

2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.

Prepared by Homelessness Services Association of BC,
Urban Matters and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association

December 2018



BC HOUSING
RESEARCH CENTRE

Acknowledgements

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With Gratitude

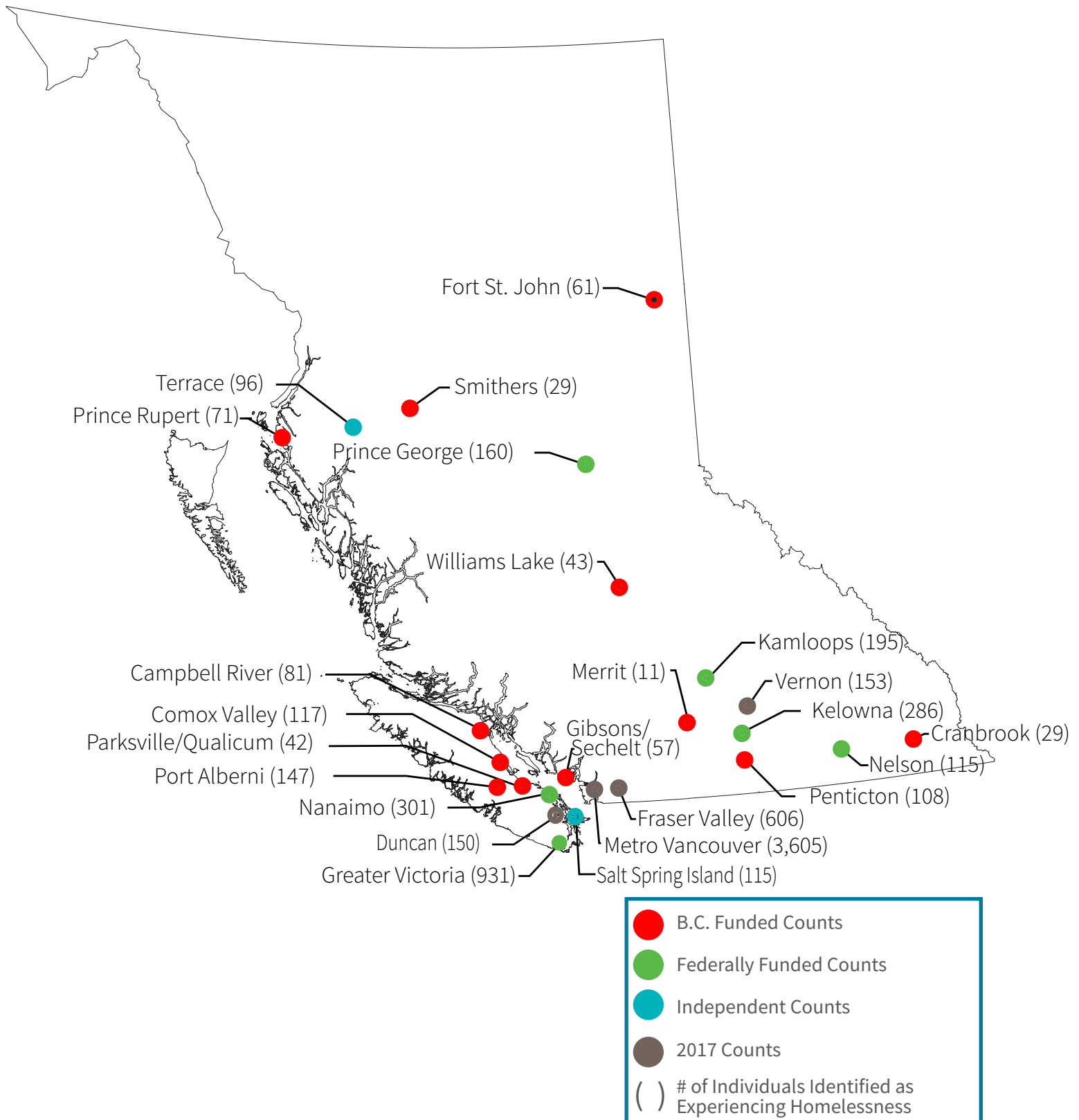
This research project would not have been possible without the participation and support of many individuals and organizations. The Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC), Urban Matters and BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) would like to thank all the agencies, service providers, government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

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- › All the individuals currently experiencing homelessness who gave their time to respond to our survey and share their personal information and stories which form the foundation of this report. Without their time and contribution, this project would not have been possible.
- › The almost 300 volunteers in the 12 count communities who gave so generously of their time to attend a training session and participate in one or more homeless count shifts to collect data.
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Map of Participating Communities



Executive Summary

2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.

This report summarizes findings from 24 homeless counts conducted in communities across British Columbia. It also includes shelter data from communities that were not involved in a homeless count. The result is an overall snapshot of homelessness in B.C. The data presented here will inform B.C.'s Homelessness Action Plan and provide a baseline to measure progress.

In spring of 2018, the Province of British Columbia funded homeless counts in 12 B.C. communities. The Homelessness Services Association of BC, Urban Matters and the BC Non-profit Housing Association coordinated these counts and combined the results with available data from 12 additional counts and shelters to prepare this report. Sources of data include:

- › 12 homeless counts funded by the provincial government (March/April 2018)
- › Six homeless counts funded by the federal government through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and two independent homeless counts (March/April 2018)
- › Four additional counts (2017)
- › Shelter data from other B.C. communities (collected by BC Housing)¹

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

A total of 7,655 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in the 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. This included 219 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.² The majority were sheltered (63%) and 37% were unsheltered.

Fewer Women Counted

Among those who responded to the survey, 68% identified as male and 30% as female. Two percent (2%) of respondents self-identified a gender identity other than male or female.

Seniors and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Twenty percent (20%) of all survey respondents were seniors (55+ years of age) and 15% were youth (under 25 years of age).

Twenty-nine percent (29%) of survey respondents reported they had been in foster care, a youth group home, or under a youth agreement. In the Fraser Valley, Prince George, Williams Lake, and Campbell River, more than 40% of respondents reported that they had been in care. Fifty-one percent (51%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age.

1 This includes data obtained for the night of March 20, 2018 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. The number of people staying in these facilities is included in the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

2 1,616 respondents did not report their age.

Indigenous People Overrepresented

A total of 1,904 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 38% of all respondents. According to the 2016 Census, Indigenous people accounted for six percent (6%) of B.C.'s total population.³ The proportion of survey respondents identifying as Indigenous was higher for unsheltered (42%) than sheltered respondents (32%).

High Rents, Low Incomes and Lack of Suitable Housing Options Main Barriers to Accessing Housing

The three main barriers to accessing housing identified by survey respondents were high rents (53%), low incomes (51%), and a lack of available, suitable housing (30%).

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in Poor Health

More than half of survey respondents (58%) reported two or more health conditions.⁴ The majority of respondents (56%) reported an addiction, 44% reported a medical condition, 40% reported a mental illness, and 33% reported a physical disability.

Sources of Income

Survey respondents identified a range of income sources. The most commonly reported sources of income identified by survey respondents were income assistance (40%), disability benefits (29%), informal/self employment (29%), and employment (18%). Ten percent (10%) of respondents reported having no income.

History of Homelessness

Nearly one-third of survey respondents (31%) reported being homeless for less than six months, while about half (52%) reported being homeless for one year or more. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than six months compared to unsheltered respondents (38% vs. 25%). Fifty-eight percent (58%) of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 45% of sheltered respondents.

Survey respondents were likely to be long term community residents – 31% of respondents had lived in the community where they were surveyed for ten or more years, and an additional 19% had lived there all their lives.

³ <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/rt-td/ap-pa-eng.cfm>

⁴ This data is only available for the 12 B.C. count communities.

Infographic⁵

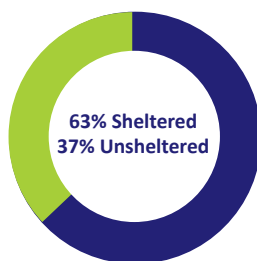
Highlights

This infographic includes data from 24 homeless counts conducted in communities across B.C. The counts took place in 2017 and the spring of 2018. This data provides an overall snapshot of homelessness in B.C., informs B.C.'s Homelessness Action Plan, and will provide a baseline to measure progress.

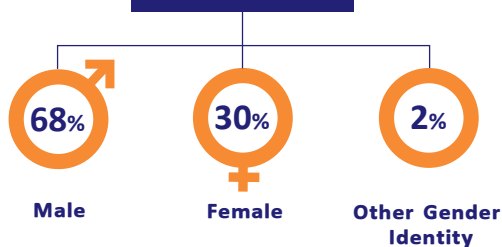


7,655

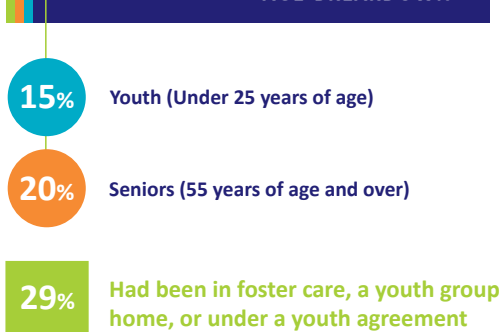
People were identified as experiencing homelessness



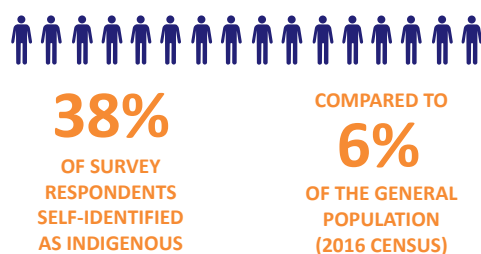
GENDER IDENTITY



AGE BREAKDOWN



INDIGENOUS OVERREPRESENTATION



MAIN BARRIERS TO ACCESSING HOUSING



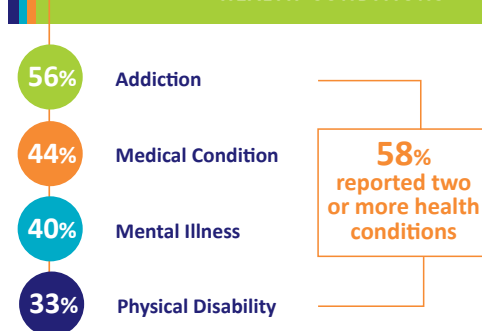
SOURCES OF INCOME



LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS



HEALTH CONDITIONS



LENGTH OF TIME LIVED IN COMMUNITY



5 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 24 homeless counts conducted in communities across British Columbia. It also includes shelter data from communities that were not involved in a homeless count. The result is an overall snapshot of homelessness in B.C. The data presented here will inform B.C.'s Homelessness Action Plan and provide a baseline to measure progress.

1.1 About this Report

In spring of 2018, the Province of British Columbia funded homeless counts in 12 B.C. communities. The Homelessness Services Association of BC, Urban Matters and the BC Non-profit Housing Association coordinated these counts and combined the results with available data from 12 additional counts and shelters to prepare this report. Sources of data include:

- › 12 homeless counts funded by the provincial government (March/April 2018)⁶
- › Six homeless counts funded by the federal government through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and two independent homeless counts (March/April 2018)
- › Four additional counts (2017)
- › Shelter data from other B.C. communities (collected by BC Housing)⁷

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 more than 85 percent (85%) of the province by population. The Province plans to coordinate homeless counts every two years, with the next one scheduled for 2020. This timing will coincide with homeless counts that will be funded by the federal government.

1.2 About Homeless Counts

The 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. provides important baseline information on the estimated number, key demographic and service provision needs of people experiencing homelessness in communities across B.C.⁸ 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 Homelessness Partnering Strategy has supported counts in designated communities across Canada in 2016 and 2018.

A PiT count provides a snapshot of people who are experiencing homelessness in a 24-hour period. For the purpose of the 2018 homeless counts conducted in the 12 provincially funded B.C. 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");

⁶ In this report, these are referred to as the B.C. count communities or Core communities.

⁷ This includes data obtained for the night of March 20, 2018 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. The number of people staying in these facilities is included in the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

⁸ Note that counts in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, and Greater Victoria included multiple communities.

- › 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 actually 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 can be used to build a better understanding of homelessness in B.C.

1.3 Limitations and Methodological Considerations

The following section outlines some of the challenges of accurately estimating homelessness as highlighted in the 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver.⁹ Please also see Section 4 for a more detailed methodological overview.

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. Individual circumstances can 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.

1. The PiT count methodology is most effective at counting one segment of the homeless population that is sometimes referred to as the “visible” homeless. 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.
2. 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.” They may also be living in forests or parks, vehicles, or in abandoned buildings, which makes it difficult for survey volunteers to find them. In developing and implementing counts in each of the 12 B.C. funded communities, 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. The goal of these magnet events was to draw people to services where they could complete the survey and be included in this report. While this approach likely resulted in some additional surveys being completed, it is likely still a small proportion of the total hidden homeless population. Furthermore, even if individuals who typically may not access services attended these events, they may have declined to be surveyed for various reasons and therefore are not included in the count.
3. Low vacancy rates and incomes not keeping pace with rising housing costs have resulted in a significant increase in the number of people at risk of losing their housing. Based on 2016 census data, 260,220 B.C. households were experiencing some form of housing need.¹⁰ These households are not included in this report.



Figure 1: Levels of Homelessness

⁹ <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/HomelessnessPublications/2017MetroVancouverHomelessCount.pdf>

¹⁰ A household may be experiencing a housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, affordability or suitability standards

2 | Summary of Provincial Findings

This section of the report provides aggregate data from 24 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 12 B.C. count communities,¹¹ the federally funded Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) counts, independent counts on Salt Spring Island and in Terrace, the 2017 counts in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Vernon and Duncan, and shelter data from other B.C. communities collected by BC Housing.¹²

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 question or did not provide the data in a way that could be integrated with the aggregated tables. To the greatest extent possible, data from these communities were adjusted to align with the methodological parameters of the 12 B.C. count communities to enable direct comparisons, but in certain cases this was limited or not possible.

2.1 Sheltered and Unsheltered

A total of 7,655 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness. This included 219 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.¹³ The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness were sheltered (63%) and 37% reported being unsheltered.¹⁴

Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 37% reported sleeping outside and 30% reported couch surfing or staying with friends. Sixty percent (60%) of accompanied children who were sheltered were staying at a transition house and 19% were staying at a shelter. Thirty-five accompanied children were identified as unsheltered.¹⁵

and it would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay shelter costs (rent and associated utility costs). <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/chn-biml/index-eng.cfm>

11 Individual community profiles have been created and are available separately.

12 This includes data obtained for the night of March 20, 2018 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.

13 The age of 1,616 respondents is not known.

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

15 Most of these children were couch surfing or sleeping in a vehicle with a parent or guardian.

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

| Sheltered and Unsheltered by Age | Adults and Unaccompanied Youth ¹⁶ | | Accompanied Children | | Unknown Age | | Total Homeless | |
|--|--|-------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Sheltered Total | 3,724 | 64% | 184 | 84% | 879 | 54% | 4,787 | 63% |
| Shelters | 2,647 | 45% | 42 | 19% | 609 | 38% | 3,298 | 43% |
| Transition Houses | 218 | 4% | 132 | 60% | 49 | 3% | 399 | 5% |
| Detox Centres | 138 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 138 | 2% |
| No Fixed Address (NFA) ¹⁷ | 460 | 8% | 3 ¹⁸ | 1% | 65 | 4% | 528 | 7% |
| Other ¹⁹ | 261 | 4% | 7 | 3% | 156 | 10% | 424 | 6% |
| Unsheltered Total | 2,096 | 36% | 35 | 16% | 737 | 46% | 2,868 | 37% |
| Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness | 5,820 | 100% | 219 | 100% | 1,616 | 100% | 7,655 | 100% |

Table 2.2: Sheltered and Unsheltered - All Communities

| Sheltered and Unsheltered | # | % |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Sheltered | 4,787 | 63% |
| Unsheltered | 2,868 | 37% |
| Total | 7,655 | 100% |

2.2 Gender

Among survey respondents, 68% identified as male and 30% as female.²⁰ Two percent (2%) of respondents identified another gender identity.

A similar proportion of sheltered and unsheltered respondents identified as female (31% and 29%).

Table 2.3: Gender - All Communities

| Gender Identity | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified ²¹ | | Total | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % ²² | # | % | # | % |
| Man/Male | 1,629 | 67% | 1,485 | 70% | 569 | 67% | 3,683 | 68% |
| Woman/Female | 761 | 31% | 616 | 29% | 276 | 33% | 1,653 | 30% |
| Another Gender Identity | 48 | 2% | 35 | 2% | 4 | 0% | 87 | 2% |
| Respondents | 2,438 | 100% | 2,136 | 100% | 849 | 100% | 5,423 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 1,841 | | 235 | | 156 | | 2,232 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

¹⁶ Unaccompanied youth refers to anyone under the age of 25 who was not physically accompanied by a parent during the count.

¹⁷ Includes individuals who may be staying in jails, hospitals, and/or short-term medical facilities.

¹⁸ This is typically a parent in hospital with a newborn or young infant.

¹⁹ Other includes Extreme Weather Response Shelters (EWR) or another unspecified shelter type.

²⁰ During the homeless count, survey respondents in the 12 B.C. count communities self-identified their gender identity. However, in some cases in HPS communities, shelter data was used to identify gender. Shelter data was also used to obtain gender for the communities that were not involved in a count i.e. data obtained by BC Housing.

²¹ "Unspecified" refers to survey respondents from communities where respondents were not broken out by sheltered or unsheltered.

²² Percentage total does not equal 100% due to rounding.

2.3 Age

The majority of survey respondents (65%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while 20% were seniors (55+ years of age), and 15% were unaccompanied youth (under 25 years of age).²³

The proportion of seniors was greater among sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (23% vs. 16%), while the proportion of adults was greater among the unsheltered respondents than the sheltered respondents (71% vs. 61%). Youth represented similar proportions among both sheltered and unsheltered respondents (15% and 13%).

Table 2.4: Age - All Communities

| Age Groups | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Youth (Under 25 Years) | 339 | 15% | 279 | 13% | 140 | 17% | 758 | 15% |
| Adult (25-54 Years) | 1,341 | 61% | 1,492 | 71% | 517 | 63% | 3,350 | 65% |
| Senior (55+) | 510 | 23% | 345 | 16% | 168 | 20% | 1,023 | 20% |
| Respondents | 2,190 | 100% | 2,116 | 100% | 825 | 100% | 5,131 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 2,089 | | 255 | | 180 | | 2,524 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

2.4 Indigenous Identity

A total of 1,904 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 38% of all respondents.²⁴

The proportion of respondents identifying as Indigenous was higher for unsheltered (42%) than sheltered respondents (32%).

Table 2.5: Indigenous Identity - All Communities

| Indigenous Identity | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Indigenous Identity | 708 | 32% | 874 | 42% | 322 | 41% | 1,904 | 38% |
| Not Indigenous Identity | 1,486 | 68% | 1,196 | 58% | 459 | 59% | 3,141 | 62% |
| Respondents | 2,194 | 100% | 2,070 | 100% | 781 | 100% | 5,045 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 2,085 | | 301 | | 224 | | 2,610 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

²³ During the homeless count, survey respondents in the 12 B.C. Count Communities self-identified their age. There was only one HPS funded count where shelter data was used (as it was the only data available). For all other counts, only survey data was used.

²⁴ During the count, survey respondents in the 12 B.C. count communities self-identified their Indigenous identity. However, in some cases in HPS communities shelter data was used to identify indigenous identity.

2.5 Newcomers to Canada

Four percent (4%) of respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.²⁵ Among survey respondents who identified as an immigrant or refugee and reported on their length of time in Canada, 83% reported being in Canada for ten years or more.²⁶

Table 2.6: Newcomers to Canada - All Communities

| Newcomers to Canada | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Immigrant or Refugee | 36 | 4% | 37 | 3% | 7 | 4% | 80 | 4% |
| Non-Immigrant/ Refugee | 784 | 96% | 1,058 | 97% | 192 | 96% | 2,034 | 96% |
| Respondents | 820 | 100% | 1,095 | 100% | 199 | 100% | 2,114 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 3,459 | | 1,276 | | 806 | | 5,541 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

2.6 Sexual Orientation

Eight percent (8%) of respondents identified as LGBTQ2S. The proportion of respondents who identified as LGBTQ2S was the same for both sheltered and unsheltered respondents (8%). The majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (90%).

Table 2.7: Sexual Orientation - All Communities

| Sexual Orientation | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Straight/Heterosexual | 1,830 | 90% | 1,801 | 90% | 536 | 91% | 4,167 | 90% |
| LGBTQ2S | 167 | 8% | 167 | 8% | 49 | 8% | 383 | 8% |
| Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses) | 34 | 2% | 35 | 2% | 5 | 1% | 74 | 2% |
| Respondents | 2,031 | 100% | 2,003 | 100% | 590 | 100% | 4,624 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 2,248 | | 368 | | 415 | | 3,031 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

2.7 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.

Most respondents (74%) reported being alone, while 9% reported being with a partner and 8% with a friend. A higher proportion of sheltered respondents reported that they were alone compared to unsheltered respondents (78% vs. 70%). Unsheltered respondents who were with someone were likely to be with a friend (14%) or partner (10%), while sheltered respondents were more likely to be with a partner (7%) or children (6%). Respondents with children represented a higher proportion of sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (6% vs. 1%).

25 Fifty-seven of the 80 respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant, 13 as a refugee or a refugee claimant, and 10 did not specify if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.

26 Seventy survey respondents identified as an immigrant or refugee and reported on their length of time in Canada. 83% reported being in Canada 10 years or more, 4% reported being in Canada under 1 year, 7% indicated being in Canada 1 to under 5 years, and 6% reported being in Canada 5 to under 10 years.

Table 2.8: Who Was With Survey Respondents - All Communities

| Who Was With Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible) | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| With Someone | 334 | 22% | 409 | 30% | 26 | 19% | 769 | 26% |
| Partner | 107 | 7% | 139 | 10% | 16 | 12% | 262 | 9% |
| Child/Children | 86 | 6% | 18 | 1% | 4 | 3% | 108 | 4% |
| Friend(s) | 65 | 4% | 184 | 14% | 3 | 2% | 252 | 8% |
| Pet(s) | 31 | 2% | 31 | 2% | 1 | 1% | 63 | 2% |
| Relative(s) | 27 | 2% | 37 | 3% | 2 | 1% | 66 | 2% |
| Other(s) | 23 | 2% | 19 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 42 | 1% |
| Alone | 1,181 | 78% | 941 | 70% | 111 | 81% | 2,233 | 74% |
| Respondents | 1,515 | 100% | 1,350 | 100% | 137 | 100% | 3,002 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 2,764 | | 1,021 | | 868 | | 4,653 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

2.8 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently and could include as many responses as applied.

Table 2.9 shows that the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were addiction or substance use (23%), unable to pay rent or mortgage (18%), eviction (18%) and “other” reasons (33%).

Table 2.9: Reason for Loss of Housing - All Communities²⁷

| Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible) | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|---|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Illness or Medical Condition | 66 | 11% | 71 | 11% | 16 | 11% | 153 | 11% |
| Addiction or Substance Use | 115 | 19% | 170 | 26% | 44 | 30% | 329 | 23% |
| Job Loss | 67 | 11% | 103 | 15% | 22 | 15% | 192 | 14% |
| Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage | 103 | 17% | 145 | 22% | 10 | 7% | 258 | 18% |
| Unsafe Housing Conditions | 45 | 8% | 44 | 7% | 9 | 6% | 98 | 7% |
| Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian | 11 | 2% | 19 | 3% | 2 | 1% | 32 | 2% |
| Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner | 37 | 6% | 34 | 5% | 4 | 3% | 75 | 5% |
| Conflict with: Parent / Guardian | 40 | 7% | 41 | 6% | 6 | 4% | 87 | 6% |
| Conflict with: Spouse / Partner | 58 | 10% | 81 | 12% | 18 | 12% | 157 | 11% |
| Incarcerated (Jail or Prison) | 20 | 3% | 46 | 7% | 5 | 3% | 71 | 5% |
| Hospitalization or Treatment Program | 30 | 5% | 23 | 3% | 3 | 2% | 56 | 4% |
| Eviction | 87 | 15% | 140 | 21% | 22 | 15% | 249 | 18% |
| Other Reason ²⁸ | 214 | 36% | 236 | 35% | 12 | 8% | 462 | 33% |
| Respondents | 596 | | 665 | | 145 | | 1,406 | |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 3,683 | | 1,706 | | 860 | | 6,249 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

²⁷ This data is available for only the 12 B.C. count communities and some HPS and independent count communities.

²⁸ “Other Reason” for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

The three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents (53%), low incomes (51%), and a lack of suitable, available housing (30%).

Table 2.10: Barriers to Accessing Housing - All Communities

| Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible) | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|--|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|--------------|------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Income Too Low | 766 | 53% | 631 | 48% | 346 | 55% | 1,743 | 51% |
| History of Eviction/ Lack of References | 153 | 11% | 130 | 10% | 2 | 0% | 285 | 8% |
| Lack of Identification | 19 | 1% | 57 | 4% | 0 | 0% | 76 | 2% |
| No Income/No Income Assistance | 205 | 14% | 196 | 15% | 95 | 15% | 496 | 15% |
| Addiction | 268 | 18% | 270 | 20% | 200 | 32% | 738 | 22% |
| Rent Too High | 809 | 56% | 647 | 49% | 357 | 57% | 1,813 | 53% |
| Poor Housing Conditions | 279 | 19% | 208 | 16% | 87 | 14% | 574 | 17% |
| No Housing Available that Suits My Needs | 473 | 32% | 338 | 26% | 206 | 33% | 1,017 | 30% |
| Mental Health Issues | 168 | 12% | 119 | 9% | 106 | 17% | 393 | 12% |
| Family Breakdown/ Abuse/ Conflict | 208 | 14% | 151 | 11% | 109 | 17% | 468 | 14% |
| Conflict with Law | 87 | 6% | 70 | 5% | 46 | 7% | 203 | 6% |
| Pets | 85 | 6% | 79 | 6% | 33 | 5% | 197 | 6% |
| Discrimination | 211 | 14% | 178 | 13% | 116 | 19% | 505 | 15% |
| Lack of Transportation | 22 | 2% | 32 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 54 | 2% |
| Other Reason ²⁹ | 342 | 23% | 297 | 22% | 269 | 43% | 908 | 27% |
| Respondents | 1,457 | | 1,325 | | 626 | | 3,408 | |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 2,822 | | 1,046 | | 379 | | 4,247 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

²⁹ "Other Reason" for barriers to accessing housing varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

2.9 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

Table 2.11 shows that more than half of respondents (56%) reported an addiction, 44% reported a medical condition, 40% reported a mental illness and 33% reported a physical disability. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to report an addiction than sheltered respondents (59% vs. 50%), while other health conditions were relatively comparable between the two groups.

Table 2.12 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Fifty-eight percent (58%) reported two or more health conditions, while 15% reported no health conditions and 27% reported one health condition. Sheltered respondents were more likely to identify two or more health conditions than unsheltered respondents (63% vs. 54%).

Table 2.11: Health Conditions - All Communities

| Health Conditions (more than 1 response possible) | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|---|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Medical Condition / Illness | 679 | 45% | 550 | 41% | 272 | 47% | 1,501 | 44% |
| Physical Disability | 516 | 35% | 453 | 34% | 163 | 28% | 1,132 | 33% |
| Addiction | 749 | 50% | 779 | 59% | 383 | 66% | 1,911 | 56% |
| Mental Illness | 589 | 39% | 512 | 38% | 257 | 45% | 1,358 | 40% |
| Respondents | 1,495 | | 1,330 | | 577 | | 3,402 | |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 2,784 | | 1,041 | | 428 | | 4,253 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

Table 2.12: Health Conditions – Total Number of Health Conditions³⁰

| Number of Health Conditions | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| No Health Conditions | 30 | 13% | 62 | 17% | 0 | N/A | 92 | 15% |
| 1 Health Condition | 56 | 24% | 108 | 29% | 0 | N/A | 164 | 27% |
| 2 Health Conditions | 78 | 33% | 103 | 28% | 0 | N/A | 181 | 30% |
| 3 Health Conditions | 41 | 17% | 55 | 15% | 0 | N/A | 96 | 16% |
| 4 Health Conditions | 30 | 13% | 41 | 11% | 0 | N/A | 71 | 12% |
| Respondents | 235 | 100% | 369 | 100% | 0 | N/A | 604 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 4,044 | | 2,002 | | 1,005 | | 7,051 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

³⁰ This data is available for only the 12 B.C. count communities.

2.10 Youth in Care

Survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement.³¹

Twenty-nine percent (29%) of respondents reported they had been in care.³² While the percentage of respondents reporting they had been in care was lower in Metro Vancouver (21%), a larger percentage of respondents reported being in care in communities such as the Fraser Valley (49%), Prince George (48%), Williams Lake (47%) and Campbell River (41%) (See Section 3.6).

Table 2.13: Youth Who Have Been in Foster Care, Youth Group Home, or Under a Youth Agreement - All Communities (Totals Only)

| Youth Who Have Been in Foster Care, Youth Group Home, or Under a Youth Agreement | Total | |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| | # | % |
| Yes | 1,236 | 29% |
| Currently | 21 | <1% |
| Previously | 507 | 12% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 708 | 17% |
| No | 3,001 | 71% |
| Respondents | 4,237 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 3,418 | |
| Total | 7,655 | |

³¹ Some HPS communities asked whether participants had ever been in government or ministry care.

³² Some HPS communities did not provide information on sheltered and unsheltered; therefore, only totals are provided to include as many communities as possible.

2.11 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Survey respondents identified a wide range of income sources. The most commonly reported sources of income identified by survey respondents were welfare/income assistance (40%), disability benefits (29%), and informal/self employment (29%).

Sheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify employment as a source of income than unsheltered respondents (23% vs. 15%). Unsheltered respondents were more likely to identify informal/self employment such as binning or panhandling as a source of income than sheltered respondents (37% vs. 19%).

Table 2.14 Sources of Income - All Communities³³

| Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible) | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|--|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|--------------|------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Welfare / Income Assistance | 746 | 40% | 701 | 40% | 235 | 41% | 1,682 | 40% |
| Employment | 420 | 23% | 263 | 15% | 52 | 9% | 735 | 18% |
| Job/Employment - Full-Time | 113 | 6% | 42 | 2% | 9 | 2% | 164 | 4% |
| Job/Employment - Part-Time | 246 | 13% | 187 | 11% | 43 | 7% | 476 | 11% |
| Other/Unspecified | 63 | 3% | 35 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 98 | 2% |
| Informal/Self Employment | 349 | 19% | 647 | 37% | 202 | 35% | 1,198 | 29% |
| Panhandling | 92 | 5% | 195 | 11% | 62 | 11% | 349 | 8% |
| Binning/Bottles | 149 | 8% | 270 | 16% | 112 | 20% | 531 | 13% |
| Vending | 51 | 3% | 106 | 6% | 28 | 5% | 185 | 4% |
| Other/Unspecified | 62 | 3% | 95 | 5% | 0 | 0% | 157 | 4% |
| Seniors Benefits | 255 | 14% | 98 | 6% | 86 | 15% | 439 | 11% |
| Old Age Security (OAS)/ Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) | 103 | 6% | 42 | 2% | 68 | 12% | 213 | 5% |
| CPP or Other Pension | 160 | 9% | 64 | 4% | 18 | 3% | 242 | 6% |
| Other/Unspecified | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Disability Benefit | 579 | 31% | 493 | 28% | 140 | 24% | 1,212 | 29% |
| Employment Insurance | 43 | 2% | 16 | 1% | 10 | 2% | 69 | 2% |
| Youth Agreement | 3 | 0% | 5 | 0% | 15 | 3% | 23 | 1% |
| Money from Family/Friends | 135 | 7% | 133 | 8% | 50 | 9% | 318 | 8% |
| Honoraria | 22 | 1% | 20 | 1% | 17 | 3% | 59 | 1% |
| No Income | 166 | 9% | 159 | 9% | 85 | 15% | 410 | 10% |
| Other ³⁴ | 147 | 8% | 164 | 9% | 57 | 10% | 368 | 9% |
| Respondents | 1,866 | | 1,732 | | 574 | | 4,172 | |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 2,413 | | 639 | | 916 | | 3,968 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

³³ Information that was provided for several communities was not included, as the number of “respondents” was not provided, eliminating the ability to calculate percentages.

³⁴ “Other” sources of income accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

2.12 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months and could identify as many services as applied.

Respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop-in centres. Generally, a greater proportion of respondents in shelters reported accessing health services compared to respondents who were unsheltered, while a greater proportion of unsheltered respondents reported accessing food services. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Fifty-one percent (51%) of all respondents reported using the emergency room, 38% the hospital (non-emergency) and 37% reported using the ambulance. In all cases, a greater proportion of sheltered respondents reported accessing health services than unsheltered respondents. More than a third of respondents (34%) reported accessing addiction services over the previous year - with a greater proportion of sheltered respondents (30%) reporting they had accessed these services than unsheltered respondents (25%).

Fifty-three percent (53%) of all respondents reported using meal programs and 37% reported using foodbanks. A greater proportion of unsheltered respondents reported using meal programs (54%) compared to sheltered respondents (48%).

Thirty-five percent (35%) of all respondents reported using homeless outreach in the previous year, with a similar proportion of sheltered and unsheltered respondents using these services. Nineteen percent (19%) of sheltered respondents reported they had accessed transitional housing services compared to 5% of unsheltered respondents.

Table 2.15: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - All Communities³⁵

| | Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible) | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Health Services | Health Services (Not Specified) | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| | Ambulance | 580 | 40% | 435 | 34% | 202 | 37% | 1,217 | 37% |
| | Emergency Room | 775 | 54% | 555 | 44% | 321 | 58% | 1,651 | 51% |
| | Hospital (Non-Emergency) | 637 | 44% | 417 | 33% | 171 | 31% | 1,225 | 38% |
| | Dental Clinic or Dentist | 296 | 21% | 183 | 14% | 86 | 16% | 565 | 17% |
| | Mental Health Services | 373 | 26% | 257 | 20% | 137 | 25% | 767 | 24% |
| | Addiction Services | 433 | 30% | 320 | 25% | 365 | 66% | 1,118 | 34% |
| | Health Clinic | 615 | 43% | 399 | 31% | 31 | 6% | 1,045 | 32% |
| Food Services | Food Services (Not Specified) | 0 | 0% | 3 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 3 | 0% |
| | Food Banks | 440 | 31% | 468 | 37% | 294 | 53% | 1,202 | 37% |
| | Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens | 691 | 48% | 689 | 54% | 356 | 64% | 1,736 | 53% |
| Legal Services | Legal Services (Not Specified) | 1 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 0% |
| | Legal | 228 | 16% | 194 | 15% | 11 | 2% | 433 | 13% |
| | Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders | 94 | 7% | 106 | 8% | 130 | 24% | 330 | 10% |
| Employment and Financial Services | Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified) | 0 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 0% |
| | Employment/Job Help | 379 | 26% | 244 | 19% | 125 | 23% | 748 | 23% |
| | Budgeting/ Trusteeship | 60 | 4% | 19 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 79 | 2% |
| Housing Services | Housing Services (Not Specified) | 3 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 283 | 51% | 288 | 9% |
| | Housing Help/Eviction Prevention | 235 | 16% | 171 | 13% | 71 | 13% | 477 | 15% |
| | Homeless Outreach | 485 | 34% | 418 | 33% | 250 | 45% | 1,153 | 35% |
| | Transitional Housing | 269 | 19% | 64 | 5% | 88 | 16% | 421 | 13% |
| Other Services | Other Services (Not Specified) | 0 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 0% |
| | Drop-In | 516 | 36% | 501 | 40% | 260 | 47% | 1,277 | 39% |
| | Newcomer Services | 48 | 3% | 18 | 1% | 3 | 1% | 69 | 2% |
| | Faith-Based/Spiritual Services | 258 | 18% | 194 | 15% | 8 | 1% | 460 | 14% |
| | Other | 68 | 5% | 87 | 7% | 40 | 7% | 195 | 6% |
| | None | 31 | 2% | 34 | 3% | 14 | 3% | 79 | 2% |
| | Respondents | 1,436 | | 1,267 | | 552 | | 3,255 | |
| | Don't Know / No Answer | 2,843 | | 1,104 | | 453 | | 4,400 | |
| | Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

35

In the 12 B.C. count communities, services were grouped by service category (e.g. health services, food services, etc.), which included a number of sub-categories. The large groupings were not done in other communities; therefore, aggregated data is available in this table only for specific services (e.g. ambulance, emergency room, etc.) and not service groupings.

2.13 History of Homelessness

Survey participants were asked about the length of time they had been without a place of their own.³⁶

Nearly one-third of survey respondents (31%) reported being homeless for less than six months, while about half (52%) reported being homeless for one year or more. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than six months compared to unsheltered respondents (38% vs. 25%). Fifty-eight percent (58%) of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 45% of sheltered respondents.

Table 2.16: Length of Time Without Own Place - All Communities

| Length of Time Without Own Place | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Under 6 months | 750 | 38% | 513 | 25% | 0 | N/A | 1,263 | 31% |
| Up to and including 7 days | 81 | 4% | 40 | 2% | 0 | N/A | 121 | 3% |
| 8 days to <1 month | 121 | 6% | 81 | 4% | 0 | N/A | 202 | 5% |
| 1 month to <6 months | 548 | 28% | 392 | 19% | 0 | N/A | 940 | 23% |
| 6 months to <1 year | 331 | 17% | 351 | 17% | 0 | N/A | 682 | 17% |
| 1 year and over | 887 | 45% | 1,201 | 58% | 0 | N/A | 2,088 | 52% |
| Respondents | 1,968 | 100% | 2,065 | 100% | 0 | N/A | 4,033 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 2,311 | | 306 | | 1,005 | | 3,622 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless (Table 2.17) and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness (Table 2.18).

The majority (60%) of respondents reported that this was not the first time they had experienced homelessness. The proportions were similar among both sheltered and unsheltered respondents (56% and 59%).

Fifty-one percent (51%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age. A higher proportion of unsheltered respondents had experienced homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age compared to the sheltered respondents (57% vs. 51%).

Table 2.17: Times Homeless - All Communities

| Times Homeless | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| First Time | 102 | 44% | 144 | 41% | 214 | 37% | 460 | 40% |
| Not First Time | 129 | 56% | 203 | 59% | 357 | 63% | 689 | 60% |
| Respondents | 231 | 100% | 347 | 100% | 571 | 100% | 1,149 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 4,048 | | 2,024 | | 434 | | 6,506 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

³⁶ HPS communities asked participants "In total, how much time have you been homeless over the past year?"

Table 2.18: Age When First Homeless - All Communities

| Age When First Homeless | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Youth (Under 25 Years) | 338 | 51% | 580 | 57% | 91 | 31% | 1,009 | 51% |
| Adult (25-54 Years) | 260 | 39% | 390 | 38% | 159 | 54% | 809 | 41% |
| Senior (55+) | 63 | 10% | 43 | 4% | 44 | 15% | 150 | 8% |
| Respondents | 661 | 100% | 1,013 | 100% | 294 | 100% | 1,968 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 3,618 | | 1,358 | | 711 | | 5,687 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

Table 2.19 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in the community in which they were surveyed. Individuals experiencing homelessness were likely to be long term residents of the community where they were surveyed. Thirty-one percent (31%) of survey respondents reported that they had lived in the community where they were surveyed for ten or more years and another 19% reported that they had lived there all their lives. Twenty-one percent (21%) of respondents reported that they had lived in the community for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in the community in which they were surveyed. As shown in Table 2.20, respondents reported having lived in Metro Vancouver (11%), other parts of B.C. (38%), and other parts of Canada (23%) prior to moving to the community where they were surveyed.³⁷

Table 2.19: Length of Time in Community - All Communities

| Length of Time in Community | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Under 1 year | 546 | 28% | 332 | 16% | 107 | 20% | 985 | 21% |
| 1 year to under 5 years | 347 | 18% | 381 | 18% | 87 | 17% | 815 | 18% |
| 5 years to under 10 years | 160 | 8% | 258 | 12% | 74 | 14% | 492 | 11% |
| 10 years or more | 639 | 32% | 654 | 31% | 152 | 29% | 1,445 | 31% |
| Always Been Here | 290 | 15% | 461 | 22% | 104 | 20% | 855 | 19% |
| Respondents | 1,982 | 100% | 2,086 | 100% | 524 | 100% | 4,592 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 2,297 | | 285 | | 481 | | 3,063 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

37 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, and may respond 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.'

Table 2.20: Where Lived Before Community – All Communities

| Where Lived Before | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Always Been Here | 113 | 17% | 257 | 27% | 109 | 33% | 479 | 25% |
| Metro Vancouver | 80 | 12% | 93 | 10% | 43 | 13% | 216 | 11% |
| Elsewhere in B.C. | 250 | 39% | 369 | 39% | 115 | 35% | 734 | 38% |
| Elsewhere in Canada | 190 | 29% | 210 | 22% | 46 | 14% | 446 | 23% |
| Other Countries | 15 | 2% | 10 | 1% | 17 | 5% | 42 | 2% |
| Respondents | 648 | 100% | 939 | 100% | 330 | 100% | 1,917 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 3,631 | | 1,432 | | 675 | | 5,738 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

2.14 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they had ever served in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, air force or RCMP.

A total of 204 individuals, representing 4% of respondents, reported service in the Canadian Forces or RCMP. This included 8 individuals who specified service in the RCMP. Another 84 individuals (2%) reported service in another country's military. Fourteen individuals reported serving in a military force or RCMP but did not specify if it was the Canadian Forces, RCMP, or service in another country.

Table 2.21: Service in Military or RCMP - All Communities

| Service in the Military or RCMP | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Unspecified | | Total | |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Served in Canadian Military (army, navy, airforce) or RCMP | 96 | 5% | 92 | 4% | 16 | 3% | 204 | 4% |
| Served in Another Country's Military | 45 | 2% | 35 | 2% | 4 | 1% | 84 | 2% |
| Served in Armed Forces (or RCMP) (Unspecified) | 5 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 7 | 1% | 14 | 0% |
| Hasn't Served in Armed Forces (or RCMP) | 1,945 | 93% | 1,951 | 94% | 557 | 95% | 4,453 | 94% |
| Respondents | 2,091 | 100% | 2,080 | 100% | 584 | 100% | 4,755 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 2,188 | | 291 | | 421 | | 2,900 | |
| Total | 4,279 | | 2,371 | | 1,005 | | 7,655 | |

2.15 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants in the 12 B.C. count communities, and most other communities were asked where they had stayed the previous night. Some HPS Count respondents were asked where they were going to stay that night. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they stayed outside the night of the count.³⁸ The remaining respondents reported that they stayed³⁹ at someone else's place or couch surfed (30%), slept in a makeshift shelter or tent (9%), in a vehicle (8%), or at an 'other' location (12%).

Table 2.22: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - All Communities⁴⁰

| Location | Unsheltered | |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % |
| Outside | 936 | 37% |
| In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck) | 205 | 8% |
| Makeshift Shelter or Tent | 221 | 9% |
| Abandoned/Vacant Building | 39 | 2% |
| Someone Else's Place or Couch Surfing | 764 | 30% |
| On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage | 28 | 1% |
| Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older | 24 | 1% |
| Other ⁴¹ | 296 | 12% |
| Respondents | 2,513 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 355 | |
| Total | 2,868 | |

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. Almost a quarter of respondents (23%) said they were able to stay with a friend, while 26% reported feeling unsafe or disliking shelters. Thirty-three percent (33%) cited an "other" reason as the main reason for not staying at a shelter the previous night.

38 In the case of HPS respondents, they reported they would be spending the night outside.

39 In the case of HPS respondents, they reported on where they would be staying.

40 "Don't know/No Answer" responses in this table refer specifically to HPS communities.

41 "Other" location accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

Table 2.23: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - All Communities

| Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter | Unsheltered | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % |
| Able to Stay with a Friend | 268 | 23% |
| Dislike | 172 | 15% |
| Don't Feel Safe | 133 | 11% |
| Turned Away | 148 | 13% |
| Bedbugs/Pests | 36 | 3% |
| Other ⁴² | 386 | 33% |
| Multiple Responses | 35 | 3% |
| Respondents | 1,178 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 1,690 | |
| Total | 2,868 | |

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. The majority (55%) had stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 2.24: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – All Communities⁴³

| Location | Unsheltered | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % |
| Yes | 1,112 | 55% |
| No | 925 | 45% |
| Respondents | 2,037 | 100% |
| Don't Know / No Answer | 831 | |
| Total | 2,868 | |

⁴² "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

⁴³ This question was not asked in all communities, which is why the Don't Know/No Answer number is high.

3 | Key Summary Tables by Community

The following section provides data on sheltered/unsheltered, gender, age, indigenous identity, health conditions, length of time homeless and length of time in community for all 24 counts and shelter data included in the 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C., where data was available.

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 12 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 B.C. approach does include people who were couch surfing if they were identified during the count.

Table 3.1: Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless- Across Communities

| Homeless Category | | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | | Total | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Core Communities | Campbell River | 40 | 49% | 41 | 51% | 81 | 100% |
| | Comox Valley | 49 | 42% | 68 | 58% | 117 | 100% |
| | Cranbrook | 6 | 21% | 23 | 79% | 29 | 100% |
| | Fort St. John | 40 | 66% | 21 | 34% | 61 | 100% |
| | Merritt | 0 | 0% | 11 | 100% | 11 | 100% |
| | Parksville/Qualicum | 3 | 7% | 39 | 93% | 42 | 100% |
| | Penticton | 68 | 63% | 40 | 37% | 108 | 100% |
| | Port Alberni | 63 | 43% | 84 | 57% | 147 | 100% |
| | Prince Rupert | 43 | 61% | 28 | 39% | 71 | 100% |
| | Sechelt/ Gibsons | 30 | 53% | 27 | 47% | 57 | 100% |
| | Smithers | 11 | 38% | 18 | 62% | 29 | 100% |
| | Williams Lake | 37 | 86% | 6 | 14% | 43 | 100% |
| HPS and Other | Greater Victoria | 607 | 65% | 324 | 35% | 931 | 100% |
| | Duncan | 85 | 57% | 65 | 43% | 150 | 100% |
| | Fraser Valley | 244 | 40% | 362 | 60% | 606 | 100% |
| | Kamloops | 104 | 53% | 91 | 47% | 195 | 100% |
| | Kelowna | 234 | 82% | 52 | 18% | 286 | 100% |
| | Metro Vancouver | 2,573 | 71% | 1,032 | 29% | 3,605 | 100% |
| | Nanaimo | 50 | 17% | 251 | 83% | 301 | 100% |
| | Nelson | 32 | 28% | 83 | 72% | 115 | 100% |
| | Prince George | 110 | 69% | 50 | 31% | 160 | 100% |
| | Salt Spring Island | 33 | 29% | 82 | 71% | 115 | 100% |
| | Terrace | 70 | 73% | 26 | 27% | 96 | 100% |
| | Vernon | 109 | 71% | 44 | 29% | 153 | 100% |
| | Other Communities | 146 | 100% | 0 | 0% | 146 | 100% |
| | Total | 4,787 | 63% | 2,868 | 37% | 7,655 | 100% |

3.1 Gender

Table 3.2: Gender Identity - Across Communities

| Gender Identity | | Male | | Female | | Another Gender Identity | | Respondents | | Don't Know/ No Answer | Total |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | # |
| Core Communities | Campbell River | 40 | 59% | 27 | 40% | 1 | 1% | 68 | 100% | 13 | 81 |
| | Comox Valley | 50 | 52% | 43 | 44% | 4 | 4% | 97 | 100% | 20 | 117 |
| | Cranbrook | 18 | 67% | 7 | 26% | 2 | 7% | 27 | 100% | 2 | 29 |
| | Fort St. John | 39 | 75% | 13 | 25% | 0 | 0% | 52 | 100% | 9 | 61 |
| | Merritt | 6 | 55% | 5 | 45% | 0 | 0% | 11 | 100% | 0 | 11 |
| | Parksville/Qualicum | 27 | 73% | 8 | 22% | 2 | 5% | 37 | 100% | 5 | 42 |
| | Penticton | 50 | 63% | 28 | 35% | 1 | 1% | 79 | 100% | 29 | 108 |
| | Port Alberni | 74 | 68% | 33 | 30% | 2 | 2% | 109 | 100% | 38 | 147 |
| | Prince Rupert | 32 | 60% | 21 | 40% | 0 | 0% | 53 | 100% | 18 | 71 |
| | Sechelt/ Gibsons | 22 | 54% | 19 | 46% | 0 | 0% | 41 | 100% | 16 | 57 |
| | Smithers | 14 | 56% | 10 | 40% | 1 | 4% | 25 | 100% | 4 | 29 |
| | Williams Lake | 11 | 58% | 8 | 42% | 0 | 0% | 19 | 100% | 24 | 43 |
| HPS and Other | Greater Victoria | 417 | 68% | 181 | 29% | 16 | 3% | 614 | 100% | 317 | 931 |
| | Duncan | 101 | 68% | 48 | 32% | 0 | 0% | 149 | 100% | 1 | 150 |
| | Fraser Valley | 352 | 64% | 193 | 35% | 4 | 1% | 549 | 100% | 57 | 606 |
| | Kamloops | 102 | 66% | 46 | 30% | 7 | 5% | 155 | 100% | 40 | 195 |
| | Kelowna | 168 | 68% | 77 | 31% | 2 | 1% | 247 | 100% | 39 | 286 |
| | Metro Vancouver | 1,688 | 72% | 628 | 27% | 25 | 1% | 2,341 | 100% | 1,264 | 3,605 |
| | Nanaimo | 186 | 69% | 80 | 30% | 3 | 1% | 269 | 100% | 32 | 301 |
| | Nelson | 45 | 54% | 32 | 39% | 6 | 7% | 83 | 100% | 32 | 115 |
| | Prince George | 55 | 50% | 52 | 47% | 3 | 3% | 110 | 100% | 50 | 160 |
| | Salt Spring Island | 17 | 59% | 5 | 17% | 7 | 24% | 29 | 100% | 86 | 115 |
| | Terrace | 66 | 77% | 20 | 23% | 0 | 0% | 86 | 100% | 10 | 96 |
| | Vernon | 50 | 77% | 15 | 23% | 0 | 0% | 65 | 100% | 88 | 153 |
| | Other Communities | 53 | 49% | 54 | 50% | 1 | 1% | 108 | 100% | 38 | 146 |
| Total | | 3,683 | 68% | 1,653 | 30% | 87 | 2% | 5,423 | 100% | 2,232 | 7,655 |

3.2 Age

Table 3.3: Age Categories - Across Communities

| Age | | Youth (Under 25 Years of Age) | | Adult (25-54 Years of Age) | | Senior (55+ Years) | | Respondents | | Don't Know/ No Answer | Total |
|------------------|---------------------|--|------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | # |
| Core Communities | Campbell River | 3 | 4% | 49 | 72% | 16 | 24% | 68 | 100% | 13 | 81 |
| | Comox Valley | 6 | 6% | 61 | 65% | 27 | 29% | 94 | 100% | 23 | 117 |
| | Cranbrook | 1 | 4% | 16 | 62% | 9 | 35% | 26 | 100% | 3 | 29 |
| | Fort St. John | 4 | 8% | 36 | 71% | 11 | 22% | 51 | 100% | 10 | 61 |
| | Merritt | 0 | 0% | 10 | 91% | 1 | 9% | 11 | 100% | 0 | 11 |
| | Parksville/Qualicum | 3 | 8% | 24 | 63% | 11 | 29% | 38 | 100% | 4 | 42 |
| | Penticton | 12 | 15% | 47 | 60% | 19 | 24% | 78 | 100% | 30 | 108 |
| | Port Alberni | 16 | 15% | 82 | 75% | 11 | 10% | 109 | 100% | 38 | 147 |
| | Prince Rupert | 4 | 8% | 37 | 70% | 12 | 23% | 53 | 100% | 18 | 71 |
| | Sechelt/ Gibsons | 2 | 5% | 27 | 66% | 12 | 29% | 41 | 100% | 16 | 57 |
| | Smithers | 2 | 8% | 19 | 76% | 4 | 16% | 25 | 100% | 4 | 29 |
| | Williams Lake | 0 | 0% | 16 | 94% | 1 | 6% | 17 | 100% | 26 | 43 |
| HPS and Other | Greater Victoria | 114 | 18% | 393 | 63% | 112 | 18% | 619 | 100% | 312 | 931 |
| | Duncan | 7 | 5% | 87 | 58% | 55 | 37% | 149 | 100% | 1 | 150 |
| | Fraser Valley | 121 | 22% | 337 | 63% | 81 | 15% | 539 | 100% | 67 | 606 |
| | Kamloops | 17 | 10% | 134 | 80% | 16 | 10% | 167 | 100% | 28 | 195 |
| | Kelowna | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 286 | 286 |
| | Metro Vancouver | 386 | 16% | 1,509 | 63% | 518 | 21% | 2,413 | 100% | 1,192 | 3,605 |
| | Nanaimo | 17 | 6% | 212 | 78% | 42 | 15% | 271 | 100% | 30 | 301 |
| | Nelson | 15 | 18% | 57 | 68% | 12 | 14% | 84 | 100% | 31 | 115 |
| | Prince George | 9 | 8% | 80 | 73% | 21 | 19% | 110 | 100% | 50 | 160 |
| | Salt Spring Island | 7 | 23% | 24 | 77% | 0 | 0% | 31 | 100% | 84 | 115 |
| | Terrace | 6 | 8% | 52 | 72% | 14 | 19% | 72 | 100% | 24 | 96 |
| | Vernon | 6 | 9% | 41 | 63% | 18 | 28% | 65 | 100% | 88 | 153 |
| | Other Communities | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 146 | 146 |
| Total | | 758 | 15% | 3,350 | 65% | 1,023 | 20% | 5,131 | 100% | 2,524 | 7,655 |

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 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | # |
| Core Communities | Campbell River | 31 | 46% | 36 | 54% | 67 | 100% | 14 | 81 |
| | Comox Valley | 31 | 32% | 65 | 68% | 96 | 100% | 21 | 117 |
| | Cranbrook | 12 | 46% | 14 | 54% | 26 | 100% | 3 | 29 |
| | Fort St. John | 30 | 59% | 21 | 41% | 51 | 100% | 10 | 61 |
| | Merritt | 9 | 90% | 1 | 10% | 10 | 100% | 1 | 11 |
| | Parksville/Qualicum | 3 | 8% | 35 | 92% | 38 | 100% | 4 | 42 |
| | Penticton | 18 | 24% | 58 | 76% | 76 | 100% | 32 | 108 |
| | Port Alberni | 52 | 48% | 56 | 52% | 108 | 100% | 39 | 147 |
| | Prince Rupert | 47 | 92% | 4 | 8% | 51 | 100% | 20 | 71 |
| | Sechelt/ Gibsons | 11 | 27% | 30 | 73% | 41 | 100% | 16 | 57 |
| | Smithers | 18 | 72% | 7 | 28% | 25 | 100% | 4 | 29 |
| | Williams Lake | 13 | 68% | 6 | 32% | 19 | 100% | 24 | 43 |
| | Total | 1,904 | 38% | 3,141 | 62% | 5,045 | 100% | 2,610 | 7,655 |
| HPS and Other | Greater Victoria | 209 | 36% | 375 | 64% | 584 | 100% | 347 | 931 |
| | Duncan | 59 | 40% | 90 | 60% | 149 | 100% | 1 | 150 |
| | Fraser Valley | 174 | 35% | 323 | 65% | 497 | 100% | 109 | 606 |
| | Kamloops | 84 | 54% | 73 | 46% | 157 | 100% | 38 | 195 |
| | Kelowna | 65 | 26% | 182 | 74% | 247 | 100% | 39 | 286 |
| | Metro Vancouver | 746 | 34% | 1,453 | 66% | 2,199 | 100% | 1,406 | 3,605 |
| | Nanaimo | 86 | 33% | 176 | 67% | 262 | 100% | 39 | 301 |
| | Nelson | 27 | 35% | 50 | 65% | 77 | 100% | 38 | 115 |
| | Prince George | 86 | 80% | 21 | 20% | 107 | 100% | 53 | 160 |
| | Salt Spring Island | 4 | 17% | 19 | 83% | 23 | 100% | 92 | 115 |
| | Terrace | 62 | 86% | 10 | 14% | 72 | 100% | 24 | 96 |
| | Vernon | 27 | 43% | 36 | 57% | 63 | 100% | 90 | 153 |
| | Other Communities | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 146 | 146 |
| | Total | 1,904 | 38% | 3,141 | 62% | 5,045 | 100% | 2,610 | 7,655 |

3.4 Health Conditions

Table 3.5: Number of Health Conditions- Across Communities

| Number of Health Conditions | | No Health Conditions | | 1 Health Condition | | 2 Health Conditions | | 3 Health Conditions | | 4 Health Conditions | | Respondents | | Don't Know/ No Answer | Total |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | | | | | # | % | # | # |
| Core Communities | Campbell River | 6 | 9% | 15 | 22% | 22 | 32% | 17 | 25% | 8 | 12% | 68 | 100% | 13 | 81 |
| | Comox Valley | 11 | 11% | 29 | 30% | 29 | 30% | 18 | 19% | 10 | 10% | 97 | 100% | 20 | 117 |
| | Cranbrook | 4 | 15% | 5 | 19% | 11 | 41% | 2 | 7% | 5 | 19% | 27 | 100% | 2 | 29 |
| | Fort St. John | 8 | 16% | 12 | 24% | 18 | 37% | 6 | 12% | 5 | 10% | 49 | 100% | 12 | 61 |
| | Merritt | 1 | 13% | 3 | 38% | 3 | 38% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 13% | 8 | 100% | 3 | 11 |
| | Parksville/Qualicum | 4 | 11% | 12 | 32% | 6 | 16% | 9 | 24% | 7 | 18% | 38 | 100% | 4 | 42 |
| | Penticton | 10 | 13% | 17 | 23% | 23 | 31% | 10 | 13% | 15 | 20% | 75 | 100% | 33 | 108 |
| | Port Alberni | 15 | 14% | 30 | 28% | 40 | 37% | 16 | 15% | 7 | 6% | 108 | 100% | 39 | 147 |
| | Prince Rupert | 16 | 31% | 15 | 29% | 11 | 21% | 7 | 13% | 3 | 6% | 52 | 100% | 19 | 71 |
| | Sechelt/ Gibsons | 7 | 17% | 13 | 32% | 8 | 20% | 7 | 17% | 6 | 15% | 41 | 100% | 16 | 57 |
| | Smithers | 9 | 39% | 9 | 39% | 3 | 13% | 1 | 4% | 1 | 4% | 23 | 100% | 6 | 29 |
| | Williams Lake | 1 | 6% | 4 | 22% | 7 | 39% | 3 | 17% | 3 | 17% | 18 | 100% | 25 | 43 |
| HPS and Other | Greater Victoria | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 931 | 931 |
| | Duncan | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 150 | 150 |
| | Fraser Valley | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 606 | 606 |
| | Kamloops | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 195 | 195 |
| | Kelowna | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 286 | 286 |
| | Metro Vancouver | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 3,605 | 3,605 |
| | Nanaimo | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 301 | 301 |
| | Nelson | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 115 | 115 |
| | Prince George | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 160 | 160 |
| | Salt Spring Island | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 115 | 115 |
| | Terrace | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 96 | 96 |
| | Vernon | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 153 | 153 |
| | Other Communities | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 146 | 146 |
| | Total | 92 | 15% | 164 | 27% | 181 | 30% | 96 | 16% | 71 | 12% | 604 | 100% | 7,051 | 7,655 |

Table 3.6: Health Conditions- Across Communities

| Health Conditions (more than 1 response possible) | | Medical Condition / Illness | | Physical Disability | | Addiction | | Mental Illness | | Respondents | Don't Know/ No Answer | Total |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | # | # |
| Core Communities | Campbell River | 38 | 56% | 31 | 46% | 45 | 66% | 28 | 41% | 68 | 13 | 81 |
| | Comox Valley | 45 | 46% | 39 | 40% | 52 | 54% | 45 | 46% | 97 | 20 | 117 |
| | Cranbrook | 17 | 63% | 14 | 52% | 12 | 44% | 10 | 37% | 27 | 2 | 29 |
| | Fort St. John | 21 | 43% | 17 | 35% | 31 | 63% | 17 | 35% | 49 | 12 | 61 |
| | Merritt | 1 | 13% | 2 | 25% | 7 | 88% | 3 | 38% | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| | Parksville/ Qualicum | 20 | 53% | 19 | 50% | 19 | 50% | 21 | 55% | 38 | 4 | 42 |
| | Penticton | 32 | 43% | 31 | 41% | 48 | 64% | 42 | 56% | 75 | 33 | 108 |
| | Port Alberni | 40 | 37% | 35 | 32% | 69 | 64% | 42 | 39% | 108 | 39 | 147 |
| | Prince Rupert | 17 | 33% | 10 | 19% | 29 | 56% | 14 | 27% | 52 | 19 | 71 |
| | Sechelt/ Gibsons | 19 | 46% | 18 | 44% | 17 | 41% | 20 | 49% | 41 | 16 | 57 |
| | Smithers | 3 | 13% | 2 | 9% | 12 | 52% | 5 | 22% | 23 | 6 | 29 |
| | Williams Lake | 9 | 50% | 9 | 50% | 15 | 83% | 6 | 33% | 18 | 25 | 43 |
| HPS and Other | Greater Victoria | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | 931 | 931 |
| | Duncan | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | 150 | 150 |
| | Fraser Valley | 239 | 49% | 142 | 29% | 333 | 68% | 232 | 48% | 488 | 118 | 606 |
| | Kamloops | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | 195 | 195 |
| | Kelowna | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | 286 | 286 |
| | Metro Vancouver | 967 | 44% | 742 | 33% | 1,172 | 53% | 848 | 38% | 2,221 | 1,384 | 3,605 |
| | Nanaimo | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | 301 | 301 |
| | Nelson | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | 115 | 115 |
| | Prince George | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | 160 | 160 |
| | Salt Spring Island | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | 115 | 115 |
| | Terrace | 33 | 37% | 21 | 24% | 50 | 56% | 25 | 28% | 89 | 7 | 96 |
| | Vernon | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | 153 | 153 |
| | Other Communities | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | 146 | 146 |
| Total | | 1,501 | 44% | 1,132 | 33% | 1,911 | 56% | 1,358 | 40% | 3,402 | 4,253 | 7,655 |

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 |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | # | # |
| Core Communities | Campbell River | 27 | 41% | 39 | 59% | 66 | 15 | 81 |
| | Comox Valley | 25 | 26% | 70 | 74% | 95 | 22 | 117 |
| | Cranbrook | 9 | 33% | 18 | 67% | 27 | 2 | 29 |
| | Fort St. John | 14 | 27% | 37 | 73% | 51 | 10 | 61 |
| | Merritt | 4 | 40% | 6 | 60% | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| | Parksville/Qualicum | 9 | 25% | 27 | 75% | 36 | 6 | 42 |
| | Penticton | 26 | 36% | 47 | 64% | 73 | 35 | 108 |
| | Port Alberni | 32 | 32% | 67 | 68% | 99 | 48 | 147 |
| | Prince Rupert | 17 | 33% | 34 | 67% | 51 | 20 | 71 |
| | Sechelt/ Gibsons | 8 | 20% | 32 | 80% | 40 | 17 | 57 |
| | Smithers | 8 | 35% | 15 | 65% | 23 | 6 | 29 |
| | Williams Lake | 8 | 47% | 9 | 53% | 17 | 26 | 43 |
| | Total | 1,236 | 29% | 3,001 | 71% | 4,237 | 3,418 | 7,655 |
| HPS and Other | Greater Victoria | 185 | 31% | 408 | 69% | 593 | 338 | 931 |
| | Duncan | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 150 | 150 |
| | Fraser Valley | 231 | 49% | 238 | 51% | 469 | 137 | 606 |
| | Kamloops | 59 | 38% | 95 | 62% | 154 | 41 | 195 |
| | Kelowna | 37 | 29% | 92 | 71% | 129 | 157 | 286 |
| | Metro Vancouver | 423 | 21% | 1598 | 79% | 2,021 | 1584 | 3,605 |
| | Nanaimo | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 301 | 301 |
| | Nelson | 30 | 37% | 52 | 63% | 82 | 33 | 115 |
| | Prince George | 52 | 48% | 56 | 52% | 108 | 52 | 160 |
| | Salt Spring Island | 8 | 33% | 16 | 67% | 24 | 91 | 115 |
| | Terrace | 24 | 35% | 45 | 65% | 69 | 27 | 96 |
| | Vernon | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 153 | 153 |
| | Other Communities | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 146 | 146 |
| | Total | 1,236 | 29% | 3,001 | 71% | 4,237 | 3,418 | 7,655 |

3.6 History of Homeless

Table 3.8: Length of Time Homeless - Across Communities

| Length of Time Homeless | | Under 1 Year | | 1 Year to Under 5 Years | | 5 Years to Under 10 Years | | 10 Years or More | | Respondents | | Don't Know/ No Answer | Total |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | # |
| Core Communities | Campbell River | 33 | 49% | 28 | 42% | 4 | 6% | 2 | 3% | 67 | 100% | 14 | 81 |
| | Comox Valley | 49 | 55% | 32 | 36% | 4 | 4% | 4 | 4% | 89 | 100% | 28 | 117 |
| | Cranbrook | 9 | 33% | 13 | 48% | 5 | 19% | 0 | 0% | 27 | 100% | 2 | 29 |
| | Fort St. John | 16 | 33% | 28 | 57% | 2 | 4% | 3 | 6% | 49 | 100% | 12 | 61 |
| | Merritt | 8 | 73% | 3 | 27% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 11 | 100% | 0 | 11 |
| | Parksville/Qualicum | 15 | 43% | 16 | 46% | 3 | 9% | 1 | 3% | 35 | 100% | 7 | 42 |
| | Penticton | 41 | 53% | 27 | 35% | 6 | 8% | 3 | 4% | 77 | 100% | 31 | 108 |
| | Port Alberni | 52 | 50% | 39 | 38% | 8 | 8% | 5 | 5% | 104 | 100% | 43 | 147 |
| | Prince Rupert | 26 | 51% | 19 | 37% | 5 | 10% | 1 | 2% | 51 | 100% | 20 | 71 |
| | Sechelt/ Gibsons | 18 | 49% | 14 | 38% | 5 | 14% | 0 | 0% | 37 | 100% | 20 | 57 |
| | Smithers | 11 | 46% | 12 | 50% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 4% | 24 | 100% | 5 | 29 |
| | Williams Lake | 9 | 60% | 3 | 20% | 2 | 13% | 1 | 7% | 15 | 100% | 28 | 43 |
| HPS and Other | Greater Victoria | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 931 | 931 |
| | Duncan | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 150 | 150 |
| | Fraser Valley | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 606 | 606 |
| | Kamloops | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 195 | 195 |
| | Kelowna | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 286 | 286 |
| | Metro Vancouver | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 3,605 | 3,605 |
| | Nanaimo | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 301 | 301 |
| | Nelson | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 115 | 115 |
| | Prince George | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 160 | 160 |
| | Salt Spring Island | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 115 | 115 |
| | Terrace | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 96 | 96 |
| | Vernon | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 153 | 153 |
| | Other Communities | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 146 | 146 |
| Total | | 287 | 49% | 234 | 40% | 44 | 8% | 21 | 4% | 586 | 100% | 7,069 | 7,655 |

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 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | | | | | # | % | # | # |
| Core Communities | Campbell River | 27 | 42% | 10 | 15% | 6 | 9% | 12 | 18% | 10 | 15% | 65 | 100% | 16 | 81 |
| | Comox Valley | 16 | 17% | 22 | 24% | 9 | 10% | 24 | 26% | 21 | 23% | 92 | 100% | 25 | 117 |
| | Cranbrook | 10 | 38% | 2 | 8% | 3 | 12% | 8 | 31% | 3 | 12% | 26 | 100% | 3 | 29 |
| | Fort St. John | 14 | 28% | 12 | 24% | 9 | 18% | 8 | 16% | 7 | 14% | 50 | 100% | 11 | 61 |
| | Merritt | 3 | 27% | 1 | 9% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 18% | 5 | 45% | 11 | 100% | 0 | 11 |
| | Parksville/Qualicum | 9 | 24% | 8 | 21% | 4 | 11% | 8 | 21% | 9 | 24% | 38 | 100% | 4 | 42 |
| | Penticton | 17 | 23% | 14 | 19% | 7 | 9% | 30 | 41% | 6 | 8% | 74 | 100% | 34 | 108 |
| | Port Alberni | 21 | 20% | 23 | 22% | 7 | 7% | 23 | 22% | 29 | 28% | 103 | 100% | 44 | 147 |
| | Prince Rupert | 10 | 20% | 8 | 16% | 2 | 4% | 14 | 27% | 17 | 33% | 51 | 100% | 20 | 71 |
| | Sechelt/ Gibsons | 10 | 26% | 11 | 28% | 4 | 10% | 10 | 26% | 4 | 10% | 39 | 100% | 18 | 57 |
| | Smithers | 8 | 32% | 3 | 12% | 3 | 12% | 5 | 20% | 6 | 24% | 25 | 100% | 4 | 29 |
| | Williams Lake | 6 | 35% | 2 | 12% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 9 | 53% | 17 | 100% | 26 | 43 |
| HPS and Other | Greater Victoria | 95 | 16% | 104 | 18% | 59 | 10% | 204 | 35% | 124 | 21% | 586 | 100% | 345 | 931 |
| | Duncan | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 150 | 150 |
| | Fraser Valley | 95 | 21% | 76 | 17% | 66 | 15% | 124 | 27% | 94 | 21% | 455 | 100% | 151 | 606 |
| | Kamloops | 53 | 33% | 22 | 14% | 14 | 9% | 45 | 28% | 25 | 16% | 159 | 100% | 36 | 195 |
| | Kelowna | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 286 | 286 |
| | Metro Vancouver | 496 | 22% | 401 | 18% | 227 | 10% | 773 | 34% | 365 | 16% | 2,262 | 100% | 1,343 | 3,605 |
| | Nanaimo | 35 | 14% | 44 | 17% | 28 | 11% | 66 | 26% | 84 | 33% | 257 | 100% | 44 | 301 |
| | Nelson | 22 | 27% | 10 | 12% | 13 | 16% | 26 | 32% | 10 | 12% | 81 | 100% | 34 | 115 |
| | Prince George | 14 | 13% | 21 | 20% | 20 | 19% | 34 | 32% | 17 | 16% | 106 | 100% | 54 | 160 |
| | Salt Spring Island | 12 | 46% | 10 | 38% | 3 | 12% | 1 | 4% | 0 | 0% | 26 | 100% | 89 | 115 |
| | Terrace | 12 | 17% | 11 | 16% | 8 | 12% | 28 | 41% | 10 | 14% | 69 | 100% | 27 | 96 |
| | Vernon | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 153 | 153 |
| | Other Communities | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 146 | 146 |
| Total | | 985 | 21% | 815 | 18% | 492 | 11% | 1,445 | 31% | 855 | 19% | 4,592 | 100% | 3,063 | 7,655 |

4 | Methodology

This section describes the methodology of the 2018 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 24 communities in 2017 and the spring of 2018. Each count took place over a 24-hour period to provide a “snapshot” of homelessness in the community during that time and included both a shelter and street count as described below. To ensure consistency across the count communities and with previous research, the 2018 counts were conducted between March and April.

This report also includes data for the night of March 20, 2018 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. This data was used to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness and to identify gender.

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 the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) and independent counts. The Province extended the number of communities and included shelter data to provide a more comprehensive picture of homelessness in B.C. The 12 B.C. count communities were selected because they had previous experience conducting a homeless count or surveys with people experiencing homelessness and reflected the diversity of B.C.’s geography. These counts followed the same fundamental methodology used in previous counts in the Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley regions. The counts were completed within the municipal boundaries of each community,⁴⁴ except for:

- › Parksville/Qualicum –included Qualicum Beach, Parksville and a magnet event⁴⁵ in Bowser
- › Sechelt/Gibsons - included Sechelt, Gibsons, and a count event in Roberts Creek
- › Comox Valley – included Comox, Courtney, Cumberland and Denman Island

The HPS and independent counts were included because they followed a Point-in-Time (PiT) count method, and, with the exception of Vernon, all counts were conducted in the spring. While the City of Vancouver conducted a count in March 2018, the Metro Vancouver 2017 count data was used in order to include data from all 21 Metro Vancouver municipalities and an electoral area.⁴⁶

⁴⁴ Surveys were not conducted on First Nations Reserves.

⁴⁵ 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.

⁴⁶ The geographic areas included in these counts were based on municipal or regional boundaries. To learn more, please the links to the reports as shown in Figure 2 in the Appendices.

4.3 Twelve B.C. Count/Core Communities

HSABC engaged and supported local coordinators to implement the count in each of the 12 B.C. 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 volunteer interviewers from community agencies, individuals with lived experience of homelessness, and the general community.
- › Empower Local Coordinators to listen to what communities and individuals were telling them about what they thought was important in 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
- › Ensure at least one “magnet” event was held in each community that provided food or other services to community members, where the surveys could be completed.
- › Provide consistent local training for volunteer interviewers.
- › Ensure local knowledge and experience with homeless counts was included in the planning and process of developing and implementing the count.

Shelter Count

The shelter counts took place on the evening before the street count in each of the 12 provincially funded count communities. This part of the count involved obtaining information about individuals staying overnight in emergency shelters, Extreme Weather Response shelters (EWRs), transition houses for women and children fleeing abuse, safe houses, detox facilities, and for people with no fixed address (NFA) staying in hospitals and jails. Volunteer interviewers were assigned to shelters and/or shelters had their own staff to conduct the interviews. Transition houses, youth safe houses and detox facilities chose to have staff conduct the interviews.

Each survey respondent was asked a series of screening questions and screened out 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 visible homeless for the purpose of the count.

To ensure that each count was as accurate as possible, each emergency shelter, transition house for women and children fleeing abuse, youth safe house and detox facility was asked to complete a Shelter Statistics form to record the total number of people who stayed overnight at the site and the number of people turned away. Not all clients in the shelters agreed or were available to be surveyed; however, because of the Shelter Statistics form, the total number of people staying in a shelter facility was available.⁴⁷ Jails provided a tally of individuals with No Fixed Address staying in jail cells on the night of the count in each community. In addition, data from shelters, transition houses, and safe homes in other communities was provided through BC Housing.

⁴⁷ Both shelters and jails in many cases provided some basic demographic information. However, in order to respect individuals’ self-identification around gender and Indigenous identity, only data collected through the survey was used in the creation of tables.

Health authorities (including Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal Health, Interior Health, Northern Health and Island Health) participated by submitting tallies of individuals with no fixed address staying at each community's hospital on the night of the count and when possible, also provided information on age and gender. A complete list of shelters and No Fixed Address locations is included in the Appendices.

Street Count

The street count began early in the morning during the day of the count in each community and continued throughout the day and evening. The street count focused on finding people in public areas or locations where people experiencing homelessness were likely to be found, 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. Volunteer interviewers, working in teams of two, were assigned to specific locations and given maps and/or instructions to approach individuals and conduct a survey. Most volunteer shifts ranged from about two to three hours.

Each survey respondent was asked a series of screening questions and screened out if they either reported they had already answered the survey; or, if they had a place of their own where they paid rent and could expect to live for at least 30 days. As part of the street survey, respondents were also asked where they had stayed the previous night. The survey was completed for individuals who reported staying in a shelter, safe house, or transition house the night before, and who said that they had not completed a survey the night before. The surveys for these individuals were grouped with sheltered respondents, but not added to the total number of sheltered individuals. While these individuals were not added to the total number of sheltered respondents (which was derived from completed shelter statistics forms), the survey was completed to collect demographic and service use data to better understand the profile of shelter users since the response rates in shelters has historically been low. Individuals who indicated they had completed a survey the night before were screened out. People who reported staying at someone else's place on the night of the count were considered homeless, unsheltered and were screened in/included in this report.

Survey Design and Administration

Two survey instruments were used for the counts in the 12 B.C. count communities: a street survey and a shelter survey (both surveys are included in the Appendices). The surveys were similar and consistent with the Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley count surveys.

Surveys were completed by roughly 300 trained volunteers recruited for the count. Volunteers included some professional outreach and community service agency staff who participated in the count as part of their employment, as well as community members who registered to volunteer through SurveyMonkey.⁴⁸ All volunteers, regardless of their experience, were required to attend a two-hour training session. This session ensured volunteers could consistently conduct the survey, approach individuals who were experiencing homelessness, and stay safe during their count shift in the 12 B.C. count communities.

On the day of the count, volunteers picked up their count packages prior to their shift to give them an opportunity to review the material. Packages included one count sticker for each volunteer which served as their identification and helped with the screening out of respondents who had already completed the survey, as well as a clipboard, plastic cover, surveys, detailed instructions for completing the survey (which were reviewed during the training session), a blank copy

48 Survey Monkey is an online survey development website.

of the waiver volunteers signed at the training session, general information about the count, a pen, instructions about their route and/or a map, as well as some candies and cigarettes (to be used as an icebreaker to establish a level of trust in order to initiate a conversation).

Individuals approached by volunteers were offered a cigarette, or snack⁴⁹ as an ice-breaker, prior to being asked to participate in a survey, rather than after completing a survey, to ensure ice-breakers would not be used as an incentive to complete an interview. Volunteers were instructed to wear their volunteer count stickers at all times during their shift, so they could be identified with the count. Consistent with previous counts in Metro Vancouver (except in 2011), volunteers were advised to try to wake up a person who was sleeping so the person would have the opportunity to be included in the count. Volunteers were also instructed to ensure informed consent was given by each survey respondent prior to beginning the survey and to provide respondents with contact information should they have additional questions on how their information is being used. Volunteers 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.

Survey Participation Rates

Data for the homeless counts in the 12 B.C. count communities was collected through two streams:

- › Basic data on shelter capacity, occupancy, age, and gender 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.
- › Volunteers conducted surveys on the night of the count in shelters and during the day on the street in each of the 12 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.
- › As shown below, the overall survey participation rate for people in shelters was 51%.⁵⁰

| | Sheltered survey respondents | Total Sheltered Individuals | Response Rate |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 12 B.C. Count Communities | 239 | 390 | 61% |
| HPS Communities (aggregate) ⁵¹ | 2,091 | 4,251 | 49% |
| Other Communities ⁵² | 108 | 146 | 74% |
| Total Response Rate | 2,438 | 4,787 | 51% |

49 Prince Rupert and Port Alberni were the only two communities that offered snack foods as an icebreaker in place of cigarettes.

50 It is not possible to provide a participation rate for the unsheltered respondents because the total population of individuals who were not surveyed is not known.

51 Response rates for HPS are highly variable by community and question asked. Therefore, the total respondents for the key indicator of gender is used to determine overall response rate.

52 Survey response rates for HPS and other communities was based on the gender identity question because it was the most commonly answered question.

4.4 Federally Funded Homelessness Partnering Strategy Counts and Independent Count Communities

To provide a comprehensive snapshot of the scope and scale of homelessness in British Columbia, this report includes an analysis of the 2018 PiT counts funded through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, as well as four other communities that had recently completed counts. In 2016, the Government of Canada originated a nationally coordinated, bi-annual PiT count to identify overall trends, themes, challenges, and characteristics of homelessness in Canada. In March and April of 2018, over 60 HPS-funded communities engaged in the second nationally coordinated count, including 6 across B.C.⁵³ In addition to these communities, Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley Regional District, Duncan and Vernon had completed PiT counts in 2017, and the results from these counts are included in the report.⁵⁴

In the lead up to the first nationally coordinated count, Service Canada prepared various implementation guidelines and tools, including the *Guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy*, which provided guidance and advice for planning a count. The document provided best practices and suggestions for developing a local PiT count, including the core questions to appear on the survey instrument. This included screening questions and information related to capturing demographics such as age, gender, Indigeneity, immigration and refugee status, as well as duration of individuals experiencing homelessness and length of time in community. While these core questions were standardized throughout communities conducting an HPS count, the approach allowed for flexibility so that communities could tailor their approach to local context. This approach created differences in the survey methodology between HPS funded communities and limited the extent to which they could be compared against one another. In addition, this approach ultimately posed a challenge for directly comparing these counts with the 12 B.C. count communities, given slight differences with survey questions. To the greatest extent possible, data from the HPS and other communities were adjusted to align with the methodological parameters of the 12 B.C. count communities to enable direct comparisons, but in certain cases this was limited or not possible.

The HPS communities were contacted individually to ask them to support the provincial initiative and provide data on the respective count in their community. Many communities provided raw survey data on sheltered and unsheltered individuals so that the data could be tabulated according to the core community's methodology, while others provided aggregated data only. Similarly, some communities provided data collected through shelters, while others did not. There was also some variation regarding whether or not communities included different types of hidden homelessness, such as couch surfing or people staying in institutions. As a result, the methodological approach adopted in each HPS community differed not only from the provincial method, but from another one another. There were also some differences with the counts conducted independently on Salt Spring Island and in Terrace, although Terrace used the same survey as the B.C. count communities. Throughout this report, footnotes are provided where direct comparisons were problematic or not possible.

53 Metro Vancouver conducted a regional PiT count in March of 2017. In lieu of conducting an additional PiT count for 2018, Metro Vancouver piloted a more in-depth youth homeless count.

54 It is important to note that numbers in this report may differ from the HPS community reports because of different methodologies used. For example, we do not include "provisionally accommodated" if an individual does not meet the definition of homelessness for the purpose of our count, but we do include people who were couch surfing if they were identified during the count.

4.5 Limitations

Homeless counts are inherently undercounts and this count was no different. While every effort was made to include as many individuals experiencing homelessness as possible, we were not able to find everyone and not every individual experiencing homelessness wanted to be surveyed. Some local service providers also expressed concern that the PiT methodology is limited in its ability to capture the true extent of homelessness in a rural setting due to the geography and climate in these settings resulting in more hidden homelessness. Several factors, discussed below, have been identified that generally affect the results of homeless counts.

Lack of Willingness to Participate

Many people who are experiencing homelessness do not want to be counted and prefer to remain hidden. All of the 12 B.C. count communities had previously conducted counts, housing needs assessments and other surveys; consequently, survey fatigue could be an issue. Stigma associated with homelessness also can impact a person's willingness to participate in the count or to be identified as homeless.

Hidden Homelessness

The hidden homeless, for the purpose of the Count, includes people who may be staying with friends (couch surfing), living deep in the woods, or in parks, vehicles, or abandoned buildings and other locations where volunteers are not able to find them. 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

The nature of the survey itself also presents limitations regarding participation and response rates. The shelter survey included 21 questions and the street survey included 23 each taking roughly 7-10 minutes to complete. The length of the survey presented a barrier to some individuals.

Other Limitations and Considerations

In addition to the limitations discussed above, which could impact participation and response rates, several limitations regarding the survey questions themselves and data analysis should be noted.

- › Questions with long lists of options are likely to receive less accurate responses. For example, an individual answering the question regarding service use may not accurately remember all the services used in the last year.
- › In the income question, there are several categories (income assistance, disability benefit and other pension) that overlap. Some individuals may receive a disability pension, for example, that could be identified by individuals as either a disability benefit or a pension.
- › Questions asked later in the survey were more likely to have a lower response rate, and certain personal questions (e.g. sexual orientation) may not have been answered by respondents.
- › The data in this report constitutes a benchmark to measure the progress made to address homelessness over time but does not allow for any current longitudinal comparisons.

5 | Appendices

5.1 Report Data Sources

As shown in Figure 2, this report includes:

- › Data from the provincially (1-12), and federally (13-18) funded counts, and two other homeless counts conducted in the spring of 2018 (19-20), as well as four counts conducted in 2017 (21-24).⁵⁵
- › Shelter data from other B.C. communities (collected by BC Housing)⁵⁶

This approach provides a broad picture of homelessness in British Columbia with coverage of more than 85 percent (85%) of the province by population.

Figure 2: 2018 Homeless Counts in B.C.⁵⁷

| | # | Community | Date | Source |
|--|----|---------------------|-------------|---|
| B.C. FUNDED COUNTS | 1 | Campbell River | 13-Apr-2018 | |
| | 2 | Comox Valley | 7-Mar-2018 | |
| | 3 | Cranbrook | 18-Apr-2018 | |
| | 4 | Merritt | 4-Apr-2018 | |
| | 5 | Parksville/Qualicum | 18-Apr-2018 | |
| | 6 | Penticton | 30-Apr-2018 | |
| | 7 | Port Alberni | 11-Apr-2018 | |
| | 8 | Smithers | 17-Apr-2018 | |
| | 9 | Williams Lake | 26-Mar-2018 | |
| | 10 | Prince Rupert | 21-Mar-2018 | |
| | 11 | Fort St. John | 18-Apr-2018 | |
| | 12 | Sechelt/Gibsons | 23-Apr-2018 | |
| HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY FUNDED COUNTS | 13 | Greater Victoria | 16-Mar-2018 | https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/housing-pdf/housing-planning-and-programs/2018-pit-count---community-report---final---july-19.pdf?sfvrsn=a92ee2ca_2 |
| | 14 | Kamloops | 28-Mar-2018 | https://www.kamloops.ca/sites/default/files/docs/our-community/297700pdf_pit_2018_rep.pdf |
| | 15 | Kelowna | 6-Mar-2018 | https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/9915/2884/5444/COF_PiT_Report_2018_FINAL.pdf |
| | 16 | Nanaimo | 18-Apr-2018 | https://www.nanaimo.ca/docs/social-culture-environment/community-social-service-programs/nanaimo-pit-count-report-2018_final_june-6.pdf |
| | 17 | Nelson | 11-Apr-2018 | http://nelsoncares.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FINAL-DRAFT-June-22-Nelson-10th-Annual-Report-Card-on-Homelessness-1.pdf |
| | 18 | Prince George | 18-Apr-2018 | Not available |

⁵⁵ This report includes data from the 2017 homeless counts for Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Data from the 2018 City of Vancouver and Abbotsford counts will not replace the 2017 data for the regional counts.

⁵⁶ This includes data obtained for the night of March 20, 2018 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. The number of people staying in these facilities is included in the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

⁵⁷ Lake Country also conducted a PiT count in the spring of 2018, no individuals experiencing homelessness were identified.

| | # | Community | Date | Source |
|-------------|----|--------------------|-------------|---|
| INDEPENDENT | 19 | Salt Spring Island | 13-Mar-2018 | http://saltspringcommunityservices.ca/point-in-time-homeless-count-2018/ |
| | 20 | Terrace | 18-Apr-2018 | https://terrace.civicweb.net/document/6725 |
| 2017 COUNTS | 21 | Vernon | 19-Oct-2017 | https://www.vernon.ca/sites/default/files/docs/building-planning/171023_final_report_-_our_homeless_count.pdf |
| | 22 | Duncan | 21-Feb-2017 | https://d3n8a8pro7vbm.cloudfront.net/cwav/pages/522/attachments/original/1515171590/Duncan_PiT_Homeless_Count_-_Community_Report_March_2017%281%29.pdf?1515171590 |
| | 23 | Metro Vancouver | 8-Mar-2017 | http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/HomelessnessPublications/2017MetroVancouverHomelessCount.pdf |
| | 24 | Fraser Valley | 8-Mar-2017 | http://www.fvrd.ca/assets/Government/Documents/2017%20FVRD%20Homelessness%20Survey%20Report.pdf |

Figure 3 includes 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 but data was obtained for the night of March 20, 2018. The number of people staying in these facilities is included in the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in B.C.

Figure 3: Shelter Data from Other B.C. Communities

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

5.2 Glossary of Terms and Definitions

The following terms are used throughout the report.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Aboriginal Identity | Refers to whether the person identified with the Aboriginal 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. Aboriginal peoples of Canada are defined in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35 (2) as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. ⁵⁴ |
| Accompanied Children | See Children |
| 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 <i>individuals</i> who did not answer the survey at all, but were counted through additional information from shelter operators, hospitals, jails and BC Housing. See “ <i>individual</i> ” and “ <i>respondent</i> ”. 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 | See Aboriginal Identity |
| Individual | 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. See “respondent”. |
| LGBTQ2S | Refers to people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Queer, Questioning and 2-Spirit. |
| 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. |
| Participant | Refers to those who were asked to participate in the survey. |
| PiT count | Point-in-Time homeless count |
| Respondent | Refers to those who participated in a survey by answering a survey question. See “individual”. |

58 Statistics Canada. No date. “Aboriginal identity of person.” Definitions, data sources and methods, variables. Last updated April 04, 2017. <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DECI&Id=246617> (accessed June 10, 2018).

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 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. |
| Unspecified | “Unspecified” refers to survey respondents from communities where respondents were not broken out by sheltered or unsheltered. |
| 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. |

5.3 Community Contributors for B.C. Count Communities

| Community | Community Organization |
|----------------|---|
| Campbell River | AIDS Vancouver Island |
| Campbell River | Alano Club |
| Campbell River | Campbell River and North Island Transition Society (CRNITS) |
| Campbell River | Campbell River Beacon Club |
| Campbell River | Campbell River Sobering Assessment Centre |
| Campbell River | City of Campbell River |
| Campbell River | Laichwiltach Family Life Society |
| Campbell River | MHSA ACT Teams |
| Campbell River | North Island Employment Foundations Society |
| Campbell River | North Island Survivors' Healing Society |
| Campbell River | Options for Sexual Health |
| Campbell River | Salvation Army |
| Campbell River | The John Howard Society of North Island |
| 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 Food Bank |
| Comox Valley | Comox Valley Head Injury Society |
| Comox Valley | Comox Valley Recovery Centre |
| Comox Valley | Comox Valley Transition Society |
| Comox Valley | Connect Program at VIRL |
| Comox Valley | Cumberland Affordable Housing Committee |
| Comox Valley | Dawn to Dawn |
| Comox Valley | Eureka Support Society |
| Comox Valley | First Nation Health Authority |

| Community | Community Organization |
|-----------------|---|
| Comox Valley | Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society |
| Comox Valley | Komoks First Nation |
| Comox Valley | LILLI House |
| Comox Valley | LINC Youth Centre |
| Comox Valley | Mental Health & Substance Use |
| Comox Valley | North Island Hospital |
| Comox Valley | Salvation Army Family Services |
| Comox Valley | Salvation Army Pidcock House |
| Comox Valley | SD71 |
| Comox Valley | Wachiay Friendship Centre |
| Cranbrook | Ankors |
| Cranbrook | Community Social Planning Society of Cranbrook and Area |
| Cranbrook | Operation Street Angel: Ktunaxa Nation |
| Cranbrook | Salvation Army Coordinator- Community Ministries |
| Cranbrook | The Homeless Outreach Team |
| Cranbrook | United Way of Cranbrook and Kimberley |
| Fort Saint John | FSJ Womens Resource society |
| Fort Saint John | Salvation Army |
| Fort Saint John | Urban Matters |
| Merritt | ASK Wellness |
| Merritt | Library |
| Merritt | Conayt Friendship Society |
| Merritt | Nicola Valley Shelter & Support Society |
| Merritt | Nicola Valley Region and District Foodbank |
| Parksville | Discovery College |
| Parksville | Forward House Community Services Society |
| Parksville | Haven Society |
| Parksville | Island Crisis Care Society |
| Parksville | Lighthouse Community Hall – Soupy Café |
| Parksville | Manna Homeless Society |
| Parksville | Society of Organized Services |
| Parksville | The Salvation Army |
| Penticton | Compass House |
| Penticton | Pathways Addictions |
| 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 | 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 | Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society |

| Community | Community Organization |
|---------------|--|
| 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 | Scott Fraser MLA - Constituency Office |
| Port Alberni | The New Leaf Supportive Recovery |
| Prince Rupert | North Coast Transition Society |
| Prince Rupert | Mental Health and Addictions CORE |
| Prince Rupert | Friendship House |
| Prince Rupert | Salvation Army |
| Prince Rupert | Blue Heron Program Offices |
| Prince Rupert | Library |
| Prince Rupert | Raven's Keep Transition House |
| Prince Rupert | Extreme Weather Shelter |
| Prince Rupert | Youth Program |
| 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 | Broadway Place |
| Smithers | Bulkley Valley District Hospital |
| Smithers | Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre |
| Smithers | Northern Health-Mental Health and Addictions |
| Smithers | Office of the Wetsuwet'en |
| Smithers | Passage House |
| Smithers | Positive Living North |
| Smithers | Salvation Army |
| Smithers | Smithers Community Services Association |
| Smithers | Smithers Interministerial Group |
| Smithers | Witset (Moricetown Band) |
| Williams Lake | Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) - Cariboo Chilcotin Branch |
| Williams Lake | Cariboo Friendship Society |
| Williams Lake | Cariboo Friendship Society – Shelter |
| Williams Lake | Cariboo Friendship Society - Transition House |
| Williams Lake | Mental Health Substance Use |
| Williams Lake | Salvation Army |

5.4 Survey Instruments

Survey ID: _____

| | |
|--|---|
| Homeless Count 2018 Street Survey |  |
|--|---|

Volunteer Name: _____ Location: _____

- **Participation is voluntary** and **your name will not be recorded.**
- You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the interview at any time.**
- The answers you provide are collected under BC's Privacy Act.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across BC and Canada, and will help with research to improve services
- **Doing the interview will not affect your use of services in any way.**

Do you consent to be interviewed? ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.1**) ☐ No (**END**)

SCREENING QUESTIONS

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

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

2. Have you already answered a survey in another community in the last 6 weeks?

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

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

- ☐ Yes (**END**)
- ☐ No (**Go to Q.4**)
- ☐ No answer (**Go to Q.4**)

4. Where did you stay last night?

- ☐ Outside (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ In a vehicle (Car, van, RV, truck) (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ Makeshift shelter or tent (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ Abandoned/vacant building (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ Someone else's place or couch-surfing (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ On a boat
- ☐ paying moorage (**END**)
- ☐ not paying moorage (**GO TO Q.5**)
- ☐ Parent(s)/guardian's house – If **youth under 25** (**END**) if 25 or older (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ Shelter, Safe House, Transition House (specify) _____ (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ Detox, recovery house, hospital, jail (**END**)
- ☐ Own place inside where you pay rent (specify): _____ (**END**)
- ☐ Other (specify): _____ (**Go to Q.5**)
- ☐ No answer (**END**)

SURVEY QUESTIONS

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. What gender you identify with? [Show list]

- ☐ Male / Man
- ☐ Female / Woman
- ☐ Two-Spirit
- ☐ Trans Female / Trans Woman
- ☐ Trans Male / Trans Man
- ☐ Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming
- ☐ Not Listed (specify): _____
- ☐ Don't Know / No answer

SURVEY QUESTIONS (continued)

8. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee?

- ☐ Yes (choose one)
- ☐ Immigrant (Go to Q.8a)
- ☐ Refugee (Go to Q.8a)
- ☐ Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.8a)
- ☐ No (Go to Q.9)
- ☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.9)

8a. How long have you been in Canada?

Length: _____

Days # Weeks # Months # Years

Or date of arrival: _____

Day Month Year

☐ Don't know / No answer

9. Do you identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal? This includes First Nations, Metis, Inuit, with or without status.

- ☐ Yes - specify (**check only one**)
- ☐ First Nations: _____ (specify if known)
- ☐ Inuit
- ☐ Métis
- ☐ Not listed (please describe: _____)
- ☐ Don't know / No answer
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

10. Do you have the following health challenges? (Read list.)

| | Yes | No | Don't know/ No answer |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Medical condition/illness | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Physical disability | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Addiction | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mental illness | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

11. Is there anybody with you today?

- ☐ Yes Who? (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Partner/spouse
- ☐ Child(ren) Age(s) 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
- ☐ Friend(s)
- ☐ Pet(s)
- ☐ Relative(s)
- ☐ Other (specify): _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

12. How long have you been in (community name)?

Length: _____

Days # Weeks # Months # Years

- ☐ Always been here (**Go to Q.13**)
- ☐ Don't know / No answer (**Go to Q.13**)

12a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. what community)?

- ☐ Community name _____
- AND province _____
- ☐ OR country _____
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

Page 1 of 2 ➔

PART 2: SURVEY (continued)

13. What are your sources of income? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Welfare/income assistance
- ☐ Panhandling
- ☐ Disability benefit
- ☐ Binning/bottles
- ☐ Employment insurance
- ☐ Youth agreement
- ☐ Money from family/friends
- ☐ Job full-time
- ☐ Job part-time or casual
- ☐ Old age security (OAS)/guaranteed income supplement (GIS)
- ☐ CPP or other pension
- ☐ Honoraria
- ☐ Vending
- ☐ No income
- ☐ Other (specify): _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

14. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" means a place where you paid rent - does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

- ☐ Illness or medical condition
- ☐ Addiction or substance use
- ☐ Job loss
- ☐ Unable to pay rent or mortgage
- ☐ Unsafe housing conditions
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: parent / guardian
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: spouse / partner
- ☐ Conflict with: parent / guardian
- ☐ Conflict with: spouse / partner
- ☐ Incarcerated (jail or prison)
- ☐ Hospitalization or treatment program
- ☐ Eviction
- ☐ Other reason: _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

15. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Income too low
- ☐ History of Eviction/Lack of references
- ☐ Lack of identification
- ☐ No income/no income assistance
- ☐ Addiction
- ☐ Rent too high
- ☐ Poor housing conditions
- ☐ No housing available that suits my needs (specify) _____
- ☐ Mental health issues
- ☐ Family breakdown/abuse/conflict
- ☐ Conflict with law
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Discrimination (specify) _____
- ☐ Lack of transportation
- ☐ Other (specify): _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

16. If you did NOT stay in a shelter, safe house or transition house last night, what is the MAIN reason why? (Check only one)

- ☐ Able to stay with a friend (specify) _____
- ☐ Dislike (specify) _____
- ☐ Don't feel safe (specify) _____
- ☐ Turned away (specify) _____
- ☐ Bedbugs/pests (specify) _____
- ☐ Other (specify): _____
- ☐ Slept in a shelter/safe house/transition house
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

18. What services have you used in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Health services
 - ☐ Ambulance
 - ☐ Emergency room
 - ☐ Hospital (non emergency)
 - ☐ Dental clinic or dentist
 - ☐ Mental health services
 - ☐ Addiction services
 - ☐ Health clinic
- ☐ Food Services
 - ☐ Food banks
 - ☐ Meal programs/soup kitchens
- ☐ Legal Services
 - ☐ Legal
 - ☐ Parole or services for ex-offenders
- ☐ Employment and Financial services
 - ☐ Employment/Job help
 - ☐ Budgeting/trusteeship
- ☐ Housing Services
 - ☐ Housing help/eviction prevention
 - ☐ Homeless outreach
 - ☐ Transitional housing
- ☐ Other Services
 - ☐ Drop-in
 - ☐ Newcomer services
 - ☐ Faith-based/spiritual services
 - ☐ Other (specify): _____
 - ☐ None
 - ☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

20. Have you ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ Currently (since when: _____)
 - ☐ Previously (for how long: _____)
 - ☐ Don't know / No answer
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

21. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? (Includes army, navy, airforce, RCMP)

- ☐ Yes (Check all that apply)
 - ☐ Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
 - ☐ RCMP
 - ☐ Other country military (specify) _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

For the next questions, homeless means "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent".

22. Is this your first time being homeless?

- ☐ Yes (END)
- ☐ No (Go to 23)
- ☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.23)

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

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

Survey ID: _____

Homeless Count 2018 Sheltered Survey



Volunteer Name: _____ Shelter Name: _____

- **Participation is voluntary and your name will not be recorded.**
- You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the interview at any time.**
- The answers you provide are collected under BC's Privacy Act.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across BC and Canada, and will help with research to improve services
- **Doing the interview will not affect your use of services in any way.**

Do you consent to be interviewed? ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.1**) ☐ No (**END**)

SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Will you be sleeping in this shelter tonight?

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

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

- ☐ Yes (**END**)
☐ No (**Go to Q.3**)
☐ No answer (**END**)

3. Have you already answered a survey in another community in the last 6 weeks?

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

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

- ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.5**)
☐ No (**Go to Q.5**)
☐ No answer (**Go to Q.5**)

SURVEY QUESTIONS

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. What gender you identify with? [Show list]

- ☐ Male / Man
☐ Female / Woman
☐ Two-Spirit
☐ Trans Female / Trans Woman
☐ Trans Male / Trans Man
☐ Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming
☐ Not Listed (specify): _____
☐ Don't Know / No answer

8. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee?

- ☐ Yes (choose one)
☐ Immigrant (Go to Q.8a)
☐ Refugee (Go to Q.8a)
☐ Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.8a)
☐ No (Go to Q.9)
☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.9)

8a. How long have you been in Canada?

Length: _____
Days # Weeks # Months # Years

Or date of arrival: _____
Day Month Year

☐ Don't know / No answer

9. Do you identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal? This includes First Nations, Metis, Inuit, with or without status.

- ☐ Yes - specify (**check only one**)
☐ First Nations: _____ (specify if known)
☐ Inuit
☐ Métis
☐ Not listed
(please describe: _____)
☐ Don't know / No answer
☐ No
☐ Don't know / No answer

10. Do you have the following health challenges? (Read list.)

| | Yes | No | Don't know/ No answer |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Medical condition/illness | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Physical disability | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Addiction | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mental illness | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

11. Is there anybody with you today?

- ☐ Yes Who? (Check all that apply)
☐ Partner/spouse
☐ Child(ren)
Age(s) 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
☐ Friend(s)
☐ Pet(s)
☐ Relative(s)
☐ Other (specify): _____
☐ No
☐ Don't know/No answer



PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

12. How long have you been in (community name)?

Length: _____
Days # Weeks # Months # Years

- ☐ Always been here (Go to Q.13)
☐ Don't know / No answer (Go to Q.13)

12a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. what community)?

- ☐ Community name _____
AND province _____
☐ OR country _____
☐ Don't know / No answer

13. What are your sources of income? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Welfare/income assistance
☐ Panhandling
☐ Disability benefit
☐ Binning/bottles
☐ Employment insurance
☐ Youth agreement
☐ Money from family/friends
☐ Job full-time
☐ Job part-time or casual
☐ Old age security (OAS)/guaranteed income supplement (GIS)
☐ CPP or other pension
☐ Honoraria
☐ Vending
☐ No income
☐ Other (specify): _____
☐ Don't know/No answer

14. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" means a place where you paid rent - does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

- ☐ Illness or medical condition
☐ Addiction or substance use
☐ Job loss
☐ Unable to pay rent or mortgage
☐ Unsafe housing conditions
☐ Experienced abuse by: parent / guardian
☐ Experienced abuse by: spouse / partner
☐ Conflict with: parent / guardian
☐ Conflict with: spouse / partner
☐ Incarcerated (jail or prison)
☐ Hospitalization or treatment program
☐ Eviction
☐ Other reason _____
☐ Don't know/No answer

15. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Income too low
☐ History of Eviction/Lack of references
☐ Lack of identification
☐ No income/no income assistance
☐ Addiction
☐ Rent too high
☐ Poor housing conditions
☐ No housing available that suits my needs (specify) _____
☐ Mental health issues
☐ Family breakdown/abuse/conflict
☐ Conflict with law
☐ Pets
☐ Discrimination (specify) _____
☐ Lack of transportation
☐ Other (specify): _____
☐ Don't know/No answer

16. What services have you used in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Health services
☐ Ambulance
☐ Emergency room
☐ Hospital (non emergency)
☐ Dental clinic or dentist
☐ Mental health services
☐ Addiction services
☐ Health clinic
☐ Food Services
☐ Food banks
☐ Meal programs/soup kitchens
☐ Legal Services
☐ Legal
☐ Parole or services for ex-offenders
☐ Employment and Financial services
☐ Employment/Job help
☐ Budgeting/trusteeship
☐ Housing Services
☐ Housing help/eviction prevention
☐ Homeless outreach
☐ Transitional housing
☐ Other Services
☐ Drop-in
☐ Newcomer services
☐ Faith-based/spiritual services
☐ Other (specify): _____
☐ None
☐ Don't know/No answer

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

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

18. Have you ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement?

- ☐ Yes
☐ Currently (since when: _____)
☐ Previously (for how long: _____)
☐ Don't know / No answer
☐ No
☐ Don't know / No answer

19. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? (Includes army, navy, airforce, RCMP)

- ☐ Yes (Check all that apply)
☐ Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
☐ RCMP
☐ Other country military (specify) _____
☐ No
☐ Don't know / No answer

For the next questions, homeless means "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent".

20. Is this your first time being homeless?

- ☐ Yes (END)
☐ No (Go to Q.21)
☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.21)

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

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

6 | About the Implementing Organizations

6.1 About Homelessness Services Association of BC

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

6.2 About Urban Matters CCC

Urban Matters is a community contribution company (CCC) that launches social ventures to help vulnerable people enjoy a higher quality of life. Our vision is to ensure that all vulnerable people have their most basic needs met: reliable access to food, water, shelter and livelihood.

Urban Matters is a subsidiary of Urban Systems Ltd. which has over 40 years of community development experience in British Columbia www.urbansystems.ca. As a self-financed social-purpose business, Urban Matters' main sources of revenue come from social innovation readiness consulting and the modest royalties we receive from the ventures we incubate.

These profits are reinvested in researching, designing, and scaling new social ventures. We think that the biggest impact we can have is to use our well-established business networks and professional expertise to create new social ventures that directly serve the needs of vulnerable people. This approach creates a ripple effect that grows the impact far beyond our own scale and reach.

Urban Matters' team of community catalysts provide social innovation readiness consulting to help governments, community organizations and private companies deliver greater social impact. Our team combines community development expertise with innovation skills such as change management, partnership brokering and human centered-design principles to help our partners achieve social outcomes.

6.3 About BC Non-Profit Housing Association

BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) is the provincial umbrella organization for the non-profit housing sector, providing programs, services, research and education to strengthen the capacity of non-profit housing providers. Together non-profit housing societies manage more than 60,000 units of long-term, affordable housing in over 2,000 buildings across the province.

BCNPHA's research and policy arm was established in 2008 to develop a strong evidence base for affordable housing and developing solutions to the homelessness and rental housing crisis. Our research department has expertise in a broad range of methodologies that include both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Today we provide quality process design, research and analysis to assist clients and partners in making evidence-based decisions. In our work we ensure that homelessness issues are thought of in tandem with affordable housing provision with the goal of breaking down sector silos.

Our research has helped inform planning and policy decisions that provide a diverse housing supply and options for a broad range of BC residents.

