



2024-2025 REPORT ON HOMELESS COUNTS IN B.C.



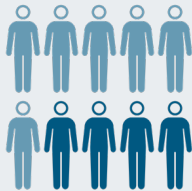
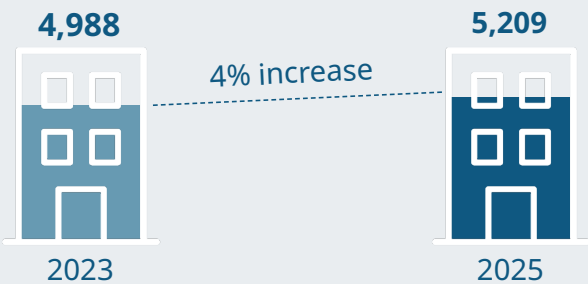
BC Association of Aboriginal
Friendship Centres
BCAFC

BC HOMELESS COUNT 2024-2025 INFOGRAPHIC

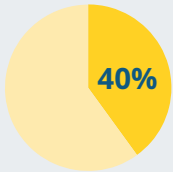


11,637 people were identified as experiencing homelessness, compared with 11,352 in 2023.

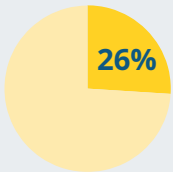
Number of People in Emergency Shelters



40% of respondents identified as Indigenous, compared to 6% of the census population.



40% percent of respondents identified as having a physical disability.

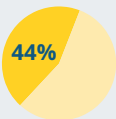


26% of respondents identified as having an acquired brain injury.



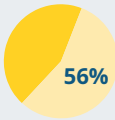
Nicotine is the most common substance used.

People who use stimulants are less likely to be in a shelter.



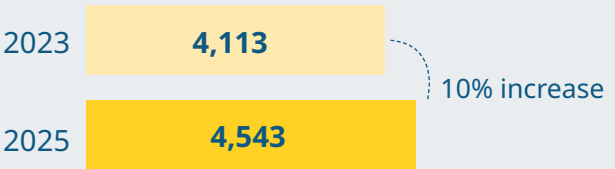
Stimulant use of those staying in shelters.

Stimulant use of those staying out of shelters.



Unsheltered Homelessness

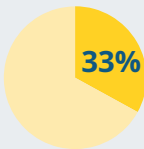
In all communities who conducted Counts in both 2023 and 2024/2025



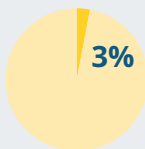
of respondents were youth (under the age of 25)



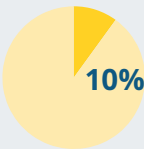
of respondents were seniors (55 years or older)



Women



Transgender Experience



Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Pan-sexual, Two-Spirit, Questioning and/or Queer

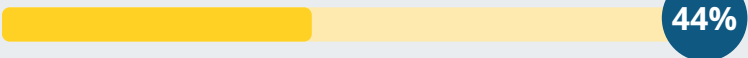
Respondents that have lived for five years or more in the community where they completed a survey.



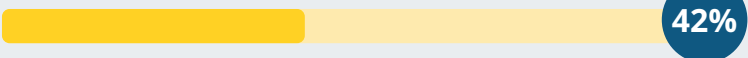
Current experience of homelessness was one year or more.



Seniors that had their first experience of homelessness as a senior.



Eviction as cause of homelessness.



Of those who identified as being evicted, 33% identified as experiencing conflict, abuse, or discrimination by their landlord.

Aly Marchese, left, and Miranda Levert, with the Community and Social Planning Council, take part in the Greater Victoria Point-in-Time Homeless Count. Photo credit: Darren Stone, Times Colonist



How to Cite This Report

This Report was prepared by Zharkyn Baiazova, Dustin Lupick, James Caspersen, and Stephen D’Souza. It 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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Design and Layout by Lucas Ozols-Mongeau
Cover Photo: Katherine’s Place, supported housing for youth ages 19-27 operated by A Way Home Kamloops. Mural artist: Desert Dogs Mural Co. Photo credit: Supplied by BC Housing

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that the homeless counts took place on the traditional and ancestral territories of over 200 First Nations, and acknowledge 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 Beecher Bay, Blueberry River, Chemainus, Cree, Dane-Zaa, Doig River, Esdilagh, Esquimalt, Gitxsan, Haisla, Halfway River, Hupacasath, K'ómoks, Ktunaxa, Kwantlen, k'wík'wəáəm, Lake Babin, Leq'á:mel, Lhtako Dene, Lhoosk'uz, Ligwilda'xw People (including Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, and Kwiakah First Nations), Malahat, Musqueam, Nanoose, Nazko, Nlaka'pamux, Nuu-chah-nulth, Pacheedaht, Pauquachin, Penelakut, Qualicum, Saulteau, Secwépemc, Semiahmoo, shíshálh, Shuswap, Sikanni, Sinixt, Slavey, Snaw-Naw-As, Snuneymuxw, Stó:lo, (SkwxwúXmesh Úxwumixw) Squamish, Syilx Okanagan, T'exelcenc, Tla'amin, Tsawout, Tsartlip, Tseshah, Tseycum, Tšilhqot'in, Tseil-Waututh, Ts'msyen, Wet'suwet'en, Witestand and the Cowichan Tribes.

The Government of BC and BC Housing deliver programs and services on the ancestral homelands of hundreds of Indigenous Peoples and Nations across British Columbia. We offer our respect to their peoples, past and present.



Spqənéutxw (SPAKEN) House, culturally supportive housing operated by the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society.
Mural artist: Yuxwelupton Qwal' qaxala (Bradley Dick).
Photo credit: Supplied by BC Housing

With Gratitude

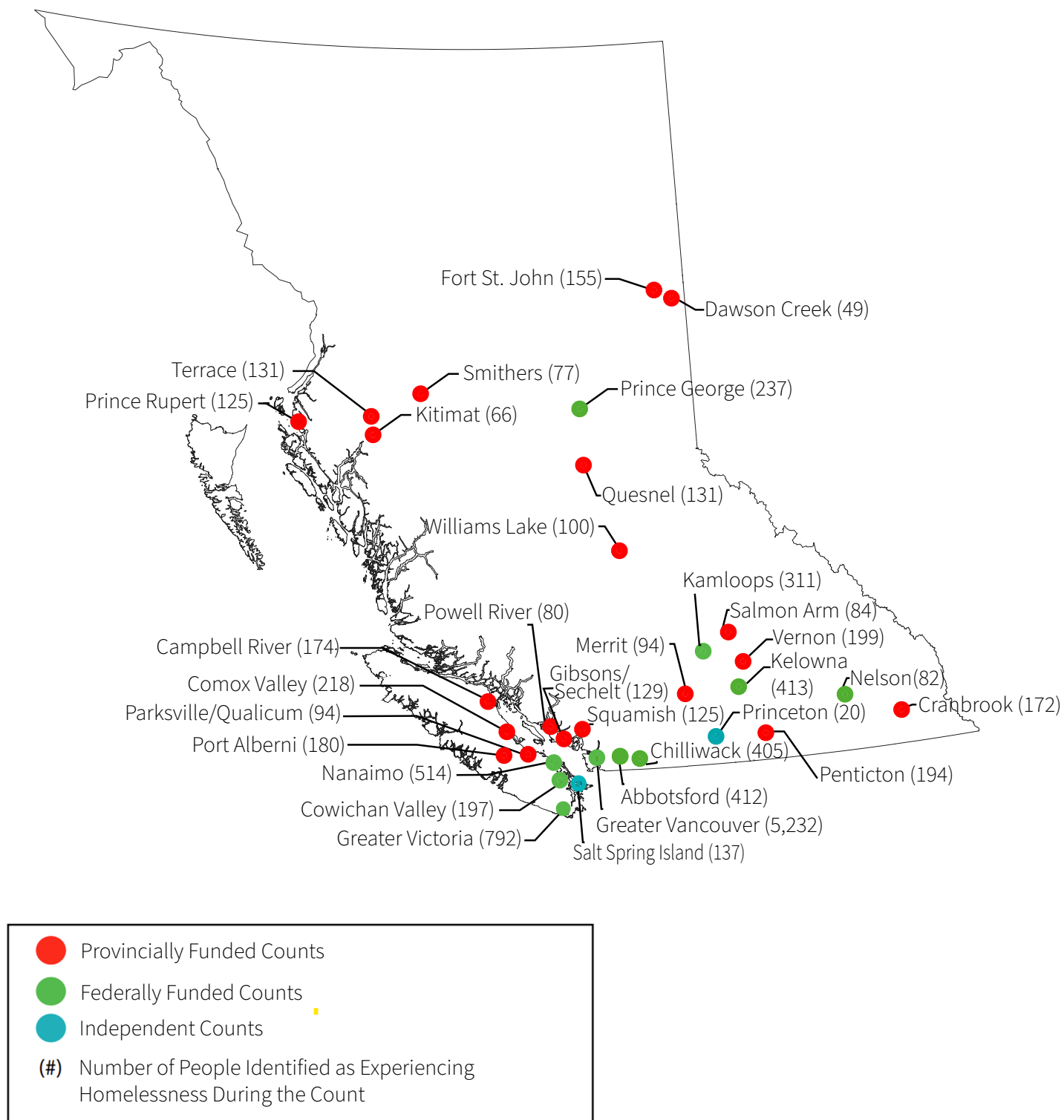
This research project would not have been possible without the participation and support of many individuals and organizations. The Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC) would like to thank all the agencies, service providers, government staff and others who helped organize and implement homeless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

We Would Like to Thank:

- All the individuals currently experiencing homelessness who gave their time to respond to our survey and share stories and experiences which form the foundation of this Report. Without their time and contribution, this project would not have been possible.
- Persons with lived and living experience 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.
- Members of the People with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE) Advisory Committee on Homelessness for contributions to the final Report.
- All of the staff and organizations who dedicated time and resources to completing surveys with their clients and attending planning sessions.
- The HSABC implementation team for the Provincially-funded Counts, including Zharkyn Baiazova, James Caspersen, Kent Chan-Kusalik, Stephen D'Souza, Chloe Good, Russell Han-Josef, Dustin Lupick, and Anya Petek.
- The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) implementation team for the Provincially-funded Counts, including Celeste Hayward, Jacquie Snelling-Welsh, Noella Horoscoe, Melissa Reinhardt and Gabrielle Gosselin.
- The local community coordinators who carried out the Provincially-funded Counts:
 - Campbell River – Stefanie Hendrickson and the Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness
 - Comox Valley – Dayna Forsgren 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 – Sheena Haaf, Lee Ann Hora, and the staff at Nawican Friendship Centre
 - Fort St. John – The Fort St. John CAT Team, Urban Systems and the Fort St. John Women's Resource Centre
 - Kitimat - Danielle Aiello, Jordana Velho, Sharmin Calkins, and the staff at Tamitik Status of Women
 - Merritt – Jonathan Winsor, and the staff at ASK Wellness
 - Parksville/Qualicum – Leah Snobelen and the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness
 - Penticton – Linda Sankey, Crystal Kruger, Candice Collins, and the staff at the South Okanagan Brain Injury Society, and 100 More Homes Penticton
 - Powell River – Jessica Colasanto and the staff at Lift Community Services
 - Port Alberni – Marcie DeWitt

- Prince Rupert - Grainne Barthe, Graham Lindsay and the staff at North Coast Transition Society
- Quesnel – Tammy Janzen, Karen Borsato, and the staff at Quesnel Shelter and Support Society
- Salmon Arm – Glenda Cooper, Erin Abbott and the staff at CMHA Shuswap/Revelstoke Branch
- Sechelt/Gibsons – Chris Hergesheimer
- Smithers – Lydia Howard, Chrissy Chapman, and the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre
- Squamish – Lori Pyne, Joanne Stoner, Teresa Michels, and the staff at Squamish Helping Hands Society
- Terrace – Kylie Nelson and the staff at 'Ksan Society
- Vernon – Annette Sharkey, Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan and the staff at Turning Points Collaborative Society
- Williams Lake - Shane Boxeur, Dustin Westerman, and the staff at Cariboo Friendship Society
- Communities funded through the Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy for sharing their data. These include:
 - Abbotsford – City of Abbotsford
 - Chilliwack – City of Chilliwack
 - Cowichan Valley - United Way British Columbia
 - Greater Vancouver - Lu'ma Native Housing Society
 - Greater Victoria – Capital Regional District
 - Kamloops – City of Kamloops
 - Kelowna – Central Okanagan Foundation
 - Nanaimo – United Way British Columbia
 - Nelson – Nelson CARES Society
 - Prince George - Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association
- Communities who conducted independent counts for sharing their data. These include:
 - Salt Spring Island – Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society
 - Princeton - Princeton Family 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 homeless counts.
- Community staff and volunteers who supported their Local Coordinators in mapping street routes, planning events, and ensuring overall participation in this project was accessible to as many individuals 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 homeless counts.
- We would like to extend a special thank you to Tammy Bennett and Mike Kim from BC Housing; and Taro Gurney, Annik Foreman and Kyler Woodmass from the Homelessness & Supportive Housing Policy Branch at the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, for their continued guidance, data verification, and support throughout the entire process of developing and implementing the homeless counts and finalizing this Report.

Map of Participating Communities



Introduction and How to Interpret and Use This Report

This Report summarizes findings from 32 homeless counts conducted in communities across British Columbia.

Sources of data include:

- Twenty (20) homeless counts funded by the Provincial government through *BC Housing*¹, conducted over 24-hour periods in each community between March 1st and May 1st, 2025;
- Ten homeless counts funded by the Federal government through *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy*², conducted over 24-hour periods in each community between October 8th, 2024 and March 26th, 2025;
- Two independently funded homeless counts;
- BC Housing-funded shelter, transition house, and safe home data for the night of March 11th, 2025 (provided by BC Housing) from 36 B.C. communities that were not involved in a homeless count.

Point-in-Time Homeless Counts (PiT counts; homeless counts, counts) have previously taken place in communities across British Columbia in 2018, 2020/21, and 2023. Homeless counts are collaborative efforts by service providers, volunteers, and researchers to enumerate and survey the population experiencing homelessness in the province.

The limitations of this methodology are related to the timeframe over which the count is conducted, and the voluntary nature of the survey process. A more thorough discussion of limitations is made in Section 1.2 Methodological Limitations and Interpretation, but it is important to understand that this methodology results in a figure that is the absolute minimum number of people who are experiencing homelessness in a community on the specific 24-hour period of the count.

This Report also does not include people living in unstable tenancies and/or substandard housing. While not included within the homeless count, these situations account for a significant number of people experiencing housing vulnerability in the province.

¹ “The homeless count aligns with the Province’s long-term multi-ministry Preventing and Reducing Homelessness Integrated Data Project. [...] The Province’s Point-in-Time Homeless counts will help the Province and communities understand who is experiencing homelessness and why, and the results inform the development of supports and services that will best help people in need in different communities.” (<https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/housing-data/homeless-counts>)

² “Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC) supports community efforts across Canada to better understand the state of local homelessness, and contribute to a national picture of homelessness. Everyone Counts, the nationally-coordinated Point-in-Time (PiT) Counts, are an important piece of this national understanding.” (<https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/resources-ressources/point-in-time-denombrement-ponctuel-eng.html>)

This Report includes perspectives from the People with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE) Advisory Committee on Homelessness. This is a committee supported by the Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC) and funded by the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs. The role of the Committee is to ensure that the voices of those most impacted by homelessness inform provincial strategies, including the Belonging in BC homelessness plan. Established in 2024, its mandate centres on embedding lived experience perspectives into decision-making, promoting cultural safety and equity, and advising on systemic issues affecting homelessness in BC. By creating space for underrepresented communities, including Indigenous peoples, racialized groups, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals the PWLLE Advisory Committee provides a unique perspective on inclusive and collaborative approaches. You will see their perspectives in the boxes like the one below throughout the Report.

Homeless counts are one part of the story of homelessness in our communities.

PWLLE Advisory Committee Perspectives³

³ Funded by the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the People with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE) Advisory Committee on Homelessness provides input on provincial homelessness strategies, including the Belonging in BC plan.

Key Findings

Below is a selection of key findings from Point-in-Time Homeless Counts conducted in fall 2024 and spring 2025 across BC.

11,637 people were identified as experiencing homelessness

Counts conducted in fall 2024 and spring 2025 across BC include people experiencing homelessness who were enumerated by either completing a survey or being counted in a shelter, transition house, safe home, hospital, correctional facility, or detox centre.

Unsheltered homelessness increased in communities that conducted counts in 2023

5,246 individuals were identified as experiencing unsheltered homelessness by the Counts.

When comparing only those communities that conducted counts in both 2023 and 2024/2025, the total number of those who were unsheltered increased by 10% (4,113 in 2023, compared to 4,543 in 2024/2025).

People staying in an Emergency Shelter increased compared to 2023

5,209 people were staying in temporary or permanent emergency shelters in the province. This is a 4% increase from 4,988 people in 2023.

1,182 people were staying in a sheltered location other than a temporary or permanent emergency shelter. This includes transition houses, youth safe houses, EWR shelters, or healthcare facilities or local holding cells temporarily with no fixed address. This is a 34% decrease from 1,785 people in these locations in 2023.

A majority of people experiencing homelessness are established residents of the community where they were counted

Sixty-seven percent (67%) of people have lived for five years or more in the community where they completed a survey.

Majority of individuals surveyed have been experiencing homelessness for over one year

Seventy-three percent (73%) of respondents reported that their current experience of homelessness was one year or more.

Individuals who identify as Indigenous continue to be overrepresented in 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. This is the same percentage who identified as Indigenous in the 2023 Count.

Youth and seniors continue to experience homelessness

Seven percent (7%) of respondents were youth (under the age of 25), and twenty-two (22%) were seniors (55 years or older). It is important to note that these age groups are more likely to be experiencing hidden homelessness, and less likely to be encountered on the day of the count.

Almost half of youth have experienced homelessness for one year or more

Forty-eight percent (48%) of respondents who were youth under the age of 25 identified as experiencing homelessness for one year or more.

A large proportion of seniors counted in this project had a first experience of homelessness in their senior years (55+)

Forty-four percent (44%) of respondents who were seniors reported having their first experience of homelessness while they were already a senior.

Many respondents identify as part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community

Two percent (2%) of respondents identified their gender as agender, non-binary, Two-Spirit, not listed and/or multiple responses. Three percent (3%) identified as having trans experience, and 10% identified their sexual orientation as asexual, bisexual, gay, lesbian, pan-sexual, Two-Spirit, questioning and/or queer.

Most respondents identified as having a range of health conditions

Almost three-quarters (72%) of respondents identified a substance use challenge, two-thirds (66%) a mental health challenge, and nearly half (46%) identified a challenge with a medical condition or illness. Forty percent (40%) of respondents identified as having a physical disability, one-third (34%) of respondents identified as having a challenge with their senses, and one-quarter (27%) of respondents identified as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth.

Nicotine is the most common substance used

The most common substance respondents used was nicotine (73%), followed by stimulants (50%), cannabis (46%), opiates (44%), and alcohol (42%).

People who use substances are less likely to be in a shelter

Respondents in shelters were less likely to report using substances than those who were unsheltered. This is particularly pronounced for those who use stimulants, with 44% of those in shelters reporting using stimulants, compared with 56% of those staying out of shelters.

Tenants being evicted is a cause of homelessness

For the first time in this survey, respondents were asked specifically if their most recent experience of homelessness was related to an eviction. Forty-two percent (42%) of respondents responded that yes, their current experience of homelessness was related to an eviction. This includes both legal and illegal evictions. Of those who identified as being evicted, 33% identified as experiencing conflict, abuse, or discrimination by their landlord.

Balsam Place, temporary housing operated by Connective in Kelowna.
Photo credit: Michael & Suzanne Hintringer Photography



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1. About This Report

This Report summarizes findings from 32 homeless counts conducted in communities across British Columbia in fall 2024 and spring 2025. It also includes data from BC Housing-funded shelter and transition houses/safe homes from 36 communities that were not involved in a homeless count.

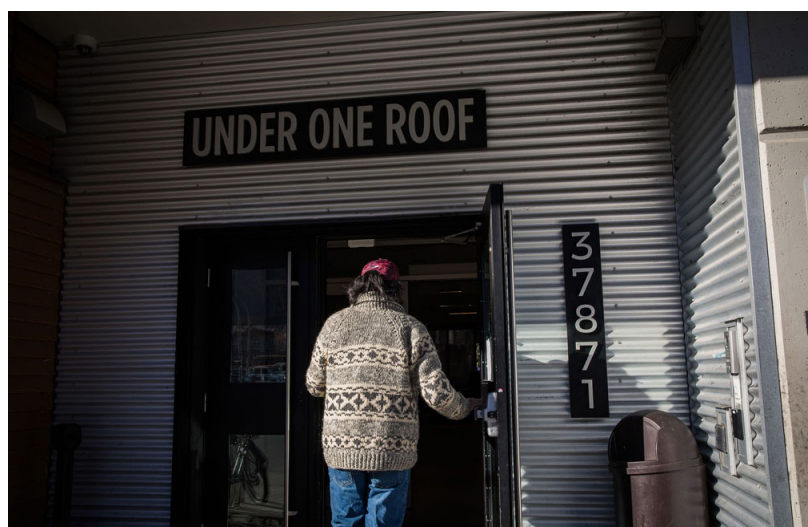
The purpose of point-in-time homeless counts is to estimate the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness, obtain a demographic profile of those individuals, and identify trends that can be comparable to previous counts that used similar methodology.

1.1 Definition of Homelessness

For the purpose of the counts, an individual was defined as experiencing homelessness if they did not have a place of their own where they pay rent and can expect to stay for at least 30 days. This includes people who:

- **Stayed overnight on the Night of the Count** in shelters, including in homeless shelters, transition houses, safe homes, and youth safe houses; or people with no fixed address (NFA) staying temporarily in hospitals, holding cells, or detox facilities (defined as “sheltered”); or,
- **Were encountered by interviewers the Day of the Count**, and stayed in a place where they did not pay rent the previous night. This includes those staying outside in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks, vehicles, or temporarily at someone else’s place (couch surfing). This also includes people who were staying temporarily in hotels or being evicted within 30 days of the count with nowhere else to go.

Everyone who stayed in a shelter, transition house or safe home was enumerated by facility staff and confirmed with administrative data from BC Housing. Additionally, they had the option to complete a shelter survey (see Appendix C4) if they wanted. Those who were considered unsheltered completed screening questions (see Appendix C5) to ensure that individuals were not counted more than once and met the definition of homelessness.



Under One Roof, supportive housing, emergency shelter and EWR operated by Squamish Helping Hands Society. Photo credit: Squamish Helping Hands Society

1.2 Methodological Limitations and Interpretation

Some important considerations about the methodology:

- A PiT count represents the **minimum** number of people who are experiencing homelessness on a given day in the community. Participation is anonymous, confidential, and voluntary. This is one reason the PiT Count will be an undercount – if an individual does not want to participate, and was unsheltered, they are not counted.
- Participation relies on an individual being encountered; either staying in a transition house or shelter or approached on the day of the count by an interviewer. If they are not encountered or did not attend a community event to complete the survey, these individuals were not counted. Youth, seniors, Indigenous and racialized persons, newcomers to Canada, those in the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community, and those who do not access homelessness services are populations understood to be underrepresented in the count.
- Shelter capacity can change in a community after the count, including opening or closure of temporary or year-round shelter programs.
- The purpose of a PiT count is not intended to be a measure of everyone who experiences homelessness. By focusing on a single day, a count will not include some people who cycle in and out of homelessness.
- There are a variety of reasons why a count number will change over time in a community. These include changes in actual homelessness, supportive housing, and/or services available. Caution should be used when making comparisons across time or between communities without additional local context.

Weather conditions on the day of the count, community capacity including closing of shelters, reliance on volunteers, and local organizer capacity are some things that may affect PiT counts across time and communities. These variables are neither measured nor controllable. However, the PiT count methodology has remained relatively consistent since 2018, which adds value by enabling comparison of the trends over time.

Given these limitations, decision makers are encouraged to seek complimentary sources of data — such as reports from local service agencies — to corroborate the findings in this Report.

The definition and methodology used in this Report varies slightly from how some of the contributing communities report their results. This includes:

- Communities that used an extended period of time beyond the 24-hour period used in this Report, and/or included observed homelessness,
- Communities that included transitional housing in their definitions, and
- Communities that included provincially-run correctional centres.

1.2.1 Role of Project Co-Lead: BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) was the co-lead on this project, both in the implementation of the 20 Provincially-funded Counts and the preparation of the results.

This role involved:

- Providing insight into and supporting the implementation of the Counts;
- Reviewing the survey, and the addition of new questions.
- Communicating with Nations on whose land counts took place, and Indigenous organizations in the count communities.
- Participating in data collection in four of the communities.
- Advising on the data analysis, interpretations and understanding the wider consequences.
- Providing review and feedback on the community results for the 20 Provincially-funded Counts and this Report on Homeless Counts in BC.

1.2.2 Survey Changes – 2025 Provincially-Funded Counts

In 2025, several changes to the survey were made after careful consideration, in order to align with Federally-funded Count requirements, input from count communities, and an interest in comparing results to previous counts. These changes include:

- Expanding the question related to health challenges to include “senses (seeing, hearing, etc.)”, and “acquired brain injury (happened after birth)”. In 2023, “do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth?” had been a standalone question.
- In addition to asking about whether an individual identified as having a ‘substance use challenge,’ a separate question asked all participants if they used each of the following categories of substances: nicotine, cannabis, alcohol, opiates, and stimulants.
- Respondents were asked specifically if they were or were not on income assistance/Persons with Disability (PWD), before being asked if they had any other income as a separate question. In previous versions, income assistance/PWD was combined as a single income option respondents could choose.
- A new question asked if a respondent’s most recent housing loss was due to an eviction, in addition to the question that has been asked in previous counts of “what happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?”

Additionally, BCAAFC made the following specific changes to the survey:

- Through multiple community consultations, a distinction-based identity question along with two service-use questions were added to the survey. These additions help assess both where people are accessing services and what services may be available to them.
- Removal of the question asking whether the participant had lived or generational experience of Residential School. Community partners felt that the benefit of asking this question did not outweigh the potential for harm. We already know that an alarming proportion of Indigenous peoples in Canada have lived or intergenerational Residential School experiences and that these experiences are deeply traumatic. Asking this directly in a brief enumeration context risked re-traumatization without offering meaningful support.

1.2.3. New Non-Count Report Data Sources: Corrections Data

Those in longer-term correctional facilities have not previously been enumerated. Thanks to a partnership between the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs and B.C. Corrections, data was collected about the number of individuals in BC Corrections custody on March 11, 2025, who had no fixed address. As this data has not been historically used as part of reports on homeless counts in BC, it has been excluded from this Report's finding, but is available as Appendix E.



Duncan Supportive Housing operated by Connective.
Photo credit: HA Photography

2. Summary of Provincial Findings

The following tables provide aggregate data from 32 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. Some communities used different survey questions, and as a result, not all communities are included in each data table presented.

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

Every question is voluntary, and respondents can choose to skip any question they want or end the survey at any time. **The percentages represent those respondents who answered each question, not the total number of persons identified as experiencing homelessness.** See section 1.2 *Methodological Limitations and Interpretation* for more information.

In this Report, only percentages for demographic tables are presented to emphasize that these findings are only a sample of the population experiencing homelessness, not the entire population of persons experiencing homelessness.

“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 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-Provincially-funded counts may not have asked the specific question.



Community clean-up in Penticton.
Photo credit: Supplied by 100 More Homes Penticton

2.1 Total Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

There are 11,637 people included in this Report as experiencing homelessness. This includes data from all 32 counts, as well as administrative shelter occupancy data from 36 communities that did not complete a count in 2024 or 2025.

6,391 were experiencing **Sheltered Homelessness**, and 5,246 were experiencing **Unsheltered Homelessness**.

1,182 people were staying in a sheltered location other than a temporary or permanent emergency shelter. This includes transition houses, youth safe houses, EWR shelters, or healthcare facilities or local holding cells temporarily with no fixed address. This is an 34% decrease from 1,785 people in these locations in 2023.

Based on BC Housing's occupancy data, temporary and permanent emergency shelters across the province had an occupancy of 93% on March 11th, 2025.

Table 1: Sheltered and Unsheltered Homelessness

	Adults and Youth		Accompanied Children		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered	6,079	54%	312	79%	6,391	55%
Unsheltered	5,161	46%	85	21%	5,246	45%
Total	11,240	100%	397	100%	11,637	100%

“Expanding shelter spaces is a critical step in our commitment to bringing people indoors, keeping people safe and communities strong.”

Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs.⁴

⁴ Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs. News Release: Shelter spaces added in Greater Victoria for people experiencing homelessness. September 5, 2025. Victoria. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025HMA0071-000836 News>

Table 2: Sheltered Locations and Unsheltered

	Adults and Youth		Accompanied Children		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered	6,079	54%	312	79%	6,391	55%
<i>Shelters</i>	5,058	45%	151	38%	5,209	45%
<i>Transition Houses</i>	322	3%	153	39%	475	4%
<i>EWR</i>	197	2%	0	0%	197	2%
<i>No Fixed Address</i>	502	4%	8	2%	510	4%
Unsheltered Homelessness	5,161	46%	85	21%	5,246	45%
Total Homelessness	11,240	100%	397	100%	11,637	100%

Sheltered homelessness includes those who stayed overnight on the night of the Count in:

- year-round and temporary shelters including temporary winter shelters⁵;
- Transition houses⁶ and youth safe houses⁷;
- EWR shelters⁸; and
- hospitals, local holding cells, or detox facilities temporarily with no fixed address (NFA).

Note: shelter capacity can change in a community after the Count, including opening or closure of temporary or year-round shelter programs.

Unsheltered homelessness includes those who stayed outside in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks and vehicles or those who were staying temporarily at someone else's place (couch surfing), a hotel without a place to return to, or with their parents in a temporary situation on the night of the Count. Note: the unsheltered count relies on finding individuals on the day of the Count. It may change due to a variety of factors (see Section 1.2 Methodological Limitations and Interpretation).

⁵ "Temporary Winter Shelters operate as a seasonal shelter during colder months. Shelter providers offer extra emergency spaces when individuals face health and safety risks". <https://www.bchousing.org/projects-partners/housing-provider-info/temporary-winter-shelter-program>

⁶ Transition Houses and Safe Homes support "women, gender-diverse people and children who are at risk of violence, or who have experienced violence. It provides housing and support services, referrals, and assistance in planning next steps". <https://www.bchousing.org/projects-partners/Building-BC/WTHF>

⁷ "A Safe House is a voluntary youth-centred service intended to provide short-term protective accommodation on an emergency crisis-intervention basis to primarily high-risk youth". Youth Services Child and Youth Mental Health & Youth Justice Division Ministry of Children & Family Development. *Standards for Safe House Services in British Columbia*. October 2002. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/bc-criminal-justice-system/services-resources/need/housing/safe_house_standards.pdf

⁸ EWRs shelters are "community-based services to provide extra emergency shelter spaces during periods of extreme winter weather, that threatens the health and safety of individuals who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness". <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/homelessness-services/extreme-weather-response>

The PWLLE Advisory Committee shares that a person experiencing homelessness may not stay in a shelter for a variety of reasons. These can include individual experiences with shelters and other systems that can make an individual feel unsafe, and systemic barriers about shelter services offered. These include gendered spaces, pet policies, policies that prohibit couples staying together, belonging storage, safety of self and property, stay limits and others. So, it is not a matter of providing shelter spaces, *it is about providing shelter services that are trauma-informed and accessible.*

PWLLE Advisory Committee Perspectives⁹

⁹ Funded by the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the People with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE) Advisory Committee on Homelessness provides input on provincial homelessness strategies, including the Belonging in BC homelessness plan.

This table presents the total number of people experiencing homelessness in each community count included in this Report, based on the definition of homelessness in Section 1.1 of this Report. This number may vary from reports published by these communities because of different definitions and methodologies applied. See section 1.2 Methodological Limitations and Considerations for more information.

Table 3: Total Number Experiencing Homelessness by Community with Previous Count Comparison

Community Name	2024/2025 - Total Sheltered	2024/2025 - Total Unsheltered	2024/2025 Total	# Change from 2023 Count
Campbell River	49	125	174	- 23
Comox Valley	81	137	218	-54
Cowichan Valley	73	124	197	- 33
Cranbrook	63	109	172	+56
Dawson Creek	26	23	49	-3
Fort St. John	31	124	155	+53
Greater Vancouver	3,339	1,893	5,232	+411
Greater Victoria	431	361	792	-276
Kamloops	208	103	311	-3
Kitimat	9	57	66	+11
Merritt	24	70	94	+27
Nanaimo	156	358	514	+4
Parksville/Qualicum Beach	4	90	94	-9
Penticton	116	78	194	+28
Port Alberni	73	107	180	+17
Powell River	29	51	80	- 46
Prince Rupert	49	76	125	- 21
Quesnel	39	92	131	+4
Salmon Arm	31	53	84	+15
Salt Spring Island	47	90	137	-28
Sechelt/Gibsons	67	62	129	+32
Smithers	9	68	77	+20
Squamish	24	101	125	+ 6
Terrace	74	57	131	-25
Vernon	114	85	199	-80
Williams Lake	51	49	100	+23
No comparable 2023 Count				
Abbotsford	223	189	412	N/A
Chilliwack	196	209	405	N/A
Kelowna	271	142	413	N/A
Nelson	26	56	82	N/A
Prince George	150	87	237	N/A
Princeton	0	20	20	N/A
Non-Count Communities	308	0	308	N/A
Total	6,391	5,246	11,637	

2.2 Who is Experiencing Homelessness

This section presents the results of the survey questions that ask about the respondents themselves. Only percentages are presented to emphasize that these findings represent a sample of the population experiencing homelessness, not the entire population of persons experiencing homelessness (see 1.2 Methodological Limitations and Interpretation).

2.2.1 INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

Presentation of Indigenous Data

Indigenous refers to the diverse cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people, regardless of whether they have legal status, or whether they are living in urban, rural, or remote areas. Some tables present the responses of Indigenous participants to non-Indigenous participants to illuminate the variances.

Consistent with every PiT count that has been conducted throughout B.C., Indigenous people are 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 (35%).

Disproportionate rates of homelessness are rooted in the ongoing structural violence of settler colonial society that creates hierarchical systems of privilege and oppression. Indigenous people in Canada face racism, discrimination, and the impacts of intergenerational trauma, which limit safe and equitable access to services making it easier to lose, and harder to acquire safe and stable housing.

Table 4: Indigenous Identity – Totals

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Indigenous	35%	44%	40%
Not Indigenous	65%	56%	60%
Total Respondents	3,121	4,415	7,536
Don't know/No answer	3,270	831	4,101

Table 5: Indigenous Identity – Including distinction-based details

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Indigenous	35%	44%	40%
<i>First Nations</i>	24%	32%	28%
<i>Inuit</i>	<1%	<1%	<1%
<i>Métis</i>	8%	9%	9%
<i>Other Indigenous Ancestry</i>	3%	3%	3%
<i>Not listed</i>	1%	1%	1%
Not Indigenous Identity	65%	56%	60%
Total Respondents	3,121	4,415	7,536
Don't know/No answer	3,270	831	4,101



2.2.2 GENDER IDENTITY

Among survey respondents, two-thirds (64%) identified as men, 33% identified as women, and 2% identified as agender, non-binary, Two-Spirit, not listed and/or multiple responses.

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, having transgender experience, or with another identity.

Table 6: Gender Identity

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Man	65%	64%	64%
Woman	33%	34%	33%
Agender, Non-binary, Two-Spirit, not listed and/or multiple responses	2%	2%	2%
<i>Agender</i>	<1%	<1%	<1%
<i>Non-Binary</i>	<1%	<1%	<1%
<i>Two-Spirit</i>	<1%	<1%	<1%
<i>Not Listed</i>	<1%	<1%	<1%
Responses	3,158	4,473	7,631
Don't know/No answer	3,233	773	4,006

<1% indicates that there were less than one percent of respondents.

Thirty-eight percent (38%) of Indigenous respondents identified as a woman, compared to thirty percent (30%) of non-Indigenous respondents.

Table 7: Gender – Indigenous and Non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Man	59%	69%
Woman	38%	30%
Another Gender Identity (including multiple responses)	3%	2%

Number of surveys with valid Gender and Indigenous Identity responses = 7,404

Respondents may skip questions or withhold information that could compromise their safety, particularly individuals from historically marginalized genders or other vulnerable populations who have faced discrimination and violence because of their identity.

The current climate of homelessness vilification increases the risk, making respondents feel exposed or judged when approached by volunteers. Even when sector workers or peers conduct surveys, pre-existing relationships can complicate disclosure.

PWLLE Advisory Committee Perspectives¹⁰

¹⁰ Funded by the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the People with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE) Advisory Committee on Homelessness provides input on provincial homelessness strategies, including the Belonging in BC plan.

2.2.3 TRANSGENDER EXPERIENCE

Respondents in some communities were asked a separate specific question about whether they identify as someone with transgender experience (meaning their gender identity is different than what they were assigned at birth). Three percent (3%) of respondents identified as having transgender experience.

Table 8: Transgender Experience

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Transgender Experience	4%	3%	3%
No Transgender Experience	96%	97%	97%
Total Respondents	2,582	3,489	6,071
Don't know/No answer/Unclear	3,809	1,757	5,566

Indigenous and non-Indigenous respondents were equally likely to identify as having transgender experience.

Table 9: Transgender Experience – Indigenous and Non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non- Indigenous	Total
Transgender Experience	3%	3%	3%
No Transgender Experience	97%	97%	97%

Number of surveys with valid Transgender Experience and Indigenous Identity responses = 5,971

2.2.4 SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Survey respondents were asked about their sexual orientation. While most respondents identified as heterosexual, 10% identified as asexual, bisexual, gay, lesbian, pan-sexual, Two-Spirit, questioning and/or queer.

Table 10: Sexual Orientation

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Straight/Heterosexual	88%	88%	88%
Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Pan-sexual, Two-Spirit, Questioning and/or Queer	11%	10%	10%
<i>Asexual</i>	1%	1%	1%
<i>Bisexual</i>	6%	6%	6%
<i>Gay</i>	1%	1%	1%
<i>Lesbian</i>	<1%	<1%	<1%
<i>Pansexual</i>	<1%	1%	<1%
<i>Two-Spirit</i>	<1%	<1%	<1%
<i>Questioning</i>	<1%	<1%	<1%
<i>Queer</i>	<1%	<1%	<1%
<i>Multiple responses</i>	1%	1%	<1%
Not listed	1%	1%	1%
Total Respondents	2,996	4,095	7,091
Don't know/No answer	3,395	1,151	4,546

<1% indicates that there were less than one percent of respondents.

Twelve percent (12%) of Indigenous respondents identified as asexual, bisexual, gay, lesbian, pan-sexual, Two-Spirit, questioning and/or queer, compared to nine percent (9%) of non-Indigenous respondents.

Table 11: Sexual Orientation – Indigenous and Non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Straight/Heterosexual	86%	90%
Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Pan-sexual, Two-Spirit, Questioning and/or Queer	12%	9%
Not listed	2%	1%

Number of surveys with valid Sexual Orientation and Indigenous Identity responses = 6,986



2.2.5 AGE

Respondents were asked their age. While the majority are adults between 25 to 54 years (71%), more than one in five (22%) identified as a senior aged 55 years or older. Seniors represent twenty-eight percent (28%) of those in shelter, and may have different support needs than youth or adults.

Table 12: Age Groups

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Youth (under 25 years)	5%	8%	7%
Adult (25-54 years)	67%	74%	71%
Senior (55+)	28%	18%	22%
Total Respondents	3,086	4,341	7,427
Don't know/No answer	3,305	905	4,210

Table 13: Age Categories

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Under 19 years	1%	3%	2%
19-24 years	5%	5%	5%
25-34 years	16%	21%	19%
35-44 years	27%	31%	29%
45-54 years	23%	21%	22%
55-64 years	20%	13%	16%
65-74 years	7%	4%	5%
75+ years	1%	<1%	<1%

Compared to non-Indigenous respondents, Indigenous respondents tend to be younger (8% Indigenous compared to 6% non-Indigenous), which is similar to the age distribution of the general population¹¹.

Table 14: Age Groups – Indigenous and non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Youth (under 25 years)	8%	6%
Adult (25-54 years)	75%	68%
Senior (55+)	16%	26%

Number of surveys with valid Age and Indigenous Identity responses = 7,236

The table below shows that in contrast to adult or senior respondents, youth respondents were equally likely to identify as a man or woman, and more likely to identify as agender, non-binary, Two-Spirit, or another gender. The majority of adult and senior respondents identified as men.

Table 15: Gender and Age Category

	Youth <25 Years	Adult 25-54 Years	Senior 55+ Years
Man	47%	63%	75%
Woman	47%	34%	24%
Agender, Non-binary, Two-Spirit, not listed and/or multiple responses	5%	2%	1%

Number of surveys with valid Gender and Age responses = 7,285

<1% indicates that there were less than one percent of respondents.

¹¹ Government of Canada. *Indigenous population continues to grow and is much younger than the non-Indigenous population, although the pace of growth has slowed*. Modified September 21, 2022. Ottawa. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220921/dq220921a-eng.htm>

2.2.6 YOUTH IN CARE

Respondents were asked if they had been in foster care, a youth group home, or an independent living agreement, with one-third (34%) of respondents identifying that they had. This could have been in the past, or at the time of the count.

Table 16: Youth in Care

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Yes	31%	36%	34%
No	69%	64%	66%
Total Respondents	2,942	3,972	6,914
Don't know/No answer	3,449	1,274	4,723

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 age 19 or older.

Historically, the system has failed to provide services to people who age out of foster care¹², leading to a sizable number of people with former foster care experience who end up unhoused. More recently, the Government of BC has introduced new supports and resources to help youth transition out of care¹³.

Table 17: Youth in Care and Age of First Experience of Homelessness

	First Time Homeless Under 19	First Time Homeless 19 and Older
Yes	55%	25%
No	45%	75%

Number of surveys with valid Youth in Care and Age First Homeless responses = 6,318

¹² For more information on supports needed for youth transitioning out of government care, see the Representative for Children and Youth . A Parent’s Duty. Victoria. Released December 15, 2020. <https://rcybc.ca/reports/a-parents-duty/#>

¹³ For more information about supports and resources for youth aging out of care, see Government of BC. Aging out of Foster Care. Victoria. Modified June 5, 2024. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/youth-and-family-services/teens-in-foster-care/aging-out-of-care>

In every community count, Indigenous respondents were far more likely to have been in foster care than non-Indigenous respondents, reflecting how child welfare interventions have disproportionately impacted Indigenous families.

Table 18: Youth in Care – Indigenous and Non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Yes	51%	23%
No	49%	77%

Number of surveys with valid Youth in Care and Indigenous Identity responses = 6,823

Table 19: Age of respondents who reported Experiences with Care - Indigenous and Non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Youth	57%	33%
Adult	52%	26%
Senior	40%	15%

Number of surveys with valid Age, Experience with Care, and Indigenous Identity responses = 6,662



Seasons House Nawhuzut Koo, emergency shelter operated by Quesnel Shelter & Support Society.
 Photo credit: Quesnel Shelter & Support Society

2.2.7 RACIAL IDENTITY

Survey respondents were asked about their racial identity. 5% of respondents identified as Black, 2% as Latin American, and 2% as South Asian. Sixty one percent (61%) identified as white. “Not Listed” mostly includes respondents who chose to write in a cultural identity, rather than a racial identity. Respondents were able to provide multiple responses.

In this table, individuals who responded as Indigenous and did not identify with any of the below racial identities are included in the total respondents.

Table 20: Racial Identity

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Arab	<1%	<1%	<1%
Asian - East	2%	1%	1%
Asian - South East	1%	<1%	<1%
Asian - South	3%	2%	2%
Asian - West	1%	<1%	<1%
Black	7%	3%	5%
<i>Black - Caribbean and Latin America</i>	2%	1%	1%
<i>Black - African</i>	3%	1%	2%
<i>Black - Canadian/American</i>	3%	1%	2%
Latin American	3%	2%	2%
White	61%	61%	61%
Not Listed	3%	3%	3%
Total Respondents	2,981	4,160	7,141
Don't know/No answer	3,410	1,086	4,496

<1% indicates that there were less than one percent of respondents.

2.2.8 PREFERRED LANGUAGE

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 21: Preferred Language

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
English	97%	98%	98%
French	2%	2%	2%
Other preferred language	4%	2%	3%
Total Respondents	2,552	3,431	5,983
Don't know/No answer	3,839	1,815	5,654



2.2.9 IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Eleven percent (11%) of respondents indicated they came to Canada as an Immigrant or Refugee. This includes people who entered Canada with any of the following statuses: Immigrant, Refugee, Asylum Claimant, Temporary Foreign Worker, Temporary Resident, with another work or study permit, or another status, including those who are undocumented.

Table 22: Came to Canada as an Immigrant, Refugee, Asylum Claimant, Temporary Foreign Worker, Temporary Resident or Another Legal Status

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Yes	16%	6%	11%
No	84%	94%	89%
Total Respondents	2,875	3,845	6,720
Don't know/No answer	3,516	1,401	4,917

Of people who identified as being born outside of Canada, sixty-two percent (62%) have been in Canada for more than 10 years, while 13% had been in Canada for less than one year.

Table 23: Came to Canada as an Immigrant, Refugee, Asylum Claimant, Temporary Foreign Worker, Temporary Resident or Another Legal Status by Time in Canada

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Under 1 Year	14%	11%	13%
1 year to under 5 years	20%	15%	18%
5 years to under 10 years	9%	4%	7%
10 years or more	58%	70%	62%
Total Respondents	433	209	642

In terms of barriers faced by immigrants and refugee claimants, some of the main challenges we continue to see in BC include:

- **Limited access to income supports and delays in work permit processing**
- **Extremely tight rental markets and high costs of living**
- **Lack of credit or rental history, creating barriers to securing long-term housing**
- **Difficulty accessing shelter or transitional housing due to eligibility criteria or capacity**

Provider Perspectives - Nikita Laranjeira,¹⁴

BC CHARMS (British Columbia Refugee Claimant Housing Referral System)

¹⁴ For more information on the impact of housing shortages on refugee claimants, see Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of British Columbia (AMSSA) and BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA). *An Examination of the Most Acute Housing Needs of BC'S Newcomers: A Refugee Housing Strategy*. Published October 2024. <https://www.amssa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Refugee-Housing-Strategy-Final-Report-Oct-1.pdf#:~:text=the%20same.%20This%20level%20of,on%20their%20settlement%20experience.%20As>

2.2.10 SERVICE IN THE MILITARY OR RCMP

Respondents were asked whether they had served in the Canadian Forces (regular, reserve, or Army Rangers) and/or RCMP. Five percent (5%) identified as a veteran of one or both.

Table 24: Military Service in Canadian Forces

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Yes	5%	5%	5%
No	95%	95%	95%
Total Respondents	2,944	3,965	6,909
Don't know/No answer	3,447	1,281	4,728

Table 25: Military Service in Canadian Forces – Indigenous and Non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Yes	6%	4%
No	94%	96%

Number of surveys with valid Military Service and Indigenous Identity responses = 6,819

The transition from military life to homelessness in civilian society is complicated. Numerous health, social identity, and housing factors may play a role. It has been reported that 25% of Veterans in Canada rated their transition from military service to civilian life as difficult. These transitional difficulties may include mental illness and addiction, and the inability to maintain military behaviours exacerbates or causes homelessness.

Qualitative findings from a Housing First evaluation project for homeless Veterans in Canada¹⁵

¹⁵ Forchuk, C., Richardson, J., Atyeo, H., & Serrato, J. (2022). Qualitative findings from a housing first evaluation project for homeless veterans in Canada. Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health, 8(2), 27-38.

2.3 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. Only percentages are presented to emphasize that these findings are only a sample of the population experiencing homelessness, not the entire population of persons experiencing homelessness.

2.3.1 WHERE UNSHELTERED RESPONDENTS STAYED, HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS, AND REPORTED SAFETY

Unsheltered survey respondents were asked where they stayed last night. Almost two thirds (64%) of survey respondents indicated an outdoor location including 43% unsheltered in a public place, 13% in an encampment and 8% in a makeshift shelter or tent.

Included in the Unsheltered number are individuals experiencing "hidden homelessness," defined as including those who are:

- (a) living temporarily with others, but without guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing (e.g. those staying at someone else's place, including with a parent or guardian temporarily); or
- (b) people accessing short term, temporary rental accommodations without security of tenure and with no access to a safe and permanent residence (e.g. self-funded motel/hotel).¹⁶

"Eighteen percent (18%) of unsheltered respondents indicated they stayed at someone else's place, sometimes referred to as "couch surfing". "Not listed" includes those who may have stayed in an overnight program that is not designated as a shelter or in their own place, but they will be evicted into homelessness in less than 30 days.

Those who stayed in indoor locations, such as organization-funded hotel rooms or at someone else's place, reported feeling safe there more often than those who stayed in outdoor locations.

¹⁶ Government of Canada. *Everyone Counts: Standards for Participation in a full Point-in-Time Count*. Ottawa. Modified July 4, 2025.

<https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/resources-ressources/point-in-time-guide-denombrement-ponctuel-eng.html>

Table 26: Location Stayed on the Night of Count

	Unsheltered
Unsheltered in a Public Place	43%
Makeshift shelter or tent	8%
Encampment	13%
Vehicle	11%
Abandoned/Vacant building	2%
Someone Else's Place	18%
Hotel/Motel where I pay to stay for less than 30 days	1%
Hotel/Motel where an organization pays	1%
Parent/Guardian - Temporary and nowhere to go to	1%
Not Listed	1%
Total Respondents	5,053
Don't know/No answer/Unclear	193

The following table compares where unsheltered Indigenous and Non-Indigenous respondents stayed on the night of the count, and their response to the follow-up question "Did you feel safe there?".

Table 27: Location Stayed on the Night of the Count, Felt Safe – Indigenous and Non-Indigenous

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	Location Stayed	Felt Safe There	Location Stayed	Felt Safe There
Unsheltered in a Public Place	47%	48%	41%	41%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	7%	46%	8%	63%
Encampment	13%	56%	13%	62%
Vehicle	6%	79%	15%	81%
Abandoned/Vacant building	2%	50%	2%	39%
Someone Else's Place	21%	77%	17%	78%
Hotel/Motel where I pay to stay for less than 30 days	1%	75%	2%	72%
Hotel/Motel where an organization pays	2%	81%	1%	80%
Parent/Guardian - Temporary and nowhere to go to	1%	80%	1%	86%
Not listed	1%	76%	1%	69%

Number of surveys with valid Location Stayed on the Night of the Count, Felt Safe and Indigenous Identity responses = 4,397

<1% indicates that there were less than one percent of respondents.

The following table compares where unsheltered respondents stayed on the night of the count by age. Forty-two percent (42%) of youth and 17% of adults reported staying at someone else's place the night of the count (including a client's place for those who are involved in sex work). Individuals living in these situations may have different service needs than those who are living outdoors. Twenty-two percent (22%) of seniors reported staying in a vehicle, compared with 8% of adults.

Table 28: Age and Location Stayed on the Night of the Count

	Youth <25 Years	Adult 25-54 Years	Senior 55+ Years
Unsheltered in a Public Place	25%	48%	37%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	4%	8%	6%
Encampment	11%	14%	11%
Vehicle	7%	8%	22%
Abandoned/Vacant building	2%	2%	2%
Someone Else's Place	42%	17%	14%
Hotel/Motel where I pay to stay for less than 30 days	1%	1%	3%
Hotel/Motel where an organization pays	4%	1%	2%
Parent/Guardian - Temporary and nowhere to go to	5%	1%	<1%
Not listed	<1%	1%	2%

Number of surveys with valid Age and Location Stayed Last Night responses = 4,323

<1% indicates that there were less than one percent of respondents.

2.3.2 LOCATIONS STAYED IN THE PAST YEAR

The experience of homelessness can change between “sheltered” and “unsheltered” for an individual over time. For at least one night in the past year, 70% of all respondents identified as having stayed in a homeless shelter, 55% reported staying outside, and 48% of people reported staying at someone else’s place.

Of sheltered respondents, 48% had stayed outside for at least one night in the previous year.

Of unsheltered respondents, more than half (54%) reported staying in a homeless shelter in the past year.

One-third (33%) of all respondents identified staying in an encampment in the previous year.

Respondents were instructed to “check all that apply” when answering this question, with many respondents selecting multiple response options.

Table 29: Locations Stayed in the Last Year

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Homeless Shelter ¹⁷	92%	54%	70%
Outside or Unsheltered in a Public Place	48%	60%	55%
Someone Else’s Place	42%	51%	48%
Hospital	42%	34%	37%
Encampment	27%	38%	33%
Vehicle	23%	31%	28%
Jail, Prison, other Corrections	18%	21%	19%
Hotel/Motel (funded by government organization)	19%	18%	18%
Transitional housing ¹⁸	13%	9%	11%
Detox	9%	8%	8%
Second Stage Housing - AFTER transition house ¹⁹	5%	3%	4%
Other Health Facility	5%	3%	4%
Second Stage Housing - AFTER addictions ²⁰ treatment	5%	3%	4%
None of the listed	1%	3%	2%
Total Respondents	3,158	4,425	7,583
Don't know/No answer/Unclear	3,233	821	4,054

¹⁷ Homeless shelter includes temporary and permanent homeless shelters, transition houses, safe home, and youth safe houses.

¹⁸ Transitional housing includes housing options accessed by persons exiting homelessness that are meant to be lived in on a temporary basis.

¹⁹ Second stage housing - AFTER transition house is second stage housing people access after attending a transition house or safe home

²⁰ Second stage housing - AFTER addictions treatment is second stage housing people access after attending a residential substance use treatment program

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. This represents a type of "hidden homelessness," and individuals living in these situations will have different service needs than those who are living outdoors. For this specific data table, please see Appendix A1.

Youth were more likely to report having stayed at someone else's place and less likely to report having stayed in a homeless shelter in the past year than adults or seniors. There are many reasons why these figures may differ from each other, one of which being that most shelter programs do not accept youth under the age of 19. For this specific data table, please see Appendix A1.



Miranda Brain, left, and Chrissy Scaplen, with the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre, take part in the Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Smithers. Photo Credit: Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre.

Gender-diverse individuals experiencing homeless were more likely to sleep in public places, such as vehicles, transit stations, or abandoned buildings, compared to cisgender women (43% vs. 26%). Nearly a third also reported spending time in tents, encampments, or self-built shelters over the past year (31%). This pattern reflects higher exclusion rate due to explicit policies, such as being barred or restricted, combined with reporting feeling unsafe at much higher rates.

A Portrait of Homelessness Amongst Gender-Diverse Peoples in Canada Report (2023)²¹

²¹ Nelson, A., Malenfant, J. & Schwan, K. Research Release: A Portrait of Homelessness Amongst Gender-Diverse People in Canada. Published January 26, 2023. Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network. <https://womenshomelessness.ca/research-release/>

2.3.3 LENGTH OF TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Of survey respondents, 73% reported that their current experience of homelessness was one year or more. Seventeen percent (17%) indicated that they had been homeless for under six months, with one percent (1%) indicating they had been homeless for seven days or less.

Table 30: Length of Time Experiencing Homelessness

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Under 6 months	20%	14%	17%
<i>Up to and including 7 days</i>	1%	1%	1%
<i>8 days to < 1 Month</i>	5%	4%	5%
<i>1 month < 6 months</i>	13%	9%	11%
6 months to <1 year	12%	9%	10%
1 year and over	68%	77%	73%
Total Respondents	2,793	3,905	6,698
Don't know/No answer	3,598	1,341	4,939

Thirty-seven percent (37%) of youth respondents reported that their current experience of homelessness was less than six months, compared to 16% of adults and 15% of seniors.

Almost half (48%) of youth under the age of 25 identified as experiencing homelessness for one year or more.

Table 31: Age and Length of Time Experiencing Homelessness

	Youth <25 Years	Adult 25-54 Years	Senior 55+ Years
Under 6 months	37%	16%	15%
<i>Up to and including 7 days</i>	3%	1%	1%
<i>8 days to < 1 Month</i>	12%	5%	3%
<i>1 month < 6 months</i>	22%	10%	11%
6 months to <1 year	15%	9%	11%
1 year and over	48%	75%	74%

Number of surveys with valid Age and Length of Time Experiencing Homelessness responses = 6,534

2.3.4 AGE OF FIRST EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked how old they were when they first experienced homelessness. As in previous years, a significant proportion (44%) of respondents experienced homelessness for the first time as a youth.

Table 32: Age First Experience of Homelessness

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Youth (under 25 years)	37%	49%	44%
Adult (25-54 years)	49%	44%	46%
Senior (55+)	14%	7%	10%
Total Respondents	2,844	3,843	6,686
Don't know/No answer	3,547	1,403	4,950

Indigenous respondents were more likely to report a first experience of homelessness under the age of 25 years than non-Indigenous respondents.

Table 33: Age First Homeless – Indigenous and non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Youth (under 25 years)	54%	37%
Adult (25-54 years)	41%	50%
Senior (55+)	5%	12%

Number of surveys with valid Age First Homeless and Indigenous Identity responses = 6,600

Sixty-one percent (61%) of Indigenous respondents whose first experience of homelessness was under the age of 25 years had identified that they had been in foster care, a youth group home, or an independent living agreement. This suggests that the system has historically failed to break the cycle of housing insecurity for many people in its care (see 2.2.6 Youth in Care).

Table 34: Age First Homeless- Foster Care – Indigenous respondents

	Youth <25 Years	Adult 25-54 Years	Senior 55+ Years
Foster Care	61%	38%	33%
No Foster Care	39%	62%	67%
Total Respondents	2,496		

Forty-four percent (44%) of seniors experienced homelessness for the first time as a senior, meaning until at least the age of 55 years they had not had an experience of homelessness.

Table 35: Age and Age of First Experience of Homelessness

	Youth <25 Years	Adult 25-54 Years	Senior 55+ Years
First as Youth (under 25 years)	100%	46%	19%
First as Adult (25-54 years)	–	54%	37%
First as Senior (55+)	–	–	44%

Number of surveys with valid Age and Age First Time Experiencing Homelessness responses = 6,574

Respondents who identified with a gender other than a man or woman were more likely to have experienced homelessness as a youth, with seventy-one percent (71%) compared to forty-two percent (42%) of men and forty-four percent (44%) of women.

Table 36: Gender and Age of First Experience of Homelessness

	Man	Woman	Another Gender ID
First as Youth (under 25 years)	43%	44%	71%
First as Adult (25-54 years)	47%	48%	25%
First as Senior (55+)	11%	8%	4%

Number of surveys with valid Gender and Age First Time Experiencing Homelessness responses = 6,584

Sixty-two percent (62%) of those who identified as asexual, bisexual, gay, lesbian, pan-sexual, Two-Spirit, questioning and/or queer reported a first experience of homelessness as a youth under the age of 25 years, compared to 41% of those who identified as heterosexual.

Table 37: Sexual Orientation and Age of First Experience of Homelessness

	Heterosexual	Asexual, Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Pansexual,	Another Sexual Orientation
First as Youth (under 25 years)	41%	62%	57%
First as Adult (25-54 years)	48%	35%	40%
First as Senior (55+)	11%	3%	3%

Number of surveys with valid Sexual Orientation and Age First Time Experiencing Homelessness responses = 6,263

2.3.5 LENGTH OF TIME IN COMMUNITY

Two-thirds (67%) of respondents had been in the community where they were surveyed for at least five years, and almost a quarter (24%) had always been in the community.

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

Table 38: Length of Time in Community

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Under 1 Year	19%	12%	15%
1 year to under 5 years	20%	17%	18%
5 years to under 10 years	12%	13%	12%
10 years or more	29%	31%	30%
Always been here	20%	27%	24%
Total Respondents	2,855	3,867	6,722
Don't know/No answer	3,536	1,379	4,915



Hearthstone Place, low-barrier housing operated by Archway Community Services.
Photo credit: Archway Community Services

2.3.6 WHO WAS WITH SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Respondents were asked if anyone was staying with them the night of the count. Twenty-four percent (24%) of respondents identified that they had someone else staying with them the night of the count. Unsheltered respondents (30%) were more likely than sheltered respondents (15%) to indicate they were with someone on the night of the count.

Table 39: With Someone on the Night of the Count

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
With Someone	15%	30%	24%
<i>Partner</i>	7%	16%	12%
<i>Child/Children</i>	4%	2%	3%
<i>Pet(s)</i>	2%	4%	3%
<i>Not listed</i>	4%	10%	7%
<i>Not specified</i>	<1%	1%	1%
Alone	85%	70%	76%
Total Respondents	2,880	4,004	6,884
Don't know/No answer	3,511	1,242	4,753

Twenty-eight percent (28%) of Indigenous respondents reported staying with someone else on the night of the count, compared to twenty-one percent (21%) of non-Indigenous respondents.

Table 40: With Someone on the Night of the Count – Indigenous and Non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
With Someone	28%	21%
<i>Partner</i>	14%	11%
<i>Child/Children</i>	3%	3%
<i>Pet(s)</i>	3%	3%
<i>Not listed</i>	9%	6%
<i>Not specified</i>	1%	1%
Alone	72%	79%

Number of surveys with valid With Someone and Indigenous Identity responses = 6,763



3rd & London Transitional Housing operated by Connective in Prince George. Photo credit: Supplied by BC Housing

Couples make decisions about where they will stay that allows them to stay together. The shelter system continues to operate with gendered spaces, limiting options for couples and people of gender diverse experiences.

PWLLE Advisory Committee Perspectives²²

²² Funded by the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the People with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE) Advisory Committee on Homelessness provides input on provincial homelessness strategies, including the Belonging in BC plan.

2.3.7 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-nine percent (39%) of respondents indicated not enough income as one reason for their most recent housing loss. Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents indicated addiction or substance use issues as one reason for their most recent housing loss.

Table 41: Reasons for Most Recent Housing Loss

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Not enough income for housing	39%	38%	39%
Spouse/Partner (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	22%	21%	21%
Landlord (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	21%	21%	21%
Addiction/Substance use issue	19%	18%	18%
Other reason	13%	15%	14%
Abuse, conflict, discrimination – other	15%	13%	14%
Unfit/Unsafe housing condition	15%	13%	14%
Mental health issue	13%	13%	13%
Parent/Guardian/Caregiver (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	10%	12%	11%
Physical health issue	11%	8%	9%
Death or departure of family member	7%	7%	7%
Left the community	6%	5%	5%
Building sold or renovated	6%	5%	5%
Incarceration (jail or prison)	5%	5%	5%
Hospitalization or treatment program	6%	4%	4%
Complaint (e.g. pets, noise, damage)	4%	4%	4%
Guest policy	2%	3%	3%
Owner moved in	2%	2%	2%
Rent supplement expired	2%	1%	2%
Child/Dependent (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	1%	1%	1%
Total Respondents	2,902	3,890	6,792
Don't know/No answer	3,489	1,356	4,845

<1% indicates that there were less than one percent of respondents.

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 this specific data table, please see Appendix A2, table 57.

Indigenous respondents reported higher rates of abuse, conflict or discrimination, particularly with landlords (23%), as the reason for housing loss compared to non-Indigenous respondents (19%). For this specific data table, please see Appendix A2, table 58.

2.3.8 EVICTION AS CAUSE OF HOUSING LOSS

For the first time, respondents in most communities were asked if their most recent housing loss was specifically related to an eviction. Forty-two percent (42%) of respondents indicated that this housing loss was related to an eviction.

Table 42: Most Recent Housing Loss Related to an Eviction

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Yes	41%	43%	42%
No	59%	57%	58%
Total Respondents	2,733	3,629	6,362
Don't know/No answer	3,658	1,617	5,275

2.3.9 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 (66%), Emergency Room (60%), and the Hospital (non-emergency) (52%). Answers may vary between communities due to the availability of different services.

Table 43: Services Accessed

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Food Services	61%	70%	66%
Emergency Room	61%	59%	60%
Hospital (non-emergency)	56%	49%	52%
Ambulance	50%	40%	44%
Housing Services	52%	38%	44%
Health Clinic	46%	37%	41%
Supervised Injection Site	35%	42%	39%
Mental Health Services	35%	35%	35%
Employment and Financial Services	37%	30%	33%
Legal Services	29%	27%	28%
(Other) Addiction Services	23%	26%	25%
Dental Clinic or Dentist	27%	18%	22%
Cultural Services	14%	16%	15%
Other Services	5%	6%	6%
Settlement Services	4%	3%	3%
No Services Accessed	3%	3%	3%
Total Respondents	2,546	3,422	5,968
Don't know/No answer	3,845	1,824	5,669

There is some difference in reported service access by respondents' gender identity. For example, 46% of those who identified as agender, non-binary, two-spirit, or another gender identity reported accessing mental health services, while 41% of those who identified as a woman and 31% of those who identified as a man did. For this specific data table, please see Appendix A3, table 61.

Forty-three percent (43%) of youth reported accessing mental health services in the past year, compared to 37% of adults and 25% of seniors. For this specific data table, please see Appendix A3, table 60.

Indigenous respondents were more likely than non-Indigenous respondents to report accessing cultural services in the past year, with twenty-nine percent (29%) doing so. For this specific data table, please see Appendix A3, table 62.

In most count communities, respondents were asked specifically if they had accessed services from an Indigenous organization in the past year. Twenty-three percent (23%) of all respondents, and forty percent (40%) of Indigenous respondents reported doing so.

Table 44: Services Accessed from an Indigenous Organization

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
Yes	40%	11%	23%
No	60%	89%	77%

Number of surveys with valid Services Accessed from an Indigenous Organization and Indigenous Identity responses = 4,206

Table 45: Services from an Indigenous Organization – Indigenous respondents, distinction-based details

	First Nations	Inuit	Métis	Ancestry	Not Listed
Yes	43%	53%	27%	38%	19%
No	57%	47%	73%	63%	81%

Number of surveys with valid Services from an Indigenous Organization and Indigenous Identity responses = 1,778

Additionally, Indigenous respondents were asked if they had accessed services from their Nation in the past year, with twenty-four percent (24%) reporting doing so.

Table 46: Services from Indigenous Organization and your Nation by age – Indigenous respondents

	Youth <25 Years	Adult 25-54 Years	Senior 55+ Years
Services from Indigenous organization			
<i>Yes</i>	41%	40%	36%
<i>No</i>	59%	60%	64%
Services from your Nation			
<i>Yes</i>	27%	24%	24%
<i>No</i>	73%	76%	76%

Number of surveys with valid Services, Age, and Indigenous Identity responses = 1,644

Table 47: Services from your Nation – Indigenous respondents

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Yes	23%	25%	24%
No	77%	75%	76%
Total Respondents	646	1,043	1,689

Table 48: Services from your Nation – Indigenous respondents, distinction-based details

	First Nations	Inuit	Métis	Ancestry	Not Listed
Yes	26%	30%	17%	17%	8%
No	74%	70%	83%	83%	92%

Number of surveys with valid Services from your Nation and Indigenous Identity responses = 1,773

People with disabilities are four times more likely to experience homelessness.

1 in 25 people with disabilities versus 1 in 100 people without disabilities have experienced homelessness.

They were more than two times more likely to experience hidden homelessness.

They were more likely to experience homelessness because of violence.

Of the people who experienced homelessness, 53% of people with disabilities said it was because of violence. This is compared to 36% of people without disabilities.

Office of the Federal Housing Advocate²³

²³ Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate. *The right to housing for people with disabilities: Monitoring framework*. Ottawa. Published December 2024.

<https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/the-right-to-housing-for-people-with-disabilities-monitoring-framework.pdf>

2.3.10 HEALTH AND DISABILITY

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about their health. All health conditions were self-reported. Seventy-two percent (72%) of respondents identified a substance use challenge, sixty-six percent (66%) a mental health challenge, and forty-six percent (46%) identified a challenge with a medical condition or illness.

Forty percent (40%) of respondents identified as having a physical disability. One third (34%) of respondents identified as having a challenge with their senses, and one quarter (26%) of respondents identified as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth.

Indigenous respondents reported a higher prevalence of health conditions, and higher rates of accessing health services (see Appendix A3, table 62).

Table 49: Health Conditions

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Medical Condition/Illness	45%	47%	46%
Physical Disability	39%	40%	40%
Learning, Intellectual, Developmental, Cognitive Function	26%	32%	30%
Mental Health	62%	69%	66%
Substance Use	66%	77%	72%
Senses	34%	34%	34%
Acquired Brain Injury	24%	28%	26%
Total Respondents	3,059	4,218	7,277
Don't know/No answer	3,332	1,028	4,360

Table 50: Health Conditions – Indigenous and Non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
Medical Condition/Illness	47%	45%	46%
Physical Disability	40%	40%	40%
Learning, Intellectual, Developmental, Cognitive Function	34%	27%	30%
Mental Health	70%	63%	66%
Substance Use	80%	67%	72%
Senses	38%	31%	34%
Acquired Brain Injury	30%	24%	27%
Total Respondents	2,833	4,295	7,128
Don't know/No answer	186	222	408

Multimorbidity

Someone with “multimorbidity” refers to an individual who has a co-occurring chronic medical or mental health conditions. Multimorbidity often requires specialized treatment, and can cause additional barriers to accessing services.²⁴ Fifty-seven percent (57%) of respondents identified as having multimorbid challenges with mental health, substance use and/or an acquired brain injury.

Table 51: Health Conditions - Multimorbidity

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Mental health, substance use challenges and acquired brain injury	16%	21%	19%
Mental health and substance use (no acquired brain injury)	31%	37%	35%
Substance use and acquired brain injury (no mental health)	3%	4%	3%
Mental health and acquired brain injury (no substance use)	3%	3%	3%
Substance Use (no mental health or acquired brain injury)	15%	16%	15%
Mental Health (no substance use or acquired brain injury)	12%	9%	10%
Acquired Brain Injury (no substance use or mental health)	2%	1%	1%
No mental health, substance use or acquired brain injury	18%	11%	14%

Number of surveys with valid Multimorbidity and Experience Homelessness responses = 7,277

²⁴ The Hotel Study has “identified a high prevalence, and significant impact, of mental illness among marginally housed adults in Vancouver’s DTES. Mental illness contributes to the compounding health challenges and premature mortality faced by these individuals. The high rates of mortality, multimorbidity (the co-occurrence of two or more chronic medical conditions in one person), and cognitive impairment suggests an accelerated aging process experienced by these adults who are marginalized by complex illness, poverty, and other social inequities”. University of British Columbia, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. <https://hotelstudy.med.ubc.ca/>

2.3.11 SUBSTANCE USE

A new question in the Provincially-funded survey asked respondents to select from a list of substances they used. All respondents were asked this question regardless of the response to if they identified as having a substance use challenge. The list of substances included:

- Nicotine (e.g. cigarettes, vapes, nicotine replacement)
- Alcohol (e.g. beer, wine, spirits, non-beverage alcohols)
- Cannabis (e.g. smoked or edible cannabis or extracts)
- Opiates (e.g. heroin, fentanyl, morphine)
- Stimulants (e.g. methamphetamine, cocaine)

The most common substance respondents reported using was nicotine (73%), followed by stimulants, such as methamphetamine (50%), cannabis (46%), opiates (44%), and alcohol (42%). This suggests a further need for harm reduction and treatment programs for a range of substances.

For each substance category, more unsheltered respondents identified as using them than those who were in shelter on the night of the count.

Table 52: Current Substance Use

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Nicotine	68%	77%	73%
Alcohol	36%	47%	42%
Cannabis	40%	51%	46%
Opiates	39%	48%	44%
Stimulants	44%	56%	50%
No	18%	8%	12%
Total Respondents	2,175	2,629	4,804
Don't know/No answer	4,216	2,617	6,833

In presenting this data about substances used, it is important to acknowledge the ongoing public health emergency and the “grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury due to drug overdose.

"Overdose occurs when someone takes one or more drugs in a quantity or combination that exceeds what their body can handle. While street drugs often come to mind, overdose can happen with many different types of drugs, from alcohol to opioids, in all segments of the Canadian population, including those who take prescription drugs and those who use drugs recreationally.

"While Canada is, unfortunately, facing a range of issues related to drug-related poisoning, we are grappling with a steep increase in the number of deaths due to opioid overdoses among those who use drugs alone, men, youth, seniors, Indigenous peoples and those in correctional facilities. Last year, Canada lost almost 4,000 people to opioid overdoses—many linked to toxic drug supplies, fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. Worldwide, almost 200,000 people die prematurely due to drugs every year—the majority due to the use of opioids.

"In most cases, such deaths are avoidable."

Canada Mental Health Association²⁵

²⁵ The Canadian Mental Health Association, British Columbia Division. *The tragedy of overdose death is preventable.* <https://bc.cmha.ca/news/the-tragedy-of-overdose-death-is-preventable/>

2.3.12 SOURCES OF INCOME

Respondents were asked about their other sources of income. Respondents could indicate as many income sources as applicable. The most common responses other than income assistance (either basic Income Assistance or PWD) were a GST refund, informal employment, and receiving money from family or friends.

Table 53: Sources of Income

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Income Assistance	40%	41%	40%
Persons with Disability (PWD)	43%	41%	41%
Employment Insurance	2%	1%	2%
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	6%	4%	5%
CPP or Other Pension	9%	5%	7%
Youth Agreement	<1%	<1%	<1%
Veteran VAC Benefits	<1%	<1%	<1%
Child and Family Tax Benefit	2%	1%	1%
GST/HST Refund	15%	11%	13%
Job Full time	1%	2%	2%
Job Part time	4%	4%	4%
Job Casual	4%	5%	4%
Sex Work	2%	3%	3%
Honoraria	2%	2%	2%
Informal Employment	8%	15%	12%
Money from Family/Friends	7%	8%	8%
Other Sources	5%	8%	6%
No Income	6%	7%	7%
Total Respondents	2,989	4,062	7,051
Don't know/No answer	3,402	1,184	4,586

<1% indicates that there were less than one percent of respondents.



In some communities (Greater Vancouver, Princeton, and the 20 Provincially-funded Counts) respondents were asked specifically whether or not they were on income assistance. In these communities, 81% reported being on income assistance. These are people who are experiencing homelessness, despite receiving regular government financial assistance.

Table 54: Sources of Income - Receiving Income Assistance

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Yes	81%	80%	81%
No	19%	20%	19%
Total Respondents	2,089	2,469	4,558
Don't know/No answer/Unclear	4,302	2,777	7,079

3. CONCLUSION

Homeless Counts in B.C. identified 11,637 people experiencing homelessness in fall 2024 and spring 2025, a modest increase from the 11,352 identified by the 2023 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.

While this total is relatively similar to the previous count, it is significant to note that the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness increased, up overall by 10% in communities that conducted counts in 2023. Similarly, the number of people staying in emergency shelters increased by 4% across the province (according to the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the number of shelter spaces increased by 22% between November 2023 and November 2024)²⁶.

People from marginalized groups are more likely to experience homelessness:

- 40% of respondents identified as Indigenous, compared to six percent 6% of the Census population²⁷.
- 10% identified their sexual orientation as asexual, bisexual, gay, lesbian, pan-sexual, Two-Spirit, questioning and/or queer, compared to approximately 4% of the Canadian population aged 15 years and older. Two percent (2%) of respondents identified their gender as agender, non-binary, Two-Spirit, not listed and/or multiple responses, compared to approximately 0.33% of the population aged 15 years and over²⁸.
- 66% of respondents report having a mental health challenge (compared to 10% of Canadians aged 15 years and older²⁹), 40% report having a physical mobility challenge (compared to 11% of Canadians aged 15 years and older³⁰), and 26% report having an acquired brain injury (compared to 2% of the Canadian population live with a traumatic brain injury³¹).
- 55% of respondents who had experienced homelessness as a youth aged 19 or younger had also experienced foster care, a youth group home, or had an Independent Living Agreement with the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- 69% of youth were experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of the counts, compared to 61% of adults and 47% of seniors.
- 44% of seniors reported staying at least one night outside or unsheltered in a public place over the past year and 24% reported staying in an encampment.

²⁶ Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs. *Indoor shelter spaces opening for winter*. Victoria. Released November 4, 2024. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024HOUS0179-001575>

²⁷ Statistics Canada. *Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released November 15, 2023. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

²⁸ Government of Canada. *At a Glance, 2022, LGBTQ2+ people*. Ottawa. Modified December 1, 2022. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-581-x/2022001/sec6-eng.htm>

²⁹ Hébert, B., Kevins, C., Mofidi, A., Morris, S., Simionescu, D., & Thicke, M. *Reports on Disability and Accessibility in Canada: A demographic, employment and income profile of persons with disabilities aged 15 years and over in Canada, 2022*. Ottawa. Released May 28, 2024. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2025010-eng.htm>

³⁰ Hébert, 2024.

³¹ Brain Injury Canada. <https://braininjurycanada.ca/en/statistics/>

The experiences and demographics of people experiencing homelessness in the province are diverse. However, the root cause of homelessness “is both a complex societal issue and a deeply personal experience typically triggered by a combination of factors – individual, structural, and systemic”³². Every survey was conducted with someone who does not have a place of their own because of personal trauma and struggles, institutional barriers, and systemic failures that leave their needs unmet. By sharing these 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.

One of the strongest themes that came through during our discussions was that homelessness cannot be understood simply through numbers or categories. Behind every data point is a person navigating systems that are often fragmented, difficult to access, and shaped by stigma and structural inequities.

Many people experiencing homelessness face intersecting barriers poverty, trauma, racism, colonialism, and gaps in health and housing supports that make exiting homelessness far more complex than public narratives often acknowledge.

PWLLE Advisory Committee Perspectives³³

³² Government of British Columbia. *Belonging in BC Homelessness Plan*. Victoria. Released April 3, 2023. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BelongingStrategy.pdf>

³³ Funded by the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the People with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE) Advisory Committee on Homelessness provides input on provincial homelessness strategies, including the Belonging in BC plan.

Appendices

Appendix A1 Supplementary Tables – Locations Stayed in the Past Year

Table 55: Gender and Locations Stayed in the Last Year

	Man	Woman	Another Gender ID
	#	#	#
Homeless Shelter	3,399	1,644	114
Second Stage Housing - AFTER transition house	188	112	7
Second Stage Housing - AFTER addictions treatment	201	73	7
Transitional Housing	370	412	15
Someone Else's Place or Couchsurfing	2,095	1,347	89
Hotel/Motel (funded by government organization)	837	482	33
Hospital	1,807	897	70
Detox	398	210	14
Other Health Facility	186	105	12
Jail, Prison, Other Corrections	1,058	344	32
Outside or Unsheltered in a Public Place	2,707	1,244	103
Encampment	1,600	789	59
Vehicle	1,301	714	46
None of the listed	86	61	3

Number of surveys with valid Gender and Locations Stayed responses = 7,381

Table 56: Age and Locations Stayed in the Last Year

	Youth <25 Years	Adult 25-54 Years	Senior 55+ Years
Homeless Shelter	51%	72%	71%
Second Stage Housing - AFTER transition house	2%	5%	4%
Second Stage Housing - AFTER addictions treatment	2%	4%	3%
Transitional Housing	12%	11%	11%
Someone Else's Place	67%	50%	36%
Hotel/Motel (funded by government organization)	16%	20%	16%
Hospital	36%	39%	34%
Detox	5%	10%	4%
Other Health Facility	4%	4%	3%
Jail, Prison, other Corrections	17%	23%	11%
Outside or Unsheltered in a Public Place	46%	60%	44%
Encampment	29%	37%	24%
Vehicle	27%	29%	28%
None of the listed	2%	2%	2%

Number of surveys with valid Age and Locations Stayed in Last Year responses = 7,226

Appendix A2 Supplementary Tables

– Reasons for Housing Loss

Table 57: Gender and Reasons for Loss of Housing

	Man	Woman	Another Gender ID
Not enough income for housing	40%	36%	37%
Spouse/Partner (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	17%	30%	28%
Landlord (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	19%	24%	24%
Addiction/Substance use issue	18%	18%	24%
Other reason	14%	14%	11%
Abuse, conflict, discrimination – other	13%	15%	27%
Unfit/Unsafe housing condition	11%	19%	18%
Mental health issue	11%	15%	26%
Parent/Guardian/Caregiver (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	9%	13%	25%
Physical health issue	8%	10%	14%
Death or departure of family member	6%	8%	10%
Left the community	5%	6%	9%
Building sold or renovated	6%	4%	8%
Incarceration (jail or prison)	6%	3%	3%
Hospitalization or treatment program	4%	5%	12%
Complaint (e.g. pets, noise, damage)	4%	4%	5%
Guest policy	2%	3%	3%
Owner moved in	2%	2%	3%
Rent supplement expired	2%	1%	1%
Child/Dependent (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	<1%	1%	2%

Number of surveys with valid Gender and Reason for Housing Loss responses = 6,710

<1% indicates that there were less than one percent of respondents.

Table 58: Reasons for loss of Housing – Indigenous and Non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Not enough income for housing	33%	42%
Spouse/Partner (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	24%	20%
Landlord (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	23%	19%
Addiction/Substance use issue	21%	16%
Other reason	14%	14%
Abuse, conflict, discrimination – other	15%	13%
Unfit/Unsafe housing condition	15%	13%
Mental health issue	14%	12%
Parent/Guardian/Caregiver (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	13%	10%
Physical health issue	9%	9%
Death or departure of family member	9%	6%
Left the community	6%	5%
Building sold or renovated	5%	5%
Incarceration (jail or prison)	6%	4%
Hospitalization or treatment program	5%	4%
Complaint (e.g. pets, noise, damage)	5%	4%
Guest policy	4%	2%
Owner moved in	2%	2%
Rent supplement expired	2%	1%
Child/Dependent (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	1%	1%

Number of surveys with valid Loss of Housing and Indigenous Identity responses = 6,694

Table 59: Age and Reasons for Loss of Housing – Indigenous respondents

	Youth	Adult	Senior
Not enough income for housing	32%	32%	35%
Spouse/Partner (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	13%	24%	15%
Landlord (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	11%	23%	25%
Addiction/Substance use issue	20%	22%	13%
Other reason	12%	14%	15%
Abuse, conflict, discrimination – other	13%	15%	18%
Unfit/Unsafe housing condition	25%	14%	17%
Mental health issue	25%	13%	11%
Parent/Guardian/Caregiver (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	46%	11%	4%
Physical health issue	3%	8%	14%
Death or departure of family member	11%	8%	10%
Left the community	6%	6%	5%
Building sold or renovated	2%	5%	7%
Incarceration (jail or prison)	6%	7%	4%
Hospitalization or treatment program	6%	5%	4%
Complaint (e.g. pets, noise, damage)	3%	5%	5%
Guest policy	1%	4%	4%
Owner moved in	1%	2%	3%
Rent supplement expired	2%	2%	2%
Child/Dependent (abuse, conflict, discrimination)	1%	1%	1%

Number of surveys with valid Age, Loss of Housing, and Indigenous Identity responses = 2,572

Appendix A3 Supplementary Tables – Services Accessed

Table 60: Age and Services Accessed

	Youth <25 Years	Adult 25-54 Years	Senior 55+ Years
Food Services	52%	69%	63%
Emergency Room	52%	62%	56%
Hospital (non-emergency)	43%	53%	52%
Ambulance	31%	46%	43%
Housing Services	40%	44%	46%
Health Clinic	39%	42%	40%
Supervised Injection Site	23%	46%	23%
Mental Health Services	43%	37%	25%
Employment and Financial Services	30%	35%	26%
Legal Services	25%	32%	17%
(Other) Addiction Services	16%	28%	15%
Dental Clinic or Dentist	25%	21%	23%
Cultural Services	16%	16%	12%
Other Services	7%	5%	7%
Settlement Services	3%	4%	2%
No Services Accessed	5%	3%	4%

Number of surveys with valid Age and Services Accessed responses = 5,796

Table 61: Gender and Services Accessed

	Man	Woman	Another Gender ID
Food Services	67%	64%	71%
Emergency Room	59%	61%	68%
Hospital (non-emergency)	52%	52%	57%
Ambulance	46%	42%	49%
Housing Services	42%	49%	44%
Health Clinic	39%	44%	45%
Supervised Injection Site	39%	38%	42%
Mental Health Services	31%	41%	46%
Employment and Financial Services	33%	32%	41%
Legal Services	29%	26%	30%
(Other) Addiction Services	24%	26%	31%
Dental Clinic or Dentist	20%	24%	35%
Cultural Services	14%	17%	24%
Other Services	5%	7%	12%
Settlement Services	3%	4%	9%
No Services Accessed	4%	2%	3%

Number of surveys with valid Gender and Services Accessed responses = 5,896

Table 62: Services Accessed – Indigenous and Non-Indigenous

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Food Services	68%	65%
Emergency Room	64%	57%
Hospital (non-emergency)	55%	50%
Ambulance	48%	42%
Housing Services	44%	44%
Health Clinic	42%	41%
Supervised Injection Site	45%	35%
Mental Health Services	36%	33%
Employment and Financial Services	34%	32%
Legal Services	30%	26%
(Other) Addiction Services	28%	22%
Dental Clinic or Dentist	25%	20%
Cultural Services	29%	7%
Other Services	5%	6%
Settlement Services	4%	3%
No Services Accessed	2%	4%

Number of surveys with valid Services Accessed and Indigenous Identity responses = 5,882

Table 63: Age and Services Accessed – Indigenous respondents

	Youths (under 25 years)	Adults (25-54 years)	Seniors (55+)
Food Services	49%	71%	64%
Emergency Room	62%	65%	60%
Hospital (non-emergency)	50%	55%	58%
Ambulance	38%	50%	47%
Housing Services	35%	45%	47%
Health Clinic	45%	42%	37%
Supervised Injection Site	26%	51%	30%
Mental Health Services	45%	36%	31%
Employment and Financial Services	27%	35%	30%
Legal Services	22%	34%	20%
(Other) Addiction Services	17%	31%	20%
Dental Clinic or Dentist	31%	23%	29%
Cultural Services	31%	29%	29%
Other Services	6%	5%	6%
Settlement Services	1%	4%	3%
No Services Accessed	4%	2%	4%

Number of surveys with valid Age, Services Accessed, and Indigenous Identity responses = 2,261

Appendix B – Comparisons 2023 / 2025 for Selected Indigenous Respondents Tables

The availability of Indigenous respondent data across multiple collection periods enables, for the first time, an examination of patterns over time. However, methodological differences across survey cycles limit the validity of direct comparisons.

In recognition of Indigenous data sovereignty and the importance of contextual integrity, estimates are presented as conservative minimums and should be interpreted with caution, respecting the distinct conditions under which data were collected.

Table 64: Sheltered and Unsheltered Homelessness, Indigenous respondents - 2023/2025 comparison

	2023		2025	
	#	%	#	%
Sheltered	898	36%	1,081	36%
Unsheltered	1,627	64%	1,938	64%
Total	2,525		3,019	

Table 65: Unsheltered locations, Indigenous respondents - 2023/2025 comparison

	2023		2025	
	#	%	#	%
Unsheltered in a Public Place	794	25%	904	67%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	186	6%	139	10%
Encampment	n/a	n/a	243	18%
Vehicle	109	3%	109	8%
Abandoned/Vacant building	26	1%	41	3%
Someone Else's Place	393	13%	413	31%
Hotel/Motel where I pay to stay for less than 30 days	21	1%	12	1%
Hotel/Motel where an organization pays	35	1%	30	2%
Parent/Guardian - Temporary and nowhere to go to	15	1%	19	1%
Not listed	44	1%	21	1%
Total Respondents	1,623		1,931	

"n/a" indicates that the question was not asked in 2023

Table 66: Gender Identity, Indigenous respondents - 2023/2025 comparison

	2023		2025	
	#	%	#	%
Man	1,449	59%	1,735	59%
Woman	932	38%	1,133	38%
Agender	7	<1%	3	<1%
Non-binary	25	1%	17	<1%
Two-Spirit	31	1%	38	1%
Not listed	31	1%	31	1%
Total Respondents	2,474		2,957	

<1% indicates that there were less than one percent of respondents.

Table 67: Sexual Orientation, Indigenous respondents - 2023/2025 comparison

	2023		2025	
	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	1,943	85%	2,375	86%
Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Pan-sexual, Two-Spirit, Questioning and/or Queer	333	15%	372	14%
<i>Asexual</i>	13	1%	17	1%
<i>Bisexual</i>	190	8%	195	7%
<i>Gay</i>	12	1%	29	1%
<i>Lesbian</i>	7	0%	11	0%
<i>Pansexual</i>	34	1%	29	1%
<i>Two-Spirit</i>	28	1%	29	1%
<i>Questioning</i>	12	1%	7	0%
<i>Queer</i>	8	0%	4	0%
<i>Multiple</i>	29	1%	51	2%
Not listed	12	1%	22	1%
Total Respondents	2,276		2,747	

<1% indicates that there were less than one percent of respondents.

Table 68: Trans Experience, Indigenous respondents - 2023/2025 comparison

	2023		2025	
	#	%	#	%
Yes	91	4%	77	3%
No	1,950	96%	2,256	97%
Total Respondents	2,041		2,333	

Table 69: Age breakdown, Indigenous respondents - 2023/2025 comparison

	2023		2025	
	#	%	#	%
Youth (under 25 years)	255	10%	245	8%
Adult (25-54 years)	1,793	73%	2,199	75%
Senior (55+)	410	17%	473	16%
Total Respondents	2,458		2,917	

Table 70: Reasons for losing housing, Indigenous respondents - 2023/2025 comparison

	2023		2025	
	#	%	#	%
Not enough income for housing	663	34%	869	33%
Rent supplement expired	21	1%	47	2%
Unfit/Unsafe housing condition	259	13%	398	15%
Building sold or renovated	85	4%	128	5%
Owner moved in	24	1%	46	2%
Guest policy	40	2%	100	4%
Conflict with spouse/ partner	348	18%	459	17%
Conflict with parent/guardian	167	9%	214	8%
Conflict with landlord	342	18%	438	17%
Conflict with other	190	10%	278	11%
Experienced abuse by spouse/partner	172	9%	322	12%
Experienced abuse by parent/guardian/caregiver	85	4%	168	6%
Experienced abuse by child/dependent	18	1%	28	1%
Experienced abuse by landlord	n/a	n/a	154	6%
Experienced abuse by other	57	3%	99	4%
Experienced discrimination by spouse/partner	n/a	n/a	143	5%
Experienced discrimination by parent/guardian/caregiver	n/a	n/a	114	4%
Experienced discrimination by landlord	n/a	n/a	295	11%
Experienced discrimination by other	n/a	n/a	149	6%
Physical health issue	217	11%	235	9%
Mental health issue	310	16%	372	14%
Addiction/ substance use issue	546	28%	548	21%
Hospitalization or treatment program	97	5%	132	5%
Incarceration (jail or prison)	135	7%	158	6%
Complaint (e.g. pets, noise, damage)	113	6%	132	5%
Left the community	101	5%	162	6%
Death or departure of family member	150	8%	232	9%
Other reason	237	12%	373	14%
Total Respondents	1,923		2,639	

Table 71: Length of Time Homeless, Indigenous respondents - 2023/2025 comparison

	2023		2025	
	#	%	#	%
Under 6 months	351	16%	391	15%
<i>Up to and including 7 days</i>	34	2%	28	1%
<i>8 days to < 1 Month</i>	88	4%	116	4%
<i>1 month < 6 months</i>	229	10%	247	9%
6 months to <1 year	223	10%	230	9%
1 year and over	1,609	74%	1,993	76%
Total Respondents	2,183		2,614	

Table 72: Services Accessed, Indigenous respondents - 2023/2025 comparison

	2023		2025	
	#	%	#	%
Cultural Services	433	22%	669	29%
Ambulance	829	42%	1,119	48%
Emergency Room	1,128	57%	1,480	64%
Hospital (non-emergency)	902	45%	1,281	55%
Dental Clinic or Dentist	389	20%	576	25%
Mental Health Services	679	34%	844	36%
Supervised Injection Site	657	33%	1,051	45%
(Other) Addiction Services	665	34%	658	28%
Health Clinic	740	37%	963	42%
Food Services	1,323	67%	1,573	68%
Legal Services	533	27%	705	30%
Employment and Financial Services	650	33%	781	34%
Housing Services	872	44%	1,018	44%
Settlement Services	n/a	n/a	91	4%
Other Services	120	6%	117	5%
No Services Accessed	56	3%	57	2%
Total Respondents	1,984		2,319	

Table 73: Locations stayed in the last year, Indigenous respondents - 2023/2025 comparison

	2023		2025	
	#	%	#	%
Homeless Shelter	1,325	72%	2,048	70%
Second Stage Housing - AFTER transition house	76	4%	148	5%
Second Stage Housing - AFTER addictions treatment	66	4%	129	4%
Transitional Housing	192	10%	357	12%
Someone Else's Place	973	53%	1,596	55%
Hotel/motel (funded by government organization)	440	24%	640	22%
Hospital	n/a	n/a	1,190	41%
Detox	n/a	n/a	322	11%
Other Health Facility	n/a	n/a	139	5%
Jail, Prison, other Corrections	n/a	n/a	673	23%
Outside or Unsheltered in a Public Place	1,092	60%	1,780	61%
Encampment	669	37%	1,086	37%
Vehicle	491	27%	792	27%
None of the listed	29	2%	52	2%
Total Respondents	1,829		2,927	

"n/a" indicates that the question was not asked in 2023

Appendix C1 Point-In-Time Methodology for Provincially-Funded Communities

Overnight Shelter Count

The shelter counts took place on the evening before the daytime 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, safe homes, youth 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, safe home, 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.

While not all people staying at a shelter filled out a survey; 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.

Daytime Count

On the day of the count, the daytime count began early in the morning in each community and continued until the evening. The daytime count focused on conducting surveys with 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 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. 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.

Appendix C2 Twenty Provincially-Funded Count Communities

HSABC and BCAAFC implemented the counts in each of the twenty Provincially-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 and BCAAFC 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 honorarium 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 count communities on the day of their count.

Appendix C3 Community Contributors for Provincially-Funded Counts

Community	Agency
Campbell River	Campbell River Library
Campbell River	Campbell River and North Island Transition Society - Women's Centre
Campbell River	Foundry
Campbell River	Hem'aelas Community Kitchen
Campbell River	Island Health
Campbell River	John Howard Society
Campbell River	Kwesa Place
Campbell River	Kwesa Place Shelter
Campbell River	Mobile Outreach Unit for Health and Support Services
Campbell River	North Island Employment Foundations Society
Campbell River	Salvation Army - Evergreen Shelter
Campbell River	Salvation Army Centre of Hope
Campbell River	Sasamans Society
Campbell River	Schools - Robron, Carihi, and Timberline
Campbell River	Vancouver Island Mental Health Society
Comox Valley	AVI Health & Community Services
Comox Valley	Community Cares Peer Outreach
Comox Valley	Community Outreach - General Outreach Comox Valley
Comox Valley	Connect Centre
Comox Valley	Connect Shelter
Comox Valley	Courtenay Food Bank
Comox Valley	Courtenay Library
Comox Valley	Courtenay Rec Centre
Comox Valley	Cumberland Library
Comox Valley	CVRD Sports Centre
Comox Valley	CVRD Aquatic Centre
Comox Valley	EWR Shelter
Comox Valley	Hornby Denman Health
Comox Valley	Hornby Island - Mental Health & Substance Use - Island Health
Comox Valley	Indigenous Women's Sharing Society
Comox Valley	John Howard Society North Island - Courtenay
Comox Valley	K'omoks First Nation Health Centre
Comox Valley	Lili House

Comox Valley	MHSU - Island Health
Comox Valley	Pidcock Shelter
Comox Valley	School District No. 71
Comox Valley	Shower Program - Lewis Centre
Comox Valley	SOLID Outreach
Comox Valley	Sonshine Lunch Program - St. Georges Church
Comox Valley	The Care-A-Van Team
Comox Valley	Wachiay Friendship Centre
Cranbrook	ANKORS
Cranbrook	Canadian Mental Health Association
Cranbrook	Community Connections Motel 1417 Shelter
Cranbrook	Community Connections - Homeless Outreach Program
Cranbrook	Cran Foodbank Society
Cranbrook	Foundry -Child & Family
Cranbrook	Ktunaxa Nation Health Clinic
Cranbrook	Mt Baker Secondary
Cranbrook	Operation Street Angel: Ktunaxa Nation
Cranbrook	Salvation Army
Dawson Creek	HEART Outreach
Dawson Creek	Independence Networking Services
Dawson Creek	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Outreach
Dawson Creek	Nawican Outreach
Dawson Creek	Northern Health
Dawson Creek	Snow House
Dawson Creek	South Peace Community Resources Society - HOP
Dawson Creek	Work BC
Fort St. John	Fort St John Friendship Society
Fort St. John	Fort St. John Women's Resource Society
Fort St. John	Meaope House
Fort St. John	New Day in the Peace
Fort St. John	Northern Health
Fort St. John	Salvation Army Northern Gateway of Hope
Fort St. John	School District No. 60
Fort St. John	Urban Matters
Kitimat	Kitimat Community Development Centre
Kitimat	Kitimat Day Centre/Food Share
Kitimat	Tamitik Status of Women Association
Merritt	ASK Wellness

Merritt	Conayt Friendship Society
Merritt	Interior Health
Merritt	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Merritt	Merritt Users of Drugs (MUD) Peer Group
Merritt	Nicola Valley Advocacy
Merritt	Nicola Valley Shelter and Support Society
Merritt	Scw'exmx Child and Family Services
Merritt	Unlocking the Gates
Parksville-Oceanside	CMHA Street Reach
Parksville-Oceanside	Forward House
Parksville-Oceanside	Haven House
Parksville-Oceanside	Hirst House
Parksville-Oceanside	Island Crisis Cares Society
Parksville-Oceanside	Island Health
Parksville-Oceanside	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Parksville-Oceanside	Nanaimo and Area Resource Services for Families
Parksville-Oceanside	Public Health Nurse Outreach
Parksville-Oceanside	Salvation Army
Parksville-Oceanside	Society of Organized Services
Penticton	Community Clean Up Team
Penticton	Compass House
Penticton	Foundry
Penticton	Interior Health
Penticton	Martin Street Outreach Centre
Penticton	Mental Wellness Society
Penticton	South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society
Penticton	Soupateria
Penticton	South Okanagan Immigrant Society
Penticton	South Okanagan Women in Need Society
Penticton	United Way
Port Alberni	Bread of Life Shelter
Port Alberni	Canadian Mental Health Association Port Alberni
Port Alberni	INEO Employment Services
Port Alberni	Kuu-us Crisis Society
Port Alberni	Port Alberni Friendship Centre
Port Alberni	Port Alberni Shelter Society
Port Alberni	Sage Haven Drop In
Port Alberni	Salvation Army

Powell River	Brooks Secondary School
Powell River	Grace House
Powell River	Lift Community Services
Powell River	Substance User's Society Teaching Advocacy Instead of Neglect
Powell River	Texada Health Centre
Powell River	Vancouver Coastal Health
Prince Rupert	Changemakers
Prince Rupert	Indigenous Justice Council
Prince Rupert	Northern Health
Prince Rupert	Pacific Coast Alternative School
Prince Rupert	Salvation Army Soup Kitchen
Prince Rupert	Unemployment Action Centre
Quesnel	Amata Transition House
Quesnel	Coalition of Substance Users of the North (CSUN)
Quesnel	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Quesnel	Northern Peer Connections, Quesnel Community Action Team
Quesnel	Nourish Food Bank
Quesnel	Quesnel Greenhope Society
Quesnel	Seasons House
Quesnel	Westside Mental Health and Substance Use Services
Salmon Arm	Canadian Mental Health Association Salmon Arm
Salmon Arm	Interior Health - OAT Clinic
Salmon Arm	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Salmon Arm	Public Health Office
Salmon Arm	Salmon Arm Public Library
Salmon Arm	Salvation Army - Lighthouse/Food Bank
Salmon Arm	WorkBC
Sechelt and Gibsons	Arrowhead Clubhouse
Sechelt and Gibsons	Gibsons Library
Sechelt and Gibsons	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Sechelt and Gibsons	Raincity Housing and Support Society
Sechelt and Gibsons	Roberts Creek Hall
Sechelt and Gibsons	Salvation Army
Sechelt and Gibsons	School District No. 46
Sechelt and Gibsons	Sechelt Library
Sechelt and Gibsons	shíshálh Nation
Sechelt and Gibsons	St. Barts Food Bank
Sechelt and Gibsons	Sunshine Coast Community Services

Sechelt and Gibsons	Town of Gibsons
Sechelt and Gibsons	Vancouver Coastal Health
Sechelt and Gibsons	Yew House
Smithers	Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre
Smithers	Goodacre Place
Smithers	Northern Health
Smithers	Northern Society for Domestic Peace
Smithers	Passage House
Squamish	Foundry
Squamish	Pearl's Space Drop in
Squamish	Pearl's Space Transition House
Squamish	Sea to Sky Community Services
Squamish	Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Nation
Squamish	Squamish Helping Hands Society
Squamish	The Spot
Squamish	Under One Roof
Squamish	Vancouver Coastal Health
Terrace	Foundry
Terrace	Joe's Place
Terrace	Kermode Friendship Society
Terrace	'Ksan Residence & Shelter
Terrace	Northern Health
Terrace	Women's Transition House
Vernon	Combined Shelter/Our Place
Vernon	Piers (Partners in Resources)
Vernon	Social Planning Council of North Okanagan
Vernon	Street Clinic
Vernon	Teen Junction
Vernon	Turning Points Collaborative Society
Vernon	Upper Room Mission
Vernon	Vernon Alliance Church
Vernon	Youth Safe House
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society
Williams Lake	Chiwid Transition House
Williams Lake	Canadian Mental Health Association Williams Lake
Williams Lake	Foundry
Williams Lake	Salvation Army
Williams Lake	Women's Contact Society

Appendix C4 - Shelter Survey Instrument

Survey #:

SHELTER Survey | 2025 Homeless Count

Interviewer Name: _____

Location: _____



PART 1: SCREENING

1. Are you willing to participate in the survey?

☐ Yes (Go to Q.2) ☐ No (END)

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

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

3. Will you be sleeping here tonight?

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

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

INTERVIEWER: Continue to Part 2: Survey regardless of response

4. Do you currently have a place to stay where you pay monthly rent? **[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. Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year? **[Check all that apply]**

- ☐ Homeless Shelter (Shelter or 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)
- ☐ Hospital
- ☐ Detox Centre
- ☐ Other Health Facility
- ☐ Jail, Prison, or other correctional facility
- ☐ Outside or Unsheltered in a public place
- ☐ 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

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

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

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

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

8. 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

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

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

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

- ☐ Yes. **Check all that apply**
 - ☐ First Nations. Specify Nation: _____
 - ☐ With Status
 - ☐ Without Status
 - ☐ Inuit. Specify: _____
 - ☐ Métis. Specify: _____
 - ☐ Indigenous Ancestry. Specify: _____
 - ☐ Not listed. Specify: _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure/No answer

10.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

11. 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

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

____ (#) Days ____ (#) Weeks ____ (#) Months

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

Age _____ Year _____

☐ Don't know/No Answer

14. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or asylum claimant (e.g. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada), or through another process?

Yes. Check one:

- ☐ Immigrant (Go to Q.14a)
- ☐ Refugee (Go to Q.14a)
- ☐ Asylum Claimant in Canada (Go to Q.14a)
- ☐ Temporary Foreign Worker (Go to Q.14a)
- ☐ Other Work Permit (Go to Q.14a)
- ☐ Study Permit (Go to Q.14a)
- ☐ Temporary Resident (Go to Q.14a)
- ☐ Other (incl. undocumented) (Go to Q.14a)
- ☐ No (Go to Q.15)
- ☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.15)

14a. How long have you been in Canada?

____ (#) Days ____ (#) Weeks ____ (#) Months ____ (#) Years

Or date of arrival: Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

☐ Don't know/No answer

Continue on Other Side ->

PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

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

- ☐ Yes. **Check all that apply:**
- ☐ Partner/Spouse ☐ Pets
 - ☐ Child(ren)/Dependents: #1 Age: _____ #2 Age: _____
#3 Age: _____ #4 Age: _____ #5 Age: _____
 - ☐ Not listed. **Specify:** _____
- ☐ No ☐ Don't Know/No Answer

16. Do you identify as having the following challenges at this time? **[Ask Each Question Individually]**

	Yes	No	DK/NA
16a. Illness or medical condition (diabetes, asthma, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
16b. Physical Mobility	☐	☐	☐
16c. Learning, Intellectual, Developmental, Cognitive Function	☐	☐	☐
16d. Mental Health (depression, anxiety, PTSD etc.)	☐	☐	☐
16e. Substance Use	☐	☐	☐
16f. Senses (seeing, hearing etc.)	☐	☐	☐
16g. Acquired Brain Injury (happened after birth)	☐	☐	☐

17. Do you currently use any of the following substances?

- ☐ Nicotine (Tobacco, vaping etc.)
- ☐ Alcohol
- ☐ Cannabis ("weed" etc.)
- ☐ Opiates ("down", heroin, fentanyl, etc.)
- ☐ Stimulants ("side", methamphetamine, cocaine, etc.)
- ☐ No ☐ Don't Know/No Answer

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

- ☐ Always been here **(Go to Q.19)**
 _____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Yrs **(Go to Q.18a)**
 (#) (#) (#) (#)
☐ Don't know/No answer **(Go to Q.19)**

18a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. city)?

City: _____ AND province: _____ OR country: _____
☐ Don't know/No answer

19. 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

20. 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
- ☐ Settlement Services
- ☐ Other Services. **Specify:** _____
- ☐ No services used in the past 12 months
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

21. In the past 12 months, have you accessed services from your Nation (ex: First Nation; Métis)?:

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

22. In the past 12 months, have you accessed services from an Indigenous Organization?

- ☐ Yes. **Specify Org:** _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/No Answer

23. Have you ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP? (Regular, Reserve, or Army Rangers; completed basic training)

- ☐ Yes, Canadian military ☐ Yes, RCMP
- ☐ No ☐ Don't Know/No Answer

24a. Are you on Income Assistance (or PWD)?

- ☐ Yes - Income Assistance (Basic IA)
- ☐ Yes - Persons with Disability (PWD)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

24b. Do you have any other sources of income?

- ☐ Employment insurance
- ☐ Old age security (OAS)/ (GIS)
- ☐ CPP or other pension
- ☐ Youth agreement
- ☐ Veteran/VAC benefits
- ☐ Child and family tax benefits
- ☐ GST/HST refund
- ☐ Job full time
- ☐ Job part time
- ☐ Job casual (e.g Contract work)
- ☐ Sex Work
- ☐ Honoraria
- ☐ Informal employment (binning, panhandling)
- ☐ Money from Family/Friends
- ☐ Other source(s): _____
- ☐ No income
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Guest policy

B. Conflict With:

- ☐ Spouse / partner
- ☐ Parent / guardian / caregiver
- ☐ Landlord
- ☐ Conflict with: other: _____

C. Experienced Abuse By:

- ☐ Spouse /partner
- ☐ Parent /guardian / caregiver
- ☐ Child / dependent
- ☐ Landlord
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: other: _____

D. Experienced Discrimination By:

- ☐ Spouse / partner
- ☐ Parent / guardian / caregiver
- ☐ Landlord
- ☐ Experienced discrimination by: other: _____

E. Health or Corrections

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

F. Other

- ☐ Complaint (e.g. pets, noise, damage)
- ☐ Left the community/relocated
- ☐ Death or departure of family member
- ☐ Other reason: _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

26. Was your most recent housing loss related to an eviction?

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

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

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

Appendix C5 - Unsheltered Survey Instrument

Survey #:

UNSHELTERED Survey | 2025 Homeless Count

Interviewer Name: _____

Location: _____



PART 1: SCREENING

1. Are you willing to participate in the survey?

☐ Yes (> Q.2) ☐ No (END)

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

☐ Yes (END) ☐ No (> Q.3) ☐ Don't know/No answer (END)

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? [check one]

☐ Yes (> Q.4) ☐ No (> Q.4) ☐ Don't know/No answer (> Q.4)

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

☐ Unsheltered in a Public Space (> Q.5)
☐ Makeshift shelter, tent (> Q.5)
☐ Encampment (tent/vehicle). Circle Type (> Q.5)
☐ Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck, Boat). Circle Type (> Q.5)
☐ Abandoned/vacant building (> Q.5)

☐ Someone else's place or couchsurfing (> Q.5)

☐ A client's place (> Q.5)

☐ Shelter, Safe House, Transition House.

Name: _____ (> Q.5)

☐ Detox/Hospital/Jail. Name: _____ (> Q.5)

☐ Hotel/motel where I pay to stay for <30 days (> Q.5)

☐ Hotel/motel where an organization is paying (> Q.5)

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.5)

☐ Own place inside where you pay rent. _____ (END)

☐ Not listed. Specify: _____ (> Q.5)

☐ Don't know/No answer (END)

5. Did you feel safe there? [check one]

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/No answer

PART 2: SURVEY

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

☐ Homeless Shelter (Shelter or 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)
☐ Hospital
☐ Detox Centre
☐ Other Health Facility
☐ Jail, Prison, or other correctional facility
☐ Outside or Unsheltered in a public place
☐ 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

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

Age _____ Year born _____

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

9. 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

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

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

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

☐ Yes. Check all that apply
☐ First Nations. Specify Nation: _____
☐ With Status
☐ Without Status
☐ Inuit. Specify: _____
☐ Métis. Specify: _____
☐ Indigenous Ancestry. Specify: _____
☐ Not listed. Specify: _____
☐ No
☐ Unsure/No answer

11.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

12. 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

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

____ (#) Days ____ (#) Weeks ____ (#) Months

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

Age _____ Year _____

☐ Don't know/No answer

15. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or asylum claimant (e.g. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada), or through another process?

Yes. Check one:

☐ Immigrant (Go to Q.15a)
☐ Refugee (Go to Q.15a)
☐ Asylum Claimant in Canada (Go to Q.15a)
☐ Temporary Foreign Worker (Go to Q.15a)
☐ Other Work Permit (Go to Q.15a)
☐ Study Permit (Go to Q.15a)
☐ Temporary Resident (Go to Q.15a)
☐ Other (incl. undocumented) (Go to Q.15a)

☐ No (Go to Q.16)

☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.16)

15a. How long have you been in Canada?

____ (#) Days ____ (#) Weeks ____ (#) Months ____ (#) Years

Or date of arrival: Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

☐ Don't know/No answer

PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

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

☐ Yes. **Check all that apply:**

☐ Partner/Spouse ☐ Pets

☐ Child(ren)/Dependents: #1 Age: _____ #2 Age: _____

#3 Age: _____ #4 Age: _____ #5 Age: _____

☐ Not listed. **Specify:** _____

☐ No ☐ Don't Know/No Answer

17. Do you identify as having the following challenges at this time? **[Ask Each Question Individually]**

	Yes	No	DK/NA
17a. Illness or medical condition (diabetes, asthma, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
17b. Physical Mobility	☐	☐	☐
17c. Learning, Intellectual, Developmental, Cognitive Function	☐	☐	☐
17d. Mental Health (depression, anxiety, PTSD etc.)	☐	☐	☐
17e. Substance Use	☐	☐	☐
17f. Senses (seeing, hearing etc.)	☐	☐	☐
17g. Acquired Brain Injury (happened after birth)	☐	☐	☐

18. Do you currently use any of the following substances?

☐ Nicotine (Tobacco, vaping etc.)

☐ Alcohol

☐ Cannabis ("weed" etc.)

☐ Opiates ("down", heroin, fentanyl, etc.)

☐ Stimulants ("side", methamphetamine, cocaine, etc.)

☐ No ☐ Don't Know/No Answer

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

☐ Always been here **(Go to Q.20)**

____ Days ____ Weeks ____ Months ____ Yrs **(Go to Q.19a)**

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

☐ Don't know/No answer **(Go to Q.20)**

19a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. city)?

City: _____ AND province: _____ OR country: _____

☐ Don't know/No answer

20. 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

21. 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

☐ Settlement Services

☐ Other Services. **Specify:** _____

☐ No services used in the past 12 months

☐ Don't know/No answer

22. In the past 12 months, have you accessed services from your Nation (ex: First Nation; Métis)?:

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know/No answer

23. In the past 12 months, have you accessed services from an Indigenous Organization?

☐ Yes. **Specify Org:** _____

☐ No

☐ Don't know/No Answer

24. Have you ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP? (Regular, Reserve, or Army Rangers; completed basic training)

☐ Yes, Canadian military ☐ Yes, RCMP

☐ No ☐ Don't Know/No Answer

25a. Are you on Income Assistance (or PWD)?

☐ Yes - Income Assistance (Basic IA)

☐ Yes - Persons with Disability (PWD)

☐ No

☐ Don't know/No answer

25b. Do you have any other sources of income?

☐ Employment insurance

☐ Old age security (OAS)/ (GIS)

☐ CPP or other pension

☐ Youth agreement

☐ Veteran/VAC benefits

☐ Child and family tax benefits

☐ GST/HST refund

☐ Job full time

☐ Job part time

☐ Job casual (e.g Contract work)

☐ Sex Work

☐ Honoraria

☐ Informal employment (binning, panhandling)

☐ Money from Family/Friends

☐ Other source(s): _____

☐ No income

☐ 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

☐ Guest policy

B. Conflict With:

☐ Spouse / partner

☐ Parent / guardian / caregiver

☐ Landlord

☐ Conflict with: other: _____

C. Experienced Abuse By:

☐ Spouse /partner

☐ Parent /guardian / caregiver

☐ Child / dependent

☐ Landlord

☐ Experienced abuse by: other: _____

D. Experienced Discrimination By:

☐ Spouse / partner

☐ Parent / guardian / caregiver

☐ Landlord

☐ Experienced discrimination by: other: _____

E. Health or Corrections

☐ Physical health issue/disability

☐ Mental health issue

☐ Addiction/substance use issue

☐ Hospitalization or treatment program

☐ Incarceration (jail or prison)

F. Other

☐ Complaint (e.g. pets, noise, damage)

☐ Left the community/relocated

☐ Death or departure of family member

☐ Other reason: _____

☐ Don't know/No answer

27. Was your most recent housing loss related to an eviction?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know/No answer

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

☐ English ☐ French

☐ Other Preferred Language: _____

☐ Don't know/no answer

Appendix D Non-Count Report

Data Sources: Administrative Shelter Occupancy Data

In addition to the Point-in-Time Homeless Counts conducted in 2024 and 2025, a tally of administrative shelter occupancy data was obtained from BC Housing for the night of March 11th, 2025, for emergency shelters and transition houses. The communities included in this administrative data were :

Non-Count Communities	
100 Mile House	Masset
Burns Lake	Mission
Castlegar	Nakusp
Chetwynd	New Hazelton
Clearwater	Oliver
Creston	Pemberton
Fernie	Port Hardy
Fort Nelson	Revelstoke
Fort St. James	Saanich
Gold River	Salmo
Golden	Telegraph Creek
Grand Forks	Trail
Hope	Tumbler Ridge
Invermere	Ucluelet
Kaslo	Valemount
Lillooet	Vanderhoof
Lower Post	West Kelowna
Mackenzie	Whistler

Appendix E Non-Count Report Data

Sources: Corrections Data

BC Corrections

Re: Point-in-Time Homelessness (Custody) Counts

Community: Provincial PiT: March 11, 2025

Background: BC Housing, the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and the Homelessness Services Association of BC collaborate to produce Point-in-Time Homeless Counts (PiT Counts) for communities across BC. The Performance, Research and Evaluation unit at BC Corrections participated in the PiT Count through a review of administrative data including residential address files for all individuals in custody throughout the province. The count was based on all individuals in provincial custody on the PiT date (as of 11:59 pm) whose primary address in BC Corrections case management system (CORNET), and where the address at the time of analysis suggested a precarious or uncertain housing situation upon release.

Precarious or uncertain housing situation status will for the most part be identified with 'NFA' being listed in the address field (and various iterations of NFA). The remainder will be identified with the following key words/phrases: A commonly used name of a shelter/TC/transition housing such as ("Our Place", "Salvation Army"), "Shelter" "Campground", "Camping", "Camp", "Tent" "DTE" (commonly used to refer to Downtown East Side), ("Treatment Centre", "TC"), "Church", "Couch Surfing", "Temporary", "Staying with friend". Note that individuals listed as living with family members and without any reference to the arrangement being temporary are not counted here.

Results: Of the 2,376 individuals in custody on March 11, 2025, there was a successful extraction of address records from CORNET for approximately 99% (n=2,352).

Community of Residence	Number in Provincial Custody	Number with precarious or uncertain housing situation
Province-Wide	2,376	978

Those in longer-term correctional facilities have not previously been enumerated. This data is provided thanks to a partnership between the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs and B.C. Corrections. As this data has not been historically used as part of reports on homeless counts in BC, it has been excluded from this Report's findings.

About The Authors

The ***Homelessness Services Association of BC*** (HSABC) is an umbrella organization of shelters, drop-in centres, homeless outreach teams and other service providers addressing the needs of persons experiencing homelessness with the goal of ending homelessness. Our over 280 Members 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.

HSABC was created through the merger of Shelter Net BC (SNBC) and the Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy Society (GVSS) in 2017. SNBC was established in 1999 as provincial, grassroots movement by shelter providers who identified a need for training, networking, and development of best practice. GVSS was formed in 1998 as a regional network of Greater Vancouver organizations responding together to meet the needs of people who are homeless or at risk focused on coordination of the Extreme Weather Response program and research.

HSABC continues to build on the legacy of both organizations and is a solution-focused, member-driven organization supporting shelters, drop-in centres, homeless outreach teams, and other service providers addressing the needs of persons experiencing homelessness with the goal to ending homelessness.

www.hsa-bc.ca

The ***BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres*** (BCAAFC) is the umbrella organization for Friendship Centres across B.C.

Friendship Centres are not-for-profit, Indigenous-led, social service organizations that work to promote, develop, and deliver accessible programs and services that support Indigenous peoples living in urban areas and away from home. They provide a wide range of wraparound programs and services to communities—youth, child and family wellness, employment and training, education, health, economic development, language, culture and arts, preventing violence, sport and recreation, and community outreach.

BCAAFC promotes the betterment of Friendship Centres in B.C., maintains communication between Friendship Centres, other provincial associations and the National Association of Friendship Centres, and supports the development of programs to improve the quality of life for Indigenous people living in B.C.

www.bcaafc.com

