applied.

Most respondents (74%) reported being alone, while 9% reported being with a partner and 8% with a friend. A higher proportion of sheltered respondents reported that they were alone compared to unsheltered respondents (78% vs. 70%). Unsheltered respondents who were with someone were likely to be with a friend (14%) or partner (10%), while sheltered respondents were more likely to be with a partner (7%) or children (6%). Respondents with children represented a higher proportion of sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (6% vs. 1%).

25 Fifty-seven of the 80 respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant, 13 as a refugee or a refugee claimant, and 10 did not specify if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.

26 Seventy survey respondents identified as an immigrant or refugee and reported on their length of time in Canada. 83% reported being in Canada 10 years or more, 4% reported being in Canada under 1 year, 7% indicated being in Canada 1 to under 5 years, and 6% reported being in Canada 5 to under 10 years.

Table 2.8: Who Was With Survey Respondents - All Communities

Who Was With Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
With Someone	334	22%	409	30%	26	19%	769	26%
Partner	107	7%	139	10%	16	12%	262	9%
Child/Children	86	6%	18	1%	4	3%	108	4%
Friend(s)	65	4%	184	14%	3	2%	252	8%
Pet(s)	31	2%	31	2%	1	1%	63	2%
Relative(s)	27	2%	37	3%	2	1%	66	2%
Other(s)	23	2%	19	1%	0	0%	42	1%
Alone	1,181	78%	941	70%	111	81%	2,233	74%
Respondents	1,515	100%	1,350	100%	137	100%	3,002	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	2,764		1,021		868		4,653	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

2.8 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently and could include as many responses as applied.

Table 2.9 shows that the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were addiction or substance use (23%), unable to pay rent or mortgage (18%), eviction (18%) and “other” reasons (33%).

Table 2.9: Reason for Loss of Housing - All Communities²⁷

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Illness or Medical Condition	66	11%	71	11%	16	11%	153	11%
Addiction or Substance Use	115	19%	170	26%	44	30%	329	23%
Job Loss	67	11%	103	15%	22	15%	192	14%
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	103	17%	145	22%	10	7%	258	18%
Unsafe Housing Conditions	45	8%	44	7%	9	6%	98	7%
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	11	2%	19	3%	2	1%	32	2%
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	37	6%	34	5%	4	3%	75	5%
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	40	7%	41	6%	6	4%	87	6%
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	58	10%	81	12%	18	12%	157	11%
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	20	3%	46	7%	5	3%	71	5%
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	30	5%	23	3%	3	2%	56	4%
Eviction	87	15%	140	21%	22	15%	249	18%
Other Reason ²⁸	214	36%	236	35%	12	8%	462	33%
Respondents	596		665		145		1,406	
Don't Know / No Answer	3,683		1,706		860		6,249	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

²⁷ This data is available for only the 12 B.C. count communities and some HPS and independent count communities.

²⁸ “Other Reason” for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

The three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents (53%), low incomes (51%), and a lack of suitable, available housing (30%).

Table 2.10: Barriers to Accessing Housing - All Communities

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Too Low	766	53%	631	48%	346	55%	1,743	51%
History of Eviction/ Lack of References	153	11%	130	10%	2	0%	285	8%
Lack of Identification	19	1%	57	4%	0	0%	76	2%
No Income/No Income Assistance	205	14%	196	15%	95	15%	496	15%
Addiction	268	18%	270	20%	200	32%	738	22%
Rent Too High	809	56%	647	49%	357	57%	1,813	53%
Poor Housing Conditions	279	19%	208	16%	87	14%	574	17%
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	473	32%	338	26%	206	33%	1,017	30%
Mental Health Issues	168	12%	119	9%	106	17%	393	12%
Family Breakdown/ Abuse/ Conflict	208	14%	151	11%	109	17%	468	14%
Conflict with Law	87	6%	70	5%	46	7%	203	6%
Pets	85	6%	79	6%	33	5%	197	6%
Discrimination	211	14%	178	13%	116	19%	505	15%
Lack of Transportation	22	2%	32	2%	0	0%	54	2%
Other Reason ²⁹	342	23%	297	22%	269	43%	908	27%
Respondents	1,457		1,325		626		3,408	
Don't Know / No Answer	2,822		1,046		379		4,247	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

²⁹ "Other Reason" for barriers to accessing housing varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

2.9 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

Table 2.11 shows that more than half of respondents (56%) reported an addiction, 44% reported a medical condition, 40% reported a mental illness and 33% reported a physical disability. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to report an addiction than sheltered respondents (59% vs. 50%), while other health conditions were relatively comparable between the two groups.

Table 2.12 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Fifty-eight percent (58%) reported two or more health conditions, while 15% reported no health conditions and 27% reported one health condition. Sheltered respondents were more likely to identify two or more health conditions than unsheltered respondents (63% vs. 54%).

Table 2.11: Health Conditions - All Communities

Health Conditions (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Medical Condition / Illness	679	45%	550	41%	272	47%	1,501	44%
Physical Disability	516	35%	453	34%	163	28%	1,132	33%
Addiction	749	50%	779	59%	383	66%	1,911	56%
Mental Illness	589	39%	512	38%	257	45%	1,358	40%
Respondents	1,495		1,330		577		3,402	
Don't Know / No Answer	2,784		1,041		428		4,253	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

Table 2.12: Health Conditions – Total Number of Health Conditions³⁰

Number of Health Conditions	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
No Health Conditions	30	13%	62	17%	0	N/A	92	15%
1 Health Condition	56	24%	108	29%	0	N/A	164	27%
2 Health Conditions	78	33%	103	28%	0	N/A	181	30%
3 Health Conditions	41	17%	55	15%	0	N/A	96	16%
4 Health Conditions	30	13%	41	11%	0	N/A	71	12%
Respondents	235	100%	369	100%	0	N/A	604	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	4,044		2,002		1,005		7,051	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

³⁰ This data is available for only the 12 B.C. count communities.

2.10 Youth in Care

Survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement.³¹

Twenty-nine percent (29%) of respondents reported they had been in care.³² While the percentage of respondents reporting they had been in care was lower in Metro Vancouver (21%), a larger percentage of respondents reported being in care in communities such as the Fraser Valley (49%), Prince George (48%), Williams Lake (47%) and Campbell River (41%) (See Section 3.6).

Table 2.13: Youth Who Have Been in Foster Care, Youth Group Home, or Under a Youth Agreement - All Communities (Totals Only)

Youth Who Have Been in Foster Care, Youth Group Home, or Under a Youth Agreement	Total	
	#	%
Yes	1,236	29%
Currently	21	<1%
Previously	507	12%
Don't Know / No Answer	708	17%
No	3,001	71%
Respondents	4,237	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	3,418	
Total	7,655	

³¹ Some HPS communities asked whether participants had ever been in government or ministry care.

³² Some HPS communities did not provide information on sheltered and unsheltered; therefore, only totals are provided to include as many communities as possible.

2.11 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Survey respondents identified a wide range of income sources. The most commonly reported sources of income identified by survey respondents were welfare/income assistance (40%), disability benefits (29%), and informal/self employment (29%).

Sheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify employment as a source of income than unsheltered respondents (23% vs. 15%). Unsheltered respondents were more likely to identify informal/self employment such as binning or panhandling as a source of income than sheltered respondents (37% vs. 19%).

Table 2.14 Sources of Income - All Communities³³

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Welfare / Income Assistance	746	40%	701	40%	235	41%	1,682	40%
Employment	420	23%	263	15%	52	9%	735	18%
Job/Employment - Full-Time	113	6%	42	2%	9	2%	164	4%
Job/Employment - Part-Time	246	13%	187	11%	43	7%	476	11%
Other/Unspecified	63	3%	35	2%	0	0%	98	2%
Informal/Self Employment	349	19%	647	37%	202	35%	1,198	29%
Panhandling	92	5%	195	11%	62	11%	349	8%
Binning/Bottles	149	8%	270	16%	112	20%	531	13%
Vending	51	3%	106	6%	28	5%	185	4%
Other/Unspecified	62	3%	95	5%	0	0%	157	4%
Seniors Benefits	255	14%	98	6%	86	15%	439	11%
Old Age Security (OAS)/ Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	103	6%	42	2%	68	12%	213	5%
CPP or Other Pension	160	9%	64	4%	18	3%	242	6%
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Disability Benefit	579	31%	493	28%	140	24%	1,212	29%
Employment Insurance	43	2%	16	1%	10	2%	69	2%
Youth Agreement	3	0%	5	0%	15	3%	23	1%
Money from Family/Friends	135	7%	133	8%	50	9%	318	8%
Honoraria	22	1%	20	1%	17	3%	59	1%
No Income	166	9%	159	9%	85	15%	410	10%
Other ³⁴	147	8%	164	9%	57	10%	368	9%
Respondents	1,866		1,732		574		4,172	
Don't Know / No Answer	2,413		639		916		3,968	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

³³ Information that was provided for several communities was not included, as the number of “respondents” was not provided, eliminating the ability to calculate percentages.

³⁴ “Other” sources of income accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

2.12 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months and could identify as many services as applied.

Respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop-in centres. Generally, a greater proportion of respondents in shelters reported accessing health services compared to respondents who were unsheltered, while a greater proportion of unsheltered respondents reported accessing food services. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Fifty-one percent (51%) of all respondents reported using the emergency room, 38% the hospital (non-emergency) and 37% reported using the ambulance. In all cases, a greater proportion of sheltered respondents reported accessing health services than unsheltered respondents. More than a third of respondents (34%) reported accessing addiction services over the previous year - with a greater proportion of sheltered respondents (30%) reporting they had accessed these services than unsheltered respondents (25%).

Fifty-three percent (53%) of all respondents reported using meal programs and 37% reported using foodbanks. A greater proportion of unsheltered respondents reported using meal programs (54%) compared to sheltered respondents (48%).

Thirty-five percent (35%) of all respondents reported using homeless outreach in the previous year, with a similar proportion of sheltered and unsheltered respondents using these services. Nineteen percent (19%) of sheltered respondents reported they had accessed transitional housing services compared to 5% of unsheltered respondents.

Table 2.15: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - All Communities³⁵

	Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Health Services	Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Ambulance	580	40%	435	34%	202	37%	1,217	37%
	Emergency Room	775	54%	555	44%	321	58%	1,651	51%
	Hospital (Non-Emergency)	637	44%	417	33%	171	31%	1,225	38%
	Dental Clinic or Dentist	296	21%	183	14%	86	16%	565	17%
	Mental Health Services	373	26%	257	20%	137	25%	767	24%
	Addiction Services	433	30%	320	25%	365	66%	1,118	34%
	Health Clinic	615	43%	399	31%	31	6%	1,045	32%
Food Services	Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	3	0%	0	0%	3	0%
	Food Banks	440	31%	468	37%	294	53%	1,202	37%
	Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	691	48%	689	54%	356	64%	1,736	53%
Legal Services	Legal Services (Not Specified)	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	2	0%
	Legal	228	16%	194	15%	11	2%	433	13%
	Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	94	7%	106	8%	130	24%	330	10%
Employment and Financial Services	Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	2	0%	0	0%	2	0%
	Employment/Job Help	379	26%	244	19%	125	23%	748	23%
	Budgeting/ Trusteeship	60	4%	19	1%	0	0%	79	2%
Housing Services	Housing Services (Not Specified)	3	0%	2	0%	283	51%	288	9%
	Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	235	16%	171	13%	71	13%	477	15%
	Homeless Outreach	485	34%	418	33%	250	45%	1,153	35%
	Transitional Housing	269	19%	64	5%	88	16%	421	13%
Other Services	Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
	Drop-In	516	36%	501	40%	260	47%	1,277	39%
	Newcomer Services	48	3%	18	1%	3	1%	69	2%
	Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	258	18%	194	15%	8	1%	460	14%
	Other	68	5%	87	7%	40	7%	195	6%
	None	31	2%	34	3%	14	3%	79	2%
	Respondents	1,436		1,267		552		3,255	
	Don't Know / No Answer	2,843		1,104		453		4,400	
	Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

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In the 12 B.C. count communities, services were grouped by service category (e.g. health services, food services, etc.), which included a number of sub-categories. The large groupings were not done in other communities; therefore, aggregated data is available in this table only for specific services (e.g. ambulance, emergency room, etc.) and not service groupings.

2.13 History of Homelessness

Survey participants were asked about the length of time they had been without a place of their own.³⁶

Nearly one-third of survey respondents (31%) reported being homeless for less than six months, while about half (52%) reported being homeless for one year or more. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than six months compared to unsheltered respondents (38% vs. 25%). Fifty-eight percent (58%) of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 45% of sheltered respondents.

Table 2.16: Length of Time Without Own Place - All Communities

Length of Time Without Own Place	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 6 months	750	38%	513	25%	0	N/A	1,263	31%
Up to and including 7 days	81	4%	40	2%	0	N/A	121	3%
8 days to <1 month	121	6%	81	4%	0	N/A	202	5%
1 month to <6 months	548	28%	392	19%	0	N/A	940	23%
6 months to <1 year	331	17%	351	17%	0	N/A	682	17%
1 year and over	887	45%	1,201	58%	0	N/A	2,088	52%
Respondents	1,968	100%	2,065	100%	0	N/A	4,033	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	2,311		306		1,005		3,622	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless (Table 2.17) and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness (Table 2.18).

The majority (60%) of respondents reported that this was not the first time they had experienced homelessness. The proportions were similar among both sheltered and unsheltered respondents (56% and 59%).

Fifty-one percent (51%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age. A higher proportion of unsheltered respondents had experienced homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age compared to the sheltered respondents (57% vs. 51%).

Table 2.17: Times Homeless - All Communities

Times Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
First Time	102	44%	144	41%	214	37%	460	40%
Not First Time	129	56%	203	59%	357	63%	689	60%
Respondents	231	100%	347	100%	571	100%	1,149	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	4,048		2,024		434		6,506	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

³⁶ HPS communities asked participants "In total, how much time have you been homeless over the past year?"

Table 2.18: Age When First Homeless - All Communities

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	338	51%	580	57%	91	31%	1,009	51%
Adult (25-54 Years)	260	39%	390	38%	159	54%	809	41%
Senior (55+)	63	10%	43	4%	44	15%	150	8%
Respondents	661	100%	1,013	100%	294	100%	1,968	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	3,618		1,358		711		5,687	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

Table 2.19 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in the community in which they were surveyed. Individuals experiencing homelessness were likely to be long term residents of the community where they were surveyed. Thirty-one percent (31%) of survey respondents reported that they had lived in the community where they were surveyed for ten or more years and another 19% reported that they had lived there all their lives. Twenty-one percent (21%) of respondents reported that they had lived in the community for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in the community in which they were surveyed. As shown in Table 2.20, respondents reported having lived in Metro Vancouver (11%), other parts of B.C. (38%), and other parts of Canada (23%) prior to moving to the community where they were surveyed.³⁷

Table 2.19: Length of Time in Community - All Communities

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	546	28%	332	16%	107	20%	985	21%
1 year to under 5 years	347	18%	381	18%	87	17%	815	18%
5 years to under 10 years	160	8%	258	12%	74	14%	492	11%
10 years or more	639	32%	654	31%	152	29%	1,445	31%
Always Been Here	290	15%	461	22%	104	20%	855	19%
Respondents	1,982	100%	2,086	100%	524	100%	4,592	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	2,297		285		481		3,063	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

37 There is a discrepancy in responses between individuals who indicated they have always been in a community when asked how long they have been there and where they were before arriving in the community. This is due to different response rates to the question and also because some individuals may have lived in a community for much of their lives, but have left for short periods, and may respond to the question of where they were before by citing another community, even if they answered the length of time in community question as 'Always been here.'

Table 2.20: Where Lived Before Community – All Communities

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	113	17%	257	27%	109	33%	479	25%
Metro Vancouver	80	12%	93	10%	43	13%	216	11%
Elsewhere in B.C.	250	39%	369	39%	115	35%	734	38%
Elsewhere in Canada	190	29%	210	22%	46	14%	446	23%
Other Countries	15	2%	10	1%	17	5%	42	2%
Respondents	648	100%	939	100%	330	100%	1,917	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	3,631		1,432		675		5,738	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

2.14 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they had ever served in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, air force or RCMP.

A total of 204 individuals, representing 4% of respondents, reported service in the Canadian Forces or RCMP. This included 8 individuals who specified service in the RCMP. Another 84 individuals (2%) reported service in another country's military. Fourteen individuals reported serving in a military force or RCMP but did not specify if it was the Canadian Forces, RCMP, or service in another country.

Table 2.21: Service in Military or RCMP - All Communities

Service in the Military or RCMP	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Served in Canadian Military (army, navy, airforce) or RCMP	96	5%	92	4%	16	3%	204	4%
Served in Another Country's Military	45	2%	35	2%	4	1%	84	2%
Served in Armed Forces (or RCMP) (Unspecified)	5	0%	2	0%	7	1%	14	0%
Hasn't Served in Armed Forces (or RCMP)	1,945	93%	1,951	94%	557	95%	4,453	94%
Respondents	2,091	100%	2,080	100%	584	100%	4,755	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	2,188		291		421		2,900	
Total	4,279		2,371		1,005		7,655	

2.15 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants in the 12 B.C. count communities, and most other communities were asked where they had stayed the previous night. Some HPS Count respondents were asked where they were going to stay that night. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they stayed outside the night of the count.³⁸ The remaining respondents reported that they stayed³⁹ at someone else's place or couch surfed (30%), slept in a makeshift shelter or tent (9%), in a vehicle (8%), or at an 'other' location (12%).

Table 2.22: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - All Communities⁴⁰

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	936	37%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	205	8%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	221	9%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	39	2%
Someone Else's Place or Couch Surfing	764	30%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	28	1%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	24	1%
Other ⁴¹	296	12%
Respondents	2,513	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	355	
Total	2,868	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. Almost a quarter of respondents (23%) said they were able to stay with a friend, while 26% reported feeling unsafe or disliking shelters. Thirty-three percent (33%) cited an "other" reason as the main reason for not staying at a shelter the previous night.

38 In the case of HPS respondents, they reported they would be spending the night outside.

39 In the case of HPS respondents, they reported on where they would be staying.

40 "Don't know/No Answer" responses in this table refer specifically to HPS communities.

41 "Other" location accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

Table 2.23: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - All Communities

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	268	23%
Dislike	172	15%
Don't Feel Safe	133	11%
Turned Away	148	13%
Bedbugs/Pests	36	3%
Other ⁴²	386	33%
Multiple Responses	35	3%
Respondents	1,178	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	1,690	
Total	2,868	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. The majority (55%) had stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 2.24: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – All Communities⁴³

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	1,112	55%
No	925	45%
Respondents	2,037	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	831	
Total	2,868	

⁴² "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

⁴³ This question was not asked in all communities, which is why the Don't Know/No Answer number is high.

3 | Key Summary Tables by Community

The following section provides data on sheltered/unsheltered, gender, age, indigenous identity, health conditions, length of time homeless and length of time in community for all 24 counts and shelter data included in the 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C., where data was available.

It is important to note that some numbers in the tables may differ from what has been reported by communities in their own reports. This is due to different methodologies. For example, the methodology followed by the 12 B.C. count communities does not include people who are “provisionally accommodated” if they do not meet the definition of homelessness for the purpose of our count (i.e. don’t have a place to stay where they pay rent and can stay for at least 30 days). However, the B.C. approach does include people who were couch surfing if they were identified during the count.

Table 3.1: Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless- Across Communities

Homeless Category		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Core Communities	Campbell River	40	49%	41	51%	81	100%
	Comox Valley	49	42%	68	58%	117	100%
	Cranbrook	6	21%	23	79%	29	100%
	Fort St. John	40	66%	21	34%	61	100%
	Merritt	0	0%	11	100%	11	100%
	Parksville/Qualicum	3	7%	39	93%	42	100%
	Penticton	68	63%	40	37%	108	100%
	Port Alberni	63	43%	84	57%	147	100%
	Prince Rupert	43	61%	28	39%	71	100%
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	30	53%	27	47%	57	100%
	Smithers	11	38%	18	62%	29	100%
	Williams Lake	37	86%	6	14%	43	100%
HPS and Other	Greater Victoria	607	65%	324	35%	931	100%
	Duncan	85	57%	65	43%	150	100%
	Fraser Valley	244	40%	362	60%	606	100%
	Kamloops	104	53%	91	47%	195	100%
	Kelowna	234	82%	52	18%	286	100%
	Metro Vancouver	2,573	71%	1,032	29%	3,605	100%
	Nanaimo	50	17%	251	83%	301	100%
	Nelson	32	28%	83	72%	115	100%
	Prince George	110	69%	50	31%	160	100%
	Salt Spring Island	33	29%	82	71%	115	100%
	Terrace	70	73%	26	27%	96	100%
	Vernon	109	71%	44	29%	153	100%
	Other Communities	146	100%	0	0%	146	100%
	Total	4,787	63%	2,868	37%	7,655	100%

3.1 Gender

Table 3.2: Gender Identity - Across Communities

Gender Identity		Male		Female		Another Gender Identity		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	40	59%	27	40%	1	1%	68	100%	13	81
	Comox Valley	50	52%	43	44%	4	4%	97	100%	20	117
	Cranbrook	18	67%	7	26%	2	7%	27	100%	2	29
	Fort St. John	39	75%	13	25%	0	0%	52	100%	9	61
	Merritt	6	55%	5	45%	0	0%	11	100%	0	11
	Parksville/Qualicum	27	73%	8	22%	2	5%	37	100%	5	42
	Penticton	50	63%	28	35%	1	1%	79	100%	29	108
	Port Alberni	74	68%	33	30%	2	2%	109	100%	38	147
	Prince Rupert	32	60%	21	40%	0	0%	53	100%	18	71
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	22	54%	19	46%	0	0%	41	100%	16	57
	Smithers	14	56%	10	40%	1	4%	25	100%	4	29
	Williams Lake	11	58%	8	42%	0	0%	19	100%	24	43
HPS and Other	Greater Victoria	417	68%	181	29%	16	3%	614	100%	317	931
	Duncan	101	68%	48	32%	0	0%	149	100%	1	150
	Fraser Valley	352	64%	193	35%	4	1%	549	100%	57	606
	Kamloops	102	66%	46	30%	7	5%	155	100%	40	195
	Kelowna	168	68%	77	31%	2	1%	247	100%	39	286
	Metro Vancouver	1,688	72%	628	27%	25	1%	2,341	100%	1,264	3,605
	Nanaimo	186	69%	80	30%	3	1%	269	100%	32	301
	Nelson	45	54%	32	39%	6	7%	83	100%	32	115
	Prince George	55	50%	52	47%	3	3%	110	100%	50	160
	Salt Spring Island	17	59%	5	17%	7	24%	29	100%	86	115
	Terrace	66	77%	20	23%	0	0%	86	100%	10	96
	Vernon	50	77%	15	23%	0	0%	65	100%	88	153
	Other Communities	53	49%	54	50%	1	1%	108	100%	38	146
Total		3,683	68%	1,653	30%	87	2%	5,423	100%	2,232	7,655

3.2 Age

Table 3.3: Age Categories - Across Communities

Age		Youth (Under 25 Years of Age)		Adult (25-54 Years of Age)		Senior (55+ Years)		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	3	4%	49	72%	16	24%	68	100%	13	81
	Comox Valley	6	6%	61	65%	27	29%	94	100%	23	117
	Cranbrook	1	4%	16	62%	9	35%	26	100%	3	29
	Fort St. John	4	8%	36	71%	11	22%	51	100%	10	61
	Merritt	0	0%	10	91%	1	9%	11	100%	0	11
	Parksville/Qualicum	3	8%	24	63%	11	29%	38	100%	4	42
	Penticton	12	15%	47	60%	19	24%	78	100%	30	108
	Port Alberni	16	15%	82	75%	11	10%	109	100%	38	147
	Prince Rupert	4	8%	37	70%	12	23%	53	100%	18	71
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	2	5%	27	66%	12	29%	41	100%	16	57
	Smithers	2	8%	19	76%	4	16%	25	100%	4	29
	Williams Lake	0	0%	16	94%	1	6%	17	100%	26	43
HPS and Other	Greater Victoria	114	18%	393	63%	112	18%	619	100%	312	931
	Duncan	7	5%	87	58%	55	37%	149	100%	1	150
	Fraser Valley	121	22%	337	63%	81	15%	539	100%	67	606
	Kamloops	17	10%	134	80%	16	10%	167	100%	28	195
	Kelowna	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	286	286
	Metro Vancouver	386	16%	1,509	63%	518	21%	2,413	100%	1,192	3,605
	Nanaimo	17	6%	212	78%	42	15%	271	100%	30	301
	Nelson	15	18%	57	68%	12	14%	84	100%	31	115
	Prince George	9	8%	80	73%	21	19%	110	100%	50	160
	Salt Spring Island	7	23%	24	77%	0	0%	31	100%	84	115
	Terrace	6	8%	52	72%	14	19%	72	100%	24	96
	Vernon	6	9%	41	63%	18	28%	65	100%	88	153
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	146	146
Total		758	15%	3,350	65%	1,023	20%	5,131	100%	2,524	7,655

3.3 Indigenous Identity

Table 3.4: Indigenous Identity - Across Communities

Indigenous Identity		Indigenous Identity		Non-Indigenous Identity		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	31	46%	36	54%	67	100%	14	81
	Comox Valley	31	32%	65	68%	96	100%	21	117
	Cranbrook	12	46%	14	54%	26	100%	3	29
	Fort St. John	30	59%	21	41%	51	100%	10	61
	Merritt	9	90%	1	10%	10	100%	1	11
	Parksville/Qualicum	3	8%	35	92%	38	100%	4	42
	Penticton	18	24%	58	76%	76	100%	32	108
	Port Alberni	52	48%	56	52%	108	100%	39	147
	Prince Rupert	47	92%	4	8%	51	100%	20	71
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	11	27%	30	73%	41	100%	16	57
	Smithers	18	72%	7	28%	25	100%	4	29
	Williams Lake	13	68%	6	32%	19	100%	24	43
	Total	1,904	38%	3,141	62%	5,045	100%	2,610	7,655
HPS and Other	Greater Victoria	209	36%	375	64%	584	100%	347	931
	Duncan	59	40%	90	60%	149	100%	1	150
	Fraser Valley	174	35%	323	65%	497	100%	109	606
	Kamloops	84	54%	73	46%	157	100%	38	195
	Kelowna	65	26%	182	74%	247	100%	39	286
	Metro Vancouver	746	34%	1,453	66%	2,199	100%	1,406	3,605
	Nanaimo	86	33%	176	67%	262	100%	39	301
	Nelson	27	35%	50	65%	77	100%	38	115
	Prince George	86	80%	21	20%	107	100%	53	160
	Salt Spring Island	4	17%	19	83%	23	100%	92	115
	Terrace	62	86%	10	14%	72	100%	24	96
	Vernon	27	43%	36	57%	63	100%	90	153
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	146	146
	Total	1,904	38%	3,141	62%	5,045	100%	2,610	7,655

3.4 Health Conditions

Table 3.5: Number of Health Conditions- Across Communities

Number of Health Conditions		No Health Conditions		1 Health Condition		2 Health Conditions		3 Health Conditions		4 Health Conditions		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%					#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	6	9%	15	22%	22	32%	17	25%	8	12%	68	100%	13	81
	Comox Valley	11	11%	29	30%	29	30%	18	19%	10	10%	97	100%	20	117
	Cranbrook	4	15%	5	19%	11	41%	2	7%	5	19%	27	100%	2	29
	Fort St. John	8	16%	12	24%	18	37%	6	12%	5	10%	49	100%	12	61
	Merritt	1	13%	3	38%	3	38%	0	0%	1	13%	8	100%	3	11
	Parksville/Qualicum	4	11%	12	32%	6	16%	9	24%	7	18%	38	100%	4	42
	Penticton	10	13%	17	23%	23	31%	10	13%	15	20%	75	100%	33	108
	Port Alberni	15	14%	30	28%	40	37%	16	15%	7	6%	108	100%	39	147
	Prince Rupert	16	31%	15	29%	11	21%	7	13%	3	6%	52	100%	19	71
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	7	17%	13	32%	8	20%	7	17%	6	15%	41	100%	16	57
	Smithers	9	39%	9	39%	3	13%	1	4%	1	4%	23	100%	6	29
	Williams Lake	1	6%	4	22%	7	39%	3	17%	3	17%	18	100%	25	43
HPS and Other	Greater Victoria	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	931	931
	Duncan	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	150	150
	Fraser Valley	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	606	606
	Kamloops	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	195	195
	Kelowna	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	286	286
	Metro Vancouver	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	3,605	3,605
	Nanaimo	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	301	301
	Nelson	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	115	115
	Prince George	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	160	160
	Salt Spring Island	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	115	115
	Terrace	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	96	96
	Vernon	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	153	153
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	146	146
	Total	92	15%	164	27%	181	30%	96	16%	71	12%	604	100%	7,051	7,655

Table 3.6: Health Conditions- Across Communities

Health Conditions (more than 1 response possible)		Medical Condition / Illness		Physical Disability		Addiction		Mental Illness		Respondents	Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	38	56%	31	46%	45	66%	28	41%	68	13	81
	Comox Valley	45	46%	39	40%	52	54%	45	46%	97	20	117
	Cranbrook	17	63%	14	52%	12	44%	10	37%	27	2	29
	Fort St. John	21	43%	17	35%	31	63%	17	35%	49	12	61
	Merritt	1	13%	2	25%	7	88%	3	38%	8	3	11
	Parksville/ Qualicum	20	53%	19	50%	19	50%	21	55%	38	4	42
	Penticton	32	43%	31	41%	48	64%	42	56%	75	33	108
	Port Alberni	40	37%	35	32%	69	64%	42	39%	108	39	147
	Prince Rupert	17	33%	10	19%	29	56%	14	27%	52	19	71
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	19	46%	18	44%	17	41%	20	49%	41	16	57
	Smithers	3	13%	2	9%	12	52%	5	22%	23	6	29
	Williams Lake	9	50%	9	50%	15	83%	6	33%	18	25	43
HPS and Other	Greater Victoria	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	931	931
	Duncan	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	150	150
	Fraser Valley	239	49%	142	29%	333	68%	232	48%	488	118	606
	Kamloops	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	195	195
	Kelowna	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	286	286
	Metro Vancouver	967	44%	742	33%	1,172	53%	848	38%	2,221	1,384	3,605
	Nanaimo	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	301	301
	Nelson	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	115	115
	Prince George	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	160	160
	Salt Spring Island	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	115	115
	Terrace	33	37%	21	24%	50	56%	25	28%	89	7	96
	Vernon	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	153	153
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	146	146
Total		1,501	44%	1,132	33%	1,911	56%	1,358	40%	3,402	4,253	7,655

3.5 Youth in Care

Table 3.7 Youth in Care- Across Communities

Youth in Care		Yes (Currently or in Past)		No		Respondents	Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	27	41%	39	59%	66	15	81
	Comox Valley	25	26%	70	74%	95	22	117
	Cranbrook	9	33%	18	67%	27	2	29
	Fort St. John	14	27%	37	73%	51	10	61
	Merritt	4	40%	6	60%	10	1	11
	Parksville/Qualicum	9	25%	27	75%	36	6	42
	Penticton	26	36%	47	64%	73	35	108
	Port Alberni	32	32%	67	68%	99	48	147
	Prince Rupert	17	33%	34	67%	51	20	71
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	8	20%	32	80%	40	17	57
	Smithers	8	35%	15	65%	23	6	29
	Williams Lake	8	47%	9	53%	17	26	43
	Total	1,236	29%	3,001	71%	4,237	3,418	7,655
HPS and Other	Greater Victoria	185	31%	408	69%	593	338	931
	Duncan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150	150
	Fraser Valley	231	49%	238	51%	469	137	606
	Kamloops	59	38%	95	62%	154	41	195
	Kelowna	37	29%	92	71%	129	157	286
	Metro Vancouver	423	21%	1598	79%	2,021	1584	3,605
	Nanaimo	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	301	301
	Nelson	30	37%	52	63%	82	33	115
	Prince George	52	48%	56	52%	108	52	160
	Salt Spring Island	8	33%	16	67%	24	91	115
	Terrace	24	35%	45	65%	69	27	96
	Vernon	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	153	153
	Other Communities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	146	146
	Total	1,236	29%	3,001	71%	4,237	3,418	7,655

3.6 History of Homeless

Table 3.8: Length of Time Homeless - Across Communities

Length of Time Homeless		Under 1 Year		1 Year to Under 5 Years		5 Years to Under 10 Years		10 Years or More		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	33	49%	28	42%	4	6%	2	3%	67	100%	14	81
	Comox Valley	49	55%	32	36%	4	4%	4	4%	89	100%	28	117
	Cranbrook	9	33%	13	48%	5	19%	0	0%	27	100%	2	29
	Fort St. John	16	33%	28	57%	2	4%	3	6%	49	100%	12	61
	Merritt	8	73%	3	27%	0	0%	0	0%	11	100%	0	11
	Parksville/Qualicum	15	43%	16	46%	3	9%	1	3%	35	100%	7	42
	Penticton	41	53%	27	35%	6	8%	3	4%	77	100%	31	108
	Port Alberni	52	50%	39	38%	8	8%	5	5%	104	100%	43	147
	Prince Rupert	26	51%	19	37%	5	10%	1	2%	51	100%	20	71
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	18	49%	14	38%	5	14%	0	0%	37	100%	20	57
	Smithers	11	46%	12	50%	0	0%	1	4%	24	100%	5	29
	Williams Lake	9	60%	3	20%	2	13%	1	7%	15	100%	28	43
HPS and Other	Greater Victoria	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	931	931
	Duncan	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	150	150
	Fraser Valley	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	606	606
	Kamloops	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	195	195
	Kelowna	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	286	286
	Metro Vancouver	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	3,605	3,605
	Nanaimo	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	301	301
	Nelson	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	115	115
	Prince George	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	160	160
	Salt Spring Island	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	115	115
	Terrace	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	96	96
	Vernon	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	153	153
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	146	146
Total		287	49%	234	40%	44	8%	21	4%	586	100%	7,069	7,655

3.7 Time in Community

Table 3.9: Length of Time In Community - Across Communities

Length of Time in Community		Under 1 Year		1 Year to Under 5 Years		5 Years to Under 10 Years		10 Years or More		Always Been in Community		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%					#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	27	42%	10	15%	6	9%	12	18%	10	15%	65	100%	16	81
	Comox Valley	16	17%	22	24%	9	10%	24	26%	21	23%	92	100%	25	117
	Cranbrook	10	38%	2	8%	3	12%	8	31%	3	12%	26	100%	3	29
	Fort St. John	14	28%	12	24%	9	18%	8	16%	7	14%	50	100%	11	61
	Merritt	3	27%	1	9%	0	0%	2	18%	5	45%	11	100%	0	11
	Parksville/Qualicum	9	24%	8	21%	4	11%	8	21%	9	24%	38	100%	4	42
	Penticton	17	23%	14	19%	7	9%	30	41%	6	8%	74	100%	34	108
	Port Alberni	21	20%	23	22%	7	7%	23	22%	29	28%	103	100%	44	147
	Prince Rupert	10	20%	8	16%	2	4%	14	27%	17	33%	51	100%	20	71
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	10	26%	11	28%	4	10%	10	26%	4	10%	39	100%	18	57
	Smithers	8	32%	3	12%	3	12%	5	20%	6	24%	25	100%	4	29
	Williams Lake	6	35%	2	12%	0	0%	0	0%	9	53%	17	100%	26	43
HPS and Other	Greater Victoria	95	16%	104	18%	59	10%	204	35%	124	21%	586	100%	345	931
	Duncan	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	150	150
	Fraser Valley	95	21%	76	17%	66	15%	124	27%	94	21%	455	100%	151	606
	Kamloops	53	33%	22	14%	14	9%	45	28%	25	16%	159	100%	36	195
	Kelowna	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	286	286
	Metro Vancouver	496	22%	401	18%	227	10%	773	34%	365	16%	2,262	100%	1,343	3,605
	Nanaimo	35	14%	44	17%	28	11%	66	26%	84	33%	257	100%	44	301
	Nelson	22	27%	10	12%	13	16%	26	32%	10	12%	81	100%	34	115
	Prince George	14	13%	21	20%	20	19%	34	32%	17	16%	106	100%	54	160
	Salt Spring Island	12	46%	10	38%	3	12%	1	4%	0	0%	26	100%	89	115
	Terrace	12	17%	11	16%	8	12%	28	41%	10	14%	69	100%	27	96
	Vernon	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	153	153
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	146	146
Total		985	21%	815	18%	492	11%	1,445	31%	855	19%	4,592	100%	3,063	7,655

4 | Methodology

This section describes the methodology of the 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. It also provides an overview of the project management and implementation approach, the response rate and limitations of the homeless count.

4.1 Application of the Point-in-Time Approach

This report includes data from homeless counts conducted in 24 communities in 2017 and the spring of 2018. Each count took place over a 24-hour period to provide a “snapshot” of homelessness in the community during that time and included both a shelter and street count as described below. To ensure consistency across the count communities and with previous research, the 2018 counts were conducted between March and April.

This report also includes data for the night of March 20, 2018 from BC Housing funded shelters, transition houses for women and their children at risk of violence, and safe homes located in communities that were not involved in a homeless count. This data was used to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness and to identify gender.

4.2 Selection of Communities

This homeless count report builds on the foundation of previous counts in B.C., including counts funded by the federal government through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) and independent counts. The Province extended the number of communities and included shelter data to provide a more comprehensive picture of homelessness in B.C. The 12 B.C. count communities were selected because they had previous experience conducting a homeless count or surveys with people experiencing homelessness and reflected the diversity of B.C.’s geography. These counts followed the same fundamental methodology used in previous counts in the Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley regions. The counts were completed within the municipal boundaries of each community,⁴⁴ except for:

- › Parksville/Qualicum –included Qualicum Beach, Parksville and a magnet event⁴⁵ in Bowser
- › Sechelt/Gibsons - included Sechelt, Gibsons, and a count event in Roberts Creek
- › Comox Valley – included Comox, Courtney, Cumberland and Denman Island

The HPS and independent counts were included because they followed a Point-in-Time (PiT) count method, and, with the exception of Vernon, all counts were conducted in the spring. While the City of Vancouver conducted a count in March 2018, the Metro Vancouver 2017 count data was used in order to include data from all 21 Metro Vancouver municipalities and an electoral area.⁴⁶

⁴⁴ Surveys were not conducted on First Nations Reserves.

⁴⁵ A magnet event is a strategy used during a PiT count to attract individuals experiencing homelessness to a planned event. The event, generally lasting a few hours, is advertised well in advance of the day of the count, and usually includes food, services and the option to complete a PiT count survey. The strategy increases the opportunity to survey individuals experiencing homelessness who might otherwise not be surveyed through a sheltered or unsheltered count.

⁴⁶ The geographic areas included in these counts were based on municipal or regional boundaries. To learn more, please the links to the reports as shown in Figure 2 in the Appendices.

4.3 Twelve B.C. Count/Core Communities

HSABC engaged and supported local coordinators to implement the count in each of the 12 B.C. count communities. The primary goal was to ensure the PiT count methodology was applied consistently across each community with respect to the approach and methodology, definitions, and purpose and structure of the interview questions to ensure accurate data collection. In all communities, HSABC worked with local coordinators to:

- › Engage volunteer interviewers from community agencies, individuals with lived experience of homelessness, and the general community.
- › Empower Local Coordinators to listen to what communities and individuals were telling them about what they thought was important in the count.
- › Engage community agencies to:
 - › Map street walking routes for the day of the count
 - › Be a “dropsite” where individuals could have the opportunity to complete a survey as part of their normal visit to the agency
 - › Spread the word about the count date and its importance through posters and leaflets
- › Ensure at least one “magnet” event was held in each community that provided food or other services to community members, where the surveys could be completed.
- › Provide consistent local training for volunteer interviewers.
- › Ensure local knowledge and experience with homeless counts was included in the planning and process of developing and implementing the count.

Shelter Count

The shelter counts took place on the evening before the street count in each of the 12 provincially funded count communities. This part of the count involved obtaining information about individuals staying overnight in emergency shelters, Extreme Weather Response shelters (EWRs), transition houses for women and children fleeing abuse, safe houses, detox facilities, and for people with no fixed address (NFA) staying in hospitals and jails. Volunteer interviewers were assigned to shelters and/or shelters had their own staff to conduct the interviews. Transition houses, youth safe houses and detox facilities chose to have staff conduct the interviews.

Each survey respondent was asked a series of screening questions and screened out if they reported that they had already answered a survey or had a place of their own where they paid rent and could expect to live for at least 30 days. These individuals are not included in the count because they do not meet the definition of visible homeless for the purpose of the count.

To ensure that each count was as accurate as possible, each emergency shelter, transition house for women and children fleeing abuse, youth safe house and detox facility was asked to complete a Shelter Statistics form to record the total number of people who stayed overnight at the site and the number of people turned away. Not all clients in the shelters agreed 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.⁴⁷ Jails provided a tally of individuals with No Fixed Address staying in jail cells on the night of the count in each community. In addition, data from shelters, transition houses, and safe homes in other communities was provided through BC Housing.

⁴⁷ Both shelters and jails in many cases provided some basic demographic information. However, in order to respect individuals’ self-identification around gender and Indigenous identity, only data collected through the survey was used in the creation of tables.

Health authorities (including Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal Health, Interior Health, Northern Health and Island Health) participated by submitting tallies of individuals with no fixed address staying at each community's hospital on the night of the count and when possible, also provided information on age and gender. A complete list of shelters and No Fixed Address locations is included in the Appendices.

Street Count

The street count began early in the morning during the day of the count in each community and continued throughout the day and evening. The street count focused on finding people in public areas or locations where people experiencing homelessness were likely to be found, including certain streets, alleys, parks, bottle depots, and places where services and programs were available, such as meal programs and drop-in centres.

Local Coordinators identified these locations in each community through route mapping exercises in partnership with community agencies, outreach workers and service providers prior to the count. Volunteer interviewers, working in teams of two, were assigned to specific locations and given maps and/or instructions to approach individuals and conduct a survey. Most volunteer shifts ranged from about two to three hours.

Each survey respondent was asked a series of screening questions and screened out if they either reported they had already answered the survey; or, if they had a place of their own where they paid rent and could expect to live for at least 30 days. As part of the street survey, respondents were also asked where they had stayed the previous night. The survey was completed for individuals who reported staying in a shelter, safe house, or transition house the night before, and who said that they had not completed a survey the night before. The surveys for these individuals were grouped with sheltered respondents, but not added to the total number of sheltered individuals. While these individuals were not added to the total number of sheltered respondents (which was derived from completed shelter statistics forms), the survey was completed to collect demographic and service use data to better understand the profile of shelter users since the response rates in shelters has historically been low. Individuals who indicated they had completed a survey the night before were screened out. People who reported staying at someone else's place on the night of the count were considered homeless, unsheltered and were screened in/included in this report.

Survey Design and Administration

Two survey instruments were used for the counts in the 12 B.C. count communities: a street survey and a shelter survey (both surveys are included in the Appendices). The surveys were similar and consistent with the Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley count surveys.

Surveys were completed by roughly 300 trained volunteers recruited for the count. Volunteers included some professional outreach and community service agency staff who participated in the count as part of their employment, as well as community members who registered to volunteer through SurveyMonkey.⁴⁸ All volunteers, regardless of their experience, were required to attend a two-hour training session. This session ensured volunteers could consistently conduct the survey, approach individuals who were experiencing homelessness, and stay safe during their count shift in the 12 B.C. count communities.

On the day of the count, volunteers picked up their count packages prior to their shift to give them an opportunity to review the material. Packages included one count sticker for each volunteer which served as their identification and helped with the screening out of respondents who had already completed the survey, as well as a clipboard, plastic cover, surveys, detailed instructions for completing the survey (which were reviewed during the training session), a blank copy

48 Survey Monkey is an online survey development website.

of the waiver volunteers signed at the training session, general information about the count, a pen, instructions about their route and/or a map, as well as some candies and cigarettes (to be used as an icebreaker to establish a level of trust in order to initiate a conversation).

Individuals approached by volunteers were offered a cigarette, or snack⁴⁹ as an ice-breaker, prior to being asked to participate in a survey, rather than after completing a survey, to ensure ice-breakers would not be used as an incentive to complete an interview. Volunteers were instructed to wear their volunteer count stickers at all times during their shift, so they could be identified with the count. Consistent with previous counts in Metro Vancouver (except in 2011), volunteers were advised to try to wake up a person who was sleeping so the person would have the opportunity to be included in the count. Volunteers were also instructed to ensure informed consent was given by each survey respondent prior to beginning the survey and to provide respondents with contact information should they have additional questions on how their information is being used. Volunteers were also instructed to stop an interview immediately if they were approached by the media to protect the privacy of the person they were interviewing.

Survey Participation Rates

Data for the homeless counts in the 12 B.C. count communities was collected through two streams:

- › Basic data on shelter capacity, occupancy, age, and gender was obtained from shelter providers. Health authorities, jails and detox facilities also provided data for those staying temporarily in their facilities (and having “No Fixed Address”). The data obtained from shelter providers, health authorities, detox and jails provided the total number of sheltered respondents.
- › Volunteers conducted surveys on the night of the count in shelters and during the day on the street in each of the 12 B.C. count communities. The surveys included screening and interview questions that were asked of every person who was identified as experiencing homelessness and who agreed to and was able to participate in the survey. The number of people screened in as experiencing street homelessness also provides the total number of unsheltered/ street homeless. Detailed demographic information used to establish a profile of the homeless population is available for only people who answered the survey.
- › As shown below, the overall survey participation rate for people in shelters was 51%.⁵⁰

	Sheltered survey respondents	Total Sheltered Individuals	Response Rate
12 B.C. Count Communities	239	390	61%
HPS Communities (aggregate) ⁵¹	2,091	4,251	49%
Other Communities ⁵²	108	146	74%
Total Response Rate	2,438	4,787	51%

49 Prince Rupert and Port Alberni were the only two communities that offered snack foods as an icebreaker in place of cigarettes.

50 It is not possible to provide a participation rate for the unsheltered respondents because the total population of individuals who were not surveyed is not known.

51 Response rates for HPS are highly variable by community and question asked. Therefore, the total respondents for the key indicator of gender is used to determine overall response rate.

52 Survey response rates for HPS and other communities was based on the gender identity question because it was the most commonly answered question.

4.4 Federally Funded Homelessness Partnering Strategy Counts and Independent Count Communities

To provide a comprehensive snapshot of the scope and scale of homelessness in British Columbia, this report includes an analysis of the 2018 PiT counts funded through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, as well as four other communities that had recently completed counts. In 2016, the Government of Canada originated a nationally coordinated, bi-annual PiT count to identify overall trends, themes, challenges, and characteristics of homelessness in Canada. In March and April of 2018, over 60 HPS-funded communities engaged in the second nationally coordinated count, including 6 across B.C.⁵³ In addition to these communities, Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley Regional District, Duncan and Vernon had completed PiT counts in 2017, and the results from these counts are included in the report.⁵⁴

In the lead up to the first nationally coordinated count, Service Canada prepared various implementation guidelines and tools, including the *Guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy*, which provided guidance and advice for planning a count. The document provided best practices and suggestions for developing a local PiT count, including the core questions to appear on the survey instrument. This included screening questions and information related to capturing demographics such as age, gender, Indigeneity, immigration and refugee status, as well as duration of individuals experiencing homelessness and length of time in community. While these core questions were standardized throughout communities conducting an HPS count, the approach allowed for flexibility so that communities could tailor their approach to local context. This approach created differences in the survey methodology between HPS funded communities and limited the extent to which they could be compared against one another. In addition, this approach ultimately posed a challenge for directly comparing these counts with the 12 B.C. count communities, given slight differences with survey questions. To the greatest extent possible, data from the HPS and other communities were adjusted to align with the methodological parameters of the 12 B.C. count communities to enable direct comparisons, but in certain cases this was limited or not possible.

The HPS communities were contacted individually to ask them to support the provincial initiative and provide data on the respective count in their community. Many communities provided raw survey data on sheltered and unsheltered individuals so that the data could be tabulated according to the core community's methodology, while others provided aggregated data only. Similarly, some communities provided data collected through shelters, while others did not. There was also some variation regarding whether or not communities included different types of hidden homelessness, such as couch surfing or people staying in institutions. As a result, the methodological approach adopted in each HPS community differed not only from the provincial method, but from another one another. There were also some differences with the counts conducted independently on Salt Spring Island and in Terrace, although Terrace used the same survey as the B.C. count communities. Throughout this report, footnotes are provided where direct comparisons were problematic or not possible.

53 Metro Vancouver conducted a regional PiT count in March of 2017. In lieu of conducting an additional PiT count for 2018, Metro Vancouver piloted a more in-depth youth homeless count.

54 It is important to note that numbers in this report may differ from the HPS community reports because of different methodologies used. For example, we do not include "provisionally accommodated" if an individual does not meet the definition of homelessness for the purpose of our count, but we do include people who were couch surfing if they were identified during the count.

4.5 Limitations

Homeless counts are inherently undercounts and this count was no different. While every effort was made to include as many individuals experiencing homelessness as possible, we were not able to find everyone and not every individual experiencing homelessness wanted to be surveyed. Some local service providers also expressed concern that the PiT methodology is limited in its ability to capture the true extent of homelessness in a rural setting due to the geography and climate in these settings resulting in more hidden homelessness. Several factors, discussed below, have been identified that generally affect the results of homeless counts.

Lack of Willingness to Participate

Many people who are experiencing homelessness do not want to be counted and prefer to remain hidden. All of the 12 B.C. count communities had previously conducted counts, housing needs assessments and other surveys; consequently, survey fatigue could be an issue. Stigma associated with homelessness also can impact a person's willingness to participate in the count or to be identified as homeless.

Hidden Homelessness

The hidden homeless, for the purpose of the Count, includes people who may be staying with friends (couch surfing), living deep in the woods, or in parks, vehicles, or abandoned buildings and other locations where volunteers are not able to find them. Research also shows that youth and women may couch surf or live in unsafe situations to avoid street homelessness. While efforts were made to host events that provided additional food and services to welcome and engage individuals experiencing homelessness, not everyone attended the events and those who did, may not have completed a survey.

Length of Survey

The nature of the survey itself also presents limitations regarding participation and response rates. The shelter survey included 21 questions and the street survey included 23 each taking roughly 7-10 minutes to complete. The length of the survey presented a barrier to some individuals.

Other Limitations and Considerations

In addition to the limitations discussed above, which could impact participation and response rates, several limitations regarding the survey questions themselves and data analysis should be noted.

- › Questions with long lists of options are likely to receive less accurate responses. For example, an individual answering the question regarding service use may not accurately remember all the services used in the last year.
- › In the income question, there are several categories (income assistance, disability benefit and other pension) that overlap. Some individuals may receive a disability pension, for example, that could be identified by individuals as either a disability benefit or a pension.
- › Questions asked later in the survey were more likely to have a lower response rate, and certain personal questions (e.g. sexual orientation) may not have been answered by respondents.
- › The data in this report constitutes a benchmark to measure the progress made to address homelessness over time but does not allow for any current longitudinal comparisons.

5 | Appendices

5.1 Report Data Sources

As shown in Figure 2, this report includes:

- › Data from the provincially (1-12), and federally (13-18) funded counts, and two other homeless counts conducted in the spring of 2018 (19-20), as well as four counts conducted in 2017 (21-24).⁵⁵
- › Shelter data from other B.C. communities (collected by BC Housing)⁵⁶

This approach provides a broad picture of homelessness in British Columbia with coverage of more than 85 percent (85%) of the province by population.

Figure 2: 2018 Homeless Counts in B.C.⁵⁷

	#	Community	Date	Source
B.C. FUNDED COUNTS	1	Campbell River	13-Apr-2018	
	2	Comox Valley	7-Mar-2018	
	3	Cranbrook	18-Apr-2018	
	4	Merritt	4-Apr-2018	
	5	Parksville/Qualicum	18-Apr-2018	
	6	Penticton	30-Apr-2018	
	7	Port Alberni	11-Apr-2018	
	8	Smithers	17-Apr-2018	
	9	Williams Lake	26-Mar-2018	
	10	Prince Rupert	21-Mar-2018	
	11	Fort St. John	18-Apr-2018	
	12	Sechelt/Gibsons	23-Apr-2018	
HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY FUNDED COUNTS	13	Greater Victoria	16-Mar-2018	https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/housing-pdf/housing-planning-and-programs/2018-pit-count---community-report---final---july-19.pdf?sfvrsn=a92ee2ca_2
	14	Kamloops	28-Mar-2018	https://www.kamloops.ca/sites/default/files/docs/our-community/297700pdf_pit_2018_rep.pdf
	15	Kelowna	6-Mar-2018	https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/9915/2884/5444/COF_PiT_Report_2018_FINAL.pdf
	16	Nanaimo	18-Apr-2018	https://www.nanaimo.ca/docs/social-culture-environment/community-social-service-programs/nanaimo-pit-count-report-2018_final_june-6.pdf
	17	Nelson	11-Apr-2018	http://nelsoncares.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FINAL-DRAFT-June-22-Nelson-10th-Annual-Report-Card-on-Homelessness-1.pdf
	18	Prince George	18-Apr-2018	Not available

⁵⁵ This report includes data from the 2017 homeless counts for Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Data from the 2018 City of Vancouver and Abbotsford counts will not replace the 2017 data for the regional counts.

⁵⁶ This includes data obtained for the night of March 20, 2018 from BC Housing funded shelters, transition houses for women and their children at risk of violence, and safe homes located in communities that were not involved in a homeless count. The number of people staying in these facilities is included in the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

⁵⁷ Lake Country also conducted a PiT count in the spring of 2018, no individuals experiencing homelessness were identified.

	#	Community	Date	Source
INDEPENDENT	19	Salt Spring Island	13-Mar-2018	http://saltspringcommunityservices.ca/point-in-time-homeless-count-2018/
	20	Terrace	18-Apr-2018	https://terrace.civicweb.net/document/6725
2017 COUNTS	21	Vernon	19-Oct-2017	https://www.vernon.ca/sites/default/files/docs/building-planning/171023_final_report_-_our_homeless_count.pdf
	22	Duncan	21-Feb-2017	https://d3n8a8pro7vbm.cloudfront.net/cwav/pages/522/attachments/original/1515171590/Duncan_PiT_Homeless_Count_-_Community_Report_March_2017%281%29.pdf?1515171590
	23	Metro Vancouver	8-Mar-2017	http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/HomelessnessPublications/2017MetroVancouverHomelessCount.pdf
	24	Fraser Valley	8-Mar-2017	http://www.fvrd.ca/assets/Government/Documents/2017%20FVRD%20Homelessness%20Survey%20Report.pdf

Figure 3 includes communities with BC Housing funded shelters, transition houses for women and their children at risk of violence, and safe homes that were not involved in a homeless count but data was obtained for the night of March 20, 2018. The number of people staying in these facilities is included in the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

Figure 3: Shelter Data from Other B.C. Communities

Communities		
› 100 Mile House	› Grand Forks	› Powell River
› Castlegar	› Invermere	› Princeton
› Chetwynd	› Kaslo	› Quesnel
› Clearwater	› Kitimat	› Revelstoke
› Creston	› Lillooet	› Salmo
› Creston	› Mackenzie	› Salmon Arm
› Dawson Creek	› Masset	› Squamish
› Fernie	› McBride	› Telegraph Creek
› Fort Nelson	› Nakusp	› Trail
› Fort St. James	› Osoyoos	› Tumbler Ridge
› Gold River	› Pemberton	› Ucluelet
› Golden	› Port Hardy	› Vanderhoof

5.2 Glossary of Terms and Definitions

The following terms are used throughout the report.

Aboriginal Identity	Refers to whether the person identified with the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. This includes those who are First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who are Registered or Treaty Indians (that is, registered under the Indian Act of Canada), and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band. Aboriginal peoples of Canada are defined in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35 (2) as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. ⁵⁴
Accompanied Children	See Children
Children	Refers to children under 19 who were with their parent or guardian during the 2018 Homeless Count. Children are counted below the age of 19 based on reporting in the shelter statistics forms and responses to the question “Are you with anyone today?” No individual survey record of these individuals exists, as they were not interviewed. Unaccompanied youth refers to anyone under the age of 25 who was not physically accompanied by a parent during the Count (e.g. interviewed on the street).
Don’t know/no answer	Respondents in this category include both, respondents who declined to answer a question but who may have completed the rest of the survey, and <i>individuals</i> who did not answer the survey at all, but were counted through additional information from shelter operators, hospitals, jails and BC Housing. See “ <i>individual</i> ” and “ <i>respondent</i> ”. It also includes participants in counts where the question was not asked or the data could not be integrated with the provincially-funded count.
Indigenous Identity	See Aboriginal Identity
Individual	Refers to all people included in the count’s total number, including those who were counted through additional information from shelter operators, hospitals, jails and BC Housing and through the survey. See “respondent”.
LGBTQ2S	Refers to people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Queer, Questioning and 2-Spirit.
Magnet Event	A magnet event is a strategy used during a PiT Count to attract individuals experiencing homelessness to a planned event. The event, generally lasting a few hours, is advertised well in advance of the day of the count, and usually includes food, services and the option to complete a PiT Count survey. The strategy increases the opportunity to survey individuals experiencing homelessness who might otherwise not be surveyed through a sheltered or unsheltered count.
NFA / No Fixed Address locations	Includes jails and hospitals, and short-term medical facilities; respondents/individuals are included in “Sheltered” unless broken out differently in specific tables.
Participant	Refers to those who were asked to participate in the survey.
PiT count	Point-in-Time homeless count
Respondent	Refers to those who participated in a survey by answering a survey question. See “individual”.

58 Statistics Canada. No date. “Aboriginal identity of person.” Definitions, data sources and methods, variables. Last updated April 04, 2017. <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DECI&Id=246617> (accessed June 10, 2018).

Sheltered	“Sheltered” individuals or respondents includes all those who stayed or answered a survey and slept at either a temporary nightly shelter, winter response shelter or other shelter programs, such as transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth. It also includes individuals with no fixed address (see NFA) unless this information is detailed differently in specific tables.
Unspecified	“Unspecified” refers to survey respondents from communities where respondents were not broken out by sheltered or unsheltered.
Unsheltered	“Unsheltered” individuals or respondents includes all those who completed a street survey and who had no physical shelter the previous night (i.e. were staying outside, in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks and vehicles). It also includes people who were staying temporarily at someone else’s place (couch surfing) the previous night, and who were interviewed on the street or at a homeless service.

5.3 Community Contributors for B.C. Count Communities

Community	Community Organization
Campbell River	AIDS Vancouver Island
Campbell River	Alano Club
Campbell River	Campbell River and North Island Transition Society (CRNITS)
Campbell River	Campbell River Beacon Club
Campbell River	Campbell River Sobering Assessment Centre
Campbell River	City of Campbell River
Campbell River	Laichwiltach Family Life Society
Campbell River	MHSA ACT Teams
Campbell River	North Island Employment Foundations Society
Campbell River	North Island Survivors' Healing Society
Campbell River	Options for Sexual Health
Campbell River	Salvation Army
Campbell River	The John Howard Society of North Island
Comox Valley	AIDS Vancouver Island
Comox Valley	Amethyst House
Comox Valley	City of Courtenay Bylaw
Comox Valley	Comox Bay Care Society Care-A-Van
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Family Services
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Food Bank
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Head Injury Society
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Recovery Centre
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Transition Society
Comox Valley	Connect Program at VIRL
Comox Valley	Cumberland Affordable Housing Committee
Comox Valley	Dawn to Dawn
Comox Valley	Eureka Support Society
Comox Valley	First Nation Health Authority

Community	Community Organization
Comox Valley	Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society
Comox Valley	Komoks First Nation
Comox Valley	LILLI House
Comox Valley	LINC Youth Centre
Comox Valley	Mental Health & Substance Use
Comox Valley	North Island Hospital
Comox Valley	Salvation Army Family Services
Comox Valley	Salvation Army Pidcock House
Comox Valley	SD71
Comox Valley	Wachiay Friendship Centre
Cranbrook	Ankors
Cranbrook	Community Social Planning Society of Cranbrook and Area
Cranbrook	Operation Street Angel: Ktunaxa Nation
Cranbrook	Salvation Army Coordinator- Community Ministries
Cranbrook	The Homeless Outreach Team
Cranbrook	United Way of Cranbrook and Kimberley
Fort Saint John	FSJ Womens Resource society
Fort Saint John	Salvation Army
Fort Saint John	Urban Matters
Merritt	ASK Wellness
Merritt	Library
Merritt	Conayt Friendship Society
Merritt	Nicola Valley Shelter & Support Society
Merritt	Nicola Valley Region and District Foodbank
Parksville	Discovery College
Parksville	Forward House Community Services Society
Parksville	Haven Society
Parksville	Island Crisis Care Society
Parksville	Lighthouse Community Hall – Soupy Café
Parksville	Manna Homeless Society
Parksville	Society of Organized Services
Parksville	The Salvation Army
Penticton	Compass House
Penticton	Pathways Addictions
Penticton	Soupateria
Port Alberni	Alberni Community and Women's Services
Port Alberni	Alberni Drug and Alcohol Prevention Society
Port Alberni	Better at Home/Alberni Valley Assisted Living Society
Port Alberni	Canadian Mental Health Association – Port Alberni
Port Alberni	City of Port Alberni
Port Alberni	INEO Employment Services
Port Alberni	Island Health - Mental Health & Substance Abuse
Port Alberni	Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society

Community	Community Organization
Port Alberni	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction/Service BC
Port Alberni	Port Alberni Friendship Centre
Port Alberni	Port Alberni Shelter Society
Port Alberni	Scott Fraser MLA - Constituency Office
Port Alberni	The New Leaf Supportive Recovery
Prince Rupert	North Coast Transition Society
Prince Rupert	Mental Health and Addictions CORE
Prince Rupert	Friendship House
Prince Rupert	Salvation Army
Prince Rupert	Blue Heron Program Offices
Prince Rupert	Library
Prince Rupert	Raven's Keep Transition House
Prince Rupert	Extreme Weather Shelter
Prince Rupert	Youth Program
Sechelt	Arrowhead Mental Health Clubhouse (SCCSS)
Sechelt	Intensive Case Management Team
Sechelt	Needle Exchange (VCH)
Sechelt	RainCity Housing
Sechelt	Salvation Army
Sechelt	Sechelt Foodbank (SCCSS)
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Community Services Society
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Mental Health and Addictions Services (VCH)
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Youth Outreach (SCCSS)
Sechelt	Yew Transition House (SCCSS)
Smithers	Broadway Place
Smithers	Bulkley Valley District Hospital
Smithers	Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre
Smithers	Northern Health-Mental Health and Addictions
Smithers	Office of the Wetsuwet'en
Smithers	Passage House
Smithers	Positive Living North
Smithers	Salvation Army
Smithers	Smithers Community Services Association
Smithers	Smithers Interministerial Group
Smithers	Witset (Morisetown Band)
Williams Lake	Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) - Cariboo Chilcotin Branch
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society – Shelter
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society - Transition House
Williams Lake	Mental Health Substance Use
Williams Lake	Salvation Army

5.4 Survey Instruments

Survey ID: _____

Homeless Count 2018 Street Survey	
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Volunteer Name: _____ Location: _____

- **Participation is voluntary** and **your name will not be recorded.**
- You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the interview at any time.**
- The answers you provide are collected under BC's Privacy Act.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across BC and Canada, and will help with research to improve services
- **Doing the interview will not affect your use of services in any way.**

Do you consent to be interviewed? ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.1**) ☐ No (**END**)

SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Have you already answered a survey today (with someone wearing a yellow sticker)?

- ☐ Yes (**END**)
- ☐ No (**Go to Q.2**)
- ☐ No answer (**END**)

2. Have you already answered a survey in another community in the last 6 weeks?

- ☐ Yes (**Community name** _____) (**Go to Q.3**)
- ☐ No (**Go to Q.3**)
- ☐ Don't know/No answer (**Go to Q.3**)

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

- ☐ Yes (**END**)
- ☐ No (**Go to Q.4**)
- ☐ No answer (**Go to Q.4**)

4. Where did you stay last night?

- ☐ Outside (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ In a vehicle (Car, van, RV, truck) (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ Makeshift shelter or tent (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ Abandoned/vacant building (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ Someone else's place or couch-surfing (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ On a boat
- ☐ paying moorage (**END**)
- ☐ not paying moorage (**GO TO Q.5**)
- ☐ Parent(s)/guardian's house – If **youth under 25** (**END**) if 25 or older (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ Shelter, Safe House, Transition House (specify) _____ (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ Detox, recovery house, hospital, jail (**END**)
- ☐ Own place inside where you pay rent (specify): _____ (**END**)
- ☐ Other (specify): _____ (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ No answer (**END**)

SURVEY QUESTIONS

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

Days # Weeks # Months # Years

☐ Don't know / No answer

6. How old are you [OR] what year were you born?

Age _____ Year born _____

☐ Don't know / No answer

7. What gender you identify with? [Show list]

- ☐ Male / Man
- ☐ Female / Woman
- ☐ Two-Spirit
- ☐ Trans Female / Trans Woman
- ☐ Trans Male / Trans Man
- ☐ Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming
- ☐ Not Listed (specify): _____
- ☐ Don't Know / No answer

SURVEY QUESTIONS (continued)

8. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee?

- ☐ Yes (choose one)
- ☐ Immigrant (Go to Q.8a)
- ☐ Refugee (Go to Q.8a)
- ☐ Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.8a)
- ☐ No (Go to Q.9)
- ☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.9)

8a. How long have you been in Canada?

Length: _____

Days # Weeks # Months # Years

Or date of arrival: _____

Day Month Year

☐ Don't know / No answer

9. Do you identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal? This includes First Nations, Metis, Inuit, with or without status.

- ☐ Yes - specify (**check only one**)
- ☐ First Nations: _____ (specify if known)
- ☐ Inuit
- ☐ Métis
- ☐ Not listed (please describe: _____)
- ☐ Don't know / No answer
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

10. Do you have the following health challenges? (Read list.)

	Yes	No	Don't know/ No answer
Medical condition/illness	☐	☐	☐
Physical disability	☐	☐	☐
Addiction	☐	☐	☐
Mental illness	☐	☐	☐

11. Is there anybody with you today?

- ☐ Yes Who? (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Partner/spouse
- ☐ Child(ren) Age(s) 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
- ☐ Friend(s)
- ☐ Pet(s)
- ☐ Relative(s)
- ☐ Other (specify): _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

12. How long have you been in (community name)?

Length: _____

Days # Weeks # Months # Years

- ☐ Always been here (**Go to Q.13**)
- ☐ Don't know / No answer (**Go to Q.13**)

12a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. what community)?

- ☐ Community name _____
- AND province _____
- ☐ OR country _____
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

Page 1 of 2 ➔

PART 2: SURVEY (continued)

13. What are your sources of income? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Welfare/income assistance
- ☐ Panhandling
- ☐ Disability benefit
- ☐ Binning/bottles
- ☐ Employment insurance
- ☐ Youth agreement
- ☐ Money from family/friends
- ☐ Job full-time
- ☐ Job part-time or casual
- ☐ Old age security (OAS)/guaranteed income supplement (GIS)
- ☐ CPP or other pension
- ☐ Honoraria
- ☐ Vending
- ☐ No income
- ☐ Other (specify): _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

14. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" means a place where you paid rent - does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

- ☐ Illness or medical condition
- ☐ Addiction or substance use
- ☐ Job loss
- ☐ Unable to pay rent or mortgage
- ☐ Unsafe housing conditions
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: parent / guardian
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: spouse / partner
- ☐ Conflict with: parent / guardian
- ☐ Conflict with: spouse / partner
- ☐ Incarcerated (jail or prison)
- ☐ Hospitalization or treatment program
- ☐ Eviction
- ☐ Other reason: _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

15. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Income too low
- ☐ History of Eviction/Lack of references
- ☐ Lack of identification
- ☐ No income/no income assistance
- ☐ Addiction
- ☐ Rent too high
- ☐ Poor housing conditions
- ☐ No housing available that suits my needs (specify): _____
- ☐ Mental health issues
- ☐ Family breakdown/abuse/conflict
- ☐ Conflict with law
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Discrimination (specify): _____
- ☐ Lack of transportation
- ☐ Other (specify): _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

16. If you did NOT stay in a shelter, safe house or transition house last night, what is the MAIN reason why? (Check only one)

- ☐ Able to stay with a friend (specify): _____
- ☐ Dislike (specify): _____
- ☐ Don't feel safe (specify): _____
- ☐ Turned away (specify): _____
- ☐ Bedbugs/pests (specify): _____
- ☐ Other (specify): _____
- ☐ Slept in a shelter/safe house/transition house
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

17. Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months?

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

18. What services have you used in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Health services
 - ☐ Ambulance
 - ☐ Emergency room
 - ☐ Hospital (non emergency)
 - ☐ Dental clinic or dentist
 - ☐ Mental health services
 - ☐ Addiction services
 - ☐ Health clinic
- ☐ Food Services
 - ☐ Food banks
 - ☐ Meal programs/soup kitchens
- ☐ Legal Services
 - ☐ Legal
 - ☐ Parole or services for ex-offenders
- ☐ Employment and Financial services
 - ☐ Employment/Job help
 - ☐ Budgeting/trusteeship
- ☐ Housing Services
 - ☐ Housing help/eviction prevention
 - ☐ Homeless outreach
 - ☐ Transitional housing
- ☐ Other Services
 - ☐ Drop-in
 - ☐ Newcomer services
 - ☐ Faith-based/spiritual services
 - ☐ Other (specify): _____
 - ☐ None
 - ☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

20. Have you ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ Currently (since when: _____)
 - ☐ Previously (for how long: _____)
 - ☐ Don't know / No answer
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

21. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? (Includes army, navy, airforce, RCMP)

- ☐ Yes (Check all that apply)
 - ☐ Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
 - ☐ RCMP
 - ☐ Other country military (specify): _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

For the next questions, homeless means "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent".

22. Is this your first time being homeless?

- ☐ Yes (END)
- ☐ No (Go to 23)
- ☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.23)

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

Age _____ Year _____ ☐ Don't know/No answer

Survey ID: _____

Homeless Count 2018 Sheltered Survey



Volunteer Name: _____ Shelter Name: _____

- **Participation is voluntary and your name will not be recorded.**
- You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the interview at any time.**
- The answers you provide are collected under BC's Privacy Act.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across BC and Canada, and will help with research to improve services
- **Doing the interview will not affect your use of services in any way.**

Do you consent to be interviewed? ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.1**) ☐ No (**END**)

SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Will you be sleeping in this shelter tonight?

- ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.2**)
☐ No (**Go to Q.2**)
☐ No answer (**END**)

2. Have you already answered a survey today (with someone wearing a yellow sticker)?

- ☐ Yes (**END**)
☐ No (**Go to Q.3**)
☐ No answer (**END**)

3. Have you already answered a survey in another community in the last 6 weeks?

- ☐ Yes (**Community name** _____) (**Go to Q.4**)
☐ No (**Go to Q.4**)
☐ Don't know/No answer (**Go to Q.4**)

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

- ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.5**)
☐ No (**Go to Q.5**)
☐ No answer (**Go to Q.5**)

SURVEY QUESTIONS

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

Days # Weeks # Months # Years
☐ Don't know / No answer

6. How old are you [OR] what year were you born?

Age _____ Year born _____
☐ Don't know / No answer

7. What gender you identify with? [Show list]

- ☐ Male / Man
☐ Female / Woman
☐ Two-Spirit
☐ Trans Female / Trans Woman
☐ Trans Male / Trans Man
☐ Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming
☐ Not Listed (specify): _____
☐ Don't Know / No answer

8. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee?

- ☐ Yes (choose one)
☐ Immigrant (Go to Q.8a)
☐ Refugee (Go to Q.8a)
☐ Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.8a)
☐ No (Go to Q.9)
☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.9)

8a. How long have you been in Canada?

Length: _____
Days # Weeks # Months # Years

Or date of arrival: _____
Day Month Year

☐ Don't know / No answer

9. Do you identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal? This includes First Nations, Metis, Inuit, with or without status.

- ☐ Yes - specify (**check only one**)
☐ First Nations: _____ (specify if known)
☐ Inuit
☐ Métis
☐ Not listed
(please describe: _____)
☐ Don't know / No answer
☐ No
☐ Don't know / No answer

10. Do you have the following health challenges? (Read list.)

	Yes	No	Don't know/ No answer
Medical condition/illness	☐	☐	☐
Physical disability	☐	☐	☐
Addiction	☐	☐	☐
Mental illness	☐	☐	☐

11. Is there anybody with you today?

- ☐ Yes Who? (Check all that apply)
☐ Partner/spouse
☐ Child(ren)
Age(s) 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
☐ Friend(s)
☐ Pet(s)
☐ Relative(s)
☐ Other (specify): _____
☐ No
☐ Don't know/No answer



PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

12. How long have you been in (community name)?

Length: _____
Days # Weeks # Months # Years

- ☐ Always been here (Go to Q.13)
☐ Don't know / No answer (Go to Q.13)

12a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. what community)?

- ☐ Community name _____
AND province _____
☐ OR country _____
☐ Don't know / No answer

13. What are your sources of income? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Welfare/income assistance
☐ Panhandling
☐ Disability benefit
☐ Binning/bottles
☐ Employment insurance
☐ Youth agreement
☐ Money from family/friends
☐ Job full-time
☐ Job part-time or casual
☐ Old age security (OAS)/guaranteed income supplement (GIS)
☐ CPP or other pension
☐ Honoraria
☐ Vending
☐ No income
☐ Other (specify): _____
☐ Don't know/No answer

14. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" means a place where you paid rent - does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

- ☐ Illness or medical condition
☐ Addiction or substance use
☐ Job loss
☐ Unable to pay rent or mortgage
☐ Unsafe housing conditions
☐ Experienced abuse by: parent / guardian
☐ Experienced abuse by: spouse / partner
☐ Conflict with: parent / guardian
☐ Conflict with: spouse / partner
☐ Incarcerated (jail or prison)
☐ Hospitalization or treatment program
☐ Eviction
☐ Other reason _____
☐ Don't know/No answer

15. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Income too low
☐ History of Eviction/Lack of references
☐ Lack of identification
☐ No income/no income assistance
☐ Addiction
☐ Rent too high
☐ Poor housing conditions
☐ No housing available that suits my needs (specify) _____
☐ Mental health issues
☐ Family breakdown/abuse/conflict
☐ Conflict with law
☐ Pets
☐ Discrimination (specify) _____
☐ Lack of transportation
☐ Other (specify): _____
☐ Don't know/No answer

16. What services have you used in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Health services
☐ Ambulance
☐ Emergency room
☐ Hospital (non emergency)
☐ Dental clinic or dentist
☐ Mental health services
☐ Addiction services
☐ Health clinic
☐ Food Services
☐ Food banks
☐ Meal programs/soup kitchens
☐ Legal Services
☐ Legal
☐ Parole or services for ex-offenders
☐ Employment and Financial services
☐ Employment/Job help
☐ Budgeting/trusteeship
☐ Housing Services
☐ Housing help/eviction prevention
☐ Homeless outreach
☐ Transitional housing
☐ Other Services
☐ Drop-in
☐ Newcomer services
☐ Faith-based/spiritual services
☐ Other (specify): _____
☐ None
☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

18. Have you ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement?

- ☐ Yes
☐ Currently (since when: _____)
☐ Previously (for how long: _____)
☐ Don't know / No answer
☐ No
☐ Don't know / No answer

19. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? (Includes army, navy, airforce, RCMP)

- ☐ Yes (Check all that apply)
☐ Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
☐ RCMP
☐ Other country military (specify) _____
☐ No
☐ Don't know / No answer

For the next questions, homeless means "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent".

20. Is this your first time being homeless?

- ☐ Yes (END)
☐ No (Go to Q.21)
☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.21)

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

Age _____ Year _____ ☐ Don't know/No answer

6 | About the Implementing Organizations

6.1 About Homelessness Services Association of BC

The Homelessness Services Association of British Columbia (HSABC) is a solution-focused, member-driven organization supporting shelters, drop-in centres, homeless outreach teams, transition houses and other service providers to strengthen and unify services across BC that are addressing the needs of persons experiencing homelessness. Our mandate is to raise awareness of the causes and solutions to homelessness by working with all levels of government, the private and non-profit sector, and communities across the province with the goal of ending homelessness by connecting people with appropriate housing and supports.

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

6.2 About Urban Matters CCC

Urban Matters is a community contribution company (CCC) that launches social ventures to help vulnerable people enjoy a higher quality of life. Our vision is to ensure that all vulnerable people have their most basic needs met: reliable access to food, water, shelter and livelihood.

Urban Matters is a subsidiary of Urban Systems Ltd. which has over 40 years of community development experience in British Columbia www.urbansystems.ca. As a self-financed social-purpose business, Urban Matters' main sources of revenue come from social innovation readiness consulting and the modest royalties we receive from the ventures we incubate.

These profits are reinvested in researching, designing, and scaling new social ventures. We think that the biggest impact we can have is to use our well-established business networks and professional expertise to create new social ventures that directly serve the needs of vulnerable people. This approach creates a ripple effect that grows the impact far beyond our own scale and reach.

Urban Matters' team of community catalysts provide social innovation readiness consulting to help governments, community organizations and private companies deliver greater social impact. Our team combines community development expertise with innovation skills such as change management, partnership brokering and human centered-design principles to help our partners achieve social outcomes.

6.3 About BC Non-Profit Housing Association

BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) is the provincial umbrella organization for the non-profit housing sector, providing programs, services, research and education to strengthen the capacity of non-profit housing providers. Together non-profit housing societies manage more than 60,000 units of long-term, affordable housing in over 2,000 buildings across the province.

BCNPHA's research and policy arm was established in 2008 to develop a strong evidence base for affordable housing and developing solutions to the homelessness and rental housing crisis. Our research department has expertise in a broad range of methodologies that include both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Today we provide quality process design, research and analysis to assist clients and partners in making evidence-based decisions. In our work we ensure that homelessness issues are thought of in tandem with affordable housing provision with the goal of breaking down sector silos.

Our research has helped inform planning and policy decisions that provide a diverse housing supply and options for a broad range of BC residents.

