

2020/21 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.

Prepared by Homelessness Services Association of BC

December 2021



BC HOUSING
RESEARCH CENTRE

Acknowledgements

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Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that the homeless counts took place on the ancestral homelands of many Indigenous Peoples and Nations, each with their own unique traditions and territories. They have been custodians of this land for thousands of years and we would like to pay our respect to the Elders and Knowledge-Keepers both past and present.

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

With Gratitude

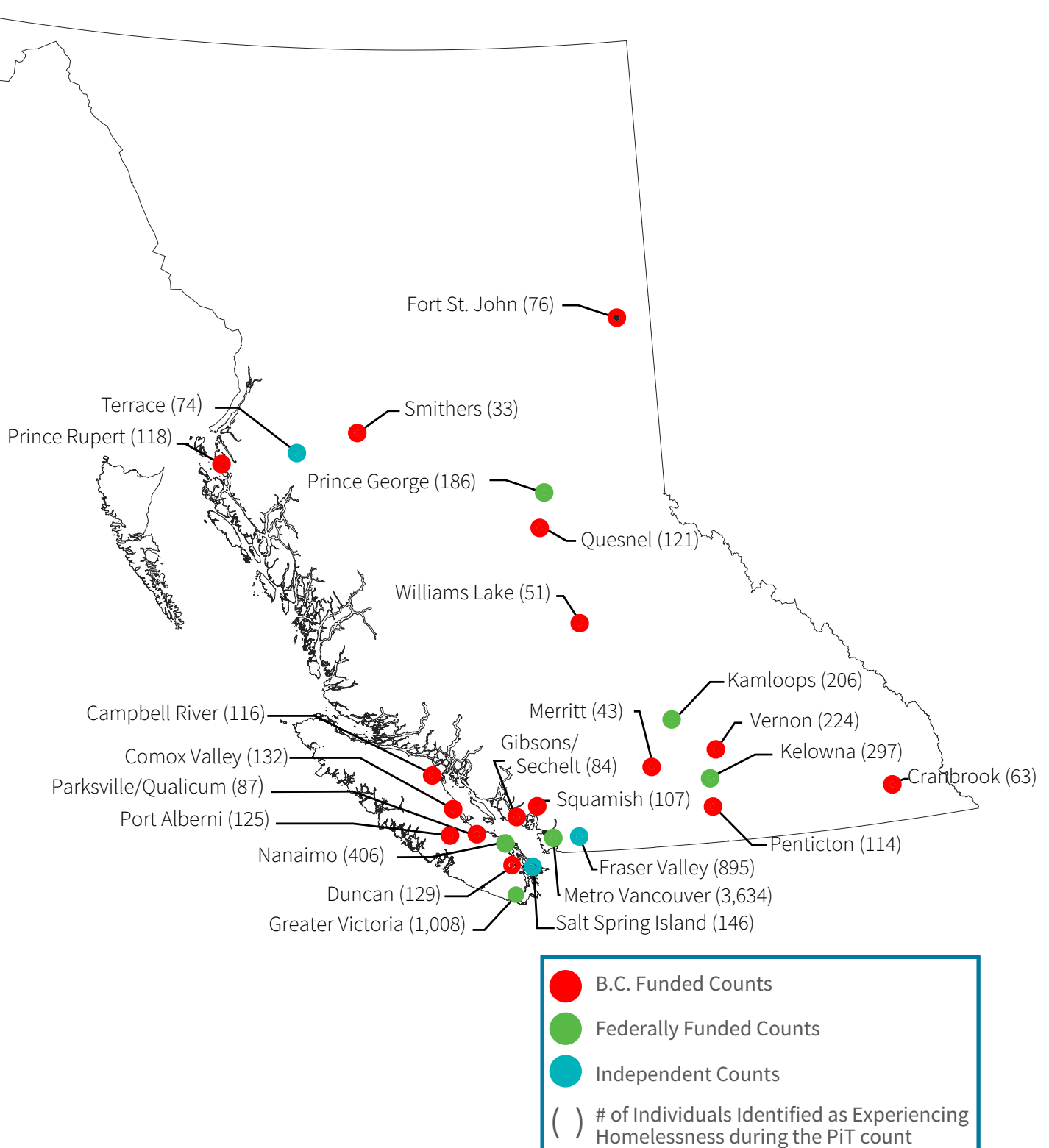
This research project would not have been possible without the participation and support of many individuals and organizations. The Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC) would like to thank all the agencies, service providers, government staff and others who helped organize and implement the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

More specifically, we would like to thank:

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 - › Kamloops – City of Kamloops
 - › Kelowna – Central Okanagan Foundation
 - › Metro Vancouver – The Greater Vancouver Reaching Home Community Advisory Board, Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee, Provincial Indigenous Homelessness Committee, the Council of Community Homelessness Tables, Lu’ma Native BCH Housing Society as the Community Entity, VanCity Community Foundation, the City of Vancouver, BC Non-Profit Housing Association and InFocus Consulting
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 - › Terrace – Ksan Society and the City of Terrace
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- › We would also like to thank BC Housing staff who reviewed the data to ensure the highest degree of accuracy, including Rebecca Siggner, Mike Kim, Carlos Martinez Garcia, and Tammy Bennett, for her ongoing leadership and support.

Map of Participating Communities¹



¹ An additional 190 individuals were included who were staying in BC Housing-funded shelters, transition houses for women and their children at risk of violence, and safe homes located in communities that were not involved in a homeless count. The number of people staying in these facilities is included in the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

Executive Summary

2020/21 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.

This report summarizes findings from 25 homeless counts conducted in communities across British Columbia. It also includes BC Housing-funded shelter and transition houses/safe homes data from communities that were not involved in a homeless count.

In the spring of 2020, the Province of British Columbia provided funding to conduct Point in Time (PiT) homeless counts in 16 B.C. communities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only eight of the 16 communities were able to conduct their counts before March 17, 2020, when British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer declared a public health emergency under British Columbia's Public Health Act. The remaining eight communities completed their counts in 2021 with additional pandemic precautions. The Homelessness Services Association of BC coordinated these counts and combined the results with available data from nine additional counts and administrative data from BC Housing-funded shelters and transition houses/ safe homes to prepare this report.

Sources of data include:

- › 16 homeless counts funded by the provincial government (March 2020 + April/May 2021)
- › Six homeless counts funded by the federal government through Reaching Home and three independent counts. Five communities completed their count in 2020, while four were conducted in 2021. (March 2020 + April 2021)
- › BC Housing-funded shelter, transition house, and safe home data from other B.C. communities (collected by BC Housing)²

Key Findings

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

Total Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

The 2020/21 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. identified 8,665 individuals experiencing homelessness. This included 222 children under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian. The majority were sheltered (62%) and 38% were unsheltered. Among unsheltered respondents, 50% indicated sleeping outside. When comparing communities that completed a count for both the 2018 report as well as this report, there is an 11.5% increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Gender Mix of People Experiencing Homelessness

Among those who responded to the survey, 68% identified as men and 30% as women. Two percent (2%) of respondents self-identified with another gender identity. The findings are consistent with data from the 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. Three percent (3%) of survey respondents identified as having trans experience (i.e., meaning a person's gender identity is different from when they were born).

² This includes data obtained for the night of April 8, 2021, from all other communities with BC Housing-funded shelters, transition houses for women and their children at risk of violence, and safe homes that were not involved in a homeless count. The number of people staying in these facilities is included in the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

Seniors and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Twenty-one percent (21%) of all survey respondents were seniors (55+ years of age) and 11% were youth (under 25 years of age).³

Indigenous Individuals Continue to Experience Homelessness at a Disproportionately High Rate

Indigenous individuals continue to be overrepresented within PiT counts. Thirty nine percent (39%) of survey respondents identified as Indigenous. According to the 2016 Census, Indigenous people represent 6% of B.C.'s total population demonstrating their vast over-representation in the homeless counts.

Racial Identity of People Experiencing Homelessness

Amongst survey respondents, 3% of individuals identified as Black, 2% as Latin American and 2% as South Asian. These were the most common racialized identities provided. This was the first year homeless counts across B.C. asked about racial identity.

Youth in Care

Thirty-six percent (36%) of survey respondents indicated that as a child or youth, they were in foster care, in a youth group home or on an Independent Living Agreement. This could have been in the past or at the time of the count.

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in Poor Health

More than two-thirds (67%) of survey respondents identified an addiction, while 51% identified a mental health issue. Two-thirds of survey respondents (66%) identified two or more health concerns, while 10% did not identify any health concern.

Main Reasons for Housing Loss

Not enough income (30%) represented the most common answer from respondents regarding reason for housing loss. Twenty-two percent (22%) indicated substance use issues, 14% indicated a conflict with their landlord, while an additional 14% indicated a conflict with a spouse or partner as a main reason for loss of housing.

History of Homelessness

Almost two-thirds (62%) of survey respondents indicated they had been without a place of their own for one year or more. Forty-six percent (46%) of respondents indicated they were under 25 years of age the first time they experienced homelessness. Respondents were likely to be long-term members of the community where they were surveyed. Fifty-four percent (54%) of respondents indicated they had lived in the community for ten years or more, including those who had always lived in the community.

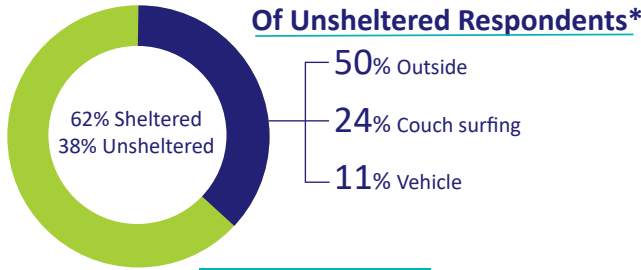
³ This only includes individuals who filled out a survey. Accompanied children who did not fill out a survey are not included in this analysis.

B.C. Homeless Counts 2020/21 Infographic

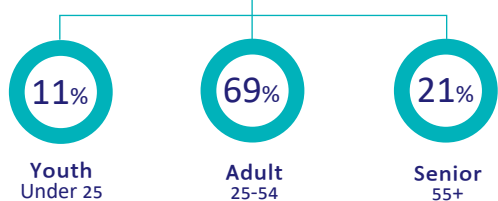
This infographic includes data from 25 homeless counts conducted in communities across B.C. The counts took place in 2020 and 2021.⁴

8,665 People were identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

Where did individuals stay the night of the count?



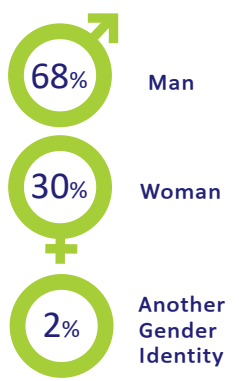
AGE BREAKDOWN



46% Experienced homelessness for the first time as a youth

36% Had been in foster care, a youth group home, or under a youth agreement

GENDER



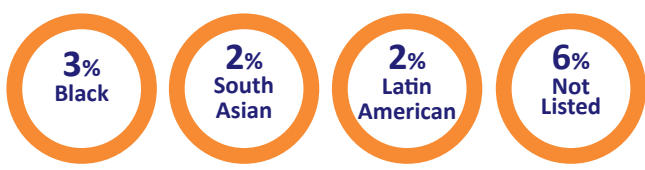
SEXUAL ORIENTATION

8% of respondents identified as 2SLGBTQIA+

TRANS EXPERIENCE

3% of respondents identified as having trans experience

RACIAL IDENTITY

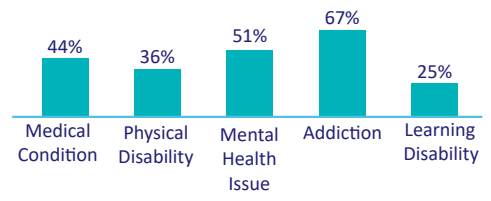


Not listed includes respondents who selected 'Not listed' and may have provided a write-in answer, e.g. nationality, ethnicity or religious group.

INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

39% of respondents identified as Indigenous
Compared to 6% of the general population (2016 Census)

HEALTH CONCERNS



28% Reported an acquired brain injury
66% Reported two or more health concerns

LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS

25% Under 6 months
62% 1 year or more

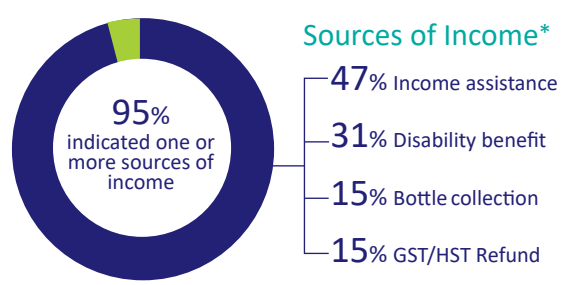
83% of respondents had been in the community for at least 1 year

54% of respondents had been in the community 10 years or more

REASONS FOR HOUSING LOSS*



INCOME



SERVICES ACCESSED IN PAST 12 MONTHS *



* Top responses highlighted

⁴ Percentages are based on the number of people who responded to survey questions and not the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness.

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1 | Introduction

This report summarizes findings from 25 point-in-time (PiT) homeless counts conducted in communities throughout British Columbia in 2020 and 2021. It also includes BC Housing-funded shelter, transition house, and safe home data from communities that were not involved in a homeless count in 2020 or 2021. The results provide an overall snapshot of homelessness in B.C.

1.1 About this Report

In the spring of 2020, the Province of British Columbia provided funding to conduct homeless counts in 16 B.C. communities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only eight of the 16 communities were able to conduct their counts before March 17, 2020, when British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer declared a public health emergency under British Columbia's Public Health Act. The remaining eight communities completed their counts in 2021 with additional pandemic precautions. The Homelessness Services Association of BC coordinated these counts and combined the results with available data from nine additional counts and administrative data from BC Housing-funded shelters and transition houses to prepare this report.

Sources of data include:

- › Sixteen homeless counts conducted over a 24-hour period funded by the provincial government (March 2020 + April/May 2021) referred to as the B.C. count communities
- › Six PiT homeless counts funded by the federal government through Reaching Home and three independent homeless counts (March 2020 + April 2021)
- › Shelter data from other B.C. communities collected at a specific point in time (collected by BC Housing)⁵

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

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

This approach provides a broad picture of homelessness in British Columbia with coverage of close to 88% of the province by population.

1.2 About Homeless Counts

The 2020/21 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. provides important information on the estimated number, key demographic and service provision needs of people experiencing homelessness in communities across B.C. Point-in-Time (PiT) counts have been conducted every three years in Metro Vancouver since 2002. Several other communities have also carried out homeless counts over the years, and the federal government's Reaching Home program⁶ has supported counts in designated communities across Canada in 2016, 2018 and 2020/21. This is the second Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. following the 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.

⁵ This includes data obtained for the night of April 8, 2021, from all other communities with BC Housing-funded shelters, transition houses for women and their children at risk of violence, and safe homes located in communities that were not involved in a homeless count. The number of people staying in these facilities is included in the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

⁶ Previously called the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)

A PiT count provides a snapshot of people who are experiencing homelessness within a community in a 24-hour period. For the purpose of the 2020/21 homeless counts conducted in the 16 provincially funded B.C. count communities, an individual was defined as experiencing homelessness if they do not have a place of their own where they pay rent and can expect to stay for at least 30 days. This included people who:

- › Stayed overnight on the night of the count in homeless shelters, including transition houses for women fleeing violence and youth safe houses, and people with no fixed address staying temporarily in hospitals, jails or detox facilities (defined as “sheltered”);
- › Stayed outside in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks and vehicles or people who were staying temporarily at someone else’s place (couch surfing) and/or those using homelessness services (defined as “unsheltered”).

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

1.3 Limitations and Methodological Considerations

PiT counts provide a 24-hour snapshot of homelessness, which is not the same as estimating the number of people who move in and out of homelessness over time. Effort is made to include all sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness, however, there are a variety of reasons that contribute to why not everyone experiencing homelessness will be included.

The PiT count methodology is most effective at counting the most visible segment of the homeless population. This population is shown above the waterline in Figure 1. Using the metaphor of an iceberg, the visible homeless represent just the tip of the iceberg — and are the focus of this report.

The “hidden” homeless includes people who do not have a regular address of their own where they have security of tenure. The hidden homeless, for the purpose of the count, includes people who are staying temporarily with friends — often called “couch surfing.” The hidden homeless also includes individuals living outside, in a vehicle, or in an abandoned building, which makes it difficult for survey volunteers to find them. This report includes people who filled out a survey that met the definition of hidden homeless.

In developing and implementing the eight B.C. funded counts conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, HSABC worked with local agencies and service providers to ensure at least one event was held in each community that provided food or other services to community members. These events provided a place where individuals could access services and/or a meal and additionally complete a survey. While this approach may have resulted in some additional surveys being completed, it is likely a small proportion of the total hidden homeless population. Individual circumstances will also change and over the course of a year, some people will become homeless for the first time, some will find permanent housing, and others will find temporary housing and cycle in and out of homelessness.



Figure 1: Levels of Homelessness

2 | Summary of Provincial Findings

The following tables provide aggregate data from 25 counts in communities across the province to create a provincial profile of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness.

These profiles are based on the provincially funded counts in the 16 B.C. count communities, the federally funded Reaching Home counts, and independent counts in the Fraser Valley, Terrace and on Salt Spring Island. Shelter data from other B.C. communities was additionally collected by BC Housing. Where possible, data is compared to results from the 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. In some instances, a comparison is not possible because of changes to the question, or the question was not asked in 2018.

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

- › Percentages are based on the number of people who responded to survey questions and not the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in the community.
- › Some tables show large numbers of “Don’t Know/No Answer”. This is because surveys in the non-B.C. funded counts may not have asked the specific question. To the greatest extent possible, data from these communities were adjusted to align with the methodological parameters of the 16 B.C. count communities to enable direct comparisons, but in certain cases this was limited or not possible.
- › “Don’t know/No Answer” also includes respondents who declined to answer a specific question and individuals who did not answer the survey at all, but were counted through additional information from shelter operators, hospitals, jails and BC Housing.

2.1 Sheltered and Unsheltered

A total of 8,665 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness. This included 222 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian. Sixty-two percent (62%) of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness were sheltered and 38% were identified as being unsheltered.⁷

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

Sheltered and Unsheltered by Age	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth ⁸		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	5,118	61%	215	97%	5,333	62%
Shelters	4,011	48%	53	24%	4,064	47%
Transition Houses	260	3%	159	72%	419	5%
Detox Centres	66	1%	0	0%	66	1%
Safe House	26	0%	0	0%	26	0%
EWR	328	4%	0	0%	328	4%
No Fixed Address (NFA) ⁹	427	5%	3	1%	430	5%
Unsheltered Total	3,325	39%	7	3%	3,332	38%
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	8,443	100%	222	100%	8,665	100%

⁷ Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch surfing.

⁸ Unaccompanied youth refer to anyone under the age of 25 who was not physically accompanied by a parent during the count.

⁹ Includes individuals who may be staying in hotel/motels funded by the city, jails, hospitals, and/or short-term medical facilities.

2.2 Gender

Among survey respondents, 68% identified as men and 30% as women.¹⁰ Two percent (2%) of respondents identified another gender identity. This is consistent with findings from 2018.

Table 2.2: Gender - All Communities

Gender Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Man	1,795	69%	2,049	67%	3,844	68%	68%
Woman	742	29%	921	30%	1,663	30%	30%
Another Gender Identity	50	2%	74	2%	124	2%	2%
Respondents	2,587	100%	3,044	100%	5,631	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	2,746		288		3,034		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

Respondents were also asked if they identify as someone with trans experience (i.e., meaning a person's gender identity is different than when they were born). Three percent (3%) of survey respondents identified as having trans experience.¹¹

Table 2.3: Trans Experience - All Communities¹²

Trans Experience	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Trans experience	64	3%	65	3%	129	3%
No trans experience	1,885	97%	2,005	97%	3,890	97%
Total Respondents	1,949	100%	2,070	100%	4,019	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	3,384		1,262		4,646	
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665	

10 Previous Homeless Count reports and community agencies have stated that women tend to be part of the hidden homeless population. Often they stay with families and friends or in unsafe situations rather than staying on the streets or accessing services for the homeless. As such, they are likely undercounted using a Point-in-Time count methodology.

11 In 2018, individuals were asked if they identified as transgender as part of the question about gender, while in 2020/21 individuals were asked if they had a trans experience in a separate question. The intention of the update was to allow individuals who currently identify as men or women to also indicate they at one time identified with another gender or as transgender. For this reason, the data is not comparable with the 2018 B.C. Homeless Count.

12 This question was asked in the 16 BC funded count communities, Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley and Terrace.

2.3 Age

Most survey respondents, 69%, were adults (25-54 years of age), while 21% of survey respondents identified as seniors (55 years or older). Forty-three (43) respondents indicated they were 75 years of age or older. Youth (under 25 years of age) represented 11% of survey respondents. Three percent (3%) of survey respondents indicated they were under the age of 19.

The proportion of seniors was greater among sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (27% vs. 16%). The proportion of adults was greater among unsheltered respondents than sheltered respondents (71% vs. 65%). Similarly, the proportion of youth was greater among unsheltered respondents than sheltered respondents (13% vs. 8%).

Table 2.4: Age - All Communities

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Youth (Under 25 Years) ¹³	206	8%	395	13%	601	11%	15%
Adult (25-54 Years)	1,704	65%	2,149	71%	3,853	69%	65%
Senior (55+)	692	27%	473	16%	1,165	21%	20%
Respondents	2,602	100%	3,017	100%	5,619	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	2,731		315		3,046		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

2.4 Indigenous Identity

Indigenous individuals continue to be overrepresented within the PiT count. Thirty nine percent (39%) of survey respondents identified as Indigenous. The proportion of respondents identifying as Indigenous was higher for unsheltered (44%) than sheltered respondents (34%). Indigenous respondents were able to identify First Nations, Inuit, Metis, Indigenous Ancestry, or not listed. Respondents could indicate multiple responses if applicable. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of survey respondents identified as First Nations, 8% identified as Metis, 3% identified having Indigenous Ancestry and less than 1% identified as Inuit.

Table 2.5: Indigenous Identity - All Communities

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Indigenous Identity	836	34%	1,255	44%	2,091	39%	38%
Not Indigenous Identity	1,647	66%	1,601	56%	3,248	61%	62%
Respondents	2,483	100%	2,856	100%	5,339	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	2,850		476		3,326		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

¹³ This table only includes individuals who filled out a survey. Accompanied children who did not fill out a survey will be included in the "Don't know/No answer."

2.5 Racial Identity

Most communities that conducted a homeless count in 2020 or 2021 asked about individuals' racial identity. In 2020, individuals who identified as Indigenous were first asked if they identified with a racial group. If they said 'No' they were not asked about their racial identity. In 2021, all participants were asked about their racial identity after being asked if they identified as Indigenous. This was the first year homeless counts across B.C. asked about racial identity.

Amongst survey respondents, 3% of individuals identified as Black, 2% as Latin American and 2% as South Asian. These were the most common racialized identities provided.

Table 2.6: Racial Identity - All Communities¹⁴

Racial Identity (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Arab	15	1%	8	0%	23	1%
East Asian	26	2%	21	1%	47	1%
South East Asian	20	1%	14	1%	34	1%
South Asian	42	2%	17	1%	59	2%
West Asian	23	1%	8	0%	31	1%
Black	70	4%	40	2%	110	3%
Black - Caribbean and Latin America	20	1%	14	1%	34	1%
Black - African	38	2%	9	1%	47	1%
Black - Canadian/American	20	1%	21	1%	41	1%
Latin American	34	2%	30	2%	64	2%
White	1,079	63%	1,011	62%	2,090	63%
Not Listed	130	8%	77	5%	207	6%
Respondents	1,717		1,624		3,341	
Don't Know/No Answer	3,616		1,708		5,324	
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665	

2.6 Newcomers to Canada

Eight percent (8%) of survey respondents identified as coming to Canada as an immigrant, refugee, or refugee claimant. This is an increase from 2018 where 4% of respondents identified as an immigrant, refugee, or refugee claimant. Among survey respondents who identified as an immigrant or refugee and reported on their length of time in Canada, 80% reported being in Canada for ten years or more.

Table 2.7: Newcomers to Canada - All Communities

Newcomers to Canada	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Immigrant or Refugee	261	11%	162	6%	423	8%	4%
Non-Immigrant/Refugee	2,208	89%	2,689	94%	4,897	92%	96%
Respondents	2,469	100%	2,851	100%	5,320	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	2,864		481		3,345		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

¹⁴ For the following table, individuals who responded as Indigenous, and did not identify with any racial groups are included as a respondent, but not within any of the respondent categories.

2.7 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked about their sexual orientation, with the following listed answer options: “straight/heterosexual,” “gay,” “lesbian,” “bisexual,” “two-spirit,” “pansexual,” “asexual,” “questioning,” “queer,” or “not listed.” Eight percent (8%) of respondents identified as 2SLGBTQIA+. Most respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (90%). The percentage of survey respondents who identified as 2SLGBTQIA+ was consistent between sheltered (8%) and unsheltered (9%) respondents.

Table 2.8: Sexual Orientation - All Communities

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Straight/Heterosexual	2,205	91%	2,470	89%	4,675	90%	90%
2SLGBTQIA+	183	8%	252	9%	435	8%	8%
Not listed / multiple Responses	46	2%	50	2%	96	2%	2%
Respondents	2,434	100%	2,772	100%	5,206	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	2,899		560		3,459		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

2.8 Who Was with Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count and could include as many responses as applied. There are slight differences in answer categories between B.C., independent and Reaching Home funded count communities.

Most respondents (79%) reported being alone, while 21% identified that they were with someone. Ten percent (10%) indicated they were with a partner, while 3% identified they were with their child/children.¹⁵ Six percent (6%) of respondents identified that they were with someone not listed in the previous categories. Unsheltered individuals were more likely to be with someone (29%) compared to sheltered individuals (13%).

Table 2.9: Who Was With Survey Respondents - All Communities

Who Was With Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
With someone	284	13%	748	29%	1,032	21%	26%
Partner	131	6%	367	14%	498	10%	9%
Child/Children	76	3%	76	3%	152	3%	4%
Pet(s)	33	1%	74	3%	107	2%	2%
Not listed	51	2%	256	10%	307	6%	N/A
Not specified	11	0%	40	2%	51	1%	N/A
Alone	1,983	87%	1,811	71%	3,794	79%	74%
Respondents	2,267	100%	2,559	100%	4,826	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	3,066		773		3,839		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

¹⁵ Children may include adult children as well because the survey did not ask for the age of these children.

2.9 Reasons for Loss of Housing¹⁶

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently and could include all applicable responses.

Not enough income (30%) represented the most common response from individuals. Twenty-two percent (22%) indicated substance use issues, 14% indicated a conflict with their landlord, while an additional 14% indicated a conflict with a spouse or partner as reason for loss of housing.

Survey respondents in communities where counts were conducted in 2021 were asked a separate question regarding whether their most recent housing loss was due to COVID-19. Fourteen percent (14%) of respondents identified COVID-19 as a reason for their housing loss.

Table 2.10: Reason for Loss of Housing - All Communities

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Not enough income for housing	695	29%	867	31%	1,562	30%
Unfit/unsafe housing condition	236	10%	239	9%	475	9%
Building sold or renovated	123	5%	144	5%	267	5%
Owner moved in	26	1%	20	1%	46	1%
Landlord/ tenant conflict	330	14%	404	15%	734	14%
Complaint (E.g. pets/noise/ damage)	85	4%	147	5%	232	4%
Left the community	123	5%	128	5%	251	5%
Conflict with spouse/partner	333	14%	372	13%	705	14%
Conflict with parent/guardian	159	7%	245	9%	404	8%
Conflict with other	203	8%	227	8%	430	8%
Experienced abuse by partner	139	6%	126	5%	265	5%
Experienced abuse by parent/ guardian	40	2%	44	2%	84	2%
Experienced abuse by other	59	2%	57	2%	116	2%
Death or departure of family member	116	5%	138	5%	254	5%
Experienced discrimination	74	3%	86	3%	160	3%
Physical health issue	184	8%	146	5%	330	6%
Mental health issue	239	10%	305	11%	544	11%
Addiction/ substance use issue	480	20%	630	23%	1,110	22%
Hospitalization or treatment program	90	4%	46	2%	136	3%
Incarceration (jail or prison)	86	4%	111	4%	197	4%
Other reason	349	15%	442	16%	791	15%
Respondents	2,397		2,761		5,158	
Don't Know/No Answer	2,936		571		3,507	
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665	

¹⁶ This data is available for all count communities however there were slight differences in answer categories available.

2.10 Health Conditions

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about their health, including whether they had a medical condition/illness, physical disability, mental health issue, addiction, and/or a learning disability or cognitive impairment.

More than two thirds (67%) of survey respondents identified an addiction, while 51% identified a mental health issue. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to report an addiction (72% unsheltered vs. 60% sheltered), or a mental health issue (53% unsheltered vs. 48% sheltered). There was a notable increase in the proportion of respondents who indicated they have an addiction (67% compared to 56% in 2018) or a mental health issue (51% compared to 40% in 2018).

Two thirds of survey respondents (66%) identified two or more health concerns, while 10% did not identify with any health concerns.

For the first time, in 2020/21, survey participants were asked if they identified as having an acquired brain injury, meaning a brain injury that occurred after birth. Twenty-eight (28%) of respondents identified as having an acquired brain injury.¹⁷

Table 2.11: Health Conditions - All Communities

Health Conditions (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Medical condition / illness	1,185	47%	1,218	42%	2,403	44%	44%
Physical disability	963	38%	1,014	35%	1,977	36%	33%
Mental Health Issue	1,209	48%	1,563	53%	2,772	51%	40%
Addiction	1,526	60%	2,107	72%	3,633	67%	56%
Learning disability or cognitive impairment ¹⁸	611	24%	736	25%	1,347	25%	N/A
Respondents	2,537		2,925		5,462		
Don't Know/No Answer	2,796		407		3,203		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

Table 2.12: Health Conditions – Total Number of Health Conditions¹⁹

Number of Health Conditions	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
No health concerns	305	12%	268	9%	573	10%
One health concern	613	24%	688	24%	1,301	24%
Two health concerns	620	24%	744	25%	1,364	25%
Three health concerns	496	20%	639	22%	1,135	21%
Four health concerns	362	14%	385	13%	747	14%
Five health concerns	141	6%	201	7%	342	6%
Respondents	2,537	100%	2,925	100%	5,462	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	2,796		407		3,203	
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665	

¹⁷ Participants were asked if they had an acquired brain injury separate from the other health-related questions. Their responses are not included in the analysis for "total number of health conditions."

¹⁸ One community did not ask about learning disability or cognitive impairment

¹⁹ In 2018, survey respondents were not asked about learning disability or cognitive impairment. For this reason, a comparison between the years is not possible as there is an increase in answer categories.

Table 2.13: Acquired Brain Injury - All Communities

Acquired Brain Injury	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Acquired brain injury	636	27%	767	29%	1,403	28%
No acquired brain injury	1,696	73%	1,919	71%	3,615	72%
Respondents	2,332	100%	2,686	100%	5,018	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	3,001		646		3,647	
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665	

2.11 Youth in Care

Survey participants were asked, “As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care, in a youth group home or on an Independent Living Agreement?”²⁰ This could have been in the past or at the time of the count.

Thirty six percent (36%) of survey respondents identified that they had been in foster care, a youth group home, or on an Independent Living Agreement. This represents a notable increase from 2018, where 29% of respondents indicated they had been in foster care, a youth group home, or on an Independent Living Agreement.

Table 2.14: Youth in Care - All Communities

Youth in Care	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Yes	761	32%	1,059	38%	1,820	36%	29%
No	1,594	68%	1,698	62%	3,292	64%	71%
Respondents	2,355	100%	2,757	100%	5,112	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	2,978		575		3,553		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

²⁰ Some communities also asked if individuals were ever in a residential school. For consistency among the communities and the 2018 counts, these responses were not included in this analysis.

2.12 Income

Survey respondents were asked to list their sources of income and could provide multiple responses. There are slight differences in answer options depending on what community administered the survey. The sources of income identified most often were income assistance (47%), and disability benefits (31%). The vast majority of respondents indicated at least one source of income (95%) and 46% identified multiple sources of income.²¹

Table 2.15: Sources of Income - All Communities

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Welfare/ income assistance	1,135	45%	1,406	49%	2,541	47%	40%
Job full-time	118	5%	68	2%	186	3%	4%
Job part-time	190	8%	156	5%	346	6%	11%
Job casual (e.g. contract work)	238	10%	248	9%	486	9%	N/A
Job informal	66	3%	176	6%	242	5%	N/A
Binning, bottle collecting	270	11%	513	18%	783	15%	13%
Panhandling	127	5%	330	11%	457	9%	8%
Vending	80	3%	201	7%	281	5%	4%
Money from family/ friends	245	10%	335	12%	580	11%	8%
Employment insurance	74	3%	58	2%	385	7%	2%
Disability benefit (e.g. PWD, PPMB)	869	35%	812	28%	1,681	31%	29%
Old Age Security (OAS)/ Guaranteed Income Supplement	135	5%	95	3%	230	4%	5%
CPP or other pension	182	7%	106	4%	288	5%	6%
Youth agreement	7	0%	7	0%	14	0%	1%
Veteren VAC benefits	11	0%	4	0%	15	0%	N/A
Child + family tax benefit	61	2%	28	1%	89	2%	N/A
GST/HST refund	462	19%	333	12%	795	15%	N/A
Other sources	174	7%	211	7%	385	7%	9%
No income	136	5%	238	8%	374	7%	10%
Respondents	2,497		2,871		5,368		
Don't Know/No Answer	2,836		461		3,297		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

21 Some individuals indicated no income as well as selecting income sources. When conducting analysis on number of income sources these respondents were identified as having an income source.

2.13 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about what services they accessed in the previous 12 months.²² Respondents could identify as many services as were applicable.

Food services, which includes meal programs and food banks, was the most common response (62%) followed by the emergency room (55%) and health clinic (45%). Answers may vary among communities due to the available services. For the most part, sheltered individuals were more likely to access services than unsheltered individuals, except for supervised injection sites or other addiction services, and food services.

Table 2.16: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - All Communities²³

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Ambulance	850	44%	729	36%	1,579	40%
Emergency room	1,142	59%	1,042	51%	2,184	55%
Hospital (non-emergency)	924	48%	828	41%	1,752	44%
Dental clinic or dentist	464	24%	324	16%	788	20%
Mental health services	638	33%	566	28%	1,204	31%
Supervised injection site	431	22%	575	28%	1,006	25%
(Other) addiction services	480	25%	529	26%	1,009	26%
Health clinic	929	48%	836	41%	1,765	45%
Food services	1,126	59%	1,307	65%	2,433	62%
Legal services	520	27%	532	26%	1,052	27%
Employment and financial services	743	39%	616	30%	1,359	34%
Housing services	937	49%	671	33%	1,608	41%
Other services	304	16%	376	19%	680	17%
Respondents	1,921		2,025		3,946	
Don't Know/No Answer	3,412		1,307		4,719	
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665	

2.14 History of Homelessness

Survey participants were asked about the length of time they have been without a place of their own.²⁴

One quarter (25%) of survey respondents indicated they had been homeless for less than six months while almost two thirds (62%) indicated being homeless for one year or more. Unsheltered individuals were more likely to be homeless for a year or more (69% unsheltered compared to 54% sheltered). Three percent (3%) of respondents indicated being homeless for seven days or less. In 2018, just over half (52%) of survey respondents indicated they had been without a place of their own for a year or more. This percentage increased to 62% in 2020/21.

22 Some communities asked what services an individual may need, but not whether they accessed them. These responses are not included in the analysis.

23 Due to a large change in answer categories direct comparison with data from 2018 is not recommended.

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

Table 2.17: Length of Time Without Own Place - All Communities

Length of Time Without Own Place	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Under 6 months	773	32%	537	19%	1,310	25%	31%
Up to and including 7 days	82	3%	70	3%	152	3%	3%
8 days to <1 month	148	6%	97	3%	245	5%	5%
1 month to <6 months	543	23%	370	13%	913	18%	23%
6 months to <1 year	324	13%	316	11%	640	12%	17%
1 year and over	1,313	54%	1,923	69%	3,236	62%	52%
Respondents	2,410	100%	2,776	100%	5,186	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	2,923		556		3,479		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

Survey participants were asked how old they were the first time that they experienced homelessness. Forty-six percent (46%) of respondents indicated they were under 25 years of age the first time they experienced homelessness. Among unsheltered respondents over half (53%) indicated they were under 25 the first time they experienced homelessness. Nine percent (9%) of survey respondents indicated they were over 55 years of age when they first experienced homelessness.

Table 2.18: Age When First Homeless - All Communities

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	909	38%	1,442	53%	2,351	46%	51%
Adult (25-54 Years)	1,151	48%	1,141	42%	2,292	45%	41%
Senior (55+)	320	13%	151	6%	471	9%	8%
Respondents	2,380	100%	2,734	100%	5,114	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	2,953		598		3,551		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

Participants were asked how long they have been in the community. Respondents were likely to be long term members of the community where they were surveyed. Fifty-four percent (54%) of respondents indicated they had lived in the community for ten years or more. This includes 22% of respondents who indicated they have always lived in the community where they were surveyed.

Additionally, survey participants were asked where they lived prior to the community in which they were surveyed. Almost half of respondents reported having lived elsewhere in B.C., with 18% indicating they had previously lived in Metro Vancouver and 32% had lived in other communities in B.C.

Table 2.19: Length of Time in Community - All Communities

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Under 1 year	483	22%	297	12%	780	17%	21%
1 year to under 5 years	383	18%	455	18%	838	18%	18%
5 years to under 10 years	235	11%	272	11%	507	11%	11%
10 years or more	696	32%	798	32%	1,494	32%	31%
Always Been Here ²⁵	384	18%	653	26%	1,037	22%	19%
Respondents	2,181	100%	2,475	100%	4,656	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	3,152		857		4,009		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

Table 2.20: Where Lived Before Community – All Communities

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Always been here	412	18%	732	28%	1,144	23%	25%
Metro Vancouver	466	20%	398	15%	864	18%	11%
Elsewhere in B.C.	730	32%	822	32%	1,552	32%	38%
Elsewhere in Canada	590	26%	559	22%	1,149	24%	23%
Other Countries	104	5%	69	3%	173	4%	2%
Respondents	2,302	100%	2,580	100%	4,882	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	3,031		752		3,783		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

2.15 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey respondents were asked if they had ever served in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, air force or RCMP. Six percent (6%) of respondents indicated they had served in the Canadian Forces.

Table 2.21: Service in Military or RCMP - All Communities

Service in the Military or RCMP	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total		2018
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Yes	154	7%	130	5%	284	6%	6%
No	2,111	93%	2,401	95%	4,512	94%	94%
Respondents	2,265	100%	2,531	100%	4,796	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	3,068		801		3,869		
Total	5,333		3,332		8,665		

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

2.16 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count

Survey respondents who completed an ‘unsheltered survey’ were asked where they stayed last night.²⁶ Half (50%) of survey respondents indicated they stayed outside on the night of the count, an increase from 2018 when 37% of respondents indicated they stayed outside. Additionally, 24% indicated they stayed at someone else’s place or were ‘couch surfing.’

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

Location	Unsheltered		2018
	#	%	%
Outside	1,580	50%	37%
Makeshift shelter or tent	287	9%	9%
Abandoned/vacant building	55	2%	2%
Vehicle	349	11%	8%
Someone else's place or couch surfing	745	24%	30%
Parent or Guardian's place - This is a temporary situation and they do not have a house or apartment they can safely return to	40	1%	1%
Not listed ²⁷	110	3%	13% ²⁸
Respondents	3,166	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	166		
Total	3,332		

Survey participants were asked if they had stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months. Over half of unsheltered survey respondents (53%) indicated they had stayed in a shelter during the last year.²⁹

Table 2.23: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? (Unsheltered Only) – All Communities

Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months?	Unsheltered		2018
	#	%	%
Yes	1,348	53%	55%
No	1,205	47%	45%
Respondents	2,553	100%	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	779		
Total	3,332		

26 One community asked survey participants “Where are you staying tonight?”

27 The most common responses for not listed were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

28 In 2018, some communities included ‘other location unfit for human habitation’ as a possible response. These responses were categorized as ‘not listed’. In 2020/21, no communities included this as an answer category.

29 This question was only asked to unsheltered respondents.

3 | Key Summary Tables by Community

The following section provides an overview of the sheltered/unsheltered population by community, as well as demographic categories including gender, age, Indigenous identity, health conditions, length of time homeless, and length of time in community.

It is important to note that some numbers in the tables may differ from what has been reported by communities in their own reports. This is due to different methodologies. For example, the methodology followed by the 16 B.C. count communities does not include people who are “provisionally accommodated” if they do not meet the definition of homelessness for the purpose of our count (i.e., don’t have a place to stay where they pay rent and can stay for at least 30 days). However, the approach in B.C. funded count communities does include people who were staying at someone else’s place if they were identified during the count.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, homeless counts took place in both 2020 and 2021.

B.C. Count Communities

2020	2021
› Comox Valley	› Campbell River
› Cranbrook	› Penticton
› Duncan	› Parksville/Qualicum
› Fort St. John	› Port Alberni
› Merritt	› Prince Rupert
› Quesnel	› Smithers
› Sechelt/Gibsons	› Squamish
› Williams Lake	› Vernon

Reaching Home and Independent Count Communities

2020	2021
› Fraser Valley	› Kamloops
› Greater Victoria	› Prince George
› Kelowna	› Salt Spring Island
› Metro Vancouver	› Terrace
› Nanaimo	

The following table provides the total sheltered/unsheltered count data across each of the count communities. While there is a total number for 2018 and 2020/21, the numbers are not comparable as the communities are not consistent between reports.³⁰ When comparing communities that completed a count for both the 2018 report as well as this report, there is an 11.5% increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in B.C.³¹

Table 3.1: Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless- Across Communities

Homeless Category		Sheltered		Unsheltered		2020/21		2018	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	% change
B.C. Count Communities	Campbell River	51	44%	65	56%	116	100%	81	43%
	Comox Valley	58	44%	74	56%	132	100%	117	13%
	Cranbrook	28	44%	35	56%	63	100%	29	117%
	Duncan	75	58%	54	42%	129	100%	150	-14%
	Fort St. John	35	46%	41	54%	76	100%	61	25%
	Merritt	9	21%	34	79%	43	100%	11	291%
	Parksville/Qualicum	19	22%	68	78%	87	100%	42	107%
	Penticton	74	65%	40	35%	114	100%	108	6%
	Port Alberni	73	58%	52	42%	125	100%	147	-15%
	Prince Rupert	45	38%	73	62%	118	100%	71	66%
	Quesnel	48	40%	73	60%	121	100%	N/A	N/A
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	39	46%	45	54%	84	100%	57	47%
	Smithers	0	0%	33	100%	33	100%	29	14%
	Squamish	24	22%	83	78%	107	100%	N/A	N/A
	Vernon	170	76%	54	24%	224	100%	153	46%
Williams Lake	25	49%	26	51%	51	100%	43	19%	
Reaching Home and Other	Fraser Valley	409	46%	486	54%	895	100%	606	48%
	Greater Victoria	578	57%	430	43%	1,008	100%	931	8%
	Kamloops	128	62%	78	38%	206	100%	195	6%
	Kelowna	258	87%	39	13%	297	100%	286	4%
	Metro Vancouver	2,605	72%	1,029	28%	3,634	100%	3,605	1%
	Nanaimo	136	33%	270	67%	406	100%	301	35%
	Prince George	163	88%	23	12%	186	100%	160	16%
	Salt Spring Island	37	25%	109	75%	146	100%	115	27%
	Terrace	56	76%	18	24%	74	100%	96	-22%
	Other Communities	190	100%	N/A	0%	190	100%	261 ³²	N/A
Total	5,333	62%	3,332	38%	8,665	100%			

30 Quesnel and Squamish did not conduct a count in 2018, while Nelson did conduct a count in 2018 but did not in 2020 or 2021. Shelter administrative data for Quesnel and Squamish was included in the 2018 count under 'other communities.' Similarly shelter administrative data included for Nelson from April 8, 2021 under 'other communities'.

31 This number is calculated by only including communities that conducted counts for both the 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in BC and this report. The calculation is 7,394 individuals in 2018 and 8,247 individuals in 2020/21.

32 This includes 115 individuals counted in the 2018 PIT count in Nelson. Nelson did not complete a PIT count in 2020/21.

3.1 Gender

Table 3.2: Gender Identity - Across Communities

Gender Identity		Man		Woman		Another Gender Identity		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
B.C. Count Communities	Campbell River	54	59%	36	39%	2	2%	92	100%	24	116
	Comox Valley	67	59%	40	35%	7	6%	114	100%	18	132
	Cranbrook	33	57%	23	40%	2	3%	58	100%	5	63
	Duncan	56	65%	29	34%	1	1%	86	100%	43	129
	Fort St. John	54	81%	12	18%	1	1%	67	100%	9	76
	Merritt	18	72%	7	28%	0	0%	25	100%	18	43
	Parksville/Qualicum	51	68%	23	31%	1	1%	75	100%	12	87
	Penticton	54	64%	25	30%	5	6%	84	100%	30	114
	Port Alberni	57	56%	44	44%	0	0%	101	100%	24	125
	Prince Rupert	61	66%	31	33%	1	1%	93	100%	25	118
	Quesnel	57	50%	53	46%	5	4%	115	100%	6	121
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	40	65%	20	32%	2	3%	62	100%	22	84
	Smithers	14	52%	12	44%	1	4%	27	100%	6	33
	Squamish	58	64%	31	34%	1	1%	90	100%	17	107
	Vernon	65	64%	34	33%	3	3%	102	100%	122	224
Williams Lake	21	60%	14	40%	0	0%	35	100%	16	51	
Reaching Home and Other	Fraser Valley	533	67%	252	32%	5	1%	790	100%	105	895
	Greater Victoria	425	64%	227	34%	16	2%	668	100%	340	1,008
	Kamloops	103	76%	30	22%	3	2%	136	100%	70	206
	Kelowna	113	73%	36	23%	6	4%	155	100%	142	297
	Metro Vancouver	1,570	72%	546	25%	52	2%	2,168	100%	1,466	3,634
	Nanaimo	239	73%	83	25%	6	2%	328	100%	78	406
	Prince George	65	61%	39	36%	3	3%	107	100%	79	186
	Salt Spring Island	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	146	146
	Terrace	36	68%	16	30%	1	2%	53	100%	21	74
	Other Communities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	190	190
Total		3,844	68%	1,663	30%	124	2%	5,631	100%	3,034	8,665

3.2 Age

Table 3.3: Age Categories - Across Communities

Age		Youth (Under 25 Years of Age) ³³		Adult (25-54 Years of Age)		Senior (55+ Years)		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
B.C. Count Communities	Campbell River	33	36%	50	54%	9	10%	92	100%	24	116
	Comox Valley	16	14%	77	69%	19	17%	112	100%	20	132
	Cranbrook	8	14%	39	70%	9	16%	56	100%	7	63
	Duncan	8	9%	55	64%	23	27%	86	100%	43	129
	Fort St. John	7	10%	44	63%	19	27%	70	100%	6	76
	Merritt	1	4%	17	65%	8	31%	26	100%	17	43
	Parksville/Qualicum	4	6%	52	74%	14	20%	70	100%	17	87
	Penticton	8	10%	55	66%	20	24%	83	100%	31	114
	Port Alberni	9	9%	75	74%	18	18%	102	100%	23	125
	Prince Rupert	10	11%	62	68%	19	21%	91	100%	27	118
	Quesnel	18	16%	81	73%	12	11%	111	100%	10	121
	Sechelt/Gibsons	5	8%	43	69%	14	23%	62	100%	22	84
	Smithers	5	18%	16	57%	7	25%	28	100%	5	33
	Squamish	10	11%	62	71%	15	17%	87	100%	20	107
	Vernon	9	9%	83	81%	11	11%	103	100%	121	224
Williams Lake	0	0%	31	91%	3	9%	34	100%	17	51	
Reaching Home and Other	Fraser Valley	127	16%	482	62%	165	21%	774	100%	121	895
	Greater Victoria	65	10%	480	71%	130	19%	675	100%	333	1,008
	Kamloops	13	9%	91	65%	37	26%	141	100%	65	206
	Kelowna	14	9%	120	76%	23	15%	157	100%	140	297
	Metro Vancouver	193	9%	1,463	67%	513	24%	2,169	100%	1,465	3,634
	Nanaimo	21	6%	261	79%	48	15%	330	100%	76	406
	Prince George	11	10%	75	71%	20	19%	106	100%	80	186
	Salt Spring Island	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	146	146
	Terrace	6	11%	39	72%	9	17%	54	100%	20	74
	Other Communities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	190	190
Total	601	11%	3,853	69%	1,165	21%	5,619	100%	3,046	8,665	

33 This table only includes individuals who filled out a survey. Accompanied children who did not fill out a survey will be included in the "Don't know/No answer."

3.3 Indigenous Identity

Table 3.4: Indigenous Identity - Across Communities

Indigenous Identity		Indigenous Identity		Non-Indigenous Identity		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
B.C. Count Communities	Campbell River	53	62%	32	38%	85	100%	31	116
	Comox Valley	23	20%	90	80%	113	100%	19	132
	Cranbrook	28	48%	30	52%	58	100%	5	63
	Duncan	30	34%	58	66%	88	100%	41	129
	Fort St. John	40	57%	30	43%	70	100%	6	76
	Merritt	20	74%	7	26%	27	100%	16	43
	Parksville/Qualicum	21	29%	51	71%	72	100%	15	87
	Penticton	25	31%	55	69%	80	100%	34	114
	Port Alberni	64	65%	34	35%	98	100%	27	125
	Prince Rupert	80	87%	12	13%	92	100%	26	118
	Quesnel	73	64%	41	36%	114	100%	7	121
	Sechelt/ Gibsons	14	24%	44	76%	58	100%	26	84
	Smithers	25	93%	2	7%	27	100%	6	33
	Squamish	16	18%	73	82%	89	100%	18	107
	Vernon	41	40%	61	60%	102	100%	122	224
Williams Lake	28	78%	8	22%	36	100%	15	51	
Reaching Home and Other	Fraser Valley	200	33%	406	67%	606	100%	289	895
	Greater Victoria	252	40%	374	60%	626	100%	382	1,008
	Kamloops	65	47%	72	53%	137	100%	69	206
	Kelowna	51	34%	101	66%	152	100%	145	297
	Metro Vancouver	711	33%	1,417	67%	2,128	100%	1,506	3,634
	Nanaimo	112	35%	212	65%	324	100%	82	406
	Prince George	74	70%	31	30%	105	100%	81	186
	Salt Spring Island	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	146	146
	Terrace	45	87%	7	13%	52	100%	22	74
	Other Communities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	190	190
Total	2,091	39%	3,248	61%	5,339	100%	3,326	8,665	

3.4 Health Conditions

Table 3.5: Number of Health Conditions- Across Communities

Number of Health Conditions		No Health Concerns		One Health Concern		Two or More Health Concerns		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
B.C. Count Communities	Campbell River	7	8%	18	20%	65	72%	90	100%	26	116
	Comox Valley	13	12%	23	20%	77	68%	113	100%	19	132
	Cranbrook	4	7%	15	25%	40	68%	59	100%	4	63
	Duncan	6	7%	27	31%	55	63%	88	100%	41	129
	Fort St. John	8	12%	15	22%	45	66%	68	100%	8	76
	Merritt	1	4%	7	26%	19	70%	27	100%	16	43
	Parksville/Qualicum	1	1%	15	22%	53	77%	69	100%	18	87
	Penticton	6	8%	18	23%	56	70%	80	100%	34	114
	Port Alberni	1	1%	18	18%	79	81%	98	100%	27	125
	Prince Rupert	13	15%	31	36%	43	49%	87	100%	31	118
	Quesnel	6	5%	16	14%	92	81%	114	100%	7	121
	Sechelt/Gibsons	10	17%	15	25%	35	58%	60	100%	24	84
	Smithers	2	7%	6	22%	19	70%	27	100%	6	33
	Squamish	33	37%	17	19%	39	44%	89	100%	18	107
	Vernon	6	6%	21	21%	71	72%	98	100%	126	224
Williams Lake	2	6%	10	28%	24	67%	36	100%	15	51	
Reaching Home and Other	Fraser Valley	56	8%	256	39%	347	53%	659	100%	236	895
	Greater Victoria	58	9%	100	15%	505	76%	663	100%	345	1,008
	Kamloops	9	6%	26	19%	104	75%	139	100%	67	206
	Kelowna	13	8%	19	12%	124	79%	156	100%	141	297
	Metro Vancouver	289	13%	521	24%	1,350	63%	2,160	100%	1474	3,634
	Nanaimo	18	6%	60	18%	248	76%	326	100%	80	406
	Prince George	6	6%	29	27%	73	68%	108	100%	78	186
	Salt Spring Island	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	146	146
	Terrace	5	10%	18	38%	25	52%	48	100%	26	74
	Other Communities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	190	190
Total		573	10%	1,301	24%	3,588	66%	5,462	100%	3,203	8,665

Table 3.6: Health Conditions- Across Communities

Health Conditions		Medical Condition/ Illness		Physical Disability		Mental Health Issue		Addiction		Learning Disability or Cognitive Impairment		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
B.C. Count Communities	Campbell River	27	30%	23	26%	57	63%	62	69%	29	32%	90	100%	26	116
	Comox Valley	55	49%	54	48%	56	50%	64	57%	36	32%	113	100%	19	132
	Cranbrook	28	47%	20	34%	31	53%	38	64%	13	22%	59	100%	4	63
	Duncan	36	41%	41	47%	38	43%	55	63%	17	19%	88	100%	41	129
	Fort St. John	41	60%	33	49%	33	49%	42	62%	22	32%	68	100%	8	76
	Merritt	11	41%	8	30%	15	56%	21	78%	2	7%	27	100%	16	43
	Parksville/Qualicum	33	48%	34	49%	41	59%	47	68%	16	23%	69	100%	18	87
	Penticton	34	43%	39	49%	52	65%	50	63%	25	31%	80	100%	34	114
	Port Alberni	49	50%	43	44%	60	61%	86	88%	32	33%	98	100%	27	125
	Prince Rupert	37	43%	22	25%	26	30%	52	60%	13	15%	87	100%	31	118
	Quesnel	56	49%	44	39%	74	65%	96	84%	41	36%	114	100%	7	121
	Sechelt/Gibsons	22	37%	16	27%	34	57%	27	45%	10	17%	60	100%	24	84
	Smithers	15	56%	9	33%	13	48%	18	67%	11	41%	27	100%	6	33
	Squamish	23	26%	18	20%	34	38%	43	48%	9	10%	89	100%	18	107
	Vernon	42	43%	47	48%	62	63%	83	85%	36	37%	98	100%	126	224
Williams Lake	21	58%	13	36%	12	33%	26	72%	11	31%	36	100%	15	51	
Reaching Home and Other	Fraser Valley	245	37%	170	26%	287	44%	440	67%	0	0%	659	100%	236	895
	Greater Victoria	311	47%	277	42%	391	59%	466	70%	257	39%	663	100%	345	1,008
	Kamloops	64	46%	60	43%	83	60%	112	81%	43	31%	139	100%	67	206
	Kelowna	69	44%	60	38%	96	62%	124	79%	68	44%	156	100%	141	297
	Metro Vancouver	991	46%	786	36%	990	46%	1,306	60%	506	23%	2,160	100%	1,474	3,634
	Nanaimo	139	43%	109	33%	208	64%	262	80%	94	29%	326	100%	80	406
	Prince George	38	35%	38	35%	64	59%	77	71%	43	40%	108	100%	78	186
	Salt Spring Isl.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	146	146
	Terrace	16	33%	13	27%	15	31%	36	75%	13	27%	48	100%	26	74
	Other Comm.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	190	190
Total	2,403	44%	1,977	36%	2,772	51%	3,633	67%	1,347	25%	5,462	100%	3,203	8,665	

3.5 Youth in Care

Table 3.7 Youth in Care- Across Communities

Youth in Care		Yes (Currently or in Past)		No		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
B.C. Count Communities	Campbell River	40	45%	49	55%	89	100%	27	116
	Comox Valley	32	30%	76	70%	108	100%	24	132
	Cranbrook	15	27%	41	73%	56	100%	7	63
	Duncan	28	32%	59	68%	87	100%	42	129
	Fort St. John	22	32%	46	68%	68	100%	8	76
	Merritt	12	48%	13	52%	25	100%	18	43
	Parksville/Qualicum	16	25%	49	75%	65	100%	22	87
	Penticton	22	28%	56	72%	78	100%	36	114
	Port Alberni	58	60%	38	40%	96	100%	29	125
	Prince Rupert	32	37%	54	63%	86	100%	32	118
	Quesnel	38	34%	73	66%	111	100%	10	121
	Sechelt/Gibsons	12	19%	50	81%	62	100%	22	84
	Smithers	13	48%	14	52%	27	100%	6	33
	Squamish	14	16%	76	84%	90	100%	17	107
	Vernon	28	30%	66	70%	94	100%	130	224
Williams Lake	18	50%	18	50%	36	100%	15	51	
Reaching Home and Other	Fraser Valley	224	60%	149	40%	373	100%	522	895
	Greater Victoria	239	36%	423	64%	662	100%	346	1,008
	Kamloops	70	50%	71	50%	141	100%	65	206
	Kelowna	57	38%	95	63%	152	100%	145	297
	Metro Vancouver	678	32%	1,449	68%	2,127	100%	1,507	3,634
	Nanaimo	76	23%	250	77%	326	100%	80	406
	Prince George	52	50%	53	50%	105	100%	81	186
	Salt Spring Island	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	146	146
	Terrace	24	50%	24	50%	48	100%	26	74
	Other Communities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	190	190
Total	1,820	36%	3,292	64%	5,112	100%	3,553	8,665	

3.6 History of Homeless

Table 3.8: Length of Time Homeless - Across Communities

Length of Time Homeless		Under 6 Months		6 months to <1 year		1 year and over		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
B.C. Count Communities	Campbell River	19	22%	9	11%	57	67%	85	100%	31	116
	Comox Valley	38	33%	16	14%	60	53%	114	100%	18	132
	Cranbrook	20	39%	13	25%	18	35%	51	100%	12	63
	Duncan	19	23%	7	8%	57	69%	83	100%	46	129
	Fort St. John	28	45%	8	13%	26	42%	62	100%	14	76
	Merritt	9	35%	2	8%	15	58%	26	100%	17	43
	Parksville/Qualicum	12	16%	6	8%	56	76%	74	100%	13	87
	Penticton	22	30%	10	14%	41	56%	73	100%	41	114
	Port Alberni	11	11%	16	16%	72	73%	99	100%	26	125
	Prince Rupert	34	38%	10	11%	45	51%	89	100%	29	118
	Quesnel	47	42%	10	9%	56	50%	113	100%	8	121
	Sechelt/Gibsons	17	30%	5	9%	34	61%	56	100%	28	84
	Smithers	5	17%	1	3%	24	80%	30	100%	3	33
	Squamish	29	33%	9	10%	49	56%	87	100%	20	107
Vernon	23	25%	11	12%	58	63%	92	100%	132	224	
Williams Lake	16	48%	4	12%	13	39%	33	100%	18	51	
Reaching Home and Other	Fraser Valley	128	23%	66	12%	372	66%	566	100%	329	895
	Greater Victoria	109	18%	80	13%	426	69%	615	100%	393	1,008
	Kamloops	46	42%	9	8%	54	50%	109	100%	97	206
	Kelowna	43	30%	16	11%	86	59%	145	100%	152	297
	Metro Vancouver	548	26%	246	12%	1,326	63%	2,120	100%	1,514	3,634
	Nanaimo	53	17%	65	21%	199	63%	317	100%	89	406
	Prince George	19	19%	16	16%	63	64%	98	100%	88	186
	Salt Spring Island	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	146	146
	Terrace	15	31%	5	10%	29	59%	49	100%	25	74
	Other Communities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	190	190
Total		1,310	25%	640	12%	3,236	62%	5,186	100%	3,479	8,665

3.7 Time in Community

Table 3.9: Length of Time In Community - Across Communities

Length of Time in Community		Under 1 Year		1 Year to Under 5 Years		5 Years to Under 10 Years		10 Years or More		Always Been in Community		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
B.C. Count Communities	Campbell River	21	24%	15	17%	11	13%	14	16%	25	29%	86	100%	30	116
	Comox Valley	24	22%	17	15%	9	8%	35	32%	25	23%	110	100%	22	132
	Cranbrook	15	26%	10	18%	7	12%	14	25%	11	19%	57	100%	6	63
	Duncan	11	13%	21	24%	15	17%	25	28%	16	18%	88	100%	41	129
	Fort St. John	18	26%	6	9%	7	10%	13	19%	24	35%	68	100%	8	76
	Merritt	7	27%	4	15%	1	4%	8	31%	6	23%	26	100%	17	43
	Parksville/Qualicum	13	19%	17	25%	10	15%	17	25%	11	16%	68	100%	19	87
	Penticton	19	27%	13	18%	6	8%	22	31%	11	15%	71	100%	43	114
	Port Alberni	4	5%	12	14%	8	9%	21	24%	43	49%	88	100%	37	125
	Prince Rupert	7	8%	11	13%	3	4%	20	24%	42	51%	83	100%	35	118
	Quesnel	16	14%	20	18%	13	12%	34	30%	29	26%	112	100%	9	121
	Sechelt/Gibsons	15	24%	13	21%	5	8%	12	19%	17	27%	62	100%	22	84
	Smithers	4	15%	2	8%	2	8%	3	12%	15	58%	26	100%	7	33
	Squamish	15	18%	24	29%	11	13%	21	26%	11	13%	82	100%	25	107
	Vernon	15	16%	25	27%	14	15%	27	29%	12	13%	93	100%	131	224
Williams Lake	5	15%	3	9%	1	3%	8	24%	17	50%	34	100%	17	51	
Reaching Home and Other	Fraser Valley	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	895	895
	Greater Victoria	78	12%	103	16%	66	10%	241	37%	161	25%	649	100%	359	1,008
	Kamloops	33	24%	27	20%	16	12%	41	30%	19	14%	136	100%	70	206
	Kelowna	32	21%	39	25%	20	13%	50	32%	13	8%	154	100%	143	297
	Metro Vancouver	379	18%	375	18%	235	11%	722	35%	371	18%	2,082	100%	1,552	3,634
	Nanaimo	28	9%	52	16%	30	9%	98	30%	118	36%	326	100%	80	406
	Prince George	9	9%	19	18%	15	14%	36	34%	26	25%	105	100%	81	186
	Salt Spring Isl.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	146	146
	Terrace	12	24%	10	20%	2	4%	12	24%	14	28%	50	100%	24	74
	Other Comm.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	190	190
Total	780	17%	838	18%	507	11%	1,494	32%	1,037	22%	4,656	100%	4,009	8,665	

4 | Methodology

This section describes the methodology of the 2020/21 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. It also provides an overview of the project management and implementation approach, the response rate, and limitations of the homeless count.

4.1 Application of the Point-in-Time Approach

This report includes data from homeless counts conducted in 25 communities in the spring of 2020 and 2021. Each count took place over a 24-hour period to provide a “snapshot” of homelessness in the community during that time. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this report includes homeless counts that occurred in both 2020 and 2021. One count was conducted in May 2021, outside of the usual March/April homeless count window.

Thirteen counts occurred in 2020, prior to March 17, 2020, when British Columbia’s Provincial Health Officer declared a public health emergency under British Columbia’s Public Health Act. This includes eight B.C. funded counts, four Reaching Home funded counts, and one independent count. Twelve counts took place in 2021, including eight B.C. funded counts, two Reaching Home funded counts, and two independent counts.

This report also includes data for the night of April 8, 2021, from BC Housing-funded shelters, transition houses for women and their children at risk of violence, and safe homes located in communities that were not involved in a homeless count. Cumulatively this data was used to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness throughout B.C.

While the survey methodology remained consistent in 2021, the eight B.C. funded counts altered their approach to implementing the counts to ensure safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. This included:

- › Not using volunteer interviewers. Traditionally, the count has relied on volunteers to administer surveys. Due to COVID-19, surveys were conducted primarily by shelter staff and outreach teams for both the sheltered and unsheltered counts. This approach ensured that people experiencing homelessness would be in contact only with people who were already engaging with them, and who were familiar with safety protocols.
- › The counts did not utilize magnet events, or any community events, but relied on existing networks amongst peers, service providers and outreach teams. A magnet event is a strategy used during a PiT Count to attract individuals experiencing homelessness to a planned event and is explained in more detail in Sections 4.3 and 5.2.
- › Training was conducted in each community on the day of the count for all individuals who would be conducting surveys. Training included count-specific safety protocols, general PPE, sanitization, and physical distancing training.
- › Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was provided for everyone involved in conducting the count. HSABC brought PPE for anyone who did not have some readily available. This PPE included a disposable non-surgical mask and gloves, and protective eyewear. Most individuals were able to provide their own PPE.

4.2 Selection of Communities

This homeless count report builds on the foundation of previous counts in B.C., including counts funded by the federal government through Reaching Home and independent counts. The 16 B.C. count communities were selected because they were part of the original 12 communities from 2018 or reflected the diversity of B.C.'s geography. These counts followed the same fundamental methodology used in 2018 as well as previous counts in the Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley regions. The counts were completed within the municipal boundaries of each community³⁴, except for:

- › Parksville/Qualicum – included Qualicum Beach, Parksville, and Bowser
- › Sechelt/Gibsons – included Sechelt, Gibsons, and a count event in Roberts Creek
- › Comox Valley – included Comox, Courtney, and Cumberland
- › Duncan – included the Cowichan Valley

Reaching Home and independent counts were included because they followed the same Point-in-Time (PiT) count method and were conducted in the spring.

4.3 Sixteen B.C. Funded Count Communities

HSABC engaged and supported local coordinators to implement the count in each of the 16 B.C. funded count communities. The primary goal was to ensure the PiT count methodology was applied consistently across each community with respect to the approach and methodology, definitions, and purpose and structure of the interview questions to ensure accurate data collection. In all communities, HSABC worked with local coordinators to:

- › Engage survey administrators from community agencies, individuals with lived experience of homelessness, and the general community.
- › Work 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 “dropsite” where individuals could have the opportunity to complete a survey as part of their normal visit to the agency
 - › Spread the word about the count date and its importance through posters and leaflets
- › Host a “magnet” event that provided food or other services to community members, where the surveys could be completed. The event, generally lasting a few hours, is advertised well in advance of the day of the count, and usually includes food, services and the option to complete a PiT Count survey. The strategy increases the opportunity to survey individuals experiencing homelessness who might otherwise not be surveyed through a sheltered or unsheltered count. Due to COVID-19, only counts conducted in 2020 were able to host magnet events.
- › Provide consistent local 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.
- › When possible, be in community on the day of the count to support the local coordinator, survey administrators, and local agencies. In 2020, HSABC had at least one staff member in six communities that conducted their count. In 2021 HSABC had two staff members in all eight communities that conducted counts.

³⁴ Surveys were not conducted on First Nations reserves.

Shelter Count

The shelter counts took place on the evening before the street count in each of the 16 provincially funded count communities. Shelter counts provided information about individuals staying overnight in emergency shelters, Extreme Weather Response shelters (EWRs), transition houses for women and children fleeing abuse, safe homes, detox facilities, and for people with no fixed address (NFA) staying in hospitals and jails.

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

To ensure that the count was as accurate as possible, each emergency shelter, transition house for women and children fleeing abuse, youth safe house and detox facility were asked to complete a shelter statistics form to record the total number of people who stayed overnight at the site. Not all individuals staying at a shelter will fill out a survey; however, because of the shelter statistics form, the total number of people staying in a shelter facility was counted. Jails provided a tally of individuals with no fixed address staying in jail cells on the night of the count in each community.

Health authorities participated by submitting tallies of individuals with no fixed address staying at each community's hospital on the night of the count. In addition, data from BC Housing-funded shelters, transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, and safe homes in communities that did not complete a count was provided through BC Housing.

Street Count

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

Local coordinators identified these locations in each community through route mapping exercises in partnership with community agencies, outreach workers and service providers prior to the count. Survey administrators, working in teams of two, were assigned to specific locations and given maps and/or instructions to approach individuals and conduct a survey.

Each survey respondent was asked a series of screening questions and screened out if they indicated that they either 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. While these individuals were not added to the total number of sheltered respondents, as shelter data was collected through shelter stats forms, the survey was completed to collect demographic and service use data to better understand the profile of shelter users. When an individual indicated they had already filled out a survey, the survey was stopped and screened out. People who reported staying at someone else's place on the night of the count but did not have a place where they paid rent were considered unsheltered and were screened in.

Survey Design and Administration

Two survey instruments were used for the counts in the 16 B.C. count communities: a street survey and a shelter survey. In the spring of 2019, BC Housing hosted a two-day workshop that included participants from B.C. Count communities, Reaching Home communities, independent count communities as well as government employees and consultants who coordinated the counts and conducted the data analysis. The purpose of the workshop was to increase harmonization among count surveys throughout the province in an effort to allow for further aggregation of data. The result of the workshop was an increase in methodological alignment throughout the province in approaches to PiT counts.

In the core 16 BC communities, individuals approached by survey administrators were offered a cigarette, or snack as an ice-breaker, prior to being asked to participate in a survey. Survey administrators were instructed to ensure informed consent was given by each survey respondent prior to beginning the survey and were also instructed to stop an interview immediately if they were approached by the media to protect the privacy of the person they were interviewing.

The B.C. count team worked in collaboration with community representatives from all of the Reaching Home and independent count communities throughout the entire count process. Each of the non-B.C. count communities provided raw survey data on sheltered and unsheltered individuals so that data analysis could include all 25 count communities. The high level of collaboration of all participating communities allowed for a high level of data confidence for all 25 count communities.

Additions to the Survey

There were a number of additions to the 2020/21 Homeless count survey. They include:

- › The 2020/21 Homeless Count asked about the racial identities of people experiencing homelessness. This question was developed in partnership with Hogan’s Alley Society and Dr. Carl James, Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora at York University. The Federal Government adopted this as a required question for communities that conducted a count in 2021.
- › Added the category of “Learning Disability or Cognitive Impairment” as answer option on the health challenges question.
- › Participants were asked “Do you have an Acquired Brain Injury?”
- › Counts conducted in 2021 asked “Was your most recent housing loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic?”

Survey Participation Rates

Data for the homeless counts in the 16 B.C. count communities was collected through two streams:

- › Basic data on shelter capacity, occupancy, and age was obtained from shelter providers. Health authorities, jails and detox facilities also provided data for those staying temporarily in their facilities (and having “No Fixed Address”). The data obtained from shelter providers, health authorities, detox and jails provided the total number of sheltered respondents.
- › Interviewers conducted surveys on the night of the count in shelters and during the day on the street in each of the 16 B.C. count communities. The surveys included screening and interview questions that were asked of every person who was identified as experiencing homelessness and who agreed to and was able to participate in the survey. The number of people screened in as experiencing street homelessness also provides the total number of unsheltered/ street homeless. Detailed demographic information used to establish a profile of the homeless population is available for only people who answered the survey.

	Sheltered Survey Respondents	Total Sheltered Individuals	Response Rate
16 B.C. Count Communities	465	773	60%
Reaching Home Communities	1,813	3,868	47%
Other Communities	396	502	79%
Total Response Rate	2,674	5,333	50%

Extended Count

Two B.C. count communities, as part of the 2020/21 homeless count, conducted an extended count in addition to a 24-hour PiT count.³⁵ A PiT count represents the minimum number of individuals experiencing homelessness in a community. The purpose of the extended count was to try to reach people who are likely to be missed in the traditional PiT count. The extended count involved a community conducting surveys in the four days following the 24-hour PiT count. The extended count only involved agencies that participated in the PiT count and did not include a street count. The PiT count analysis in this report does not include individuals who completed surveys during the extended count if they were not counted during the 24-hour PiT count.

An extended count took place in Cranbrook in 2020 and Port Alberni in 2021. In total, there were an additional 11 unsheltered individuals counted in the two communities. Another six individuals were identified during the extended count, however, they had already been counted as part of the shelter component of the 24-hour PiT count. Due to the small number of people experiencing homelessness who were identified in the extended count, it is not possible to conclude whether the demographic makeup of people identified in the extended count differs from the traditional PiT count.

³⁵ An extended count was also conducted on the North Shore as part of the Metro Vancouver homeless count. The results of this count are included in their report.

4.4 Limitations

Homeless counts are inherently undercounts and the counts that make up this report are no different. While in each community, every effort was made to include as many individuals experiencing homelessness as possible, we were not able to speak with each individual experiencing homelessness, and not every individual experiencing homelessness wanted to be surveyed.

Participation Rate Amongst Unsheltered Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

For a variety of reasons individuals experiencing homelessness who are approached during the count may choose not to participate. In all communities there are many counts, surveys, needs assessments and other situations where individuals experiencing homelessness are asked to speak about their history. Due to this continual process some individuals may choose not to participate. Stigma associated with homelessness can also contribute to an individual choosing not to participate in the count.

Individuals Who Were Not Approached by Survey Administrators

While the count teams, community organizations, and survey administrators worked to promote the counts, and ensure that anyone experiencing homelessness would be counted, in every community there are individuals who are not included. Research also shows that youth and women may couch surf or live in unsafe situations to avoid street homelessness. While efforts were made to host events that provided additional food and services to welcome and engage individuals experiencing homelessness, not everyone attended the events and those who did, may not have completed a survey.

Length of Survey

For some individuals the length of the survey presented a barrier. However, in all communities there were 3-4 screening questions at the beginning. If an individual chose to answer the screening questions and end the survey they were still able to be screened in. The survey generally took about 7-10 minutes to complete. Questions asked later in the survey were more likely to have a lower response rate.

Impact of COVID-19 on Homeless Counts

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, just over half (13/25) of communities included in this report conducted their counts before March 17, 2020, when British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer declared a public health emergency under British Columbia's Public Health Act. The remaining 12 communities completed their counts in 2021. The result is that this report includes counts that occurred before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. No community conducted a count in both years, meaning that we are unable to quantify the impacts of COVID-19 on the counts.

5 | Appendices

5.1 Report Data Sources

As shown in Figure 2, this report includes data from the provincially, federally and independently funded homeless counts as well as shelter data from other B.C. communities.

Figure 2: 2020-2021 Homeless Counts in B.C.

	Community	Date	Source
B. C. FUNDED COUNTS	Campbell River	April 9, 2021	
	Comox Valley	March 11, 2020	
	Cranbrook	March 11, 2020	
	Duncan	March 12, 2020	
	Fort St. John	March 11, 2020	
	Merritt	March 11, 2020	
	Parksville/Qualicum	April 27, 2021	
	Penticton	April 20, 2021	
	Port Alberni	April 7, 2021	
	Prince Rupert	April 13, 2021	
	Quesnel	March 10, 2020	
	Sechelt/Gibsons	March 6, 2020	
	Smithers	April 15, 2021	
	Squamish	April 29, 2021	
	Vernon	May 7, 2021	
Williams Lake	March 10, 2020		
HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY FUNDED COUNTS	Fraser Valley	March 4, 2020	https://www.fvrd.ca/EN/meta/news/news-archives/2020/2020-homeless-count-shows-increase-in-the-fraser-valley.html
	Greater Victoria	March 12, 2020	https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/housing-pdf/housing-planning-and-programs/crd-pit-count-2020-community-report-2020-07-31.pdf
	Kamloops	April 16, 2021	https://www.kamloops.ca/our-community/housing-and-homelessness/homeless-count
	Kelowna	March 10, 2020	https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/community-engagement/2018-point-time-count/
	Metro Vancouver	March 4, 2020	https://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/initiatives/2020-homeless-count
	Nanaimo	March 12, 2020	https://www.uwcncvi.ca/latest-news/in-your-community/2020-nanaimo-point-time-homeless-count
	Prince George	March 18, 2021	https://www.pгнаeta.bc.ca/uploads/homelessness/Prince%20George%20PIT%202021%20Count.pdf
INDEPENDENT	Salt Spring Island	March 31, 2021	Not Available
	Terrace	April 20, 2021	https://www.terrace.ca/social-development

Figure 3 includes communities that did not conduct homeless counts in 2020 or 2021 where there are BC Housing-funded shelters, transition houses for women and their children as risk of violence, and safe homes. The number of people staying at these sites on the evening of April 8, 2021 were included in the total number of people experiencing homelessness.

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

5.2 Glossary of Terms and Definitions

The following terms are used throughout the report.

Accompanied Children	Refers to children under 19 who were with their parent or guardian during the 2018 Homeless Count. Children are counted below the age of 19 based on reporting in the shelter statistics forms and responses to the question “Are you with anyone today?” No individual survey record of these individuals exists, as they were not interviewed. Unaccompanied youth refers to anyone under the age of 25 who was not physically accompanied by a parent during the Count (e.g. interviewed on the street).
Don’t know/no answer	Respondents in this category include both respondents who declined to answer a question but who may have completed the rest of the survey, and individuals who did not answer the survey at all, but were counted through additional information from shelter operators, hospitals, jails and BC Housing. It also includes participants in counts where the question was not asked or the data could not be integrated with the provincially-funded count.

Indigenous Identity	“Indigenous identity” refers to whether the person identified with the Indigenous peoples of Canada. This includes those who are First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who are Registered or Treaty Indians (that is, registered under the Indian Act of Canada), and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band. Indigenous peoples of Canada are defined in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35 (2) as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. ³⁶
2SLGBTQIA+ Individual	Individuals who identify as two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual or questioning. Refers to all people included in the count’s total number, including those who were counted through additional information from shelter operators, hospitals, jails and BC Housing and through the survey.
Magnet Event	A magnet event is a strategy used during a PiT Count to attract individuals experiencing homelessness to a planned event. The event, generally lasting a few hours, is advertised well in advance of the day of the count, and usually includes food, services and the option to complete a PiT Count survey. The strategy increases the opportunity to survey individuals experiencing homelessness who might otherwise not be surveyed through a sheltered or unsheltered count.
NFA/No Fixed Address locations	Includes jails and hospitals, and short-term medical facilities; respondents/ individuals are included in “Sheltered” unless broken out differently in specific tables.
Sheltered	“Sheltered” individuals or respondents includes all those who stayed or answered a survey and slept at either a temporary nightly shelter, winter response shelter or other shelter programs, such as transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth. It also includes individuals with no fixed address (see NFA) unless this information is detailed differently in specific tables.
Unsheltered	“Unsheltered” individuals or respondents includes all those who completed a street survey and who had no physical shelter the previous night (i.e. were staying outside, in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks and vehicles). It also includes people who were staying temporarily at someone else’s place (couch surfing) the previous night, and who were interviewed on the street or at a homeless service.

36 Statistics Canada. No date. “Indigenous identity of person.” Definitions, data sources and methods, variables. Last updated April 01, 2021. <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DEC&Id=42927>

5.3 Community Contributors for B.C. Count Communities

Community	Community Organization
Campbell River	AIDS Vancouver Island
Campbell River	Campbell River & North Island Transition Society
Campbell River	Campbell River School District
Campbell River	Hama?Elas Community Kitchen
Campbell River	Kwakiutl District Council Health
Campbell River	Kwesa Place
Campbell River	MHSA ACT Teams
Campbell River	Mobile Outreach Unit for Health and Support Services (MOUHSS)
Campbell River	Salvation Army
Campbell River	Sasamans
Campbell River	The John Howard Society of North Island
Campbell River	VIMHS - Overdose Prevention Site
Campbell River	VIMHS - Rosebowl
Comox Valley	AIDS Vancouver Island
Comox Valley	Amethyst House
Comox Valley	City of Courtenay Bylaw
Comox Valley	Comox Bay Care Society Care-A-Van
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Family Services
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Head Injury Society
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Recovery Centre
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Transition Society
Comox Valley	Connect Warming Centre
Comox Valley	Courtenay Library
Comox Valley	Cumberland Community Housing Society
Comox Valley	Eureka Support Society
Comox Valley	Glacierview Lodge
Comox Valley	Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society
Comox Valley	LILLI House
Comox Valley	Ministry of Poverty & Social Development
Comox Valley	North Island College
Comox Valley	Nursing Centre
Comox Valley	Salvation Army Family Services
Comox Valley	Salvation Army Pidcock House
Comox Valley	The John Howard Society of North Island
Comox Valley	Wachiay Friendship Centre
Cranbrook	Ankors
Cranbrook	Belies to Babies
Cranbrook	Better at Home
Cranbrook	Boys and Girls Club
Cranbrook	Brain Injury
Cranbrook	CBAL

Community	Community Organization
Cranbrook	CMHA
Cranbrook	College of the Rockies
Cranbrook	Community Paramedicine
Cranbrook	Community Social Planning Society of Cranbrook and Area
Cranbrook	EKASS
Cranbrook	Ktunaxa Education and Employment
Cranbrook	Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services
Cranbrook	ktunaxa Social work coordinator
Cranbrook	Mary Basil House
Cranbrook	Mental Health & Substance Use Outreach Team
Cranbrook	Metis Employment and training
Cranbrook	Operation Street Angel: Ktunaxa Nation
Cranbrook	Pacific Coast Community Resources
Cranbrook	Salvation Army
Cranbrook	Salvation Army Coordinator- Community Ministries
Cranbrook	SD5
Cranbrook	Summit Community Services
Cranbrook	The Homeless Outreach Team
Cranbrook	United Way of Cranbrook and Kimberley
Cranbrook	Womens Resource Center
Cranbrook	Work BC
Duncan	Basket Society
Duncan	Cowichan House, Chemainus
Duncan	Cowichan Tribes
Duncan	CWAV Womens night shelter
Duncan	Duncan United Church
Duncan	Hiiye'yu Lelum House of Friendship
Duncan	Ladysmith EWS
Duncan	Ladysmith Resource Centre
Duncan	Lake Cowichan Family Services
Duncan	Phoenix Wellness
Duncan	Salvation Army
Duncan	Somonos House
Duncan	VIHA Mental Health
Duncan	Warmlands House
Duncan	Warmlands House
Fort Saint John	FSJ Womens Resource society
Fort Saint John	Meope House
Fort Saint John	Salvation Army
Fort Saint John	Urban Matters
Merritt	ASK Wellness
Merritt	Conayt Friendship Society
Merritt	Library

Community	Community Organization
Merritt	Nicola Valley Region and District Foodbank
Merritt	Nicola Valley Shelter & Support Society
Parksville	CMHA Mid Island
Parksville	Forward House Community Services Society
Parksville	Haven Society
Parksville	Hirst House
Parksville	Island Crisis Care Society
Parksville	Lighthouse Community Hall – Soupy Café
Parksville	Manna Homeless Society
Parksville	NARSF
Parksville	OHEART
Parksville	Society of Organized Services
Parksville	The Salvation Army
Penticton	Foundry
Penticton	Keep The Cold Off Penticton
Penticton	Pathways Addictions
Penticton	Penticton And District Society for Community Living
Penticton	Soupateria
Port Alberni	Alberni Community and Women's Services
Port Alberni	Alberni Drug and Alcohol Prevention Society
Port Alberni	Better at Home/Alberni Valley Assisted Living Society
Port Alberni	Bread of Life Society
Port Alberni	Canadian Mental Health Association – Port Alberni
Port Alberni	City of Port Alberni
Port Alberni	INEO Employment Services
Port Alberni	Island Health - Mental Health & Substance Abuse
Port Alberni	Josie Osborne MLA - Constituency Office
Port Alberni	Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society
Port Alberni	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction/Service BC
Port Alberni	Port Alberni Friendship Centre
Port Alberni	Port Alberni Shelter Society
Port Alberni	The New Leaf Supportive Recovery
Prince Rupert	Change Makers' Education Society
Prince Rupert	Friendship House
Prince Rupert	Mental Health and Addictions CORE
Prince Rupert	North Coast Transition Society
Prince Rupert	Prince Rupert Indigenous Housing Society Git Lax M'oon
Prince Rupert	Raven's Keep Transition House
Prince Rupert	Unemployed Action Center
Quesnel	Amata Transition House
Quesnel	Quesnel Shelter & Support Society
Quesnel	Salvation Army
Quesnel	School District 28

Community	Community Organization
Quesnel	Tillicum Society Friendship Centre
Quesnel	Victory Way Church
Quesnel	Westside Mental Health and Substance Use
Sechelt	Arrowhead Mental Health Clubhouse (SCCSS)
Sechelt	Intensive Case Management Team
Sechelt	Needle Exchange (VCH)
Sechelt	RainCity Housing
Sechelt	Salvation Army
Sechelt	Sechelt Foodbank (SCCSS)
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Community Services Society
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Mental Health and Addictions Services (VCH)
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Youth Outreach (SCCSS)
Sechelt	Yew Transition House (SCCSS)
Smithers	Northern Health-Mental Health and Addictions
Smithers	Passage House
Smithers	Positive Living North
Smithers	Smithers Community Services Association
Smithers	Turning Points Northwest
Squamish	Brennan Park Rec Centre
Squamish	Hands Society
Squamish	Helping Hands Society
Squamish	HOTSPOT (SVC)
Squamish	Howe Sound Women's Centre
Squamish	Sea to Sky Community Services
Squamish	VCH MHSU
Squamish	Work BC
Vernon	Archway Society for Domestic Peace
Vernon	Cammy LaFleur Street Outreach
Vernon	North Okanagan Friendship Center
Vernon	Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan
Vernon	Turning Points Collaborative Society
Vernon	Vernon Mental Health & Substance Use
Williams Lake	Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) - Cariboo Chil-cotin Branch
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society – Shelter
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society - Transition House
Williams Lake	Library
Williams Lake	Mental Health Substance Use
Williams Lake	Salvation Army

5.4 Survey Instruments

Survey #:

SHELTER Survey | 2020 Homeless Count



Interviewer Name: _____ Location: _____

PART 1: SCREENING

1. Are you willing to participate in the survey?

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

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

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

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

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

PART 2: SURVEY

Please read: For the next questions, homeless means: "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent and can stay for 30 days".

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

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years
 Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

Age _____ Year _____
 Don't know/No answer

8. What gender do you identify with? [**Show or read list & check one**]

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

9. Do you identify as someone with trans experience (your gender identity is different than how you were born)?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know/No answer

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

- Yes. Check one:
 Immigrant (**Go to Q.10a**)
 Refugee (**Go to Q.10a**)
 Refugee Claimant (**Go to Q.10a**)
 No (**Go to Q.11**)
 Don't know/No answer (**Go to Q.11**)

10a. How long have you been in Canada?

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years

Or date of arrival: _____
 Day Month Year

- Don't know/No answer

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

- Yes. **Check all that apply:**
 First Nations. **Specify:** _____ (**Go to Q.12**)
 Inuit. **Specify:** _____ (**Go to Q.12**)
 Métis. **Specify:** _____ (**Go to Q.12**)
 Indigenous Ancestry. **Specify:** _____ (**Go to Q.12**)
 Not listed. **Specify:** _____ (**Go to Q.12**)
 No (**Go to Q.13**)
 Unsure/No answer (**Go to Q.13**)

12. In addition to your response to the previous question, do you identify with any racial groups (e.g. Black, South Asian, White, etc.)?

- Yes (**Go to Q.13**)
 No (**Go to Q.14**)
 Don't know/No answer (**Go to Q.13**)

13. Thinking of race, how would you identify yourself?

[**Check all that apply**]

- Arab (e.g., Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni)
 Asian – East (e.g. Chinese, Korean, Japanese)
 Asian – South-East (e.g. Vietnamese, Filipino)
 Asian – South (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)
 Asian – West (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, Turkish)
 Black – Caribbean and Latin America (e.g. Jamaican)
 Black – African (e.g. Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian)
 Black – Canadian/American
 Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Mexican)
 White (e.g. European – English, Ukrainian, French)
 Not listed. **Specify:** _____
 Don't know/No answer

14. Do you have family members or anyone else staying with you tonight?

- Yes. **Check all that apply:**
 Partner/Spouse
 Child(ren)/Dependents: **How many?** _____
 Pets
 Not listed. **Specify:** _____
 No
 Don't know/No Answer

PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

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

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

16. Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth? (e.g. from injury related to an accident, violence, an overdose, stroke or brain tumour)

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

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

____ Days ____ Weeks ____ Months ____ Yrs (**Go to Q.17a**)

- Always been here (**Go to Q.18**)
- Don't know/No answer (**Go to Q.18**)

17a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. city)?

Community: _____ AND province: _____

OR country: _____

- Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

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

20. What services have you used in the past 12 months? [Read list & Check all that apply]

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

21. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? (Includes army, navy, airforce, RCMP). [Check all that apply]

- Yes, Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
- Yes, RCMP
- No
- Don't know/No answer

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

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

23. 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)
- Unfit/unsafe housing condition
- Building sold or renovated
- Owner moved in
- Landlord/tenant conflict
- Complaint (e.g. Pets/noise/damage)
- Left the community

B. Interpersonal and Family Issues

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

C. Health or Corrections

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

D. Other

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

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

____ Days ____ Weeks ____ Months

- Don't know/No answer

End

Survey #:

STREET Survey | 2020 Homeless Count



Interviewer Name: _____ Location: _____

PART 1: SCREENING

1. Are you willing to participate in the survey?

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

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

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

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

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

4. Where did you stay last night?

- Outside (Go to Q.5)
- Makeshift shelter or tent (Go to Q.5)

Question continues in the next column----->

- Abandoned/vacant building (Go to Q.5)
- Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck, boat). Specify vehicle: _____ (Go to Q.5)
- Shelter, Safe House, Transition House. Specify name: _____ (Go to Q.5)
- Detox/Hospital/Jail. Specify name: _____ (Go to Q.5)
- Someone else's place or couch-surfing (Go to 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 temporary situation and I do not have a house or apartment I can safely return to (Go to Q.5)
- Own place inside where you pay rent. Specify: _____ (END)
- Not listed. Specify: _____ (Go to Q.5)
- Don't know/No answer (END)

PART 2: SURVEY

Please read: For the next questions, homeless means: "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent and can stay for 30 days".

5. How long have you been without a place of your own? _____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years

- Don't know/No answer

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

Age _____ Year born _____

- Don't know/No answer

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

Age _____ Year _____

- Don't know/No answer

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

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

9. Do you identify as someone with trans experience (your gender identity is different than how you were born)?

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

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

- Yes. Check one:
 - Immigrant (Go to Q.10a)
 - Refugee (Go to Q.10a)
 - Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.10a)
- No (Go to Q.11)
- Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.11)

10a. How long have you been in Canada?

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years

Or date of arrival: _____
Day Month Year

- Don't know/No answer

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

- Yes. Check all that apply:
 - First Nations. Specify: _____ (Go to Q.12)
 - Inuit. Specify: _____ (Go to Q.12)
 - Métis. Specify: _____ (Go to Q.12)
 - Indigenous Ancestry. Specify: _____ (Go to Q.12)
 - Not listed. Specify: _____ (Go to Q.12)
- No (Go to Q.13)
- Unsure/No answer (Go to Q.13)

12. In addition to your response to the previous question, do you identify with any racial groups (e.g. Black, South Asian, White, etc.)?

- Yes (Go to Q.13)
- No (Go to Q.14)
- Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.13)

13. Thinking of race, how would you identify yourself? [Check all that apply]

- Arab (e.g., Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni)
- Asian – East (e.g. Chinese, Korean, Japanese)
- Asian – South-East (e.g. Vietnamese, Filipino)
- Asian – South (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)
- Asian – West (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, Turkish)
- Black – Caribbean and Latin America (e.g. Jamaican)
- Black – African (e.g. Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian)
- Black – Canadian/American
- Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Mexican)
- White (e.g. European – English, Ukrainian, French)
- Not listed. Specify: _____
- Don't know/No answer

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

- Yes. Check all that apply:
 - Partner/Spouse
 - Child(ren)/Dependents: How many? _____
 - Pets
 - Not listed. Specify: _____
- No
- Don't know/No Answer

PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

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

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

16. Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth? (e.g. from injury related to an accident, violence, an overdose, stroke or brain tumour)

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

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

___ Days ___ Weeks ___ Months ___ Yrs (**Go to Q.17a**)

- Always been here (**Go to Q.18**)
- Don't know/No answer (**Go to Q.18**)

17a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. city)?

Community: _____ AND province: _____

OR country: _____
 Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Read list & Check all that apply]

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

22. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? (Includes army, navy, airforce, RCMP). [Check all that apply]

- Yes, Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
- Yes, RCMP
- No
- Don't know/No answer

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

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

24. 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)
- Unfit/unsafe housing condition
- Building sold or renovated
- Owner moved in
- Landlord/tenant conflict
- Complaint (e.g. Pets/noise/damage)
- Left the community

B. Interpersonal and Family Issues

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

C. Health or Corrections

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

D. Other

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

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

___ Days ___ Weeks ___ Months
 Don't know/No answer

End

Survey #:

SHELTER Survey | 2021 Homeless Count



Interviewer Name: _____ Location: _____

PART 1: SCREENING

1. Are you willing to participate in the survey?

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

2. Have you already answered this survey today (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**)

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

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

PART 2: SURVEY

Please read: For the next questions, homeless means: "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent and can stay for 30 days".

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

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years

- Don't know/No answer

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

Age _____ Year born _____

- Don't know/No answer

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

Age _____ Year _____

- Don't know/No answer

8. What gender do you identify with? **[Show or read list & check one]**

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

9. Do you identify as someone with trans experience (your gender identity is different than how you were born)?

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

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

Yes. Check one:

- Immigrant (**Go to Q.10a**)
- Refugee (**Go to Q.10a**)
- Refugee Claimant (**Go to Q.10a**)
- No (**Go to Q.11**)
- Don't know/No answer (**Go to Q.11**)

10a. How long have you been in Canada?

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years

Or date of arrival: _____
Day Month Year

- Don't know/No answer

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

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

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]

- 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: _____
- Identify as Indigenous only
- Don't know
- No answer

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

- Yes. **Check all that apply:**
 - Partner/Spouse
 - Child(ren)/Dependents: **How many?** _____
 - Pets
 - Not listed. **Specify:** _____
- No
- Don't know/No Answer



PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

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

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

14. Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth? (e.g. from injury related to an accident, violence, an overdose, stroke or brain tumour)

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

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

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

- Always been here (Go to Q.16)
- Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.16)

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

Community: _____ AND province: _____

OR country: _____

- Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Read list & Check all that apply]

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

20. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? (Includes army, navy, airforce, RCMP). [Check all that apply]

- Yes, Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
- Yes, RCMP
- No
- Don't know/No answer

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

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

22. 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)
- Unfit/unsafe housing condition
- Building sold or renovated
- Owner moved in
- Landlord/tenant conflict
- Complaint (e.g. Pets/noise/damage)
- Left the community

B. Interpersonal and Family Issues

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

C. Health or Corrections

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

D. Other

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

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

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

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

- _____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months
- Don't know/No answer

Survey #:

STREET Survey | 2021 Homeless Count



Interviewer Name: _____ Location: _____

PART 1: SCREENING

1. Are you willing to participate in the survey?

- Yes (Go to Q.2)
- No (END)
- Don't know/No answer (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. Do you currently have a place to stay where you pay monthly rent?

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

4. Where did you stay last night?

- Outside (Go to Q.5)
- Makeshift shelter or tent (Go to Q.5)

Question continues in the next column----->

Abandoned/vacant building (Go to Q.5)

Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck, boat). Specify vehicle: _____ (Go to Q.5)

Shelter, Safe House, Transition House. Specify name: _____ (Go to Q.5)

Detox/Hospital/Jail. Specify name: _____ (Go to Q.5)

Someone else's place or couch-surfing (Go to 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 temporary situation and I do not have a house or apartment I can safely return to (Go to Q.5)

Own place inside where you pay rent.

Specify: _____ (END)

Not listed. Specify: _____ (Go to Q.5)

Don't know/No answer (END)

PART 2: SURVEY

Please read: For the next questions, homeless means: "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent and can stay for 30 days".

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

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years

- Don't know/No answer

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

Age _____ Year born _____

- Don't know/No answer

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

Age _____ Year _____

- Don't know/No answer

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

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

9. Do you identify as someone with trans experience (your gender identity is different than how you were born)?

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

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

Yes. Check one:

- Immigrant (Go to Q.10a)
- Refugee (Go to Q.10a)
- Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.10a)
- No (Go to Q.11)
- Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.11)

10a. How long have you been in Canada?

_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months _____ Years

Or date of arrival: _____
Day Month Year

- Don't know/No answer

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

Yes. Check all that apply:

- First Nations. Specify: _____
- Inuit. Specify: _____
- Métis. Specify: _____
- Indigenous Ancestry. Specify: _____
- Not listed. Specify: _____

No

Unsure/No answer

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]

- 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: _____
- Identify as Indigenous only
- Don't know
- No answer

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

Yes. Check all that apply:

- Partner/Spouse
- Child(ren)/Dependents: How many? _____
- Pets
- Not listed. Specify: _____

No

Don't know/No Answer

PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

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

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

14. Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth? (e.g. from injury related to an accident, violence, an overdose, stroke or brain tumour)

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

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

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

- Always been here **(Go to Q.16)**
- Don't know/No answer **(Go to Q.16)**

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

Community: _____ AND province: _____

OR country: _____
 Don't know/No answer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Read list & Check all that apply]

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

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

- Yes, Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
- Yes, RCMP
- No
- Don't know/No answer

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

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

22. 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)
- Unfit/unsafe housing condition
- Building sold or renovated
- Owner moved in
- Landlord/tenant conflict
- Complaint (e.g. Pets/noise/damage)
- Left the community

B. Interpersonal and Family Issues

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

C. Health or Corrections

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

D. Other

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

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

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

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

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

About HSABC

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

Our key areas of focus include:

- › **Training** – we provide skills training and professional development opportunities to build the confidence and capacity of the homelessness serving sector across BC.
- › **Program Implementation** – we coordinate and implement programs such as the Extreme Weather Response Program to increase shelter beds available during critical weather conditions, as well as supporting the sector to deliver other essential services for those experiencing homelessness.
- › **Conference and Networking** – we provide networking opportunities to build resilience and connectivity across the sector.
- › **Research** – we develop and implement research and evidence-based best practices to address the causes and solutions to homelessness.
- › **Sector Support** – we unify and strengthen the voice of the sector to represent distinct and unique regional perspectives, and approaches addressing the needs of diverse communities experiencing homelessness.

