HOMELESSNESS & SUPPORTIVE HOUSING STRATEGY

October 7th, 2020

Celine Mauboules,

Acting Managing Director

Homelessness Services and Affordable Housing Programs

CITY OF
VANCOUVER

We acknowledge we are on the unceded territories of the x^wməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓íl̓witulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Art by Jordan Gallie,
from Tsleil-Waututh Nation

PRESENTATION

- **Overview of Homelessness in Vancouver (2020 Count)**

- **What We Have Learned**

- **A Systems-Based Approach**

- **Our Strategy**

An Overview

HOMELESSNESS IN VANCOUVER

2020 METRO VANCOUVER HOMELESS COUNT MARCH 3,4

- 24-hour Point-in-Time snapshot of people who are experiencing homelessness

- 2020 is the first time all the counts aligned – federal, provincial & regional in the same year

- Over 500 trained volunteers in Vancouver alone

- Provides a basic demographic profile & tracks trends over time

- Considered an undercount

- Took place before the provincial government declared a state of emergency on March 18th and related restrictions

2020 METRO VANCOUVER HOMELESS COUNT PARTNERS

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy:

With support from:

2020 Homeless Count Indigenous Partners

Lu'ma Native Housing Society & The Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee (IHSC)
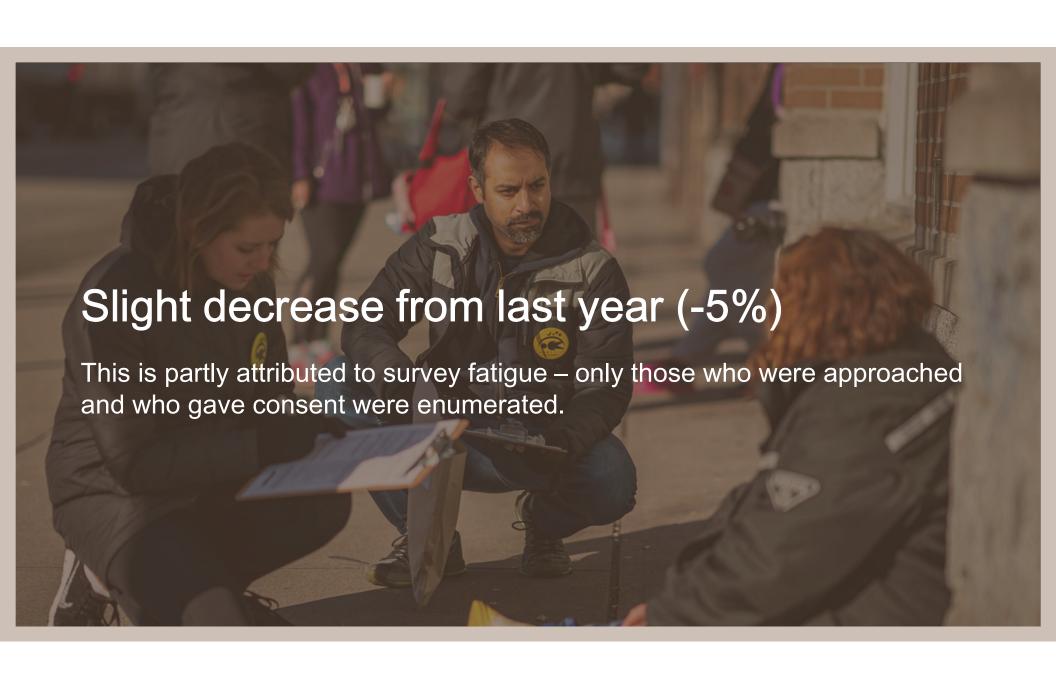
2020 Homeless Count Results

2,095
### PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS HOMELESS IN VANCOUVER ON MARCH 4, 2020
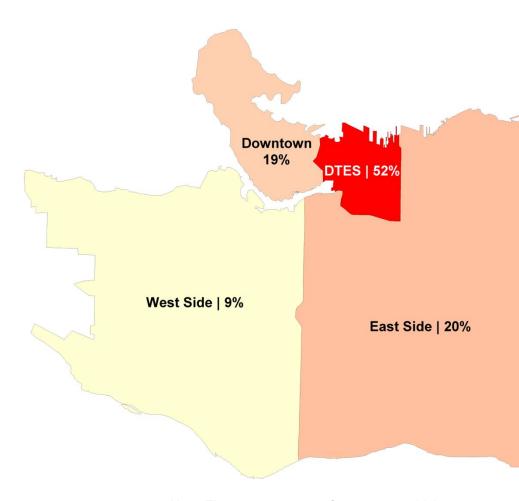
547 UNSHELTERED

1,548 SHELTERED

Slight decrease from last year (-5%)

This is partly attributed to survey fatigue – only those who were approached and who gave consent were enumerated.
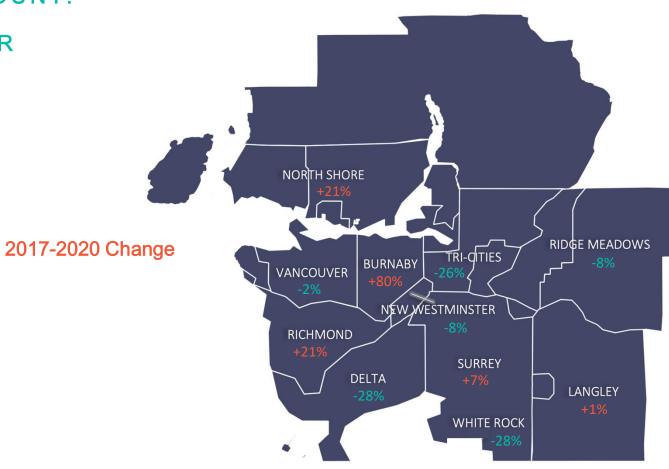
UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS BY HOMELESS COUNT AREAS

Downtown
19%

DTES | 52%

West Side | 9%

East Side | 20%
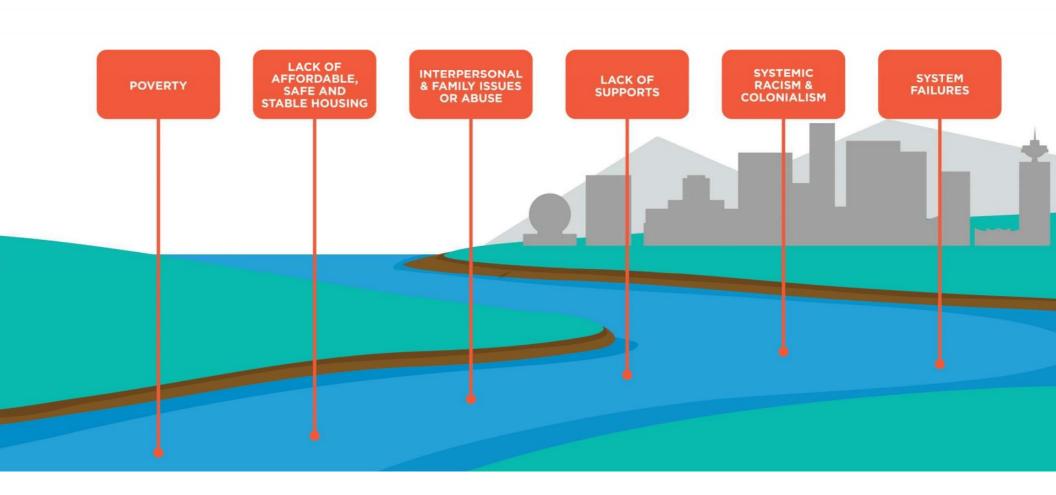
Note: The areas represent Count areas, which may not always match with known neighbourhood borders.
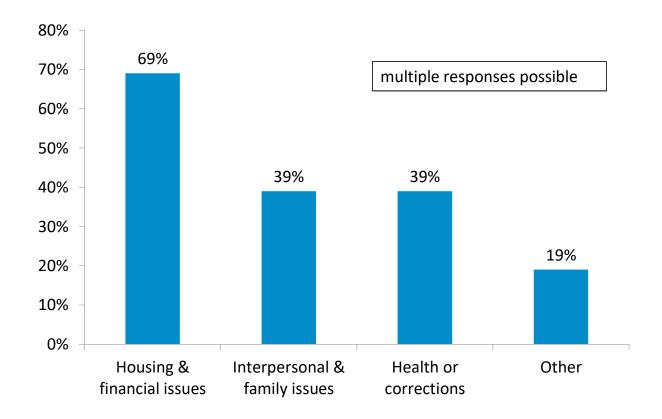
2020 HOMELESS COUNT: HOMELESSNESS IN METRO VANCOUVER

2017-2020 Change

NORTH SHORE
+21%

RIDGE MEADOWS
-8%

VANCOUVER
-2%

BURNABY
+80%

TRI-CITIES
-26%

NEW WESTMINSTER
-8%

RICHMOND
+21%

SURREY
+7%

LANGLEY
+1%

DELTA
-28%

WHITE ROCK
-28%

WAYS INTO HOMELESSNESS

POVERTY

LACK OF AFFORDABLE, SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING

INTERPERSONAL & FAMILY ISSUES OR ABUSE

LACK OF SUPPORTS

SYSTEMIC RACISM & COLONIALISM

SYSTEM FAILURES
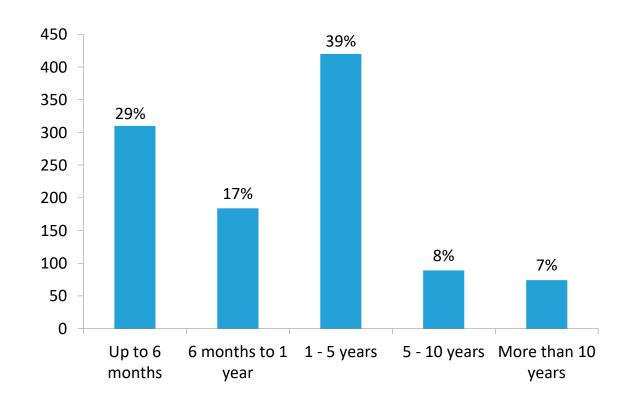
2020 HOMELESS COUNT: CAUSE OF LOSING HOUSING



(n=1,054)
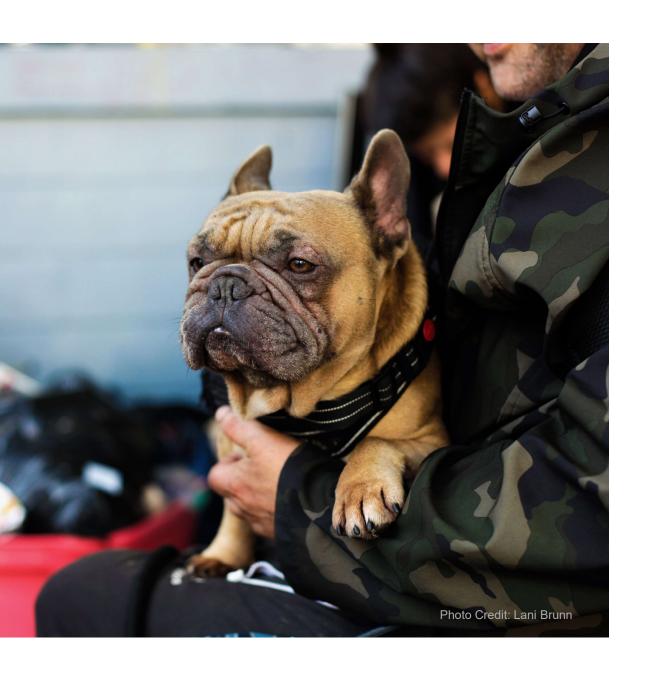
2020 HOMELESS COUNT: LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS

Almost half of the respondents reported being homeless less than a year.

(n=1,077)

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn
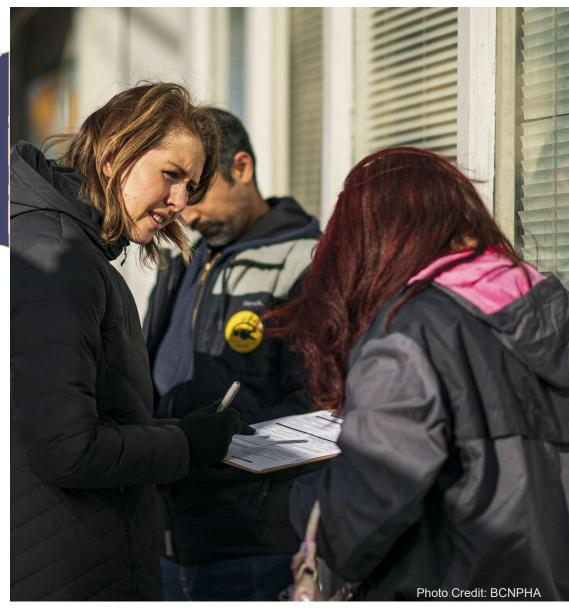
70% OF PEOPLE ARE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS.

**They have been homeless for
6 months or more in the last
12 months.**

84%
from
Vancouver
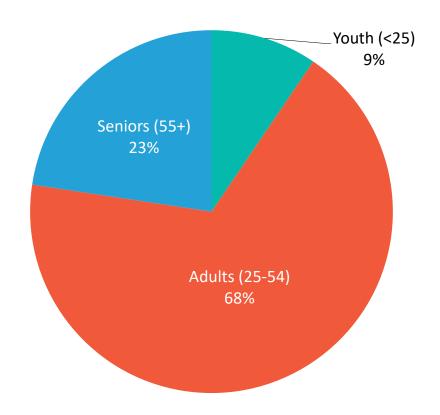
MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WERE LIVING IN VANCOUVER

when they found themselves without a home.

(n=1,027)

Photo Credit: BCNPHA

2020 HOMELESS COUNT: AGE

Youth (<25)
9%

Seniors (55+)
23%

Adults (25-54)
68%
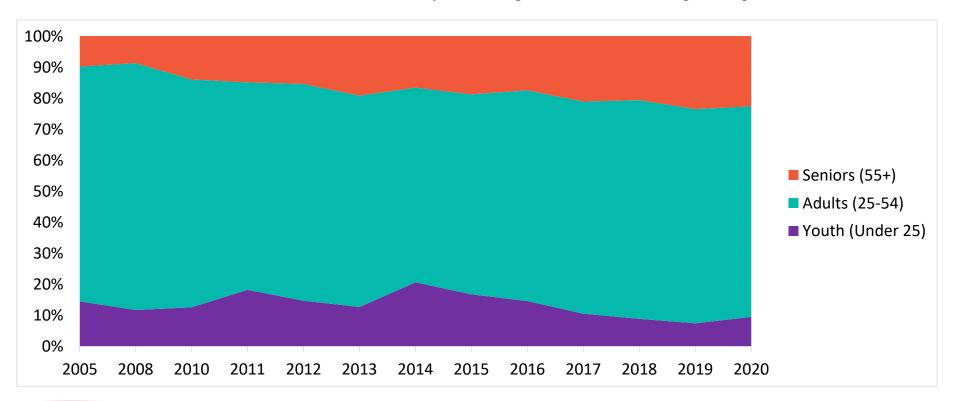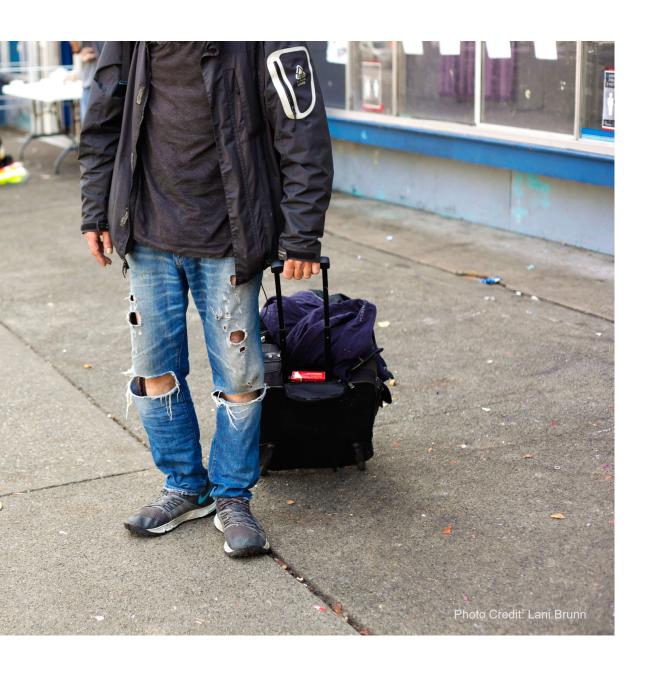
(n=1,096)

AGE TREND: 2005-2020

The number of Seniors 55+ experiencing homelessness is growing.

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn
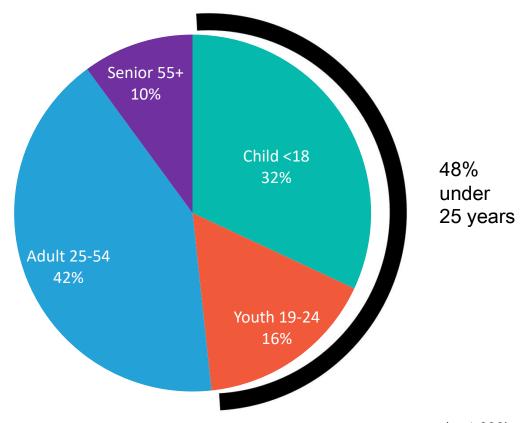
36% ARE/WERE IN THE CARE OF THE MINISTRY AS A CHILD OR YOUTH.
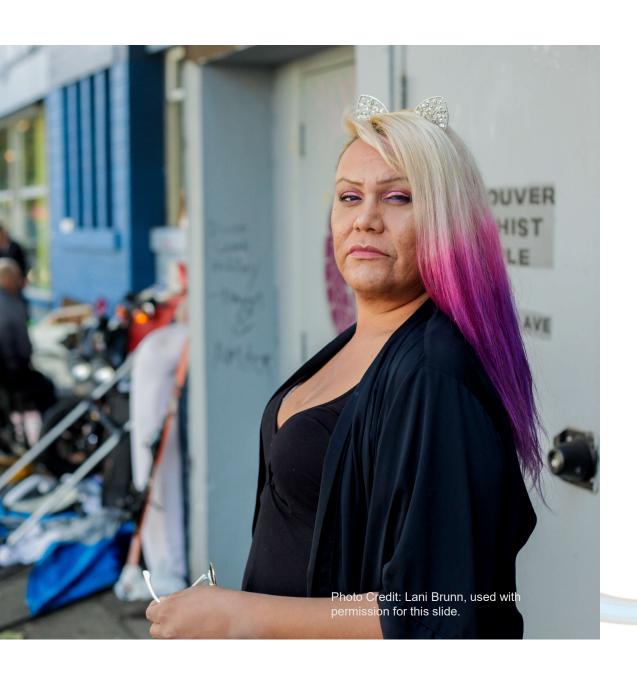
This shows the gaps in supports for youth aging out of care and the on-going impacts of systemic racism.

2020 HOMELESS COUNT: FIRST TIME HOMELESSNESS

The chart shows the age when respondents first experienced homelessness.

Senior 55+
10%

Child <18
32%

Adult 25-54
42%

Youth 19-24
16%

48% under 25 years

(n=1,033)

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn, used with permission for this slide.
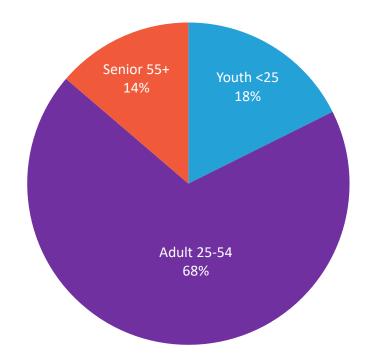
21% identified as women.

It is believed that women are undercounted in the Point-In-Time count and are often living in unsafe situations where they are not encountered by count volunteers.

2020 HOMELESS COUNT: TRANS EXPERIENCE
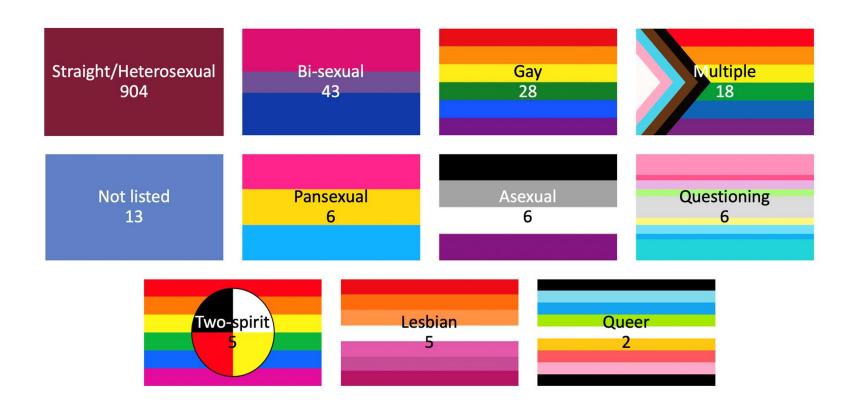
5% identified as having transgender experience.

The chart shows the age profile of respondents with Trans experience.

Senior 55+
14%

Youth <25
18%

Adult 25-54
68%
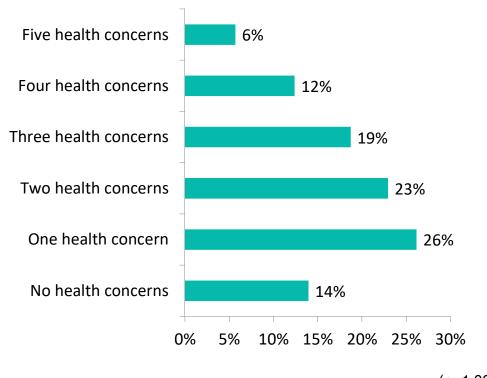
(n=53)

2020 HOMELESS COUNT: SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Straight/Heterosexual
904

Bi-sexual
43

Gay
28

Multiple
18

Not listed
13

Pansexual
6

Asexual
6

Questioning
6

Two-spirit
5

Lesbian
5

Queer
2

2020 HOMELESS COUNT: INCIDENCE OF HEALTH CONDITIONS
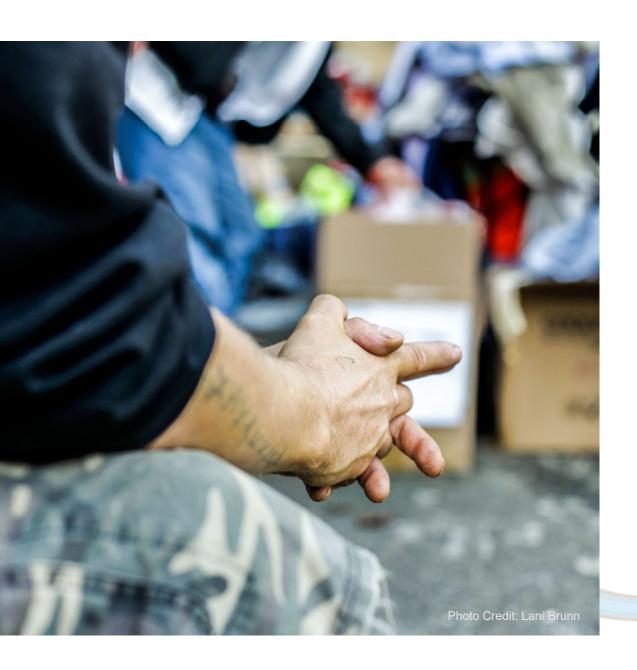
Over half the respondents report one or two health concerns.

Five health concerns — 6%

Four health concerns — 12%

Three health concerns — 19%

Two health concerns — 23%

One health concern — 26%

No health concerns — 14%

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30%

(n=1,089)

2020 HOMELESS COUNT: TYPES OF HEALTH CONDITIONS

multiple responses possible

People who are homeless
Consistently report a range of health issues.
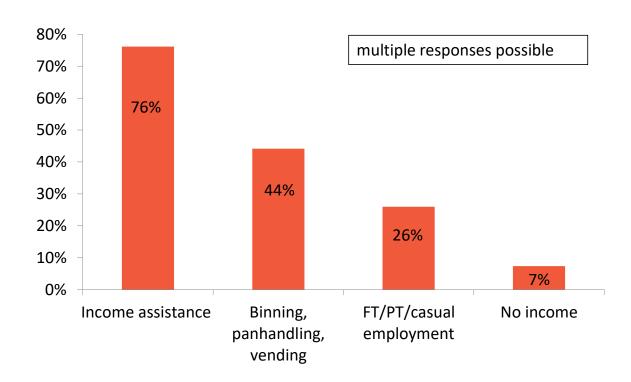
Condition	Percentage
Learning disability or cognitive impairment	23%
Physical disability	35%
Medical condition/illness	44%
Mental health issue	45%
Addiction	60%

(n=1,089)

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn
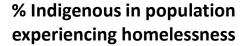
26% of respondents reported having an acquired brain injury.
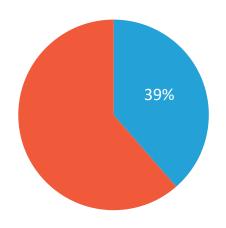
Brain injuries have cognitive, psychological and physical impacts including trouble concentrating, feeling confused, problems with words and speech, depression, balance issues, etc.
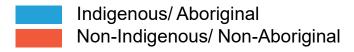
2020 HOMELESS COUNT: SOURCES OF INCOME

multiple responses possible

- Income assistance: 76%
- Binning, panhandling, vending: 44%
- FT/PT/casual employment: 26%
- No income: 7%

(n=1,074)
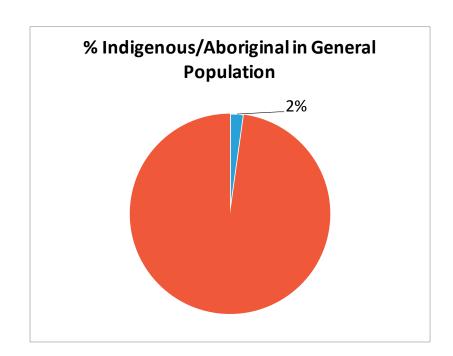
2020 HOMELESS COUNT: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ARE OVER-REPRESENTED

% Indigenous in population experiencing homelessness

39%

% Indigenous/Aboriginal in General Population

2%

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

BLACK PEOPLE ARE SIGNIFICANTLY OVERREPRESENTED IN THE POPULATION EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

They are 3.7 times more likely to experience homelessness compared to their presence in the general population would predict.
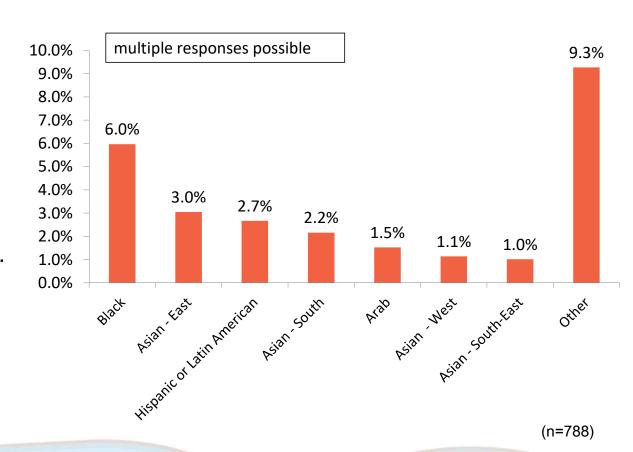
Arabs are 1.7 times and Hispanics and Latin Americans are 1.4 times more likely to experience homelessness.

2020 HOMLESS COUNT: RACIAL IDENTITY PROFILE

This is the first-time race-based data has been collected in Metro Vancouver.

79% of respondents identified as white.

Note: Our data indicates that due to the sequence of questions, some respondents may not be adequately represented in this question.

| multiple responses possible |

Black	6.0%
Asian - East	3.0%
Hispanic or Latin American	2.7%
Asian - South	2.2%
Arab	1.5%
Asian - West	1.1%
Asian - South-East	1.0%
Other	9.3%

(n=788)

Our Strategy

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn
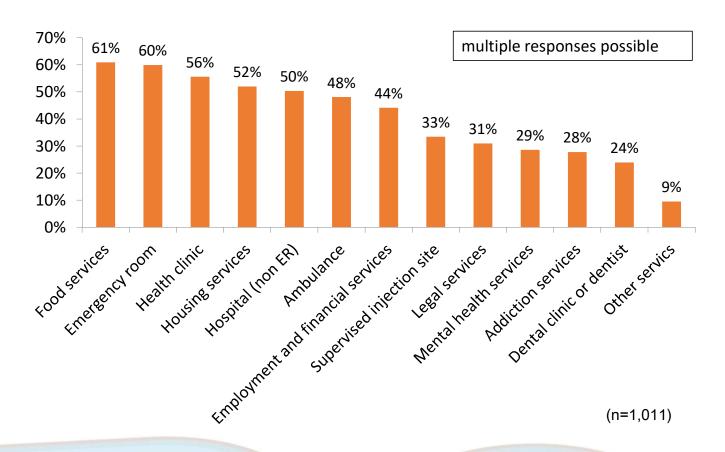
2020 HOMELESS COUNT: SERVICES ACCESSED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

These services come at not only a public cost,

But using this number of services is distressing and exhausting for the person experiencing homelessness.

multiple responses possible

Service	Percentage
Food services	61%
Emergency room	60%
Health clinic	56%
Housing services	52%
Hospital (non ER)	50%
Ambulance	48%
Employment and financial services	44%
Supervised injection site	33%
Legal services	31%
Mental health services	29%
Addiction services	28%
Dental clinic or dentist	24%
Other servics	9%

(n=1,011)

Photo Credit: Ben Nelms/CBC

The solution to homelessness is housing.

Affordable, safe and stable housing with the appropriate supports and services will keep people housed.

THE COST OF HOMELESSNESS VS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

On average, a person **experiencing homelessness** with addictions and/or mental illness used

$55,000 per year in health care and/or corrections services

VS

On average, a person **in supportive housing** with addictions and/or mental illness used

$37,000 per year in health care and/or corrections services

$ = $ $ $ $ / $

Every dollar invested in supportive housing creates $4-5 in social and/or economic value

Supportive housing residents were **64% less likely** than shelter clients **to use ambulance services**

Average hospital stay for supportive housing residents was **50% less** than shelter clients

BC Housing: Community Benefits of Supportive Housing

THE DEMONSTRATED BENEFITS OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

After Six Months:

94% of supportive housing residents **remained housed**

84% of supportive housing survey respondents reported **improved overall well-being**

54% of supportive housing survey respondents reported **improved access to employment opportunities**

39% of supportive housing survey respondents reported **improvement in addiction issues**

City of Vancouver & BC Housing: Modular Supportive Housing Research

We recommend an alternative approach to collecting data on homelessness next year.

The Point-In-Time homeless count may not be the best method for 2021.

- Respondents are experiencing survey fatigue

- Overall consistent results between consecutive years

- Methodology has limitations in capturing hidden homelessness

- Public health concerns with COVID-19 pandemic

A BETTER APPROACH FOR 2021

Aligning with triennial regional count (2023)

Sources of data on homelessness:

- HIFIS Database used by shelters and outreach
- Outreach office meets with 80 to 100 clients each day
- DTESWC survey on hidden homelessness
- We are evaluating additional options

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn

OUR STRATEGY

A SYSTEMS BASED APPROACH

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn
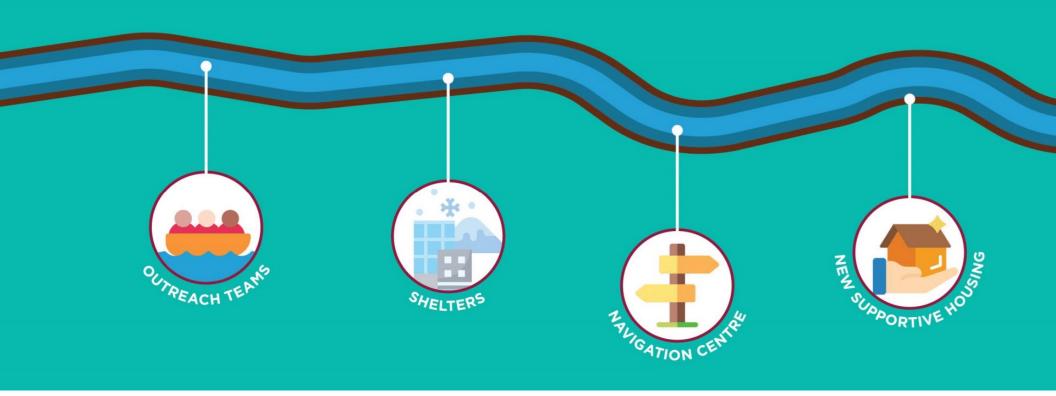
PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

HEALTH SUPPORT

RENTERS SERVICES

RENT SUPPLEMENTS

JOBS & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SYSTEM SUPPORT & POLICY

CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

SUPPORTIVE & SOCIAL HOUSING

PROTECT SROS & LOW-INCOME HOUSING

WAYS OUT OF STREET HOMELESSNESS

OUTREACH TEAMS

SHELTERS

NAVIGATION CENTRE

NEW SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

KEEPING PEOPLE HOUSED

HEALTH SUPPORT

RENTERS SERVICES

RENT SUPPLEMENTS

JOBS & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SYSTEM SUPPORT & POLICY

CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

SUPPORTIVE & SOCIAL HOUSING

PROTECT SROS & LOW-INCOME HOUSING

OUR STRATEGY

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn
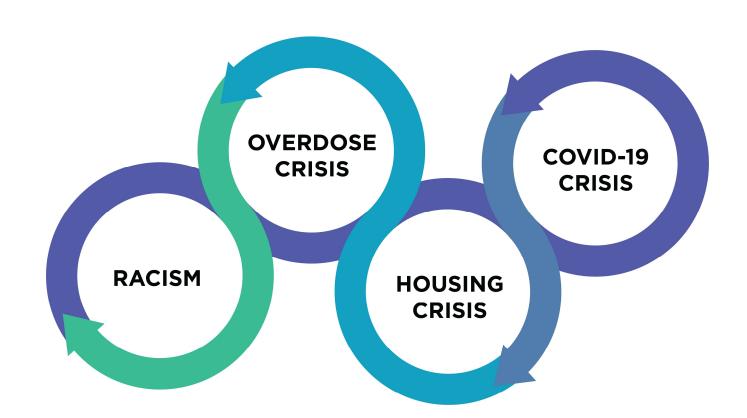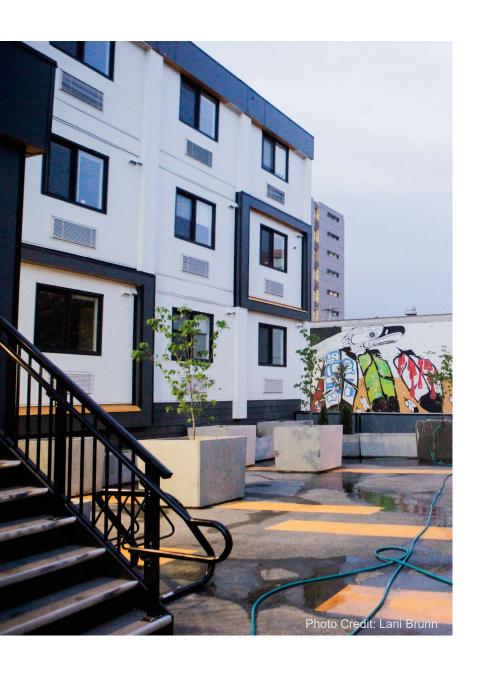
THE INTERSECTING CRISES

RACISM

OVERDOSE CRISIS

HOUSING CRISIS

COVID-19 CRISIS

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn
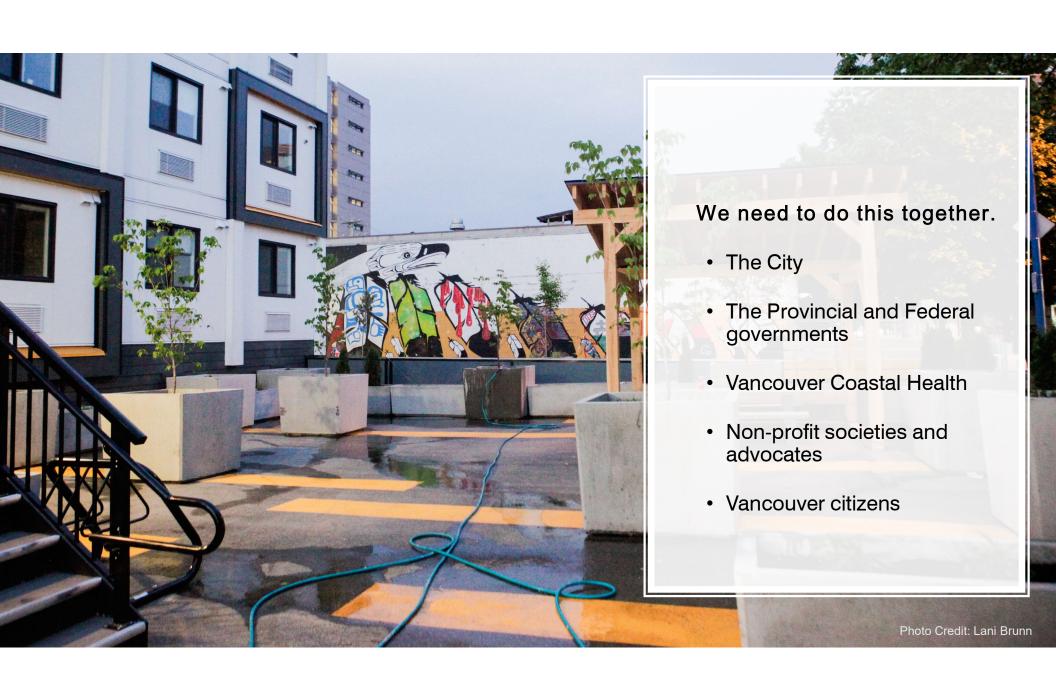
Recognizing the historical and contemporary impacts of colonialism and structural racism on systems and practices within the City -

We are listening, unlearning, and moving towards changing systems to be more equitable for groups who experience the most barriers.

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn

SYSTEM SUPPORT & POLICY

We need to do this together.

- The City

- The Provincial and Federal governments

- Vancouver Coastal Health

- Non-profit societies and advocates

- Vancouver citizens

The role of the City.

- Land use Regulation and Policy

- Providing land for social and supportive housing

- Granting programs

- Advocating for partnerships

- Providing outreach services

- Managing housing

The role of other levels of government.

- A variety of funding programs for capital and operational assistance for non-market housing and shelters

- National Housing Strategy

- Rent supplements and income supplement (COVID-19) programs

- Housing, health and social supports

- Funding for health programs and outreach programs

"Over 11 years I was sleeping on the streets. The (outreach) staff knew me and helped me get a place."

- Todd, Supportive Housing Resident

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn

SHELTERS

COFFEE PROGRAM

Served from:Monday-Friday

8AM- 12NOON

Enjoy a Cup!

PosterMyWall.com

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn

NAVIGATION CENTRE

PROTECT SROS & LOW-INCOME HOUSING

Photo Credit: Rafal Gerszak/Globe & Mail

RENT

RENTERS SERVICES

SUPPORTIVE & SOCIAL HOUSING

STEP PROGRAM

Offering tenanting peace of mind

BC HOUSING
Vancouver CoastalHealth
Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.
streetohome
changing lives, building futures

THERE IS NO
ONE TO CARE,

IF YOU DO
NOT CARE

BUD OSBORN
1947-2014

HOME FRONT

QUESTIONS?

Photo Credit: Lani Brunn

END

OUTREACH TEAMS

Outreach teams & peers
are key
to supporting people
to find housing,
keeping homelessness brief.

"I am proud of who I am. But on the street, I am invisible."

- Jeff, First Nations and sleeping on the street for two years