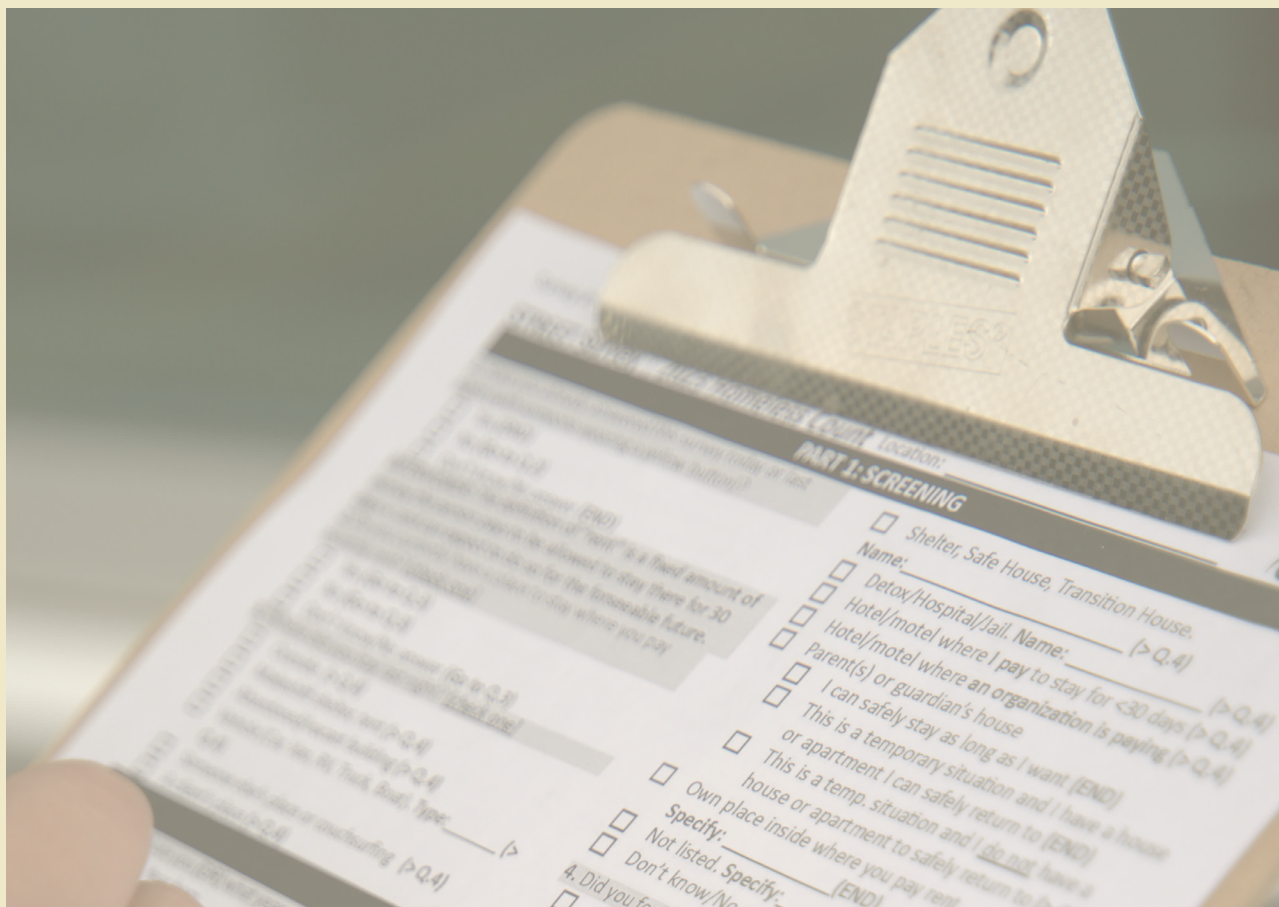


REPORT ON HOMELESS COUNTS IN BC

2023



BC HOUSING



HSABC
Homelessness Services
Association of BC



PREPARED BY
HOMELESSNESS SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF BC
MARCH 2024

SUPPORT RESOURCES

We acknowledge that discussing housing “homelessness” and/or “houselessness,” can be difficult and may bring up distressing memories/feelings. If while reading this document you feel you would benefit from professional and compassionate supports, please use one of the support lines below.

Crisis line supports:

Indian Residential School Society (IRSSS) Toll-Free Line: 1-800-721-0066 (24-Hours)

National Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419

KUU-US Crisis Line: 1-800-588-8717

Tsow-Tun-Le Lum: 1-888-403-3123

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This project was funded by the Province of B.C. and can be found on [BC Housing's website](#). For further information and data, contact the Research Centre: research@bchousing.org

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that the homeless counts took place on the unceded territories of over 200 First Nations, and acknowledges the unique traditions, histories and cultures of Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) Peoples. They have been custodians of this land for thousands of years and we pay our respect to the Elders and Knowledge-Keepers both past and present.

Counts included in this report were conducted on the territories of the Chemainus, Gitksan, Haisla, K'ómoks, Ktunaxa, Kwantlen, k'wík'wəəm, Leq'á:mel, Lhtako Dene, Ligwilda'xw People (Including Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, and Kwiakah First Nations), Musqueam, Nanoose, Nlaka'pamux, Nuu-chah-nulth, shíshálh (Sechelt), Semiamhoo, Stó:lo, (Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw) Squamish, Treaty 8, Tsilhqot'in, Wet'suwet'en First Nations, and the Cowichan Tribes.

BC Housing also delivers its programs and services on the ancestral homelands of hundreds of Indigenous Peoples and Nations across British Columbia. BC Housing's Corporate Home Office is located on the ancestral homelands of the x'məθk'əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłətał (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples who have been the caretakers of these lands for thousands of years. We offer our respect to their peoples, past and present.



Mural by Jeff King in Prince Rupert, BC

WITH GRATITUDE

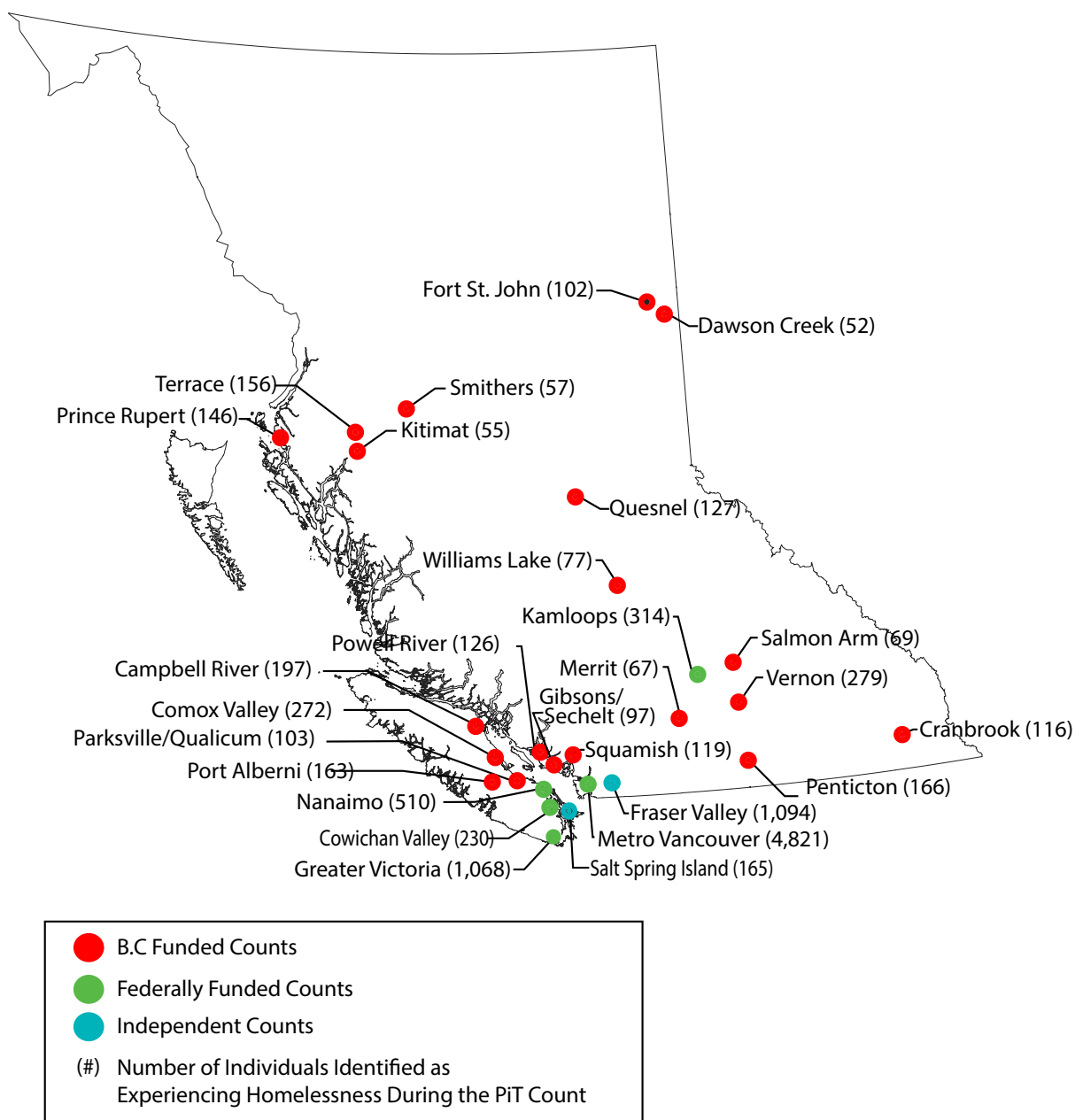
This research project would not have been possible without the participation and support of many people and organizations. The Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC) would like to thank all the agencies, service providers, government staff, and others who helped organize and implement the Count.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

- All the people 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 report would not have been possible.
- Persons with lived expertise and living experience (PWLLE) of homelessness who made an invaluable contribution in reviewing survey questions and designing survey routes. They were also crucial members of our survey teams, making connections to people that would otherwise not be possible. For more information about how lived expertise contributed to the 2023 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C., see section 1.2.
- All staff and organizations who dedicated time and resources to completing surveys with their clients and attending planning sessions.
- The Local Coordinators who carried out the Provincially funded Counts:
 - Campbell River – Stefanie Hendrickson and the Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness
 - Comox Valley – Angela Fletcher and the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
 - Cranbrook – Jean Vecchi, Nancy Reid, and the staff at Community Connections Society of Southeast BC
 - Dawson Creek – Jan Atkinson and Jannah Kohlman and the staff at Nawican Friendship Centre
 - Fort St. John – Jocelyn Eisert, Travis Fleet, and Kim Morrison
 - Kitimat - Gerry Leibel and the staff at Kitimat Community Services Society
 - Merritt – Keri Cooke, Jalissa Weymouth, Stacey Berryman, and the staff at ASK Wellness
 - Parksville/Qualicum – Renate Sutherland and the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness
 - Penticton – Linda Sankey, Crystal Kruger, and the staff at the South Okanagan Brain Injury Society, and 100 Homes Penticton
 - Powell River – Julie Jenkins and the staff at Lift Community Services
 - Port Alberni – Marcie DeWitt

- Prince Rupert - Grainne Barthe and the staff at North Coast Transition Society
- Quesnel – Tammy Janzen and Karen Borsato, and the staff at Quesnel Shelter and Support Society
- Salmon Arm – Glenda Cooper and the staff at CMHA Shuswap/Revelstoke Branch
- Sechelt/Gibsons – Rodney Rissanen
- Smithers – Lydia Howard, Chrissy Chapman, and the Dze L K’ant Friendship Centre
- Squamish – Tanya Dutton and the staff at Squamish Helping Hands Society
- Terrace – Kylie Nelson, the staff at ‘Ksan Society, and the staff at Kermode Friendship Centre
- Vernon – Annette Sharkey, Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan, and the staff at Turning Points Collaborative Society
- Williams Lake - Tamara Garreau, and the staff at Cariboo Friendship Society
- Community Entities (CEs) funded through the Government of Canada’s Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy for sharing their data. These include:
 - Cowichan Valley - United Way British Columbia
 - Greater Vancouver - Lu’ma Native BCH Housing Society
 - Kamloops - City of Kamloops
 - Nanaimo - United Way British Columbia
 - Greater Victoria - Capital Regional District
- Communities who conducted independent Counts for sharing their data. These include:
 - Fraser Valley - Fraser Valley Regional District
 - Salt Spring Island - Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society
- The staff of emergency shelters, transition houses, Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelters, and drop-in centres, and the many agencies across the province that participated in Counts.
- Community staff and volunteers who supported their local Counts in mapping street routes, planning events, and ensuring overall participation in these projects were accessible to as many as possible.
- Health Care personnel from Fraser Health, Interior Health, Island Health, Northern Health, and Vancouver Coastal Health for providing data on people with no fixed address who were in their facilities during the Counts.
- We would like to extend a special thank you to Tammy Bennett, Mike Kim, and Rebecca Siggner from BC Housing; and Taro Gurney, Annik Foreman, Carly Ferguson, and Jasmine Johl from the Homelessness Policy and Partnerships Branch in the Ministry of Housing, for their continued guidance, data verification, and support throughout the entire process of developing and implementing the Counts and finalizing this report.

MAP OF PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES



INTRODUCTION AND HOW TO INTERPRET AND USE THIS REPORT

This report summarizes findings from 27 Homeless Counts conducted in communities across British Columbia. It also includes BC Housing-funded shelter, transition house, and safe home data from communities that did not conduct a PiT Count in 2023.

Provincially funded Point-in-Time Homeless Counts (PiT Counts; Homeless Counts, Counts) have taken place in communities in BC in 2018, and 2020/2021. Conducting a Count is a collaborative effort by service providers, volunteers, and researchers to enumerate and complete surveys with the population experiencing homelessness in the region. Counts were conducted over a 24-hour period in each community between March 1 and May 3, 2023. Sources of data include:

- Twenty (20) Homeless Counts funded by the provincial government and coordinated by HSABC;
- Five Homeless Counts funded by the federal government through Reaching Home;
- Two independently funded Homeless Counts; and
- BC Housing-funded shelter, transition house, and safe home data from other B.C. communities (collected by BC Housing), collected on the night of April 4, 2023

This Report presents aggregate data; for comparisons in a specific community, please see the individual reports for that community [here](#)¹. This list is also presented in Section 5.2.

As PiT Counts are time-limited and voluntary, not everyone who is experiencing homelessness in a community will be counted. The numbers presented in this report represent the absolute minimum number of people who are experiencing homelessness. Individuals who are not currently accessing services or are staying in places where they will not easily be found are most likely to be underrepresented.

This report only includes people who meet this definition of homelessness and does not include people who have unstable tenancies, transitional housing, or are living in unsafe or inadequate housing.

It is commonly understood that PiT Counts typically undercount historically marginalized or underrepresented communities including, youth, seniors, Indigenous Peoples, those who have been historically marginalized due to race, members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and persons with disabilities. This is because a person experiencing homelessness must be found in a sheltered or unsheltered location to be counted, and those who are marginalized are often harder to find and less likely to participate in the survey. While there have been deliberate and intentional strategies to engage with these communities (see section 1.2), it is important to consider those who weren't counted because of the ongoing impacts of colonialism, racism, and gender-based violence.

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

¹ <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/housing-data/homeless-counts>
2023 Report on Homeless Counts in BC

KEY FINDINGS

11,352 PEOPLE WERE IDENTIFIED AS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The Count total includes people who were enumerated by either completing a survey, or being counted in a shelter, transition house, safe home, hospital, correctional facility, or detox centre.

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ACROSS B.C. ARE OFTEN LONG-TERM RESIDENTS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES

Sixty-seven percent (67%) of respondents had been in the community they were counted in for more than five years, and 23% of respondents reported that they have always lived in that community.

ECONOMIC PRESSURES, SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES, AND CONFLICT ARE THE MAIN CAUSES OF HOUSING LOSS

Respondents were asked what caused their most recent housing loss. Not enough income was the most common response (37%). The second most common reason was a substance use issue (25%) and the third most common reason for housing loss was a landlord/tenant conflict, or a conflict with a spouse or partner, with 17% each.

PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS INDIGENOUS CONTINUE TO BE OVERREPRESENTED IN THE POPULATION EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Consistent with all Point in Time Counts conducted to date in B.C., people who identify as Indigenous are overrepresented. Forty percent (40%) of respondents identified as Indigenous, compared to 6% of the Census population².

SEVENTY-ONE PERCENT (71%) OF INDIGENOUS RESPONDENTS HAD LIVED OR GENERATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

New for this Count, in partnership with the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee (IHSC) and the Indian Residential School Survivor's Society, respondents were asked if they, a parent, or grandparent had attended a Residential School. For more information about Indigenous homelessness, see [here](#)³.

2SLGBTQIA+ OVERREPRESENTATION

Members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community are overrepresented in homelessness. Eleven percent (11%) of respondents identified as part of this community, compared to 4% of the population of Canada, according to Statistics Canada⁴.

RACIAL IDENTITY OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Amongst survey respondents, 3% identified as Black, 2% identified as Latin American, and 2% identified as South Asian.

2 <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm>

3 <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/indigenous-peoples>

4 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-581-x/2022001/sec6-eng.htm>

NUMBERS OF YOUTH AND SENIORS

Nine percent (9%) of respondents were youth (under the age of 25), and 21% were seniors (55 years of age or older).

NUMBER OF REPORTED HEALTH NEEDS

Sixty-nine percent (69%) of respondents indicated two or more health concerns. Almost half (47%) reported having a medical condition or illness, 41% reported a physical disability, 54% reported a mental health issue, 68% reported an addiction issue, and 27% reported a learning disability or cognitive impairment. Additionally, one-third (33%) of respondents identified having an acquired brain injury, meaning a brain injury that occurred after birth.

MEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE INCLUDED

Two-thirds (66%) of survey respondents identified as men. Thirty-two percent (32%) of respondents identified as women, and two percent (2%) identified with another gender identity.

Research and feedback from communities suggest that men are more likely to be counted using the PiT methodology. Women may stay with families and friends or in unsafe situations rather than staying on the streets or accessing services for the homeless. As such, they are likely undercounted using a Point-in-Time Count methodology.

LOCATIONS IN THE LAST YEAR

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of unsheltered respondents identified as having stayed in a shelter in the past year, and 53% had stayed at someone else's place. Of sheltered respondents, 45% had stayed outside for at least one night in the previous year. Almost one-third (32%) of all respondents identified staying in an encampment in the previous year.

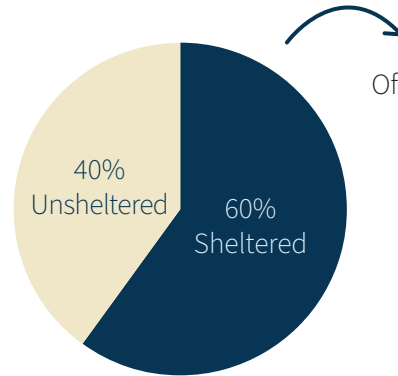


*Welcome Figures by Hupacasath First Nations carvers
in Port Alberni, BC*

BC HOMELESS COUNT 2023 INFOGRAPHIC

This infographic includes data from 27 homeless counts conducted in communities across BC in 2023. It also includes BC Housing-funded shelter, transition house, and safe home data from communities that did not conduct a Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count in 2023.

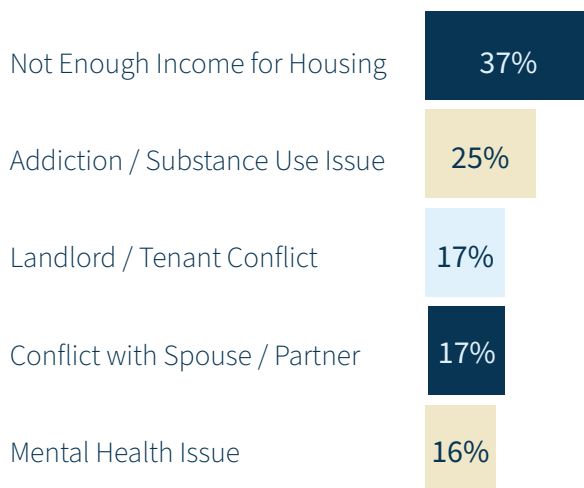
11,352 PEOPLE WERE IDENTIFIED AS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



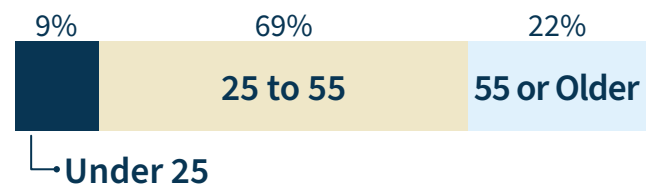
Of Sheltered respondents:

- Shelters – 44%
- Transition House – 5%
- Detox Centre – 1%
- Safe House – 0%
- EWB – 3%
- No Fixed Address – 6%

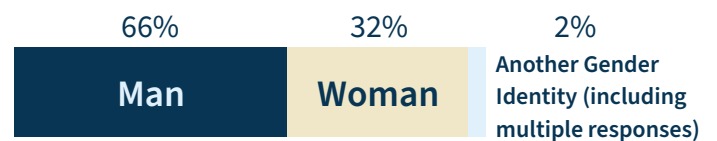
Top Reasons for Housing Loss



Age



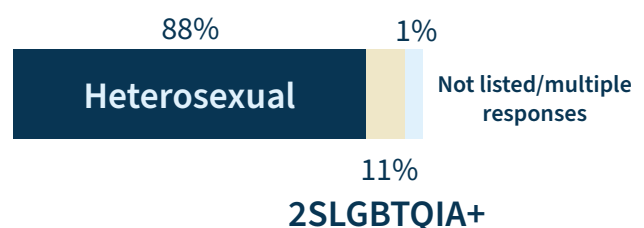
Gender Identity



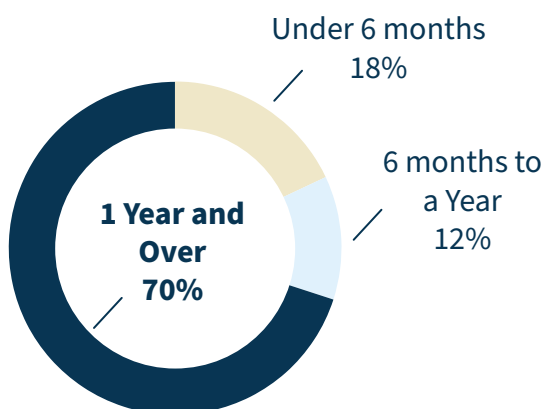
Trans Experience



Sexual Orientation

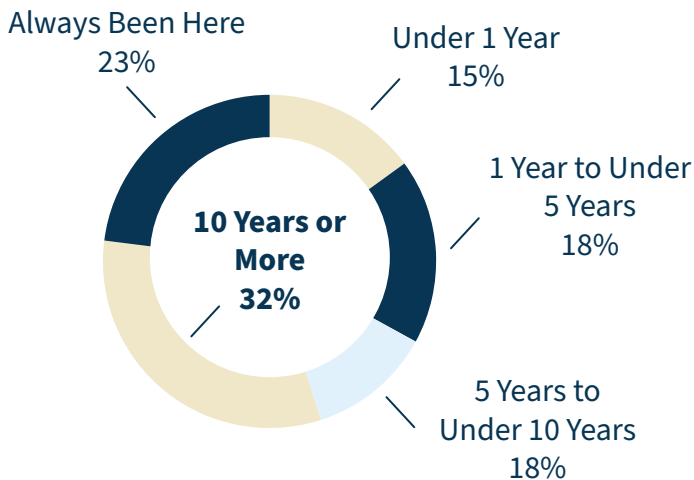


Length of Time Without Own Place



BC HOMELESS COUNT 2023 INFOGRAPHIC

Length of Time in Community Place

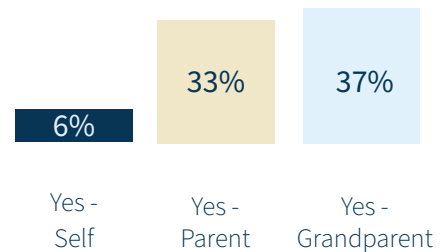


Indigenous Identity

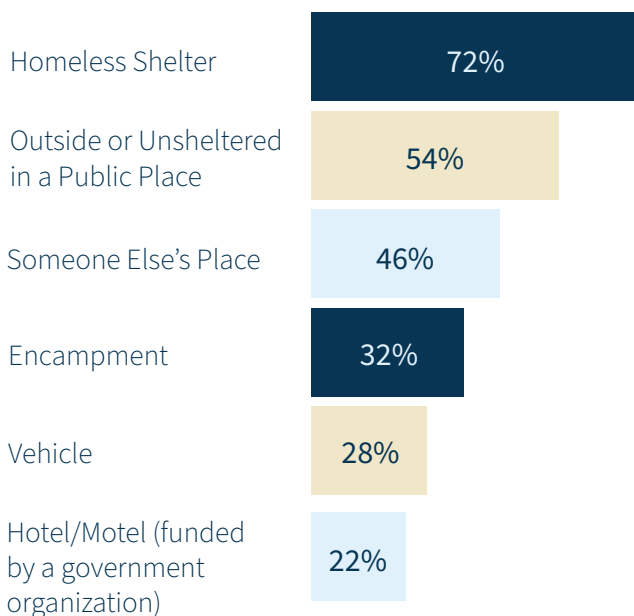


Residential School

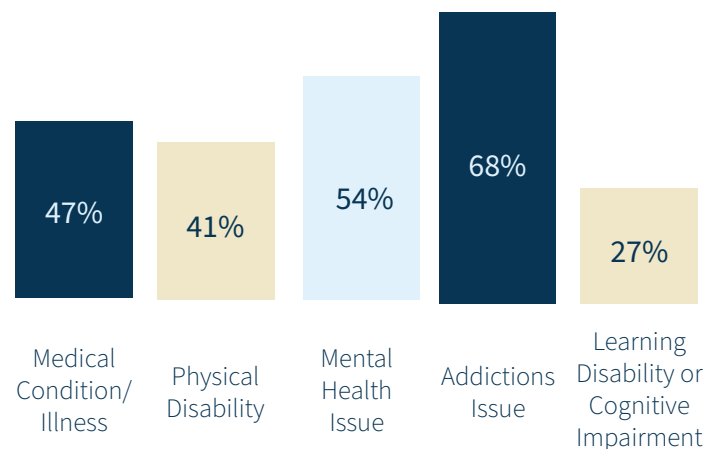
Of respondents who identified as Indigenous and answered the question about residential schools, 71% indicated they had experience with residential schools:



Top Locations Stayed in Last Year



Health Conditions



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1

ABOUT THIS REPORT

1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report summarizes findings from 27 Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Counts conducted in communities across British Columbia in 2023. The communities with PiT Counts included in this report represent 76% of the population of the province. This report also includes enumeration data from BC Housing-funded shelters and transition houses/safe homes in communities that did not conduct a PiT Count in 2023.

For a list of communities included in this report, see section 5.2.

Using the PiT Methodology, Homeless Counts provide a 24-hour snapshot of the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in a community. The total number presented in this report will always be an undercount of the experience of homelessness in the province.

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.

1.1 About Homeless Counts

In the 20 provincially funded B.C. Count communities, an individual was defined as experiencing homelessness if they did not have a place of their own where they paid rent and could expect to stay for at least 30 days. This included people who:

- **Stayed overnight on the Night of the Count** in homeless shelters, including transition houses for women fleeing violence and youth safe houses, people with no fixed address (NFA) staying temporarily in hospitals, jails, or detox facilities (defined as “sheltered”); or,
- **Completed an Interview During the Day of the Count**, and stayed in a place the previous night where they did not pay rent. This includes those staying outside in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks, vehicles, temporarily at someone else’s place, staying temporarily in a hotel, or will be evicted before the end of the month and do not have a place to go to when they do.

Those who stayed in shelters and transition houses had the option to complete a demographic survey if they wanted, but they were enumerated as experiencing homelessness through administrative data. People who were considered unsheltered completed screening questions to ensure they met the definition of homelessness and were not double counted.

Some important considerations about survey administration:

- Participation is anonymous, confidential, and voluntary. If an individual did not want to participate, and were unsheltered, they were not counted. However, volunteers were trained to encourage respondents to complete the screening questions to be included.
- Participation relies on an individual being found; either while staying in a transition house or shelter or on the day of the count by an interviewer. If someone did not complete a survey, these people would not be counted and are considered the ‘hidden homeless’. This population is understood to be more likely to include youth, seniors, Indigenous and those who have been historically marginalized due to race, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and those who do not access homelessness services.
- Schools and youth serving organizations were engaged in each community to reach out to the populations they serve.

With these considerations, the PiT Count is an accepted methodological tool for collecting data on homelessness at a single Point-in-Time.

The purpose of the Count is to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness, obtain a demographic profile of those people, and identify trends that can be comparable to previous counts that used a similar methodology. The results can inform the development of supports and services that will best help people in need in different communities.

1.2 What is new in the 2023 Provincially Funded Counts?

A Persons with Lived Expertise and Living Experience (PWLLE) and Encampment Strategy

involved engagement with outreach workers and persons with lived expertise and living experience of homelessness in each provincially funded count community to support route design and survey administration. Training was modified for these teams.

As part of this strategy, over 75 PWLLE collaborated in conducting the survey and supporting events across the province.

With input from the PWLLE, participating communities held magnet events with food or other services available to anyone, regardless of whether they completed a survey.

A vehicle strategy was developed that involved modified training with the use of a revised script that avoided the word “homeless” when approaching vehicles, as well as safety considerations specific to approaching vehicles.

1.3 Survey Changes – Provincially-Funded Counts

Changes to the survey were made after careful consideration by the Count team, community partners, and Infrastructure Canada’s Reaching Home Program. These changes were:

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

Residential School Question

A new question “Did you, your parents, or grandparents ever attend residential school?” was added in the 20 provincially-funded Counts and some Reaching Home Counts in partnership with the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee and the Indian Residential School Survivor’s Society. Interviewers were trained to prompt with “Can I ask you a question about residential school?” before asking the question. Additionally, the Indian Residential School Survivor’s Society was available by phone, and local organizations were available to support interviewers and respondents who might want to talk more about this experience and what emotional response might come up.

While this question was asked to everyone, only people who identified as Indigenous are included in the analysis.



2

SUMMARY OF PROVINCIAL FINDINGS

2. SUMMARY OF PROVINCIAL FINDINGS

The following tables provide aggregate data from 27 Counts in communities across the province to create a provincial profile of people identified as experiencing homelessness. For the purposes of this report, *homelessness* is defined as a person not having a place of their own where they pay rent, or that they own. Some communities used different survey questions, and as a result, not all communities are included in each data table presented.

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

However, because the PiT count is relatively consistent, the trend over time is valuable **when framed with local context.**

Questions are voluntary, and respondents can choose to skip any question they want or end the survey at any time. The **percentages presented are those who answered each question, not the total number of persons identified as experiencing homelessness.**

It is also important to consider that similar to the total number of persons experiencing homelessness, different demographic groups may be underrepresented in the data presented. See Limitations for more information.

“Don’t Know/No Answer” includes survey respondents who declined to answer a specific question, as well as people who did not answer the survey at all but were counted through additional information in the form of occupancy data from shelter operators, hospitals, jails, and BC Housing. 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 specific question.

Additional tables referenced in this Report can also be found in Appendix 5.1.

2.1 Total Number of People Experiencing Homelessness

Of the 11,352 people included in this report, 6,773 were experiencing **Sheltered Homelessness**, and 4,579 were experiencing **Unsheltered Homelessness**. The 11,352 includes data from all 27 PiT Counts, as well as administrative data from communities that did not complete a PiT Count in 2023.

Table 2.1: Sheltered and Unsheltered - All Communities

| | Adults and Youth | | Accompanied Children ⁵ | | Total | |
|---|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Sheltered Homelessness Total | 6,397 | 59% | 376 | 84% | 6,773 | 60% |
| <i>Shelters</i> | 4,892 | 45% | 96 | 21% | 4,988 | 44% |
| <i>Transition Houses</i> | 351 | 3% | 236 | 52% | 587 | 5% |
| <i>Detox Centres</i> | 62 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 62 | 1% |
| <i>Safe House</i> | 18 | 0% | 11 | 2% | 29 | 0% |
| <i>EWR</i> | 364 | 3% | 33 | 7% | 397 | 3% |
| <i>No Fixed Address</i> | 710 | 7% | 0 | 0% | 710 | 6% |
| Unsheltered Homelessness Total | 4,505 | 41% | 74 | 16% | 4,579 | 40% |
| Total People Experiencing Homelessness | 10,902 | 100% | 450 | 100% | 11,352 | 100% |

⁵ Accompanied Children are youth under the age of 19 who were staying with a caregiver who also meets the definition of homelessness on the night of the count.

Table 2.2: Total Homeless, Change, and Proportion - All Communities

| Community Name | Total Sheltered | Total Unsheltered | Total | # Change from Previous Count | Enumerated Homelessness Per 1,000 Population |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--|
| Campbell River | 85 | 112 | 197 | +81 | 5.5 |
| Comox Valley | 177 | 95 | 272 | +140 | 3.8 |
| Cowichan Valley | 58 | 172 | 230 | +101 | 2.6 |
| Cranbrook | 73 | 43 | 116 | +53 | 5.7 |
| Dawson Creek | 18 | 34 | 52 | N/A | 4.2 |
| Fort St. John | 46 | 56 | 102 | +26 | 4.8 |
| Fraser Valley | 628 | 466 | 1,094 | +199 | 3.2 |
| Greater Vancouver | 3,360 | 1,461 | 4,821 | +1,187 | 1.8 |
| Greater Victoria | 627 | 441 | 1,068 | +60 | 2.6 |
| Kamloops | 192 | 122 | 314 | +108 | 3.2 |
| Kitimat | 13 | 42 | 55 | N/A | 6.7 |
| Merritt | 30 | 37 | 67 | +24 | 9.5 |
| Nanaimo | 81 | 429 | 510 | +104 | 3.0 |
| Parksville/Qualicum Beach | 4 | 99 | 103 | +16 | 4.5 |
| Penticton | 92 | 74 | 166 | +52 | 4.5 |
| Port Alberni | 62 | 101 | 163 | +38 | 8.9 |
| Powell River | 33 | 93 | 126 | N/A | 7.1 |
| Prince Rupert | 60 | 86 | 146 | +28 | 10.9 |
| Quesnel | 53 | 74 | 127 | +6 | 12.8 |
| Salmon Arm | 32 | 37 | 69 | N/A | 4.3 |
| Salt Spring Island | 59 | 106 | 165 | +19 | 14.2 |
| Sechelt/Gibsons | 22 | 75 | 97 | +13 | 5.1 |
| Smithers | 11 | 46 | 57 | +24 | 10.6 |
| Squamish | 17 | 102 | 119 | +12 | 5.0 |
| Terrace | 82 | 74 | 156 | +82 | 13.0 |
| Vernon | 197 | 82 | 279 | +55 | 6.3 |
| Williams Lake | 57 | 20 | 77 | +26 | 3.3 |
| Non-Count Communities | 604 | N/A | 604 | N/A | N/A |
| Total | 6,773 | 4,579 | 11,352 | N/A | N/A |

2.2 Experiences of Homelessness

The following section provides the results of survey questions that ask about respondents' experiences with homelessness, homelessness services, and other aspects of their most recent experience of homelessness.

2.2.1 WHERE THE UNSHELTERED RESPONDENTS STAYED AND REPORTED SAFETY

Survey respondents who completed an 'unsheltered survey' were asked where they stayed last night. Almost half (47%) of survey respondents indicated they stayed outside on the night of the Count. Additionally, 21% indicated they stayed at someone else's place. "Not listed" includes those who may have stayed in an overnight drop-in centre that is not designated as a shelter or in their own place, but they will be evicted into homelessness in less than 30 days.

Survey respondents who completed daytime surveys in some communities were asked if they felt safe at the location where they stayed the previous night, with options of "yes" or "no." In outdoor locations, including staying outside or in a makeshift shelter or tent, women were less likely to feel safe than men⁶.

⁶ Due to the small response size, individuals who identified with another gender identity are not included here.

Table 2.3: Safety (Unsheltered Only) By Gender Identity - All Communities

| | Location Stayed | | % Who Felt Safe | |
|--|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|------|
| | # | % | Women | Men |
| Outside | 2,056 | 47% | 32% | 50% |
| Makeshift Shelter or Tent | 538 | 12% | 45% | 83% |
| Abandoned/Vacant Building | 67 | 2% | 38% | 46% |
| Vehicle | 494 | 11% | 72% | 75% |
| Someone Else's Place or Couch Surfing | 923 | 21% | 72% | 78% |
| A Client's Place | 23 | 1% | 71% | 50% |
| Hotel/Motel - Pay Less Than 30 Days | 51 | 1% | 81% | 75% |
| Hotel/Motel - Organization Pays | 85 | 2% | 56% | 100% |
| Parent or Guardian's Place - This is a temporary situation and I do not have a house or apartment I can safely return to | 44 | 1% | 80% | 81% |
| Not Listed | 118 | 3% | N/A | N/A |
| Total Respondents | 4,399 | 100% | | |
| Don't Know / No Answer / Unclear | 180 | | | |
| Total | 4,579 | | | |

2.2.2 LOCATIONS STAYED IN THE PAST YEAR

For at least one night in the past year, 58% of unsheltered respondents identified as having stayed in a homeless shelter, 61% reported staying outside, and 53% of people reported staying at someone else's place. Respondents were instructed to "check all that apply" when answering this question, with many respondents selecting multiple response options.

Of sheltered respondents, 45% had stayed outside for at least one night in the previous year. Almost one-third (32%) of all respondents identified staying in an encampment in the previous year.

Women and those who identify with a gender other than man or woman are more likely than men to have stayed at someone else's place in the past year. For more information see [Appendix Table A.1](#).

Youth were more likely to be staying at someone else's place than adults, and seniors were more likely to be sleeping in a vehicle. For more information see [Appendix Table A.2](#).

Youth were less likely to report having stayed in a homeless shelter in the past year than adults or seniors and were more likely to report staying at someone else's place. For more information see [Appendix Table A.3](#).

Notes on terminology:

- "Homeless Shelter" included temporary and permanent homeless shelters, transition houses for women fleeing domestic violence, and youth safe houses.
- There were two options for "Second Stage Housing." "AFTER transition housing" is second stage housing people access after attending a transition house for women fleeing domestic violence. "AFTER addictions treatment" is second stage housing people access after attending a residential substance use treatment program.
- "Transitional Housing" includes housing options accessed by persons exiting homelessness that are meant to be lived in on a temporary basis.

Table 2.4: Locations Stayed in Last Year - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|---|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Homeless Shelter | 1,879 | 91% | 1,605 | 58% | 3,484 | 72% |
| Second Stage Housing - AFTER Transition House | 87 | 4% | 66 | 2% | 153 | 3% |
| Second Stage Housing - AFTER Addictions Treatment | 81 | 4% | 65 | 2% | 146 | 3% |
| Transitional Housing | 231 | 11% | 193 | 7% | 424 | 9% |
| Someone Else's Place | 781 | 38% | 1,463 | 53% | 2,244 | 46% |
| Hotel/Motel (funded by a government organization) | 475 | 23% | 599 | 22% | 1,074 | 22% |
| Outside or Unsheltered in a Public Place | 939 | 45% | 1,701 | 61% | 2,640 | 54% |
| Encampment | 476 | 23% | 1,087 | 39% | 1,563 | 32% |
| Vehicle | 479 | 23% | 869 | 31% | 1,348 | 28% |
| None of the Listed | 17 | 1% | 77 | 3% | 94 | 2% |
| Total Respondents | 2,066 | | 2,780 | | 4,846 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer / Unclear | 4,707 | | 1,799 | | 6,506 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.2.3 HISTORY OF HOMELESSNESS

Of survey respondents, 70% reported that their current experience of homelessness was one year or more. Eighteen percent (18%) indicated that they had been homeless for under six months, with two percent (2%) indicating they had been homeless for seven days or less⁷.

⁷ In most communities, individuals were asked how long they had been without a place of their own immediately after the screening questions. In some communities, this question was asked as a follow up question to their reason for loss of housing. All responses are included within this analysis.

Eighty percent (80%) of people who identified with a gender other than women or men reported an experience of homelessness of one year or more.

Thirty-two percent (32%) of youth respondents identified as having experiences of homelessness of less than six months, compared to 17% of both adults and seniors. For more information see [Appendix Table A.4](#).

Table 2.5: Length of Time Without Own Place - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Under 6 Months | 575 | 23% | 492 | 14% | 1,067 | 18% |
| <i>Up to and including 7 days</i> | 46 | 2% | 62 | 2% | 108 | 2% |
| <i>8 days to < 1 Month</i> | 148 | 6% | 123 | 4% | 271 | 5% |
| <i>1 month < 6 months</i> | 381 | 15% | 307 | 9% | 688 | 12% |
| 6 Months to <1 Year | 304 | 12% | 400 | 11% | 704 | 12% |
| 1 Year and Over | 1,586 | 64% | 2,588 | 74% | 4,174 | 70% |
| Total Respondents | 2,465 | 100% | 3,480 | 100% | 5,945 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer / Unclear | 4,308 | | 1,099 | | 5,407 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.2.4 LENGTH OF TIME IN COMMUNITY

Respondents were asked how long they had been in the community where the Count took place.

Two-thirds (67%) of respondents had been in the community for five or more years, and almost a quarter (23%) had always been in the community where they were surveyed.

Respondents were asked where they lived before the community they were currently in, with seventy-four percent (74%) of respondents reporting they came from somewhere in B.C., or have always lived in the community they took the survey in.

Table 2.6: Length of Time in Community Place - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Under 1 Year | 481 | 20% | 398 | 12% | 879 | 15% |
| 1 Year to Under 5 Years | 466 | 19% | 568 | 17% | 1,034 | 18% |
| 5 Years to Under 10 Years | 286 | 12% | 426 | 13% | 712 | 12% |
| 10 Years or More | 791 | 32% | 1,105 | 32% | 1,896 | 32% |
| Always Been Here | 430 | 18% | 905 | 27% | 1,335 | 23% |
| Total Respondents | 2,454 | 100% | 3,402 | 100% | 5,856 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 4,319 | | 1,177 | | 5,496 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

Table 2.7: Where Lived Before Community - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Always Been Here | 416 | 17% | 891 | 28% | 1,307 | 23% |
| Greater Vancouver | 508 | 21% | 516 | 16% | 1,024 | 18% |
| Elsewhere in B.C. | 763 | 32% | 1,062 | 33% | 1,825 | 33% |
| Elsewhere in Canada | 553 | 23% | 631 | 20% | 1,184 | 21% |
| Other Country | 156 | 7% | 92 | 3% | 248 | 4% |
| Total Respondents | 2,396 | 100% | 3,192 | 100% | 5,588 | 100% |
| Don't Know/No Answer | 4,377 | | 1,387 | | 5,764 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.2.5 WHO WAS WITH SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Respondents were asked if anyone was staying with them the night of the Count. Twenty-two percent (22%) of respondents identified that they had someone else staying with them the night of the Count⁸. Unsheltered

respondents (28%) were more likely than sheltered respondents (14%) to indicate they were with someone on the night of the Count.

⁸ If the respondent was unsheltered and identified as having a child under the age of 19 with them the night of the Count, these individuals were included in the total numbers, as an unsheltered accompanied child.

Table 2.8: Who Was With Survey Respondents - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| With Someone | 381 | 14% | 1,033 | 28% | 1,414 | 22% |
| <i>Partner</i> | 152 | 6% | 491 | 13% | 643 | 10% |
| <i>Child/Children</i> | 107 | 4% | 103 | 3% | 210 | 3% |
| <i>Pet(s)</i> | 71 | 3% | 168 | 5% | 239 | 4% |
| <i>Not Listed</i> | 51 | 2% | 285 | 8% | 336 | 5% |
| Alone | 2,333 | 86% | 2,621 | 72% | 4,954 | 78% |
| Total Respondents | 2,714 | 100% | 3,654 | 100% | 6,368 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 4,059 | | 925 | | 4,984 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.2.6 REASONS FOR MOST RECENT HOUSING LOSS

Respondents were asked “What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?” and could include multiple responses. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of respondents indicated not enough income as one reason for their most recent housing loss. A quarter (25%) of respondents indicated addiction or substance use issues as one reason for their most recent housing loss.

Survey respondents in some communities were additionally asked if their most recent housing loss was related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fifteen percent (15%) of respondents who identified they became homeless in the last 3 years indicated that it was related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those who identify as women, or with a gender other than woman or man, are more likely than men to report housing loss caused by conflict with a partner, abuse by a partner, and abuse by a parent or caregiver. For more information see [Appendix Table A.5](#).

Table 2.9: Reasons for Most Recent Housing Loss - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|---------------|------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Not Enough Income for Housing | 710 | 34% | 1,191 | 39% | 1,901 | 37% |
| Addiction/Substance Use Issue | 500 | 24% | 776 | 26% | 1,276 | 25% |
| Landlord/Tenant Conflict | 338 | 16% | 554 | 18% | 892 | 17% |
| Conflict with Spouse/Partner | 351 | 17% | 504 | 17% | 855 | 17% |
| Mental Health Issue | 324 | 16% | 510 | 17% | 834 | 16% |
| Unfit/Unsafe Housing Condition | 226 | 11% | 389 | 13% | 615 | 12% |
| Other Reason | 227 | 11% | 346 | 11% | 573 | 11% |
| Physical Health Issue | 253 | 12% | 316 | 10% | 569 | 11% |
| Conflict with Parent/Guardian | 179 | 9% | 281 | 9% | 460 | 9% |
| Conflict with Other | 183 | 9% | 259 | 9% | 442 | 9% |
| Experienced Abuse by Spouse/Partner | 189 | 9% | 180 | 6% | 369 | 7% |
| Death or Departure of Family Member | 148 | 7% | 187 | 6% | 335 | 7% |
| Incarceration (jail or prison) | 118 | 6% | 179 | 6% | 297 | 6% |
| Building Sold or Renovated | 117 | 6% | 171 | 6% | 288 | 6% |
| Experienced Discrimination | 102 | 5% | 172 | 6% | 274 | 5% |
| Left the Community | 119 | 6% | 140 | 5% | 259 | 5% |
| Complaint (E.g. Pets/Noise/Damage) | 86 | 4% | 154 | 5% | 240 | 5% |
| Hospitalization or Treatment Program | 119 | 6% | 113 | 4% | 232 | 5% |
| Experienced Abuse by Parent/Guardian/Caregiver | 83 | 4% | 103 | 3% | 186 | 4% |
| Experienced Abuse by Other | 50 | 2% | 69 | 2% | 119 | 2% |
| Owner Moved In | 44 | 2% | 40 | 1% | 84 | 2% |
| Guest Policy | 30 | 1% | 54 | 2% | 84 | 2% |
| Rent Supplement Expired | 34 | 2% | 26 | 1% | 60 | 1% |
| Place Not Physically Accessible | 24 | 1% | 33 | 1% | 57 | 1% |
| Experienced Abuse by Child/Dependent | 22 | 1% | 15 | 0% | 37 | 1% |
| Total Respondents | 2,085 | | 3,042 | | 5,127 | |
| Don't Know/No Answer | 4,688 | | 1,537 | | 6,225 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.2.7 SERVICES ACCESSED

Respondents were asked which of a list of services they accessed in the past year. Respondents could identify as many services as applicable. The most common services were Food Services (63%), Emergency Room (55%), and Housing Services (44%). Answers may vary between communities due to the availability of different services.

There is some difference in reported service access by respondents' gender identity. For example, 10% of those who identified as a man reported accessing cultural services, while 20% of those who identified with a gender other than man or woman did. For more information see [Appendix Table A.6](#).

Forty-three percent (43%) of youth reported accessing mental health services in the past year, compared to 35% of adults and 23% of seniors. For more information see [Appendix Table A.7](#).

Table 2.10: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Food Services | 1,451 | 59% | 1,814 | 66% | 3,265 | 63% |
| Emergency Room | 1,423 | 58% | 1,456 | 53% | 2,879 | 55% |
| Housing Services | 1,231 | 50% | 1,040 | 38% | 2,271 | 44% |
| Hospital (non-emergency) | 1,123 | 46% | 1,125 | 41% | 2,248 | 43% |
| Ambulance | 1,065 | 43% | 1,029 | 37% | 2,094 | 40% |
| Health Clinic | 987 | 40% | 930 | 34% | 1,917 | 37% |
| Mental Health Services | 829 | 34% | 885 | 32% | 1,714 | 33% |
| Employment and Financial Services | 830 | 34% | 836 | 30% | 1,666 | 32% |
| (Other) Addiction Services | 746 | 30% | 868 | 31% | 1,614 | 31% |
| Supervised Injection Site | 599 | 24% | 823 | 30% | 1,422 | 27% |
| Legal Services | 642 | 26% | 676 | 24% | 1,318 | 25% |
| Dental Clinic or Dentist | 556 | 23% | 480 | 17% | 1,036 | 20% |
| Cultural Services | 268 | 11% | 341 | 12% | 609 | 12% |
| Other Services | 139 | 6% | 177 | 6% | 316 | 6% |
| No Services Accessed | 70 | 3% | 101 | 4% | 171 | 3% |
| Total Respondents | 2,459 | 100% | 2,761 | 100% | 5,220 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer / Unclear | 4,314 | | 1,818 | | 6,132 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.2.8 HEALTH CONDITIONS

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about their health. All health conditions were self-reported. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of respondents identified an addiction issue, 54% a mental health issue, and 47% identified a medical condition or illness. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of respondents identified two or more of the listed health conditions, while only 10% indicated no health conditions. Survey respondents were separately asked if they had an acquired brain injury, meaning a brain injury that occurred after birth. A third (33%) of respondents identified as having an acquired brain injury.

Table 2.11: Health Conditions - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-----|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Medical Condition/Illness | 1,288 | 48% | 1,727 | 47% | 3,015 | 47% |
| Physical Disability | 1,094 | 41% | 1,520 | 41% | 2,614 | 41% |
| Mental Health Issue | 1,361 | 51% | 2,090 | 56% | 3,451 | 54% |
| Addictions Issue | 1,647 | 61% | 2,676 | 72% | 4,323 | 68% |
| Learning Disability or Cognitive Impairment | 672 | 25% | 1,057 | 29% | 1,729 | 27% |
| Total Respondents | 2,692 | 100% | 3,707 | 100% | 6,399 | |
| Don't Know/No Answer | 4,081 | | 872 | | 4,953 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

Table 2.12: Health Conditions – Number of Health Challenges - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| No Health Challenges | 342 | 13% | 299 | 8% | 641 | 10% |
| One Health Challenge | 571 | 21% | 756 | 20% | 1,327 | 21% |
| Two Health Challenges | 647 | 24% | 908 | 24% | 1,555 | 24% |
| Three Health Challenges | 532 | 20% | 808 | 22% | 1,340 | 21% |
| Four Health Challenges | 399 | 15% | 606 | 16% | 1,005 | 16% |
| Five Health Challenges | 201 | 7% | 330 | 9% | 531 | 8% |
| Total Respondents | 2,692 | 100% | 3,707 | 100% | 6,400 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer / Unclear | 4,081 | | 872 | | 4,953 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

Table 2.13: Acquired Brain Injury - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Acquired Brain Injury | 771 | 31% | 1,175 | 35% | 1,946 | 33% |
| No Acquired Brain Injury | 1,746 | 69% | 2,161 | 65% | 3,907 | 67% |
| Total Respondents | 2,517 | 100% | 3,336 | 100% | 5,853 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 4,256 | | 1,243 | | 5,499 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.2.9 SOURCES OF INCOME

Respondents were asked about their sources of income. Respondents could indicate as many incomes as applicable. The most common responses were Welfare/Income Assistance (48%), Disability Benefit (34%), and GST Refund (10%) or Informal Employment (10%). Thirty-seven percent (37%) of respondents identified as having two or more income sources.

Table 2.14: Sources of Income - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Welfare/Income Assistance | 1,220 | 44% | 1,869 | 51% | 3,089 | 48% |
| Disability Benefit (e.g. PWD, PPMB) | 998 | 36% | 1,160 | 31% | 2,158 | 34% |
| GST/HST Refund | 354 | 13% | 295 | 8% | 649 | 10% |
| Informal Employment | 175 | 6% | 454 | 12% | 629 | 10% |
| Money from Family/Friends | 187 | 7% | 294 | 8% | 481 | 7% |
| No Income | 172 | 6% | 269 | 7% | 441 | 7% |
| CPP or Other Pension | 258 | 9% | 156 | 4% | 414 | 6% |
| Job Casual (e.g. Contract Work) | 147 | 5% | 235 | 6% | 382 | 6% |
| Other Sources | 145 | 5% | 233 | 6% | 378 | 6% |
| Job Part Time | 139 | 5% | 172 | 5% | 311 | 5% |
| Old Age Security (OAS)/ Guaranteed Income Supplement | 128 | 5% | 113 | 3% | 241 | 4% |
| Job Full Time | 102 | 4% | 126 | 3% | 228 | 4% |
| Sex work | 82 | 3% | 109 | 3% | 191 | 3% |
| Honouraria | 53 | 2% | 80 | 2% | 133 | 2% |
| Employment Insurance | 40 | 1% | 43 | 1% | 83 | 1% |
| Child and Family Tax Benefit | 52 | 2% | 27 | 1% | 79 | 1% |
| Youth Agreement | 5 | 0% | 17 | 0% | 22 | 0% |
| Veteran VAC benefits | 10 | 0% | 12 | 0% | 22 | 0% |
| Total Respondents | 2,745 | 100% | 3,689 | 100% | 6,434 | |
| Don't Know / No Answer / Unclear | 4,028 | | 890 | | 4,918 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.3 Who is Experiencing Homelessness

This section presents the results of the survey questions that ask about the respondents themselves.

2.3.1 GENDER IDENTITY

Among survey respondents, two-thirds (66%) identified as men, 32% identified as women, and 2% identified with another gender identity.

Respondents in some communities were asked a separate specific question about whether they identify as someone with trans experience (meaning their gender identity is different than what they were assigned at birth). Three percent (3%) of respondents identified as having trans experience. Information about the gender identity of people who experience homelessness can help to highlight the need for specific services and supports for people who identify as women, trans, or with another identity.

Table 2.15: Gender - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Man | 1,864 | 67% | 2,585 | 66% | 4,449 | 66% |
| Woman | 884 | 32% | 1,246 | 32% | 2,130 | 32% |
| Another Gender Identity (including multiple responses) | 46 | 2% | 106 | 3% | 152 | 2% |
| Total Respondents | 2,794 | 100% | 3,937 | 100% | 6,731 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 3,979 | | 642 | | 4,621 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

Table 2.16: Trans Experience - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Trans Experience | 72 | 3% | 98 | 3% | 170 | 3% |
| No Trans Experience | 2,421 | 97% | 2,785 | 97% | 5,206 | 97% |
| Total Respondents | 2,493 | 100% | 2,883 | 100% | 5,376 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer / Unclear | 4,280 | | 1,696 | | 5,976 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.3.2 SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Survey respondents were asked about their sexual orientation. While most respondents identified as heterosexual, 11% identified with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. For youth under the age of 25, one quarter (25%) identified as 2SLGBTQIA+.

For more information about sexual orientation and homelessness in Canada, click [here](#)⁹.

⁹ <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-transsexual-queer>

Table 2.17: Sexual Orientation - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Heterosexual | 2,335 | 90% | 3,100 | 87% | 5,435 | 88% |
| 2SLGBTQIA+ | 247 | 10% | 451 | 13% | 698 | 11% |
| Not listed/multiple responses | 13 | 1% | 18 | 1% | 31 | 1% |
| Total Respondents | 2,595 | 100% | 3,569 | 100% | 6,164 | 100% |
| Don't Know/No Answer | 4,178 | | 1,010 | | 5,188 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.3.3 AGE

Most survey respondents (70%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while 21% of survey respondents identified as seniors (55 years or older). Fifty-seven (57) respondents indicated they were 75 years of age or older. Youth (under 25 years of age) represented 9% of survey respondents. Two percent (2%) of survey respondents indicated they were under the age of 19.

To learn more about youth homelessness in BC, see [here](https://mcs.bc.ca/pdf/searching_for_a_place.pdf)¹⁰ for a 2023 report from the McCreary Centre Society, and to learn more about seniors homelessness in Canada, see [here](https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/stories/seniors)¹¹.

¹⁰ https://mcs.bc.ca/pdf/searching_for_a_place.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/stories/seniors>

Table 2.18: Age - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Under 19 Years | 31 | 1% | 114 | 3% | 145 | 2% |
| 19-24 Years | 157 | 6% | 276 | 7% | 433 | 6% |
| 25-34 Years | 548 | 20% | 908 | 23% | 1,456 | 22% |
| 35-44 Years | 682 | 24% | 1,102 | 28% | 1,784 | 27% |
| 45-54 Years | 624 | 22% | 842 | 22% | 1,466 | 22% |
| 55-64 Years | 522 | 19% | 513 | 13% | 1,035 | 15% |
| 65-74 Years | 194 | 7% | 138 | 4% | 332 | 5% |
| 75+ Years | 38 | 1% | 19 | 0% | 57 | 1% |
| Total Respondents | 2,796 | 100% | 3,912 | 100% | 6,708 | 100% |
| Don't Know/No Answer | 3,977 | | 667 | | 4,644 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.3.4 AGE AT FIRST TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked how old they were when they first experienced homelessness. As in previous years, a significant proportion (47%) of respondents experienced homelessness for the first time as a youth. Forty-two percent (42%) of seniors experienced homelessness for the first time as a senior, meaning until at least the age of 55 they had not had an experience of homelessness. For more information see [Appendix Table A.8](#).

Respondents who identified with a gender other than a man or woman were more likely to have experienced homelessness as a youth. For more information see [Appendix Table A.9](#).

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of those who identified with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community reported a first experience of homelessness as a youth under the age of 25 years, while 45% of those who identified as heterosexual did. For more information see [Appendix Table A.10](#).

Table 2.19: Age First Time Experiencing Homelessness - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Youth (Under 25 Years) | 980 | 40% | 1,734 | 53% | 2,714 | 47% |
| Adult (25-54 Years) | 1,151 | 47% | 1,374 | 42% | 2,525 | 44% |
| Senior (55+) | 302 | 12% | 186 | 6% | 488 | 9% |
| Total Respondents | 2,433 | 100% | 3,294 | 100% | 5,727 | 100% |
| Don't Know/No Answer | 4,340 | | 1,285 | | 5,625 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.3.5 YOUTH IN CARE

Respondents were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, a youth group home, or an independent living agreement, with one-third (33%) of respondents identifying that they did. This could have been in the past, or at the time of the Count.

People who experienced homelessness for the first time while under the age of 19 were more likely to have lived in foster care, a youth group home, or on an Independent Living Agreement than those who experienced homelessness for the first time at 19 or older, illustrating the unmet needs for supports for people who are aging out of care. For more information see [Appendix Table A.11](#).

Table 2.20: Youth in Care - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Yes | 775 | 30% | 1,274 | 36% | 2,049 | 33% |
| No | 1,829 | 70% | 2,297 | 64% | 4,126 | 67% |
| Total Respondents | 2,604 | 100% | 3,571 | 100% | 6,175 | 100% |
| Don't Know/No Answer | 4,169 | | 1,008 | | 5,177 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

In 2018, Katherine McParland, co-founder and former CEO of A Way Home Kamloops, described foster care as “the superhighway to homelessness.” She said, “If foster homes are not meeting kids’ needs, they tend to run away but have nowhere to go. They are making decisions with their feet. They are running away from these placements and are told they are choosing homelessness. I beg to differ. I say they are choosing to find a sense of belonging and we, as communities, need to create this for them.”

2.3.6 INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

Consistent with every PiT Count that has been conducted throughout B.C., Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented. Forty percent (40%) of survey respondents who answered this question identified as Indigenous, with a higher percentage of unsheltered respondents (44%) than sheltered respondents (34%).

Table 2.21: Indigenous Identity - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Indigenous Identity (Includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or other Indigenous identity) | 898 | 34% | 1,627 | 44% | 2,525 | 40% |
| Not Indigenous Identity | 1,760 | 66% | 2,106 | 56% | 3,866 | 60% |
| Total Respondents | 2,658 | 100% | 3,733 | 100% | 6,391 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer / Unclear | 4,115 | | 846 | | 4,961 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.3.7 RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

New for this year's Count, and in consultation with the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee, respondents were asked "Have you, a parent, or a grandparent ever attended Residential School?" The Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee member organizations and the Indian Residential School Survivor's Society provided culturally appropriate supports for respondents and interviewers if needed. These lines are also available to anyone who may wish to talk, including those reading this.

Indian Residential School Society (IRSSS) Toll-Free Line:
1-800-721-0066 (24-Hours)

National Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419

KUU-US Crisis Line: 1-800-588-8717

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Of respondents who identified as Indigenous and answered the question about residential schools, 71% indicated they had experience with residential schools. As the history and impacts of the residential school system spanned multiple generations, respondents were able to provide multiple responses to reflect their own or generational experiences.

Table 2.22: Experience With Residential Schools - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Yes | 512 | 69% | 857 | 72% | 1,369 | 71% |
| Yes - Self | 51 | 7% | 72 | 6% | 123 | 6% |
| Yes - Parent | 212 | 28% | 427 | 36% | 639 | 33% |
| Yes - Grandparent | 253 | 34% | 462 | 39% | 715 | 37% |
| No | 233 | 31% | 327 | 28% | 560 | 29% |
| Total Respondents | 745 | 100% | 1,184 | 100% | 1,929 | 100% |
| Don't Know/No Answer/Not Indigenous | 6,028 | | 3,395 | | 9,423 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

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

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

2.3.8 RACIAL IDENTITY

Most communities that conducted a Count in 2023 asked about people’s racial identity. Respondents were able to provide multiple responses. Amongst survey respondents, 3% of people identified as Black, 2% as Latin American, and 2% as South Asian. These were the most common identities of those who have been historically marginalized due to race provided. “Not Listed” includes mostly respondents who chose to write in a cultural identity, rather than a racial identity.

For more information about racial identity and homelessness in Canada, see this topic on the Homeless Hub [here](#)¹².

12 <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/racialized-communities>

Table 2.23: Racial Identity - All Communities¹³

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|---------------|------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Arab | 34 | 1% | 13 | 0% | 47 | 1% |
| East Asian | 38 | 2% | 36 | 1% | 74 | 1% |
| South East Asian | 42 | 2% | 28 | 1% | 70 | 1% |
| South Asian | 67 | 3% | 27 | 1% | 94 | 2% |
| West Asian | 42 | 2% | 14 | 0% | 56 | 1% |
| Black | 124 | 5% | 70 | 2% | 194 | 3% |
| <i>Black - Caribbean and Latin America</i> | 33 | 1% | 18 | 1% | 51 | 1% |
| <i>Black - African</i> | 60 | 3% | 30 | 1% | 90 | 2% |
| <i>Black - Canadian/American</i> | 43 | 2% | 31 | 1% | 74 | 1% |
| Latin American | 61 | 3% | 54 | 2% | 115 | 2% |
| White | 1,316 | 56% | 2,041 | 60% | 3,357 | 58% |
| Not Listed | 94 | 4% | 129 | 4% | 223 | 4% |
| Total Respondents | 2,337 | | 3,412 | | 5,749 | |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 4,436 | | 1,167 | | 5,603 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

13 In this table, individuals who responded as Indigenous, and did not identify with any racial groups are included as a respondent, but not within any of the respondent categories.

2.3.9 NEWCOMERS TO CANADA

Ten percent (10%) of respondents indicated they came to Canada as an Immigrant or Refugee. Of these specific respondents 68% indicated they came as an Immigrant, 13% as a refugee, 11% as a refugee claimant, and 8% on either a Work, Student, or Temporary Foreign Worker Visa. Of people who identified as arriving in Canada, sixty-one percent (61%) have been in Canada for more than 10 years, while 20% had been in Canada for less than one year.

To learn more about homelessness among newcomers to Canada, see [here](https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/newcomers)¹⁴.

¹⁴ <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/newcomers>

Table 2.24: Newcomers to Canada - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Immigrant or Refugee | 326 | 15% | 192 | 6% | 518 | 10% |
| Non-Immigrant/ Refugee | 1,821 | 85% | 2,904 | 94% | 4,725 | 90% |
| Total Respondents | 2,147 | 100% | 3,096 | 100% | 5,243 | 100% |
| Don't Know/No Answer | 4,626 | | 1,483 | | 6,109 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.3.10 PREFERRED LANGUAGE

New for 2023, respondents were asked “Do you prefer to access services in English, French, or another language?” Respondents were able to provide multiple responses. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of respondents indicated their preferred language is English.

Table 2.25: Preferred Language - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| English | 1,988 | 97% | 2,386 | 99% | 4,374 | 98% |
| French | 34 | 2% | 51 | 2% | 85 | 2% |
| Other Preferred Language | 68 | 3% | 39 | 2% | 107 | 2% |
| Total Respondents | 2,047 | | 2,420 | | 4,467 | 100% |
| Don't Know/No Answer | 4,726 | | 2,159 | | 6,885 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |

2.3.11 SERVICE IN THE MILITARY OR RCMP

Respondents were asked whether they had served in the Canadian Forces, including the army, navy, air force, and/or RCMP.

For more information about Veterans experiencing homelessness in Canada, see [here](https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/housing-and-home-life/at-risk-housing/homeless)¹⁵.

¹⁵ <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/housing-and-home-life/at-risk-housing/homeless>

Table 2.26: Services in Military or RCMP - All Communities

| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Yes | 113 | 5% | 168 | 5% | 281 | 2% |
| No | 2,067 | 95% | 2,968 | 95% | 5,035 | 98% |
| Total Respondents | 2,180 | 100% | 3,136 | 100% | 5,316 | 100% |
| Don't Know/No Answer | 4,593 | | 1,443 | | 6,036 | |
| Total | 6,773 | | 4,579 | | 11,352 | |



METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

3. METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

3.1 Point-In-Time Methodology

SHELTER COUNT

The Shelter Counts took place on the evening before the Street Count in each of the 20 provincially funded Count communities. Shelter Counts provided information about people 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.

To ensure that the 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 enumeration form to record the total number of people who stayed overnight at the site. Not all people staying at a shelter will fill out a survey; however, because of this form, everyone staying in a shelter facility was enumerated. Police provided a tally of people with no fixed address staying in jail cells on the night of the Count in each community and health authorities participated by submitting tallies of people with no fixed address staying at each community's hospital or health centre on the night of the Count.

STREET COUNT

On the day of the count, the Street Count began early in the morning in each community and continued until the evening. The Street Count focused on enumerating people in public areas or locations where people experiencing homelessness were likely to be, including streets, alleys, parks, and places where services and programs were available, such as meal programs and drop-in centres.

HSABC supported Local Coordinators to identify these locations in each community through route mapping exercises in partnership with community agencies, outreach workers, and service providers prior to the Count. Survey administrators, working in teams of two, were assigned to specific locations and given maps and/or instructions to approach individuals and conduct a survey. In many communities, peers were provided training and survey materials and encouraged to connect with people they knew who were experiencing homelessness, rather than being assigned a formal route.

Each survey respondent was asked a series of screening questions and screened out if they either indicated that they had already answered the survey, or if they had a place of their own where they paid rent and could expect to stay for at least 30 days. As part of the street survey, respondents were also asked where they had stayed the previous night.

If an individual indicated they stayed in a shelter, safe house, or transition house the night before, but they had not completed a survey, they were able to complete one. The surveys for these individuals were then grouped with other sheltered respondents and not included as part of the unsheltered number. While these individuals were not added to the total number of respondents, as shelter enumeration was done through shelter stats forms, the survey was completed to collect demographic and service use data to better understand the profile of shelter users. When an individual indicated they had already filled out a survey, the survey was stopped and screened out. People who reported staying at someone else's place on the night of the Count, but did not have a place where they paid rent, were considered unsheltered and were screened in.

3.2 Twenty B.C. Funded Count Communities

HSABC implemented the Counts in each of the twenty B.C. funded Count communities in collaboration with a local coordinator. Across all communities, the methodology was applied consistently with respect to the approach, definitions, purpose, and structure of the interview questions. This consistent methodology worked to ensure accurate data collection.

In all communities, HSABC worked with Local Coordinators to:

- Engage survey administrators from community agencies and individuals with lived expertise and living experience of homelessness. Persons with this experience of homelessness were paid an honourarium for their time planning and implementing the Count.
- Collaborate with Local Coordinators and the community to understand community context and priorities in implementing the Count.
- Engage community agencies to:
 - Map street walking routes for the day of the Count;
 - Be a “drop site” where individuals could 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; and/or
 - Host a “magnet” event that provided food or other services where the surveys could be completed. The events, generally lasting a few hours, were advertised well in advance and usually included a meal, and support. Hosting an event can increase the likelihood of someone experiencing homelessness completing a survey, especially someone who might otherwise not be surveyed through a sheltered or unsheltered count.
- Provide consistent training for survey administrators.
- Ensure local knowledge and experience with homeless counts was included in the planning and process of developing and implementing the Count.
- Be in the community on the day of the Count to support the local coordinator, survey administrators, and local agencies. HSABC had at least one staff member in all provincially funded Counts on the day of their Count.

3.3 Limitations

While the PiT Homeless Count methodology is an important tool to help understand homelessness in a community, as mentioned previously in this report, it is generally understood to produce an undercount of those experiencing homelessness. There are various other factors that may also impact the accuracy of the 2023 Homeless Counts in BC.

PARTICIPATION AMONGST UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

For a variety of reasons, individuals experiencing homelessness who are approached during the Count may choose not to participate.

INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE NOT APPROACHED BY SURVEY ADMINISTRATORS

While the Count teams, community organizations, and survey administrators worked to promote the Counts and ensure that anyone experiencing homelessness would be counted, in every community there are individuals who meet the definition of homelessness that are not encountered on the day of the count. 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.

Research also shows that youth, women, and other populations made vulnerable may live in unsafe situations to avoid street homelessness. See [here](#)¹⁶ for more information.

¹⁶ <https://womenshomelessness.ca/women-girls-homelessness-in-canada/>



4

CONCLUSION

4. CONCLUSION

Homeless Counts in B.C. identified 11,352 people experiencing homelessness in the spring of 2023, an increase of 31% from the 2020/2021 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.

As this Report has detailed, the experiences and demographics of people experiencing homelessness in the province are diverse. However, every survey was conducted with someone who does not have a place of their own. By sharing their stories, the aim of this report is to help shape our understanding of homelessness in BC and bring urgency to the need for increased availability of appropriate housing and supports to help people stay housed.



5

APPENDICES

5. APPENDICES

5.1 Additional Datatables

This Report includes analysis from a cross-tabulation of various data points. The additional datatables below provide further information in addition to the analysis provided in the Report.

Note that data is excluded from the datatables when response rates are 10 or below. This is indicated by “-”.

Appendix Table A.1: Gender and Locations Stayed in the Last Year – All Communities

| | Man | | Woman | | Another Gender ID | |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Homeless shelter | 2,232 | 72% | 1,092 | 72% | 88 | 73% |
| Second stage housing - AFTER transition house | 90 | 3% | 60 | 4% | - | - |
| Second stage housing - AFTER addictions treatment | 98 | 3% | 43 | 3% | - | - |
| Transitional housing | 175 | 6% | 225 | 15% | 13 | 11% |
| Someone else's place | 1,334 | 43% | 804 | 53% | 61 | 51% |
| Hotel/ motel (funded by a government organization) | 622 | 20% | 405 | 27% | 23 | 19% |
| Outside or unsheltered in a public place | 1,717 | 55% | 801 | 53% | 60 | 50% |
| Encampment | 974 | 31% | 522 | 34% | 35 | 29% |
| Vehicle | 813 | 26% | 471 | 31% | 37 | 31% |
| None of the listed | 64 | 2% | 27 | 2% | - | - |
| Total Respondents | 3,099 | 100% | 1,525 | 100% | 120 | 100% |

Appendix Table A.2 – Age and Location Stayed on the Night of the Count – All Communities

| | Youth | | Adult | | Senior | |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Outside | 141 | 36% | 1,472 | 52% | 233 | 35% |
| Makeshift shelter or tent | 28 | 7% | 364 | 13% | 67 | 10% |
| Vehicle | 24 | 6% | 233 | 8% | 174 | 26% |
| Someone else's place | 158 | 41% | 560 | 20% | 110 | 16% |
| Other Response | 38 | 10% | 216 | 8% | 85 | 13% |
| Total Respondents | 389 | 100% | 2,845 | 100% | 669 | 100% |

Appendix Table A.3 – Age and Locations Stayed in the Last Year – All Communities

| | Youth | | Adult | | Senior | |
|--|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Homeless shelter | 210 | 57% | 2,512 | 75% | 683 | 70% |
| Second stage housing - AFTER transition house | - | - | 125 | 4% | 21 | 2% |
| Second stage housing - AFTER addictions treatment | - | - | 128 | 4% | 11 | 1% |
| Transitional housing | 35 | 9% | 310 | 9% | 73 | 7% |
| Someone else's | 217 | 59% | 1,659 | 49% | 327 | 33% |
| Hotel/ motel (funded by a government organization) | 63 | 17% | 803 | 24% | 189 | 19% |
| Outside or unsheltered in a public place | 159 | 43% | 2,018 | 60% | 403 | 41% |
| Encampment | 91 | 25% | 1,249 | 37% | 191 | 20% |
| Vehicle | 72 | 19% | 953 | 28% | 298 | 30% |
| None of the listed | - | - | 61 | 2% | 21 | 2% |
| Total Respondents | 370 | 100% | 3,369 | 100% | 979 | 100% |

Appendix Table A.4 – Age and Length of Time Experiencing Homelessness – All Communities

| | Youth | | Adult | | Senior | | Total | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Under 6 months | 147 | 32% | 685 | 17% | 216 | 17% | 1,048 | 18% |
| <i>Up to and including 7 days</i> | 14 | 3% | 73 | 2% | 18 | 1% | 105 | 2% |
| <i>8 days to < 1 Month</i> | 51 | 11% | 175 | 4% | 42 | 3% | 268 | 5% |
| <i>1 month < 6 months</i> | 82 | 18% | 437 | 11% | 156 | 13% | 675 | 12% |
| 6 months to <1 year | 77 | 17% | 485 | 12% | 133 | 11% | 695 | 12% |
| 1 year and over | 237 | 51% | 2,959 | 72% | 898 | 72% | 4,094 | 70% |
| Total Respondents | 461 | 100% | 4,129 | 100% | 1,247 | 100% | 5,837 | 100% |

Appendix Table A.5 – Gender and Reasons for Loss of Housing – All Communities

Respondents were instructed to “check all that apply” when answering this question, with many respondents selecting multiple response options. For that reason, percentage totals will not add up to 100%.

| | Man | | Woman | | Another Gender ID | |
|--|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Not enough income for housing | 1,220 | 37% | 593 | 37% | 55 | 41% |
| Rent supplement expired | 35 | 1% | 22 | 1% | - | - |
| Unfit/Unsafe housing condition | 314 | 10% | 265 | 17% | 23 | 17% |
| Building sold or renovated | 193 | 6% | 78 | 5% | - | - |
| Owner moved in | 54 | 2% | 23 | 1% | - | - |
| Landlord/ Tenant conflict | 537 | 16% | 312 | 19% | 21 | 16% |
| Guest policy | 40 | 1% | 39 | 2% | - | - |
| Complaint (E.g. Pets/noise/ damage) | 145 | 4% | 84 | 5% | - | - |
| Place not physically accessible | 32 | 1% | 21 | 1% | - | - |
| Left the community | 175 | 5% | 70 | 4% | - | - |
| Conflict with spouse/ partner | 481 | 15% | 333 | 21% | 21 | 16% |
| Conflict with parent/guardian | 247 | 7% | 163 | 10% | 34 | 26% |
| Conflict with other | 257 | 8% | 157 | 10% | 17 | 13% |
| Experienced abuse by spouse/ partner | 94 | 3% | 250 | 16% | 14 | 11% |
| Experienced abuse by parent/ guardian/ caregiver | 89 | 3% | 75 | 5% | 13 | 10% |
| Experienced abuse by child/ dependent | 16 | 0% | 17 | 1% | - | - |
| Experienced abuse by Other | 41 | 1% | 66 | 4% | - | - |
| Death or departure of a family member | 200 | 6% | 120 | 7% | - | - |
| Experienced discrimination | 129 | 4% | 118 | 7% | 18 | 14% |
| Physical health issue | 339 | 10% | 199 | 12% | 19 | 14% |
| Mental health issue | 491 | 15% | 285 | 18% | 35 | 26% |
| Addiction/ substance use issue | 824 | 25% | 391 | 24% | 36 | 27% |
| Hospitalization or treatment program | 130 | 4% | 85 | 5% | 11 | 8% |
| Incarceration (jail or prison) | 233 | 7% | 51 | 3% | - | - |
| Other reason | 372 | 11% | 178 | 11% | 13 | 10% |
| Total Respondents | 3,294 | | 1,605 | | 133 | |

Appendix Table A.6 – Gender and Services Accessed in 12 months Prior to Count – All Communities

| | Man | | Woman | | Another Gender ID | | Total | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Cultural Services | 312 | 9% | 255 | 16% | 23 | 20% | 590 | 12% |
| Ambulance | 1,358 | 40% | 649 | 40% | 49 | 42% | 2,056 | 40% |
| Emergency Room | 1,826 | 54% | 926 | 56% | 65 | 56% | 2,817 | 55% |
| Hospital (non-emergency) | 1,427 | 42% | 723 | 44% | 59 | 50% | 2,209 | 43% |
| Dental Clinic or dentist | 611 | 18% | 375 | 23% | 30 | 26% | 1,016 | 20% |
| Mental Health Services | 973 | 29% | 634 | 39% | 63 | 54% | 1,670 | 33% |
| Supervised Injection Site | 915 | 27% | 442 | 27% | 32 | 27% | 1,389 | 27% |
| (Other) addiction services | 1,004 | 30% | 551 | 34% | 30 | 26% | 1,585 | 31% |
| Health Clinic | 1,173 | 35% | 664 | 40% | 49 | 42% | 1,886 | 37% |
| Food Services | 2,126 | 63% | 1,022 | 62% | 68 | 58% | 3,216 | 63% |
| Legal Services | 836 | 25% | 434 | 26% | 26 | 22% | 1,296 | 25% |
| Employment and Financial Services | 1,050 | 31% | 548 | 33% | 39 | 33% | 1,637 | 32% |
| Housing Services | 1,404 | 42% | 776 | 47% | 42 | 36% | 2,222 | 43% |
| Other Services | 179 | 5% | 115 | 7% | 16 | 14% | 310 | 6% |
| No Services Accessed | 133 | 4% | 33 | 2% | 2 | 2% | 168 | 3% |
| Total Respondents | 3,362 | 100% | 1,641 | 100% | 117 | 100% | 5,120 | 100% |

Appendix Table A.7 – Age and Services Accessed in 12 months Prior to Count – All Communities

| | Youth | | Adult | | Senior | | Total | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Cultural Services | 48 | 12% | 452 | 13% | 84 | 8% | 584 | 11% |
| Ambulance | 126 | 31% | 1,493 | 41% | 425 | 40% | 2,044 | 40% |
| Emergency Room | 183 | 45% | 2,058 | 57% | 570 | 53% | 2,811 | 55% |
| Hospital (non-emergency) | 134 | 33% | 1,587 | 44% | 469 | 44% | 2,190 | 43% |
| Dental Clinic or dentist | 79 | 19% | 721 | 20% | 219 | 21% | 1,019 | 20% |
| Mental Health Services | 177 | 43% | 1,257 | 35% | 244 | 23% | 1,678 | 33% |
| Supervised Injection Site | 96 | 23% | 1,163 | 32% | 139 | 13% | 1,398 | 28% |
| (Other) addiction services | 98 | 24% | 1,274 | 35% | 219 | 21% | 1,591 | 31% |
| Health Clinic | 125 | 30% | 1,356 | 38% | 398 | 37% | 1,879 | 37% |
| Food Services | 210 | 51% | 2,366 | 66% | 622 | 58% | 3,198 | 63% |
| Legal Services | 82 | 20% | 1,065 | 30% | 152 | 14% | 1,299 | 26% |
| Employment and Financial Services | 123 | 30% | 1,265 | 35% | 256 | 24% | 1,644 | 32% |
| Housing Services | 145 | 35% | 1,601 | 44% | 484 | 45% | 2,230 | 44% |
| Other Services | 47 | 11% | 191 | 5% | 73 | 7% | 311 | 6% |
| No Services Accessed | 24 | 6% | 94 | 3% | 46 | 4% | 164 | 3% |
| Total Respondents | 411 | | 3,601 | | 1,067 | | 5,079 | 99% |

Appendix Table A.8 – Age and Age of First Experience of Homelessness – All Communities

| | Youth | | Adult | | Senior | | Total | |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| First Youth (Under 25 Years) | 452 | 100% | 1,960 | 48% | 266 | 23% | 2,678 | 47% |
| First Adult (25-54 Years) | 0 | 0 | 2,085 | 52% | 415 | 36% | 2,500 | 44% |
| First Senior (55+) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 484 | 42% | 484 | 9% |
| Total Respondents | 452 | 100% | 4,045 | 100% | 1,165 | 100% | 5,662 | 100% |

Appendix Table A.9 – Gender and Age of First Experience of Homelessness – All Communities

| | Man | | Woman | | Another Gender ID | | Total | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Youth (Under 25 Years) | 1,743 | 47% | 831 | 47% | 80 | 63% | 2,654 | 47% |
| Adult or Senior (25+ Years) | 1,976 | 53% | 945 | 53% | 46 | 37% | 2,967 | 53% |
| Total Respondents | 3,719 | 100% | 1,776 | 100% | 126 | 100% | 5,621 | 100% |

Appendix Table A.10 – Sexual Orientation and Age of First Experience of Homelessness – All Communities

| | Heterosexual | | LGBTQ2S+ | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Youth (Under 25 Years) | 2,132 | 45% | 399 | 65% | 2,546 | 47% |
| Adult (25-54 Years) | 2,163 | 46% | 205 | 33% | 2,377 | 44% |
| Senior (55+) | 446 | 9% | 12 | 2% | 461 | 9% |
| Total Respondents | 4,741 | 100% | 616 | 100% | 5,384 | 100% |

Appendix Table A.11: Youth in Care and Age First Homeless – All Communities

| | Under 19 | | 19 and Over | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Yes | 915 | 51% | 904 | 25% | 1,819 | 33% |
| No | 867 | 49% | 2,746 | 72% | 3,613 | 67% |
| Total Respondents | 1,782 | 100% | 3,650 | 100% | 5,432 | 100% |

5.2 Survey Instrument for the 20 Provincially Funded Counts

Survey #:

Interviewer Name: _____



STREET Survey | 2023 Homeless Count Location: _____

PART 1: SCREENING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

☐ Shelter, Safe House, Transition House.

Name: _____ (> **Q.4**)

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

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

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

Parent(s) or guardian's house

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

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

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

☐ Own place inside where you pay rent.

Specify: _____ (**END**)

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

☐ Don't know/No answer (**END**)

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

- ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.5**)
☐ No (**Go to Q.5**)
☐ Don't know/No answer (**Go to Q.5**)

PART 2: SURVEY

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

Age _____ Year born _____

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

☐ Unsure/No answer

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

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

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

Refer to Definition of Rent Above

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

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

Age _____ Year _____

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

Yes. Check one:

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

11a. How long have you been in Canada?

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

Or date of arrival: _____
Day Month Year

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

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

Page 1 of 2

PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

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

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

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

16. How long have you been in (city name)?

____ Days ____ Weeks ____ Months ____ Yrs (**Go to Q.16a**)
 (#) (#) (#) (#)

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

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

Community: _____ AND province: _____

OR country: _____

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

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

[Read list & Check all that apply]

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

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

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

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

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

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

____ Days ____ Weeks ____ Months
☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

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

25. Are you on a housing wait list?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know/No Answer

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

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

B. Interpersonal and Family Issues

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

C. Health or Corrections

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

D. Other

☐ Other reason: _____
☐ Don't know/No answer

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

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know/No Answer

Survey #:

SHELTER Survey | 2023 Homeless Count



Interviewer Name: _____

Facility Name: _____

PART 1: SCREENING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PART 2: SURVEY

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

Age _____ Year born _____

- ☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ☐ Don't know/No answer

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

Age _____ Year _____

- ☐ Don't know/No answer

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

Yes. Check one:

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

10a. How long have you been in Canada?

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years

(#) (#) (#) (#)
Or date of arrival: _____
Day Month Year

- ☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

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

PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

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

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

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

15. How long have you been in (city name)?

Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Yrs (Go to Q.15a)

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

☐ Always been here (Go to Q.16)

☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.16)

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

Community: _____ AND province: _____

OR country: _____

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

☐ Yes. **Check all that apply:**

☐ I did

☐ One or more parents did

☐ One or more grandparents did

☐ No

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

[Read list & Check all that apply]

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

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

☐ English

☐ French

☐ Other Preferred Language: _____

☐ Don't know/no answer

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

☐ Yes, Canadian military (reg forces, reserve, Rangers)

☐ Yes, RCMP

☐ No

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

Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

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

24. Are you on a housing wait list?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know/No Answer

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

A. Housing and Financial Issue:

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

B. Interpersonal and Family Issues

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

C. Health or Corrections

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

D. Other

☐ Other reason: _____

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

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know/No Answer

5.3 Report Data Sources

Figure 1: 2023 Homeless Counts in B.C.

| | Communities | Count Date | Source |
|--|-------------------------------|------------|---|
| B.C. FUNDED COUNTS | Campbell River | April 26 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Campbell-River-2023.pdf |
| | Comox Valley | March 14 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Comox-Valley-2023.pdf |
| | Cranbrook | April 13 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Cranbrook-2023.pdf |
| | Dawson Creek | March 17 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Dawson-Creek-2023.pdf |
| | Fort St. John | March 16 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Fort-St-John-2023.pdf |
| | Kitimat | March 28 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Kitimat-2023.pdf |
| | Merritt | March 15 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Merritt-2023.pdf |
| | Parksville/ Qualicum Beach | April 26 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Parksville-Qualicum-2023.pdf |
| | Penticton | April 28 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Penticton-2023.pdf |
| | Port Alberni | May 2 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Port-Alberni-2023.pdf |
| | Powell River | April 17 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Powell-River-2023.pdf |
| | Prince Rupert | April 13 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Prince-Rupert-2023.pdf |
| | Quesnel | March 10 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Quesnel-2023.pdf |
| | Salmon Arm | April 6 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Salmon-Arm-2023.pdf |
| | Sechelt/Gibsons | March 3 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Sechelt-Gibsons-2023.pdf |
| | Smithers | April 12 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Smithers-2023.pdf |
| | Squamish | April 25 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Squamish-2023.pdf |
| | Terrace | April 18 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Terrace-2023.pdf |
| | Vernon | April 28 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Vernon-2023.pdf |
| | Williams Lake | March 10 | https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Homeless-Count-Williams-Lake-2023.pdf |
| REACHING HOME COMMUNITY | Cowichan Valley | April 12 | https://hsa-bc.ca/_Library/2023_HC/PiT-CountReport-2023-Cowichan.pdf |
| HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY FUNDED COUNTS | Greater Victoria | March 8 | https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/housing-pdf/housing-planning-and-programs/2023-point-in-time-count-report.pdf |
| | Fraser Valley | March 8 | https://hsa-bc.ca/_Library/2023_HC/FVRD_PiT_Count_Report_2023.pdf |
| | Greater Vancouver | March 8 | https://hsa-bc.ca/_Library/2023_HC/2023_Homeless_Count_for_Greater_Vancouver.pdf |
| | Kamloops | April 13 | https://www.kamloops.ca/our-community/housing-homelessness/homeless-count |
| | Nanaimo | March 7 | https://hsa-bc.ca/_Library/2023_HC/2023_Nanaimo_PiT_Count_COMMUNITY_REPORT_FINAL_jan_2024.pdf |
| INDEPENDENT | Salt Spring Island | March 31 | https://hsa-bc.ca/_Library/2023_HC/Salt_Spring_Island_2023_PiT_Info.pdf |

In addition to these Counts, a tally of administrative shelter occupancy data was obtained from BC Housing on the night of April 8, 2023, for emergency shelters and transition houses, and included from the following communities:

COMMUNITIES

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| ○ 100 Mile House | ○ Invermere | ○ Prince George |
| ○ Burns Lake | ○ Kaslo | ○ Princeton |
| ○ Castlegar | ○ Kelowna | ○ Revelstoke |
| ○ Chetwynd | ○ Lillooet | ○ Salmo |
| ○ Clearwater | ○ Mackenzie | ○ Telegraph Creek |
| ○ Creston | ○ Masset | ○ Trail |
| ○ Fernie | ○ McBride | ○ Tumbler Ridge |
| ○ Fort Nelson | ○ Nakusp | ○ Ucluelet |
| ○ Fort St. James | ○ Nelson | ○ Valemount |
| ○ Gold River | ○ Oliver | ○ Vanderhoof |
| ○ Golden | ○ Pemberton | |
| ○ Grand Forks | ○ Port Hardy | |

5.4 Community Contributors for Provincially Funded Counts

Figure 2: Community Contributors for Provincially Funded Counts

| Communities | Community Organization |
|----------------|---|
| Campbell River | AIDS Vancouver Island |
| Campbell River | Campbell River & North Island Transition Society |
| Campbell River | Campbell River School District |
| Campbell River | Hama?Elas Community Kitchen |
| Campbell River | Kwakiutl District Council Health |
| Campbell River | Kwesa Place |
| Campbell River | Mental Health and Substance Use ACT Teams |
| Campbell River | Mobile Outreach Unit for Health and Support Services (MOUHSS) |
| Campbell River | Salvation Army |
| Campbell River | The John Howard Society of North Island |
| Campbell River | Vancouver Island Mental Health Society - Overdose Prevention Site |
| Campbell River | Vancouver Island Mental Health Society - Rosebowl |
| Comox Valley | AIDS Vancouver Island |
| Comox Valley | Amethyst House |
| Comox Valley | Comox Bay Care Society Care-A-Van |
| Comox Valley | Comox Valley Transition Society |
| Comox Valley | Connect Warming Centre |
| Comox Valley | Courtenay Library |
| Comox Valley | Glacierview Lodge |
| Comox Valley | Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society |
| Comox Valley | Lilli House |
| Comox Valley | Ministry of Poverty & Social Development |
| Comox Valley | Salvation Army Family Services |
| Comox Valley | Salvation Army Pidcock House |
| Cranbrook | Ankors |
| Cranbrook | Canadian Mental Health Association |
| Cranbrook | East Kootenay Addiction Services Society |
| Cranbrook | Ktunaxa Education and Employment |
| Cranbrook | Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services |
| Cranbrook | Ktunaxa Social Work Coordinator |
| Cranbrook | Mary Basil House |
| Cranbrook | Mental Health & Substance Use Outreach Team |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Cranbrook | Metis Employment and training |
| Cranbrook | Operation Street Angel: Ktunaxa Nation |
| Cranbrook | Salvation Army |
| Cranbrook | Summit Community Services |
| Cranbrook | The Homeless Outreach Team |
| Cranbrook | United Way of Cranbrook and Kimberley |
| Cranbrook | Women's Resource Center |
| Cranbrook | WorkBC |
| Dawson Creek | Nawican Friendship Centre |
| Dawson Creek | South Peace Community Resources Society |
| Dawson Creek | Salvation Army |
| Fort St. John | FSJ Women's Resource Society |
| Fort St. John | Meaope House |
| Fort St. John | Salvation Army |
| Fort St. John | Urban Matters |
| Kitimat | Kitimat Day Centre/Food Share |
| Kitimat | WorkBC |
| Kitimat | KCDC Housing Resource Project |
| Kitimat | Tamitik Status of Women Association |
| Merritt | ASK Wellness |
| Merritt | Conayt Friendship Society |
| Merritt | Library |
| Merritt | Nicola Valley Region and District Foodbank |
| Merritt | Nicola Valley Shelter & Support Society |
| Parksville | CMHA Mid Island |
| Parksville | Forward House Community Services Society |
| Parksville | Haven Society |
| Parksville | Hirst House |
| Parksville | Island Crisis Care Society |
| Parksville | Lighthouse Community Hall – Soupy Café |
| Parksville | Manna Homeless Society |
| Parksville | NARSF |
| Parksville | Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness |
| Parksville | Society of Organized Services |
| Parksville | The Salvation Army |

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|---------------|--|
| Penticton | South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society |
| Penticton | Penticton And District Society for Community Living |
| Penticton | United Way and 1000 More Homes Committee |
| 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 | Bread of Life 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 | Josie Osborne MLA - Constituency Office |
| Port Alberni | Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society |
| Port Alberni | Port Alberni Friendship Centre |
| Port Alberni | Port Alberni Shelter Society |
| Port Alberni | The New Leaf Supportive Recovery |
| Powell River | Tla'amin Housing Office and Harm Reduction |
| Powell River | Family Place |
| Powell River | LIFT Community Services |
| Powell River | Vancouver Coastal Health |
| Prince Rupert | Change Makers' Education Society |
| Prince Rupert | Mental Health and Addictions |
| Prince Rupert | North Coast Transition Society |
| Prince Rupert | Prince Rupert Indigenous Housing Society - Git Lax M'oon |
| Prince Rupert | Raven's Keep Transition House |
| Quesnel | Amata Transition House |
| Quesnel | Quesnel Shelter & Support Society |
| Quesnel | Salvation Army |
| Quesnel | School District 28 |
| Quesnel | Tillicum Society Friendship Centre |
| Quesnel | Victory Way Church |
| Quesnel | Westside Mental Health and Substance Use |

| | |
|------------|---|
| Salmon Arm | SAFE Society |
| Salmon Arm | Salvation Army – Warming Centre |
| Salmon Arm | Interior Health |
| Salmon Arm | Family Resource Centre |
| Salmon Arm | Public Health Office |
| Salmon Arm | The Lighthouse |
| Salmon Arm | Canadian Mental Health Association |
| Sechelt | Arrowhead Mental Health Clubhouse (Sunshine Coast Community Services Society - SCCSS) |
| Sechelt | Intensive Case Management Team |
| Sechelt | Needle Exchange (Vancouver Coastal Health) |
| Sechelt | RainCity Housing |
| Sechelt | Salvation Army |
| Sechelt | Sechelt Foodbank (SCCSS) |
| Sechelt | Sunshine Coast Community Services Society |
| Sechelt | Yew Transition House (SCCSS) |
| Smithers | Northern Health-Mental Health and Addictions |
| Smithers | Passage House |
| Smithers | Positive Living North |
| Smithers | Smithers Community Services Association |
| Squamish | Helping Hands Society |
| Squamish | Howe Sound Women's Centre |
| Squamish | Sea to Sky Community Services |
| Squamish | VCH Mental Health and Substance Use |
| Squamish | WorkBC |
| Terrace | Foundry |
| Terrace | The Garage |
| Terrace | Kermode Friendship Centre |
| Terrace | K'San Society |
| Terrace | Northern Health Integrated Case Management Team |
| Terrace | Women's Resource Centre |
| Vernon | Archway Society for Domestic Peace |
| Vernon | Cammy LaFleur Street Outreach |
| Vernon | North Okanagan Friendship Center |
| Vernon | Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan |
| Vernon | Turning Points Collaborative Society |

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|---------------|--|
| Vernon | Vernon Mental Health & Substance Use |
| Williams Lake | Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) - Cariboo Chilcotin Branch |
| Williams Lake | Cariboo Friendship Society |
| Williams Lake | Library |
| Williams Lake | Mental Health Substance Use |
| Williams Lake | Salvation Army |

ABOUT HSABC

The *Homelessness Services Association of British Columbia* (HSABC) is an umbrella organization of shelters, drop-in centres, outreach teams, and other service providers addressing the needs of persons experiencing homelessness with the goal to ending homelessness. Our over 320 Member Organizations can access regular workshops and webinars, participate in regional and provincial coordination and research initiatives, and benefit from advocacy on behalf of our sector.

Our key areas of focus include:

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

Program Implementation – we coordinate and implement programs such as the Extreme Weather Response Program to increase shelter beds available in Greater Vancouver 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.

PREPARED BY
HOMELESSNESS SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF BC
2023 REPORT ON HOMELESS COUNTS IN BC

