2012 Actions Toward Ending Homelessness

Presentation to Council
October 2, 2012
Presentation Overview:

- 2012 Homeless Count: final report
- Ending Homelessness: moving people from the street into shelter and housing
- Preventing Homelessness: focusing on improving low-income housing stock
- Reducing Risk of Homelessness: supporting tenants and landlords
- Homelessness Action Week: raising awareness and encouraging community action
Key Findings Vancouver Homeless Count: 2002-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Street</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1,364</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1,576</td>
<td>811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: The data for 2006 onwards is not available in the image.
Key Findings Vancouver Homeless Count 2012: The story of Joe.....

- 48 years old
- Male
- Aboriginal
- Stays in a shelter
- Is on income assistance
- Has an addiction, mental illness and a medical condition
Key Findings: Gender
Source: 2012 Vancouver Homeless Count

Total respondents: 1313

- Male: 73%
- Female: 26%
- Transgendered: 1%

Almost 3/4 are male.
Key Findings: Age
Source: 2012 Vancouver Homeless Count

- 45-54 years: 26%
- 35-44: 24%
- 25-34: 20%
- 19-24: 10%
- under 19: 4%
- 65+: 3%
- 55-64: 12%

Total respondents: 1319

% Percentage of people in that age group

45-54 years largest age group
Key Findings: Aboriginal Identity

Source: 2012 Vancouver Homeless Count

32% are Aboriginal

Total respondents: 1130
- Not Aboriginal
- Aboriginal
### Key Findings: Income
Source: 2012 Vancouver Homeless Count

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IA/Welfare</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No income</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAS/GIS/CPP</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total respondents: 834

01 Number of people  % Percentage of people

16% have no income
Key Findings for Health Conditions
Source: 2012 Vancouver Homeless Count

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addiction</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental illness</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical condition</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical disability</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total respondents: 897

2 of every 3 people surveyed reported having an addiction
Working Towards Ending Homelessness:

- Successful strategies include:
  - Moving people off the street into shelters and interim housing
  - Low barrier approach
  - Keeping them housed with supports (food, health care)
  - Providing permanent housing
Early Findings: At Home / Chez Soi
Mental Health Commission of Canada’s (MHCC)

Five Canadian cities: Vancouver

- 200 high need homeless people with concurrent mental health and addictions living in 200 interim housing units

Housing First Approach works

- Positive impact on keeping people housed
- Makes better use of public dollars, especially for those who are high service users
Winter Response Shelters and Interim Housing 2012-2013

- Target underserved areas where homeless located

**Needs:**
- Minimum 160 shelter beds
- Additional 100 interim housing beds/units

**Low-barrier**
- Pets & carts allowed, no maximum length of stay
- Provision of daily food, health care & social services
Supportive Housing Partnership

- 7 of 14 CoV/BCH MOU sites opened
- 630 new supportive housing units occupied
- Tenanting prioritizes homeless and sheltered
Preventing homelessness:

- Maintaining and improving the low-income housing stock
- Keeping SROs safe, secure and supported with services
SRO Task Force

- Downtown Eastside community & partners
- SRO Tenant Engagement Workshops during 2012 focusing on SRO’s (public, private, large and small):
  - Standards of Maintenance
  - Tenant/Landlord Rights Responsibilities
  - Women’s Safety
- Identifying practical actions the City can take
- Linked to DTES Local Area Planning process
- Report back - End 2012
Reducing the Risk of Homelessness:

• Supporting tenants to maintain their tenancies
• Encouraging landlords to maintain rental housing standards
Extending Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) Services

- Extend MOU for 390 Main Street RTB Satellite Office for 3 years
  - RTB full-service offices only in Burnaby, Kelowna and Victoria - otherwise limited access

- Since 2008, services provided have grown to include:
  - assistance with completing application forms
  - fee waiver applications
  - ability to accept some evidence for cases going to arbitration
  - information about the Residential Tenancy Act
Vancouver Rent Bank: Official Launch

- Network of Inner-City Community Services Society, the City, Street to Home, and partners
- Wednesday, October 10th, 2-4pm
  W2 - Woodwards Atrium
- Now accepting applications
  niccss.ca/VRB
Objective:
• Team is assisting tenants in de-cluttering
• Educating tenants and landlords on risks of hoarding

So far in 2012:
• Team worked with 50 rental cases (1/3 of all cases)
• 46 tenants retained their housing and resolved conflict with their landlord, 4 tenants lost their housing
Objective:
- City-wide, corporate initiative - Inspections, Fire, Law, Housing, IT
- Motivate owners & landlords to maintain their properties
- Support renters in making informed decisions

Approach:
- Searchable, on-line database (vancouver.ca)
- Displays property & fire violations for *rental housing with 5+ units*
- Based on best practices from Toronto and New York
- Pre-launch phase: letters sent to owners and landlords with *open & closed* violations to validate database information

Go-live: January 15, 2013
Homelessness Action Week 2012

- Raising awareness of homelessness
- Encouraging communities to take action towards ending homelessness
2012: Homelessness Action Week

Strengthening Community

Theme: Strengthening Communities

Everyone can help build welcoming and inclusive communities

Engage citizens to create awareness on solutions to homelessness through:

- a variety of events
- supporting local groups to focus on local solutions
- enabling local leadership and volunteerism to make a difference
2012 VANCOUVER

Finding Home...

October 10, 6-9pm
St. Andrew’s-Wesley United Church
1022 Nelson Street

In Partnership with StreetoHome, Megaphone, End Homelessness Now, St. Andrew’s-Wesley United Church
Speakers showcasing successes & challenges - At Home / Chez Soi Speaker’s Bureau
Tribute to Jim Green - DTES artists & musicians
Networking & fundraising www.findinghome.eventbrite.ca
Homeless Connect

Friday, October 12
11 am - 3 pm
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
1607 East Hastings Street

2012 VANCOUVER
IT’S ALL FREE!

Brought to you in partnership with the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee

draw for door prizes
bike repairs
healthy & nutritious food

defective

entertainment

foot care

health care & info

new dental check-ups

pet care

street nurses

haircuts

stophomelessness.ca
Homeless Connect

Wednesday, October 10
11 am - 2 pm
Gathering Place
609 Helmcken Street

Brought to you by the City of Vancouver @ The Gathering Place
2012 HAW: New City-Sponsored Events

Vancouver’s International Writers Festival

- Exploring opportunities to highlight homelessness by featuring an author who has written on homelessness at the Festival, and/or

- other events in partnership with Vancouver Public Library
2012 HAW: City-Sponsored Events

- Support innovative solutions to end/prevent local homelessness
- $30,000 City grants to 11 community groups
- Build capacity of neighbourhoods & raise awareness
- Create new partnership to address homelessness
- Build healthy, safe & inclusive communities
Join in and learn more

For more info on HAW:
- stophomelessness.ca
- vancouver.ca/housing
- www.findinghome.eventbrite.ca

Vote for local initiatives supporting the homeless and those at risk:
- avivacommunityfund.org