



RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS

May 1, 2018



CITY OF
VANCOUVER

Homelessness
Services



Homeless Count

Homelessness is a regional, provincial and national issue

2018 Homeless Counts:

- 1. Federally-funded counts in 61 communities across Canada**
 - ✓ In 6 BC communities outside Metro Vancouver
 - ✓ 2 counts in Metro Vancouver
 - Indigenous/Aboriginal Count, March 14 in Vancouver, New West, Surrey
 - Youth Count across Metro Vancouver, April 4-12
 - 2. Provincially-funded counts in BC**
 - ✓ In 12 other BC communities
 - 3. COV count in Vancouver, March 13/14**
- In all, 21 homeless counts were conducted in BC in March and April

Homelessness is not just a Vancouver issue

Sub-Region	2014	2017	2014-2017 Change	
			#	%
Delta/White Rock	19	46	27	142%
Langley	92	206	114	124%
Tri-Cities	55	107	52	95%
Richmond	38	70	32	84%
Ridge Meadows	84	134	50	60%
Surrey	403	602	199	49%
New Westminister	106	133	27	25%
Burnaby	58	69	11	19%
Vancouver	1,803	2,138	335	19%
North Shore	119	100	-19	-16%
Total	2,777	3,605	828	30%

- 12th Homeless Count in Vancouver
- Every 3 years regionally since 2002
- Annually in Vancouver since 2010
- “Point-in-time” snapshot of people who are homeless
- Considered an undercount
- Provides a basic demographic profile and tracks trends over time
- Over 400 volunteers



- Federally-funded Indigenous/Aboriginal Count in Vancouver, New Westminister and Surrey on March 14
- Administered by Lu'ma Native Housing Society
- Collaborated on:
 - Survey questions
 - Volunteer training
 - Allocation of routes
 - Data collection
 - Tobacco ties
 - Data entry and analysis

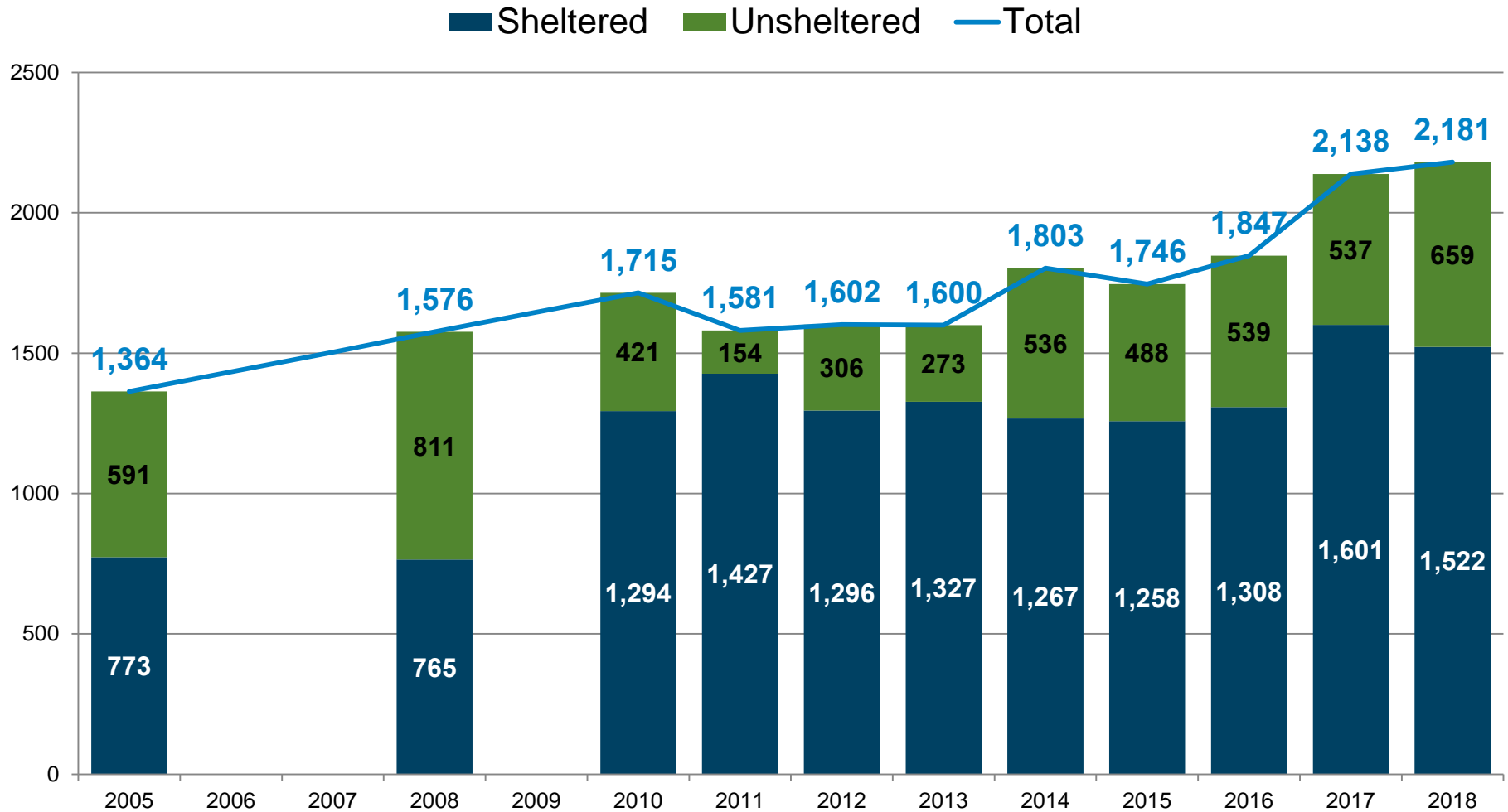
2,181

**PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS HOMELESS IN
VANCOUVER ON MARCH 14, 2018**

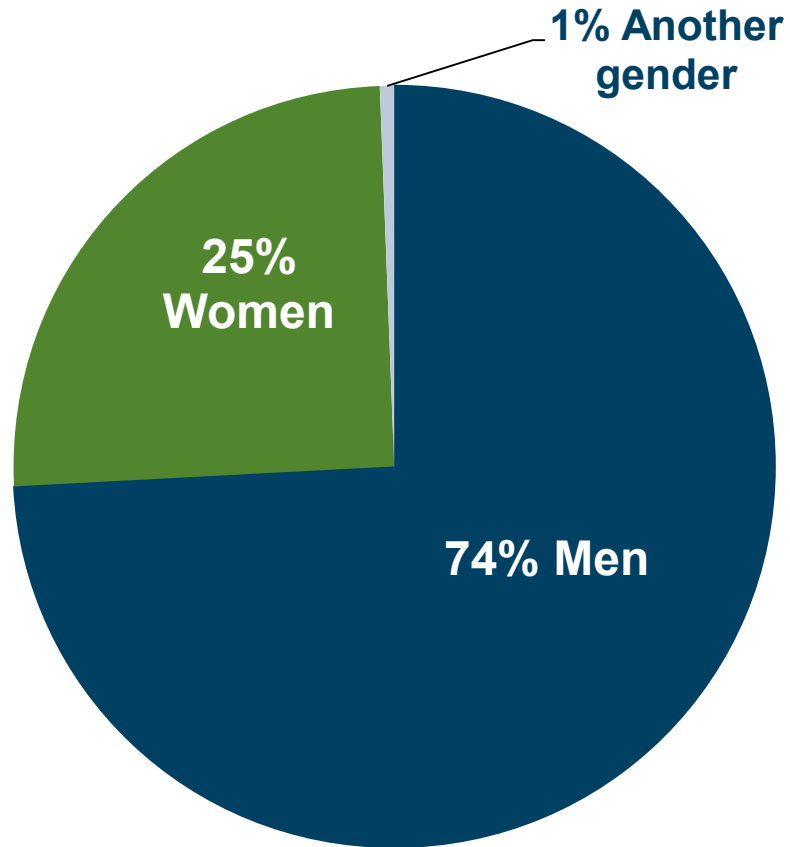
659 UNSHELTERED

1,522 SHELTERED

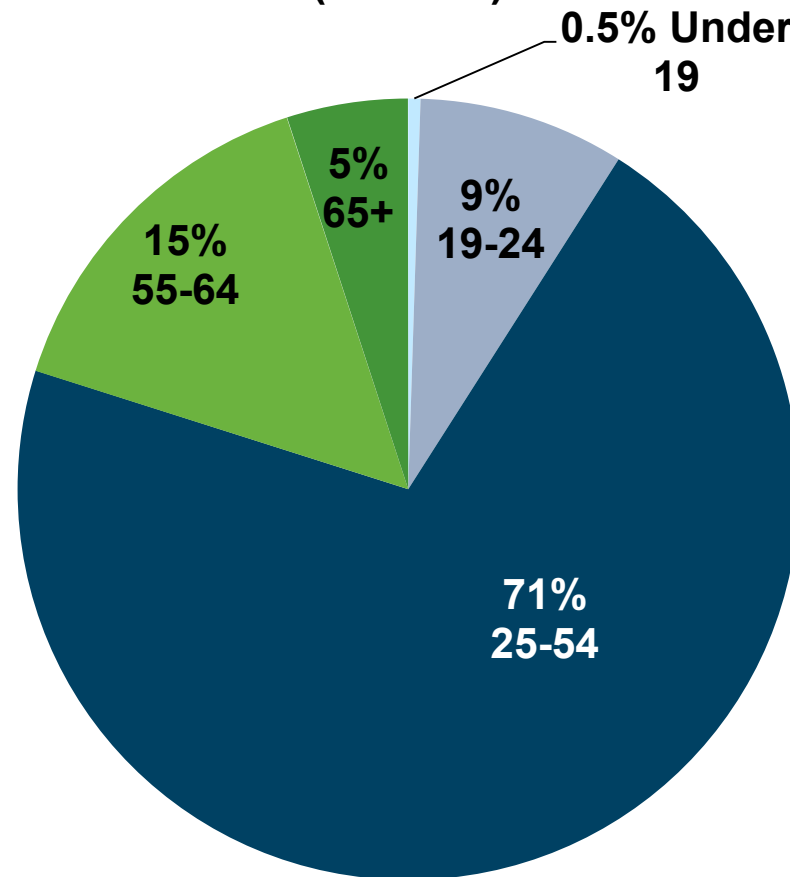
2005 – 2018 Trend in Vancouver



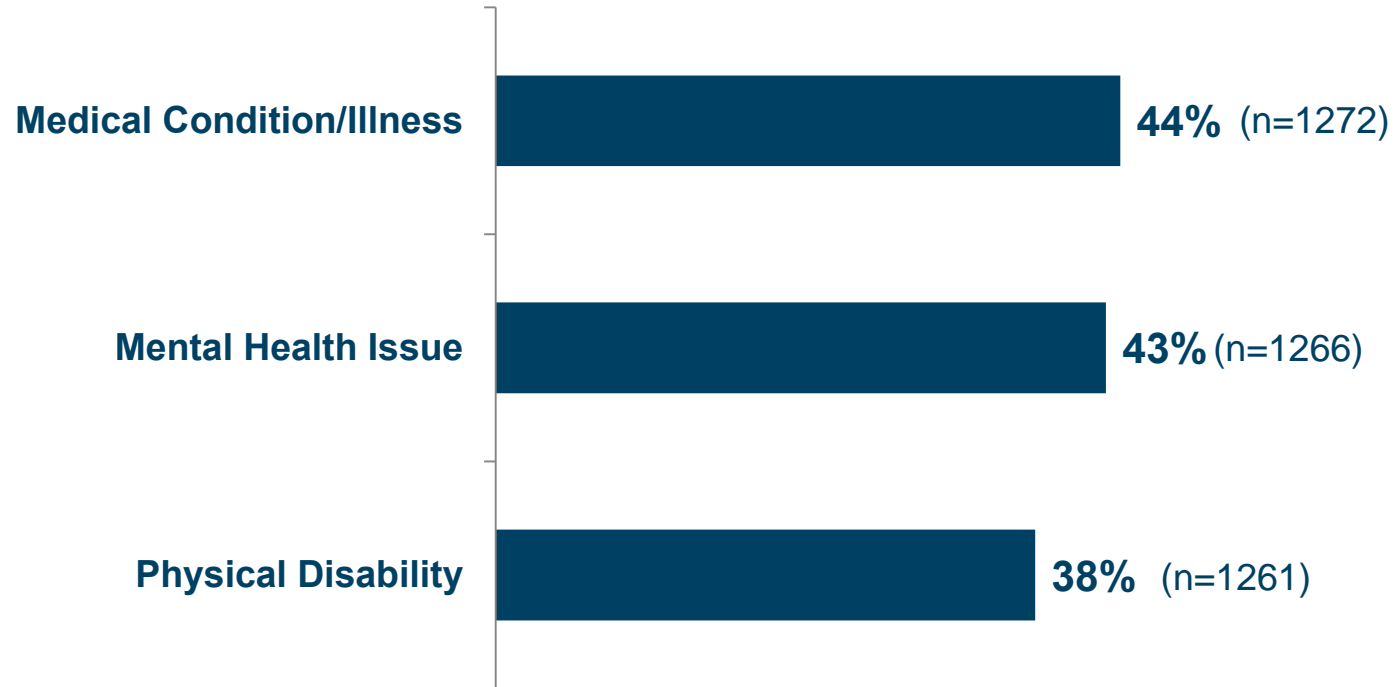
Total Homeless Population by Gender (n=2159)



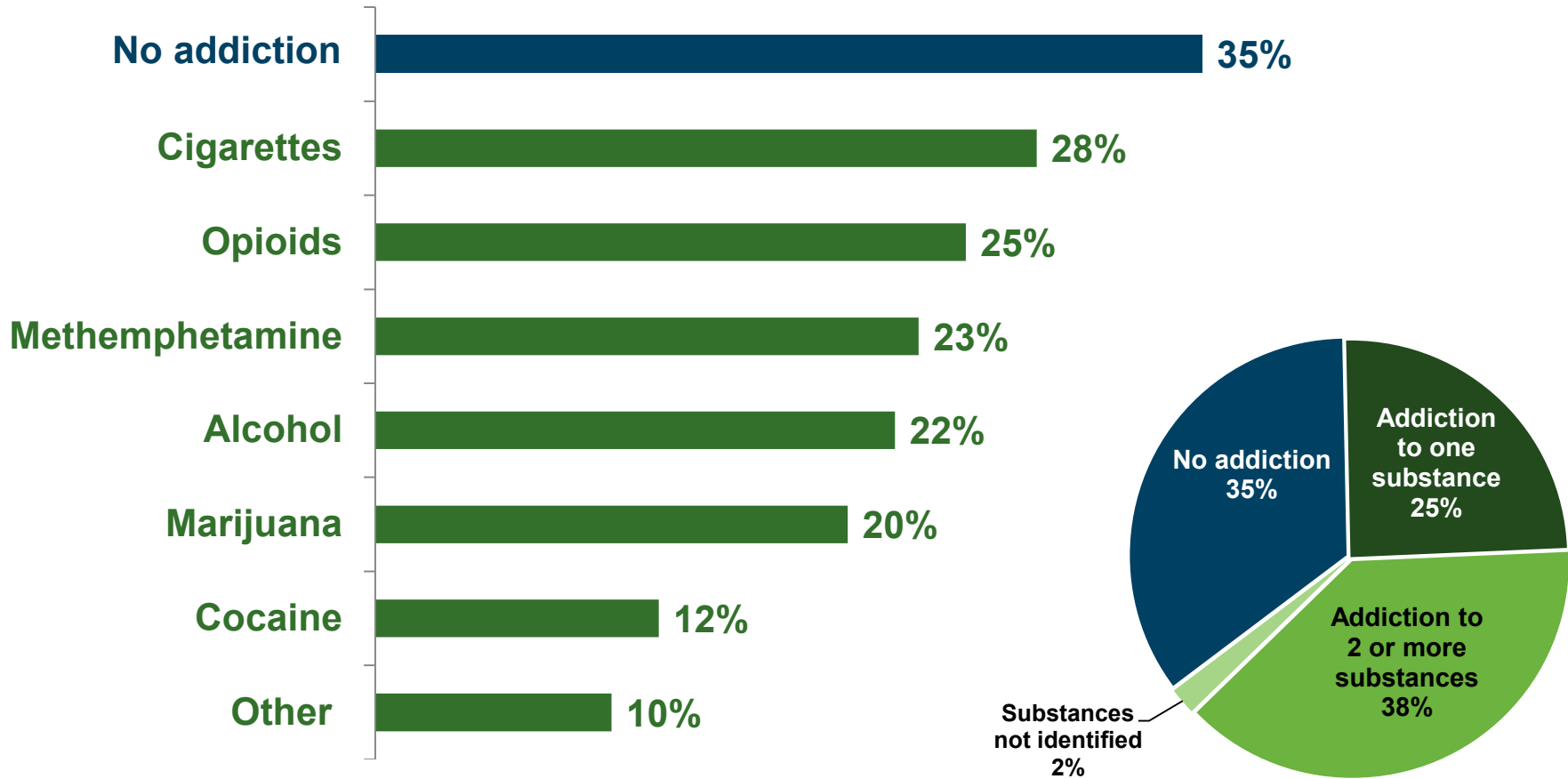
Total Homeless Population by Age (n=1406)



People who are homeless consistently report a range of health issues

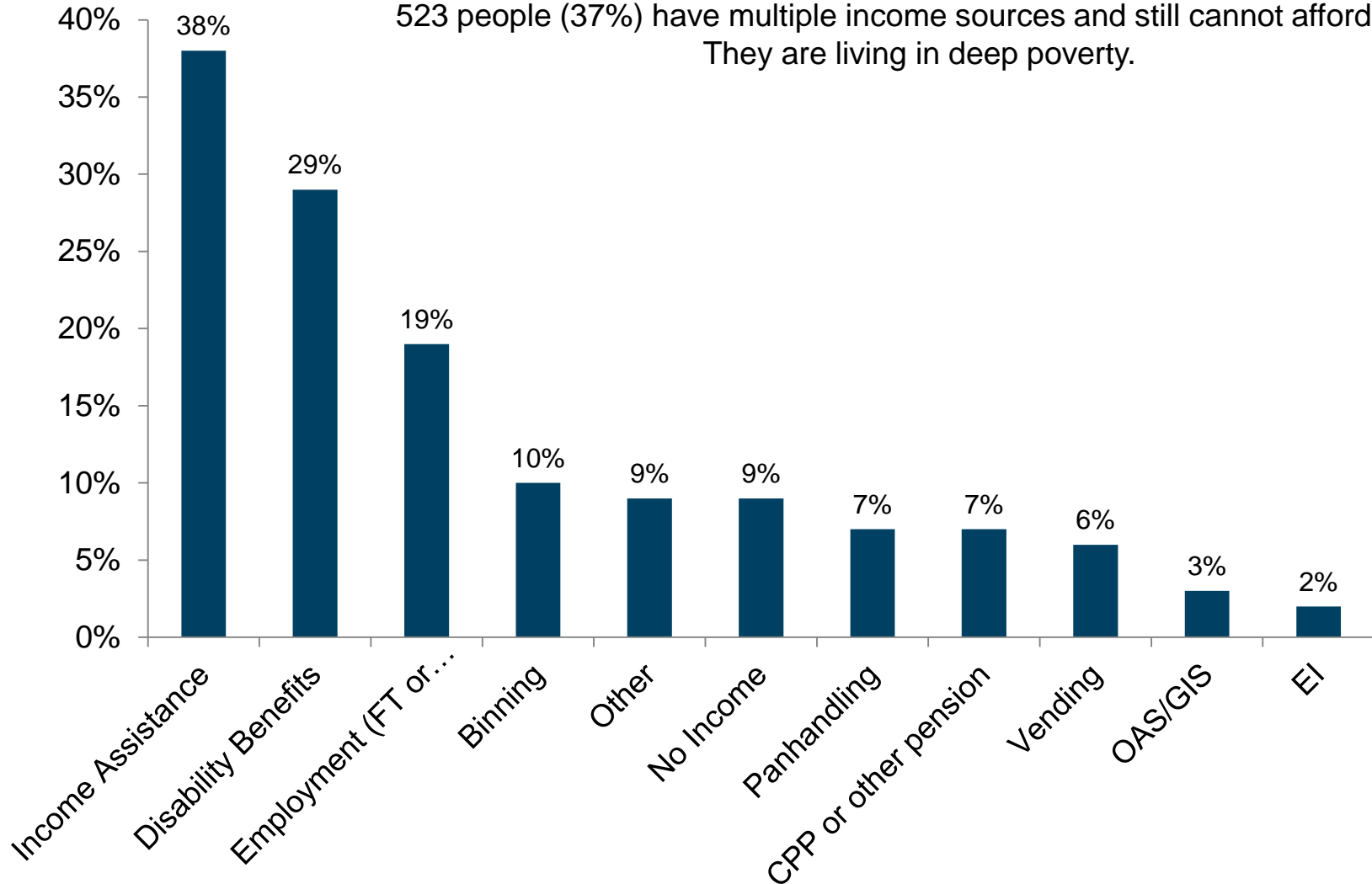


**% Total Homeless Population with Addiction to Substance
(n=1337)**



Sources of Income

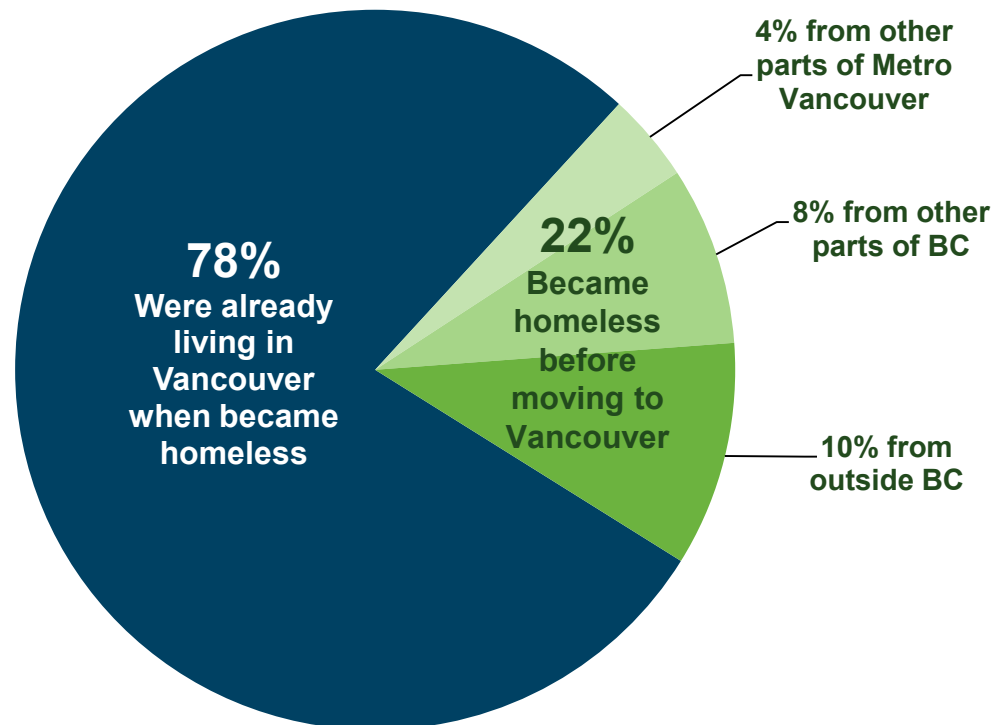
523 people (37%) have multiple income sources and still cannot afford rent. They are living in deep poverty.



Over half the homeless population has been homeless less than a year

<i>Length of time homeless</i>	<i>% of Total Homeless Population (n=1360)</i>
Up to 6 months	31%
6 months to 1 year	21%
1 year – 5 years	34%
5 year – 10 years	8%
More than 10 years	6%

Majority living in Vancouver when they became homeless
(n=955)

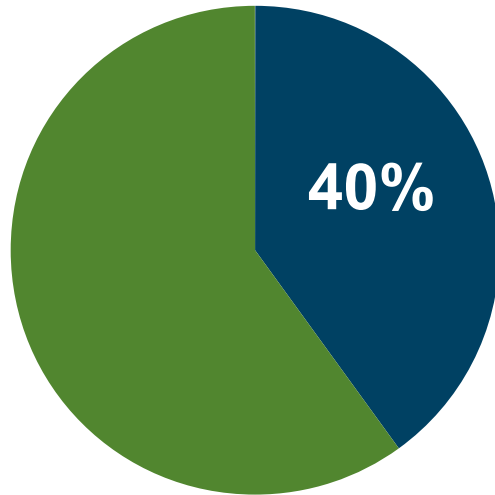


Indigenous/Aboriginal Profile

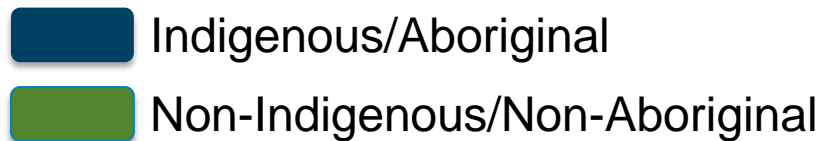
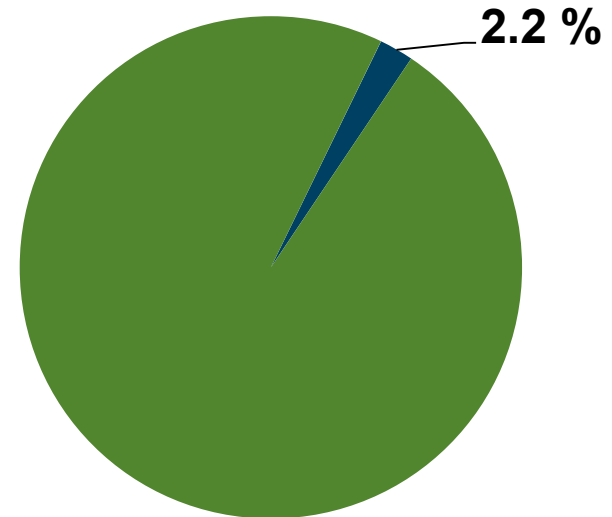


Indigenous/Aboriginal people over-represented in homelessness

% Indigenous/Aboriginal in homeless population (n=1407)

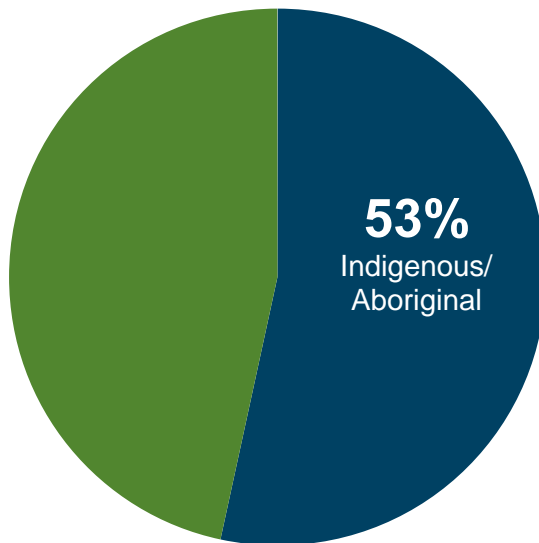


% Indigenous/Aboriginal in general population

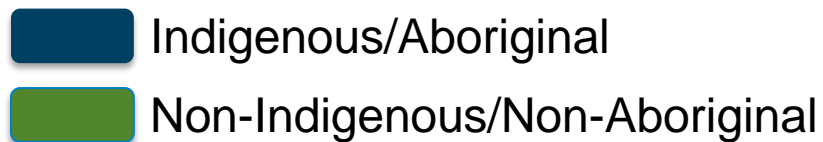
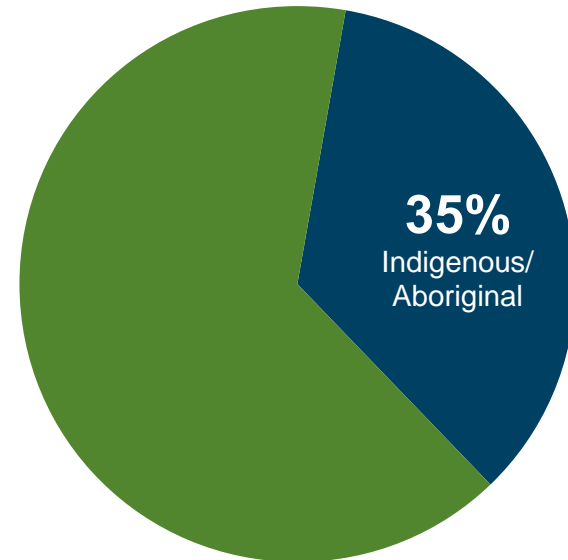


Indigenous/Aboriginal Identity by Gender

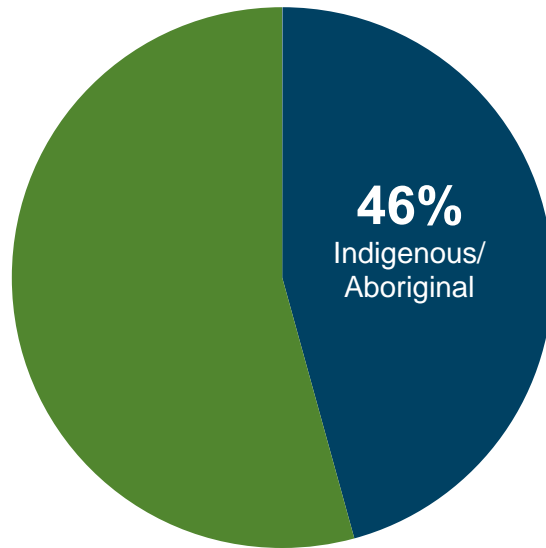
Women
(n=337)



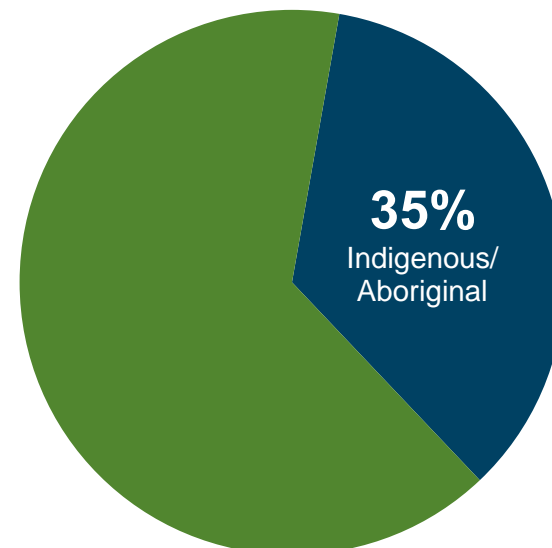
Men
(n=1042)





Unsheltered/street
(n=630)



Sheltered
(n=777)

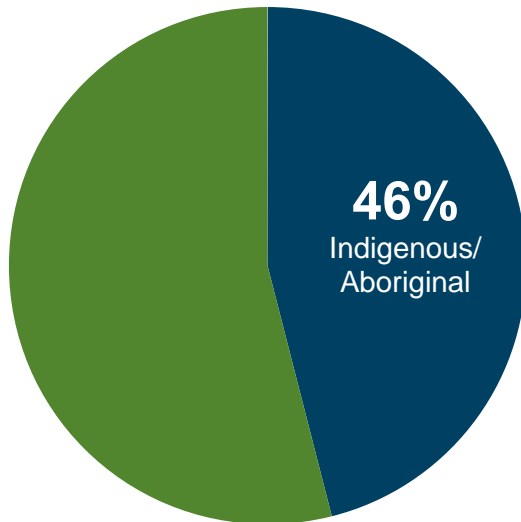


-  Indigenous/Aboriginal
-  Non-Indigenous/Non-Aboriginal

Indigenous/Aboriginal Identity and Age

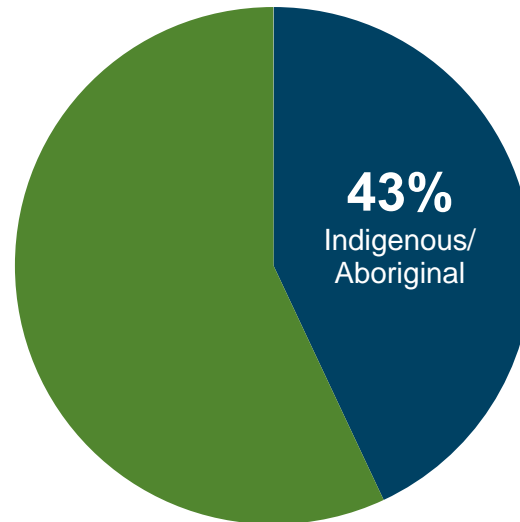
Youth under 25

(n=123)



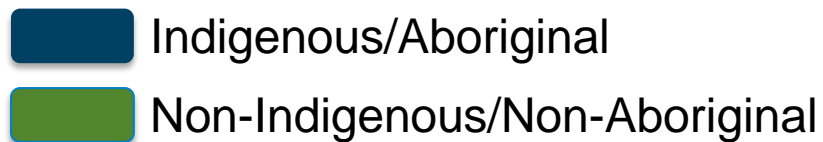
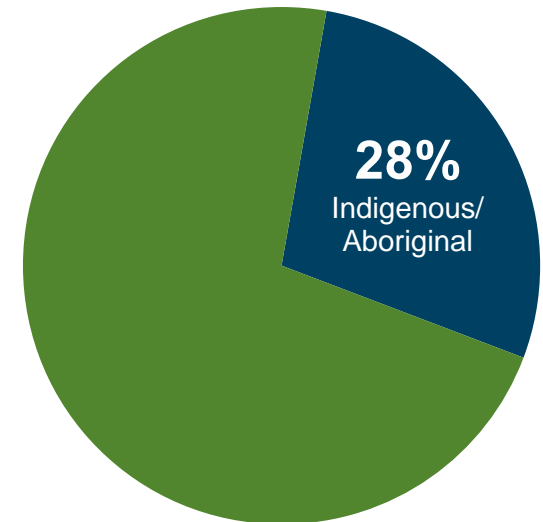
Adult 25-54

(n=975)



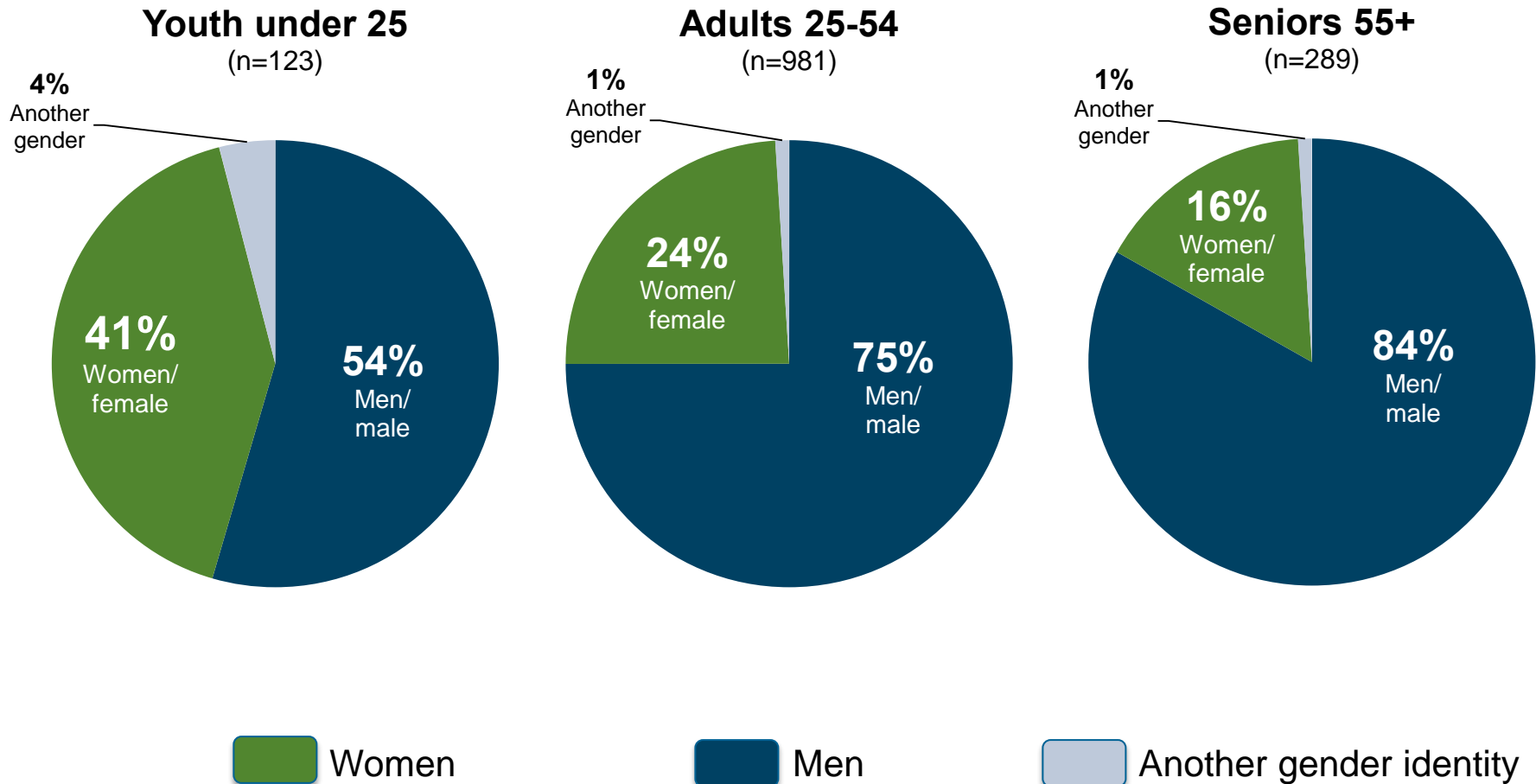
Seniors 55+

(n=283)





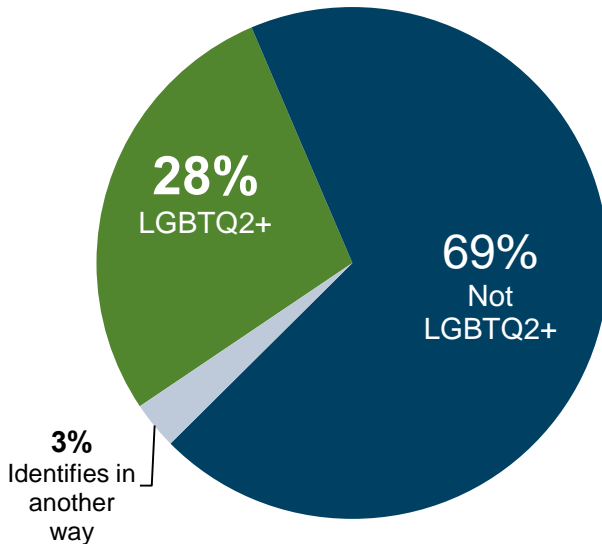
Higher proportion of youth are women/female



Higher proportion of youth identifies as LGBTQ2+

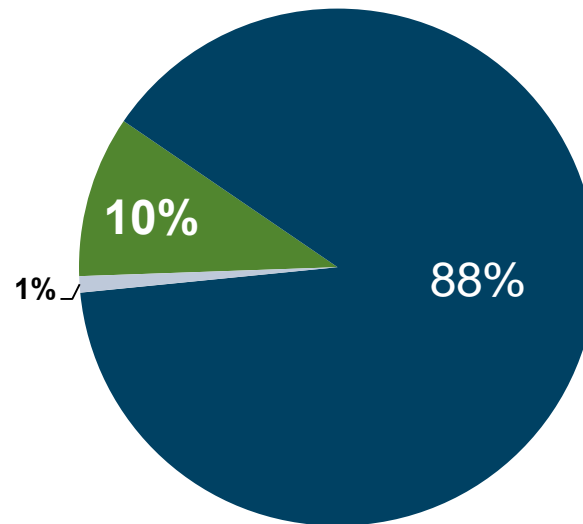
Youth under 25

(n=121)



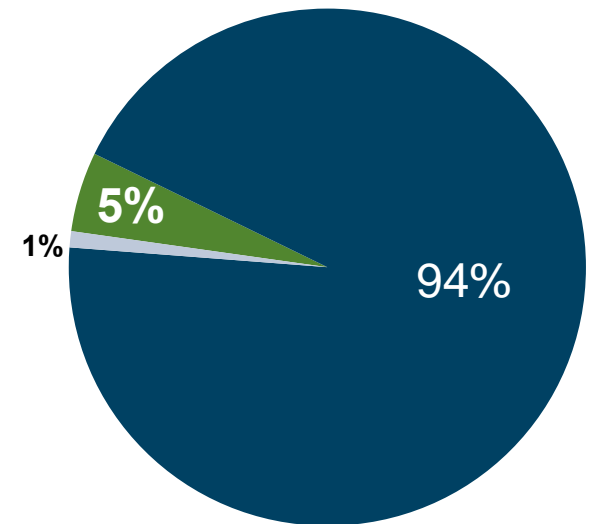
Adults 25-54

(n=935)



Seniors 55+

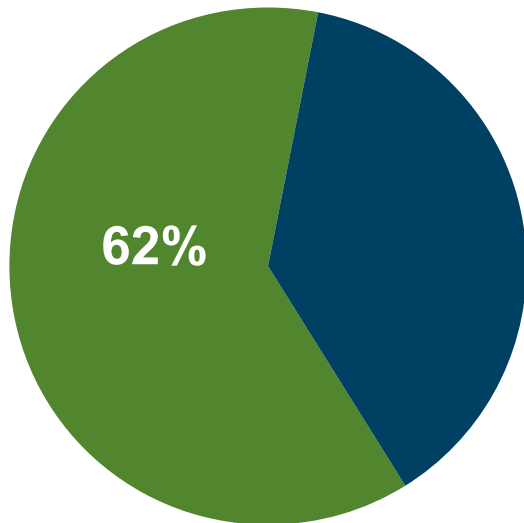
(n=273)



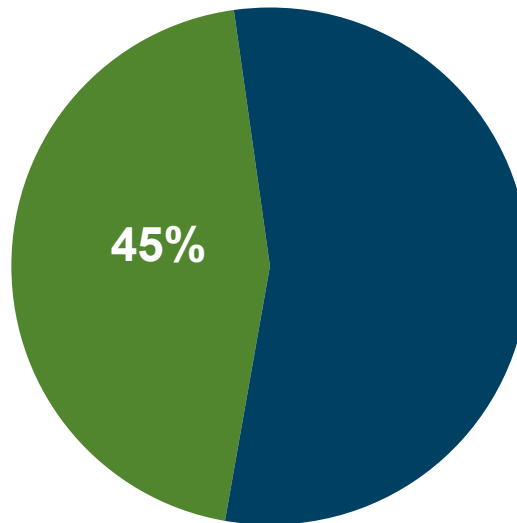
- Identifies as LGBTQ2+
- Does not identify as LGBTQ2+
- Identities in another way

Higher proportion of youth report a mental health issue

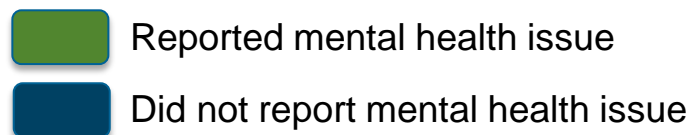
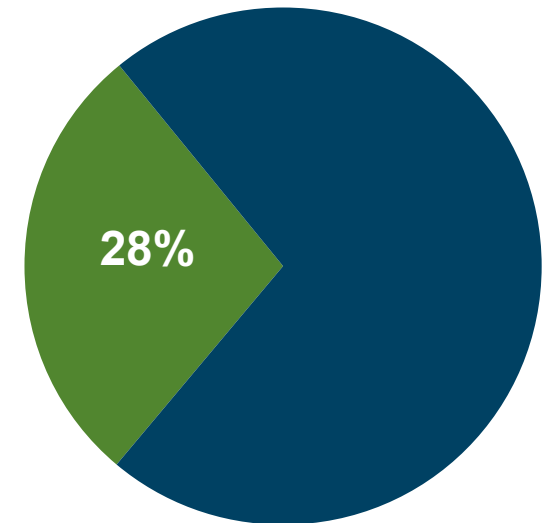
Youth under 25
(n=117)



Adults 25-54
(n=880)



Seniors 55+
(n=252)



Multiple factors influence homelessness making it challenging to address:

- Low vacancy rates
- Loss of SRO units to increased rents and closures due to disrepair
- Rising rental rates
- Poverty and low income
- Stigma related to homelessness



City Responses



- Warming Centres are activated when temperatures drop to “feels like” -5C
- Partnership between COV Community Services and Board of Parks and Recreation (Community Centres)
- Opened one night in the Central Library this year
- Operated on a low barrier model : People can come and go; can bring their belongings and pets; warm drinks and snacks are provided
- All staff trained on supporting vulnerable populations

<i>Warming Centre</i>	<i># Nights Open (Nov 2017-March 2018)</i>	<i>Average # Users per Night</i>
Britannia Community Centre	31	13
Carnegie Community Centre	23	37
Kitsilano Community Centre	3	0
West End Community Centre	18	11
VPL Main Branch	1	17

COV Response - Temporary Shelters



Photo: Emily Jackson Metro Tue Oct 13 2015



- Partnership between COV, BC Housing, and non-profit operators
 - COV provides facilities and upgrades
 - Some long-term/regular shelters also add to their existing capacity (e.g. Salvation Army and Catholic Charities)
 - BC Housing pays operating costs
 - Non-profit operators run the shelters
- 2017/2018 season: 300 shelters spaces opened early and extended their seasonal opening, in some cases until the end of Oct, effectively making them available on a year round basis

Temporary Shelters – 2017 / 2018



<i>Shelter</i>	<i># Beds</i>	<i>Opening Date</i>	<i>Closing Date</i>
Gathering Place, 609 Helmcken	30	Nov 1, 2017	April 1
Directions Youth Services, 1138 Burrard	12	Nov 15, 2017	April 15
Sister Shelter, 131 Dunlevy	15	Dec 12, 2017	May 13
Raincity Hornby, 1401 Hornby	40	Nov 1, 2017	June 30
Raincity East 1 st , 1648 E. 1 st Ave.	40	Nov 8, 2017	July 31
Metson Shelter, 1060 Howe	30	Dec 15, 2017	July 31
Catholic Charities, 828 Cambie	24	Nov 13, 2017	July 31
Salvation Army Harbour Light 119, 134 & 138 E. Cordova	110	Nov 1, 2017	Nov 1
TOTAL BEDS: 301			

COV Response - Homeless Outreach



Since 2013, the outreach team has supported approximately 3,800 individuals to find or secure housing

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
# individuals* served	1,257	1,866	2,620	3,609	4,000
<i># new clients served</i>	<i>695</i>	<i>1,287</i>	<i>1,689</i>	<i>1,848</i>	<i>2,027</i>
# individuals supported to find or secure housing	423	768	927	851	850

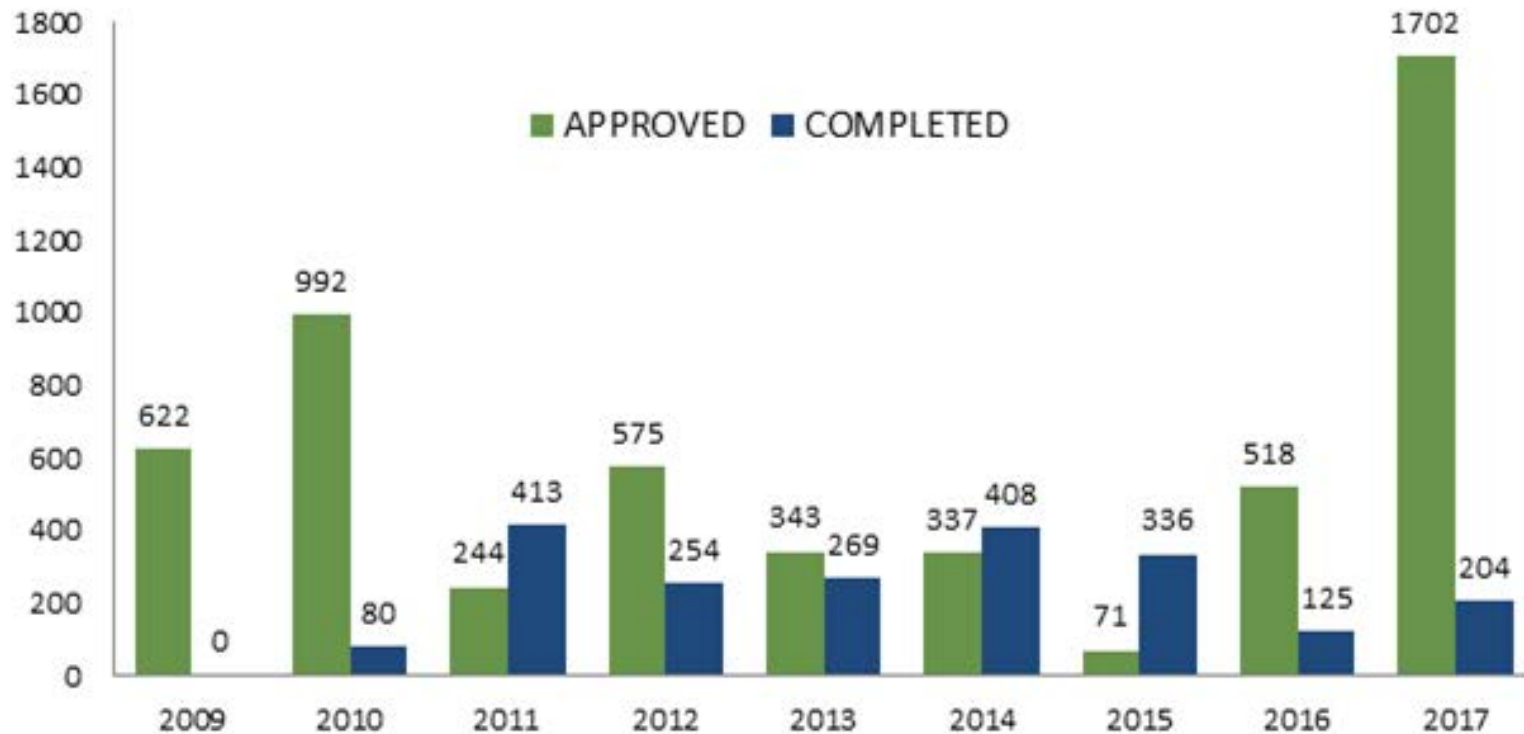
* Individuals served includes those living in shelters, sleeping outside, precariously housed, living in SROs, and recently evicted from their homes

Creating New Homes



The City continues to approve and open new affordable homes to respond to the housing crisis and homelessness

Social & Supportive Housing Units, Approved & Completed, 2009-2017



Railyard Housing Co-op

- Opened early 2018
- 135 units for singles and families
- Includes 10 units at shelter component of Income Assistance under the STEP program
- Other units range from HILs rates at rent geared to income, up to Low End of Market rents
- CAC funded project



VPL (náčá?mat ct) - 720 E Hastings

- Opened in spring 2017
- YWCA-operated Cause We Care House
- 21 units of family housing for single mothers and their children
- Rents range from shelter component of Income Assistance up to Housing Income Limits
- Partnership between CoV, VPL, YWCA



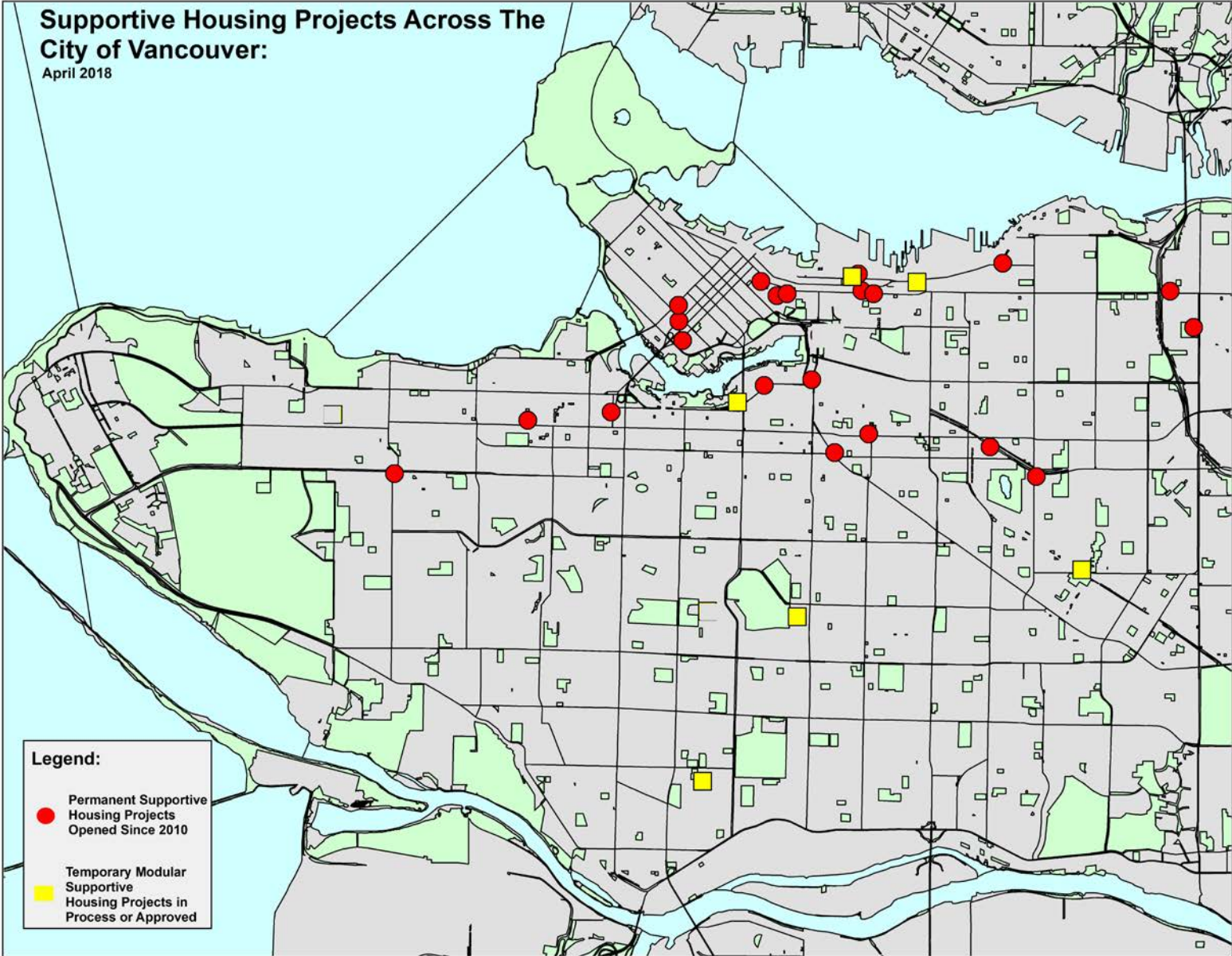
Recent Social Housing Projects Completed

Olivia Skye, 41 E Hastings

- Opened in spring 2017
- 72 units of housing for single women and women-headed couples
 - 52 studio units rent at maximum shelter allowance
 - 20 units to older women who are eligible to receive a Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) rent supplement.
- Partnership between CoV, BC Housing Streethome Foundation and a private developer.



Creating Options Out of Homelessness Across the City



COV Response - Temporary Modular Housing





- In Sept 2017, in response to the humanitarian crisis, the new provincial government announced funding for 2,000 modular homes across the province to be provided for homeless people, with 600 to be delivered in Vancouver
- Another 600 modular homes are funded for 2019/2020

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Roles and Responsibilities</i>
BC Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads tenancing process • Installs housing units • Secures non-profit housing operators to operate and manage the buildings
City of Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secures sites for TMH • Leads engagement with surrounding community
Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency (VAHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts as the representative • Procures housing units
Vancouver Coastal Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides health and social services
Non-profit Housing Operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees tenancing • Manages the buildings • Provides support services to the tenants

<i>Address</i>	<i># Homes</i>	<i>Operator</i>	<i>Proposal stage</i>	<i>Development permit stage</i>	<i>Under construction</i>	<i>Completed and tenanted</i>
7430 & 7460 Heather St.	78	Community Builders Group				✓ February 2018
1131 Franklin	39	PHS				✓ April 2018
525 Powell	39	Atira				✓ May 2018
4480 Kaslo	52	Atira			✓	Target: August 2018
595 & 599 W. 2nd	52	PHS		✓ (approved)		Target: August 2018
Little Mountain	46	Coast Mental Health	✓			TBD
Total # to date:	Approx. 306					

Solutions to homelessness can only be accomplished through a concerted effort and commitment by all levels of government

- Both federal and provincial governments have offered more funding over the coming years
- A sustained level of investment, including in operating subsidies, will make homes affordable for people living at the lowest income levels and address the crisis in homelessness.