



SENIORS' HOUSING IN BC

April 13, 2022

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOUSING AND HEALTH (TAYLOR, 2018)

Stability Pathway

- There is a relationship between housing instability (e.g., insecurity, homelessness) and poor physical and mental health

Safety and Quality Pathway

- Environment within home (e.g., mould, overcrowding) impacts health

Affordability Pathway

- Cost burden of housing may lead to lack of access to other necessities (e.g., food, medications)

Neighbourhood Pathway

- The physical environment surrounding our home (e.g., public transportation, access to grocery stores, safety) impact our health

SENIORS POPULATION IN BC

	2010	2021	2031
% of Population 65+	14.9%	19.7%	23.7%
Total 65+	667,472	1,024,894	1,401,627

Sources: BC Stats., 2021; Statistics Canada, 2022

SENIOR-LED RENTER HOUSEHOLDS IN BC, 2016 CENSUS

- 2/3 of senior-led renter households are made up of unattached seniors (Statistics Canada, 2019a)
- Unattached seniors are those who live alone or with people they are unrelated to (e.g., roommates)

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FOR SENIOR RENTERS IN BC, 2016 CENSUS

54% of senior-led renter households spend 30% or more of their income on housing (Canadian Rental Housing Index, 2022)

21% of senior-led renter households spend 50% or more of their income on housing (Canadian Rental Housing Index, 2022)

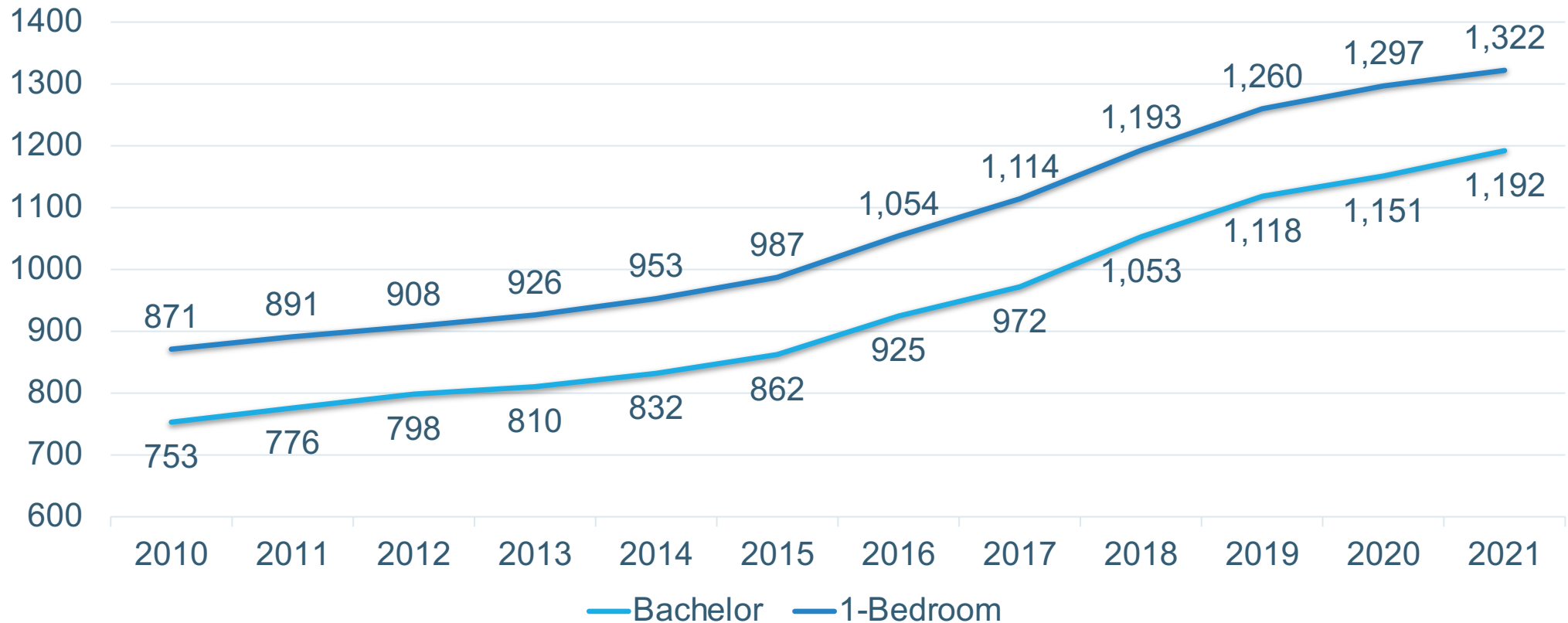
COMPARISON OF HOUSING AFFORDABILITY BY SELECT REGIONAL DISTRICTS, 2016 CENSUS

Regional District	% of senior-led renter households spending 30% or more	% of senior-led renter households spending 50% or more
Fraser Valley	50%	15%
Greater Vancouver	54%	23%
Capital	57%	22%
Comox Valley	56%	18%
Central Kootenay	54%	16%
Central Okanagan	61%	26%
Okanagan-Similkameen	55%	20%
Bulkley-Nechako	43%	11%
Fraser-Fort George	49%	9%

Source: Canadian Rental Housing Index (2022)

AVERAGE MONTHLY RENTAL COSTS IN BC, 2010-2021

Average Monthly Rental Cost (\$) of Apartment in BC, 2010-2021



COMPARISON OF INCREASE IN INCOME VS. HOUSING COSTS, 2010-2019



22.6% increase in income of an unattached senior



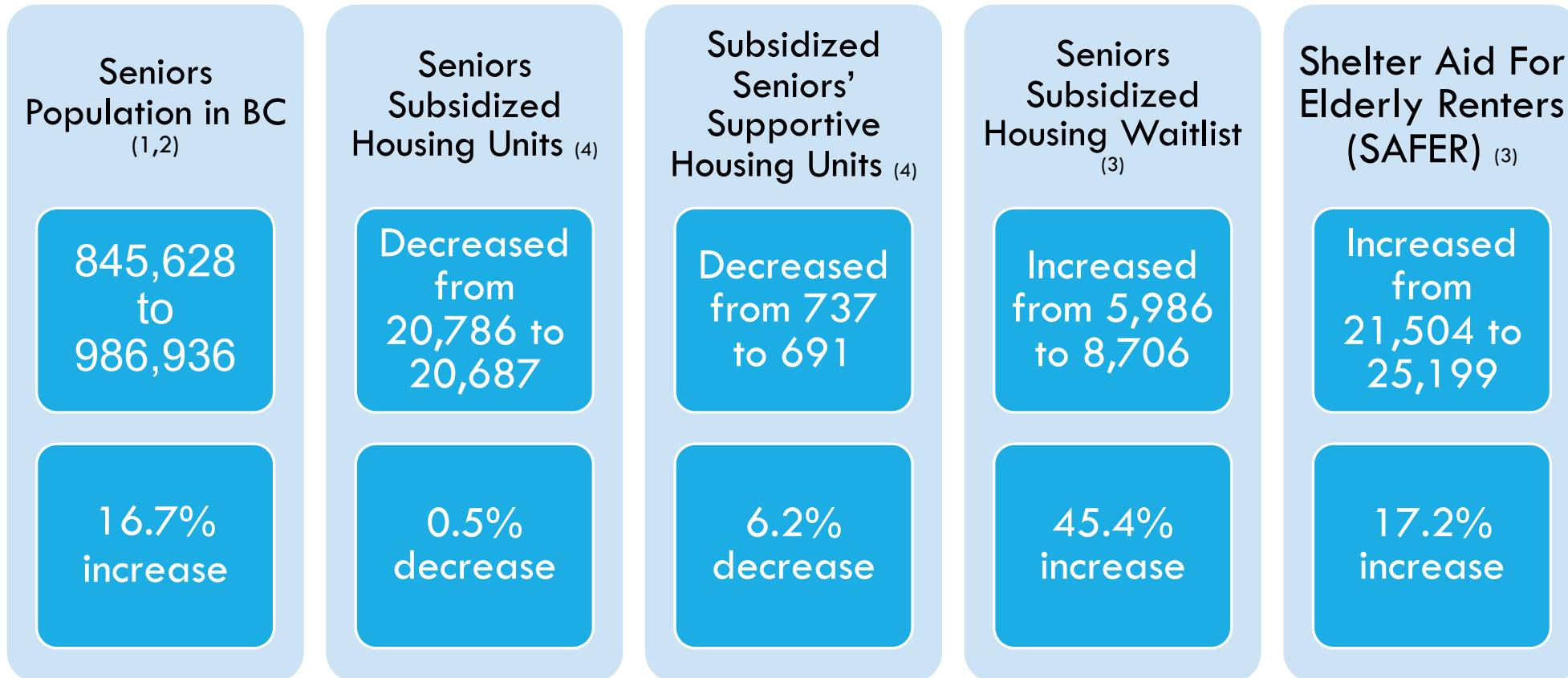
Increase in average monthly rent was 47.9% for a bachelor and 44.6% for 1-bedroom apartment

HOW HAS HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CHANGED POST-2015?

In 2015 an unattached senior renter with a median income would spend **37.6%** of their income on a bachelor apartment

In 2019 an unattached senior renter with a median income would spend **44.7%** of their income on a bachelor apartment

GOVERNMENT HOUSING SUPPORTS OVER 2016/17-2020/21



Sources: 1. Statistics Canada, 2022; 2. BC Stats., 2021; 3. Office of the Seniors Advocate of BC, 2022; 4. BC Housing, 2022

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

We know the data does not capture the full picture of housing precarity and homelessness in BC...

- Some data is from 2016 and we know the situation has worsened since then
- Current data collection methods such as homeless counts only capture a small portion of homeless and precariously housed seniors in BC
- Many precarious and unsafe housing situations are not captured through statistics

FURTHER RESEARCH

We hope this session today will help us to fill in some of the gaps that statistics do not capture

In addition to collecting further data on the state of seniors' housing in BC, we also will be conducting case studies on innovative models of seniors' housing with supports in the future

The research report we produce will be shared publicly and used to advocate to government and other key stakeholders on the need for more affordable seniors' housing and supports

Stay tuned for the report and further information in the early summer and fall!

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