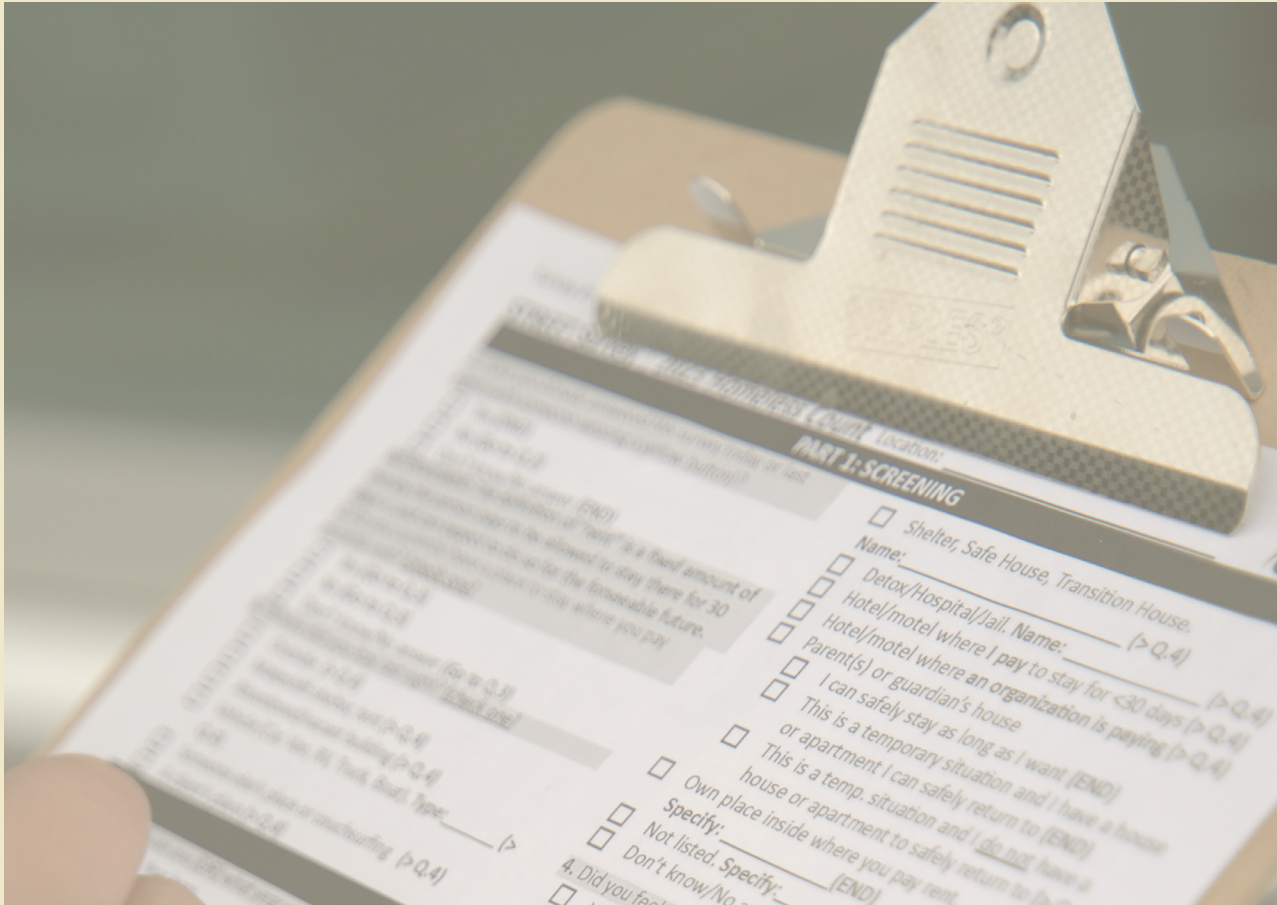


REPORT ON HOMELESS COUNTS IN BC

2023



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'w'əáəm, Leq'á:mel, Lhtako Dene, Musqueam, Nanoose, Nlaka'pamux, Nuu-chah-nulth, shíshálh (Sechelt), Semiamhoo, Stó:lo, (Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw) Squamish, Treaty 8, T̓silhqot'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'w'məθk'w'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

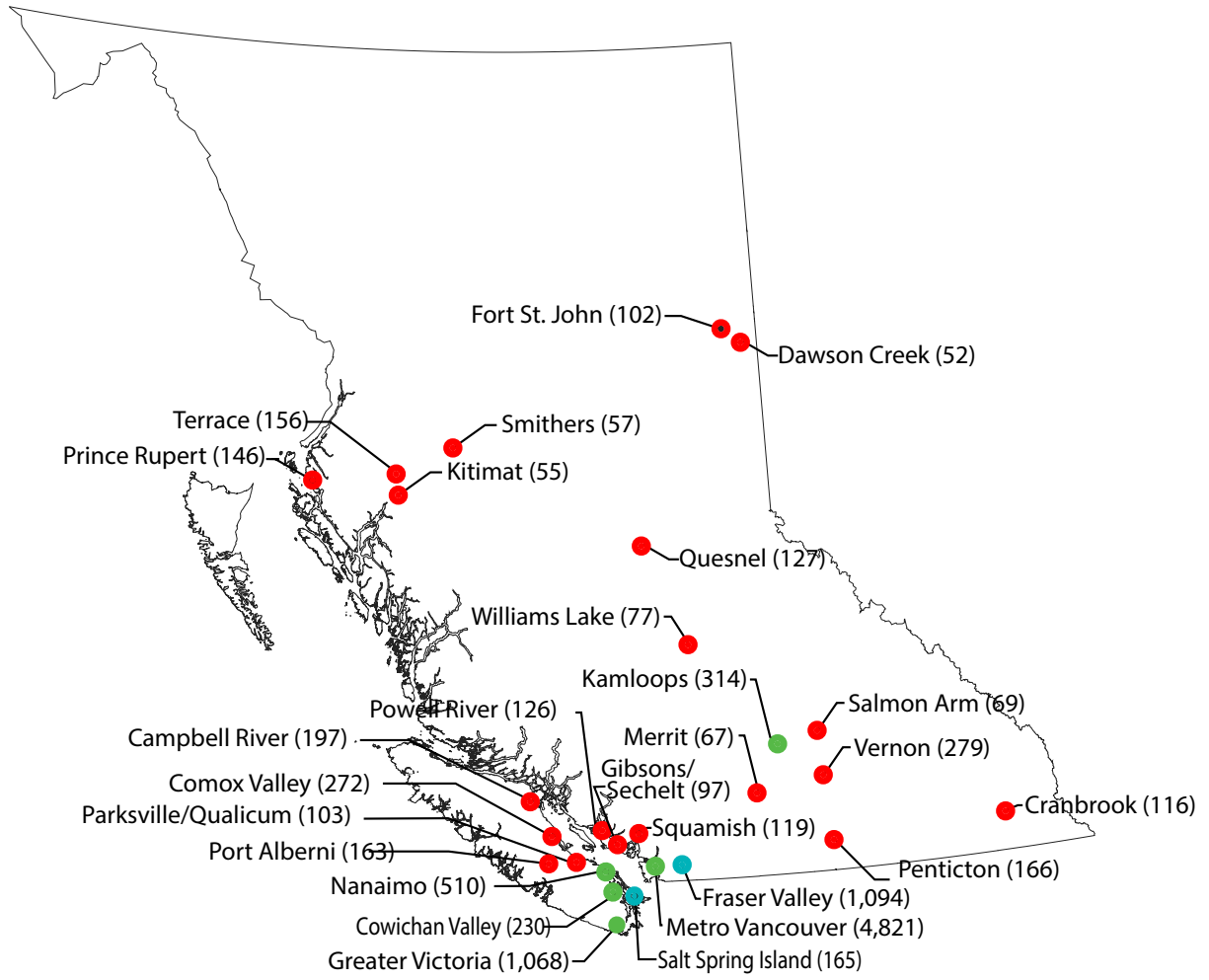
This research project would not have been possible without the participation and support of many people and organizations. The Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC) would like to thank all the agencies, service providers, government staff, and others who helped organize and implement the Count.

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 (PWLE) 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



- B.C. Funded Counts
- Federally Funded Counts
- Independent Counts
- (#) Number of Individuals Identified as Experiencing Homelessness During the PIT Count

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.

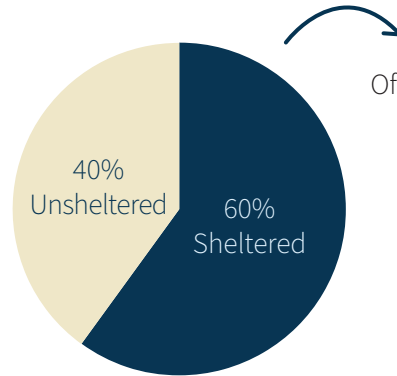


*Welcome Figures by Hupacasath First Nations carvers
in Port Alberni, BC*

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.

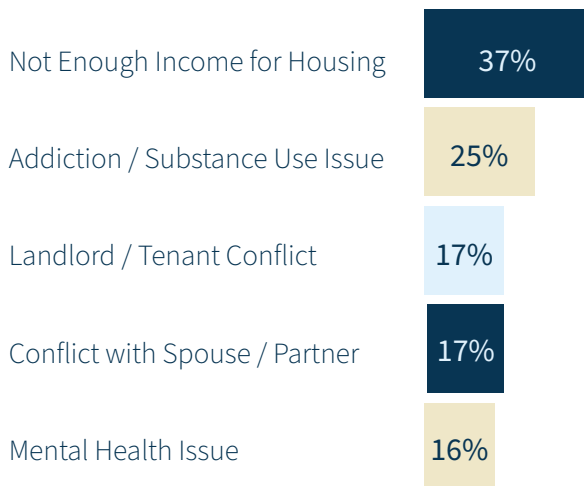
11,352 PEOPLE WERE IDENTIFIED AS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



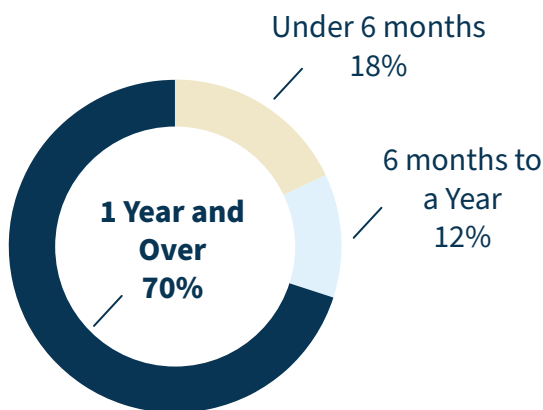
Of Sheltered respondents:

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

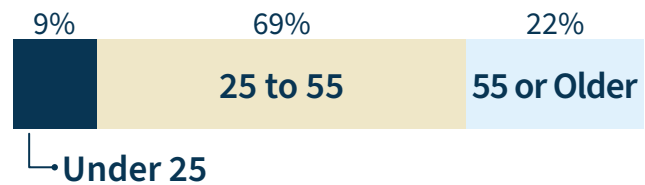
Top Reasons for Housing Loss



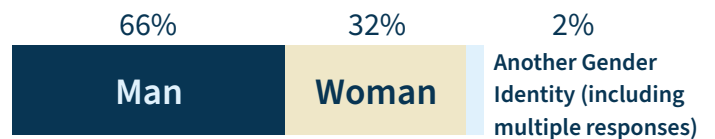
Length of Time Without Own Place



Age



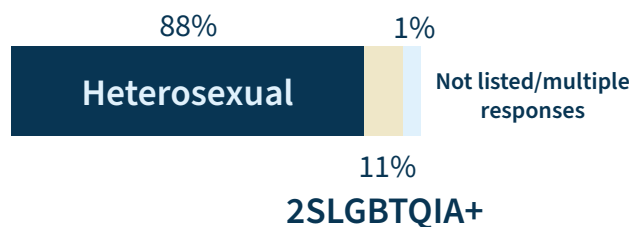
Gender Identity



Trans Experience

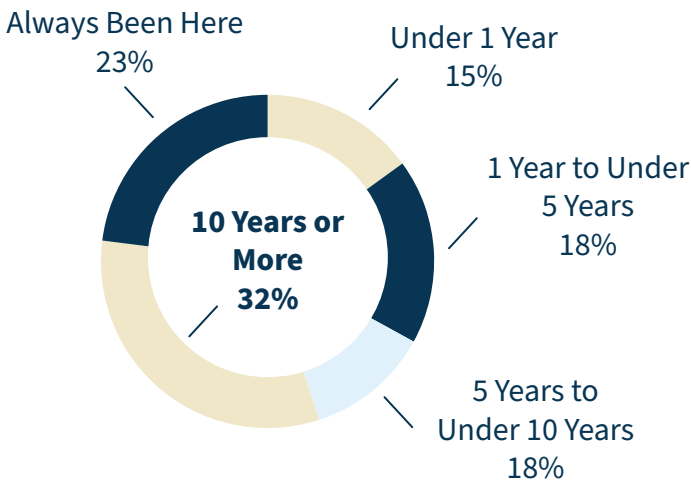


Sexual Orientation



BC HOMELESS COUNT 2023 INFOGRAPHIC

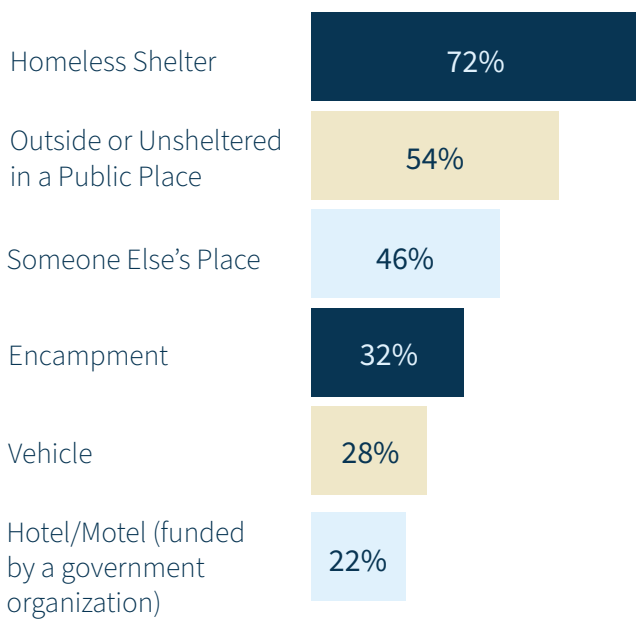
Length of Time in Community Place



Indigenous Identity

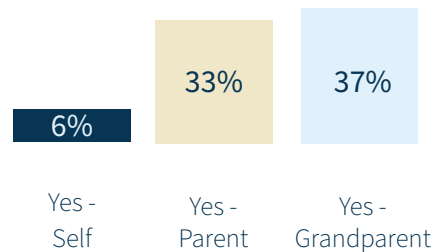


Top Locations Stayed in Last Year

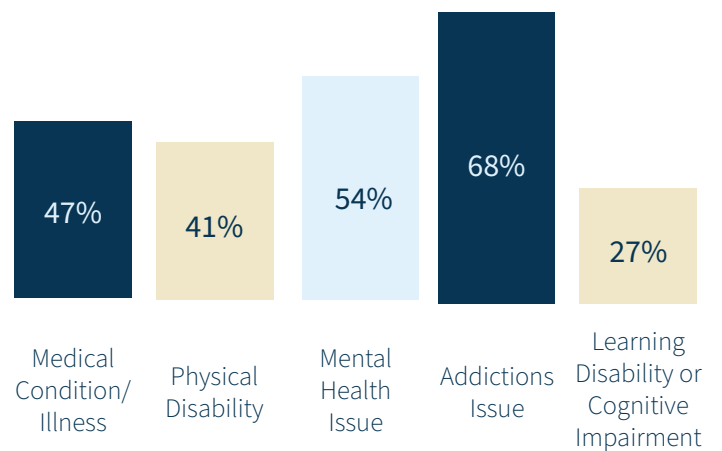


Residential School

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



Health Conditions



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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 (PWLE) 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 PWLE collaborated in conducting the survey and supporting events across the province.

With input from the PWLE, 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.



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](#)¹⁰ for a 2023 report from the McCreary Centre Society, and to learn more about seniors homelessness in Canada, see [here](#)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](#)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](#)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.



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

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

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

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

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.



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