



AHMA Summary of 2023 PiT Count Data on Homelessness in BC

August 2024

Background:

The province released the 2023 Report on Homeless Counts in British Columbia (BC) in May 2024. The report summarizes findings and presents aggregate data from 27 homeless counts across BC conducted between March and May 2023. It also includes data from BC Housing-funded shelters, transition houses, and safe homes from communities that did not conduct a Point in Time (PiT) count. This report summarizes AHMA's analysis of the community level PiT count reports in October 2023, and the recently released Provincial summary report.

PiT counts are intended to measure of the number of people experiencing homelessness on a specific day. The purpose of the count is to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness, obtain a demographic profile of those people, and identify trends that can be comparable to previous counts that used a similar methodology. The results can inform the development of supports and services that will best help people in need in different communities.

The PiT count methodology is limiting and results in an absolute minimum enumeration of people experiencing homelessness in a community. Those not accessing services or those in myriad precarious housing situations are underrepresented in PiT counts. It is also commonly understood that PiT counts typically undercount historically marginalized or underrepresented populations, including youth, seniors, Indigenous Peoples, those who have been historically marginalized due to race, members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and persons with disabilities.

Despite these methodological limitations, there is a clear and constant overrepresentation of Indigenous people experiencing homelessness in the PiT counts, particularly those with direct or generational experiences of residential schools. The data presented in the PiT count provides further evidence that Indigenous organizations must be resourced to take the lead in supporting those experiencing homelessness, and non-Indigenous organizations must apply trauma-informed approaches.

Summary of BC Data:

11,352 People were identified as experiencing homelessness

This is an increase of 31% from the 2020/2021 Report on Homeless Counts in BC. Homelessness increased in every region in BC.

Homelessness increased in every single region in BC. While some regions only increased by a small margin, such as Penticton at 2%, most increased substantially. The most notable increases include the Comox Valley at 106%, Terrace at 86%, Cranbrook at 84%, Smithers at 73%, Campbell River at 70%, Williams Lake at 51%, and Prince Rupert at 39%.

People who identify as Indigenous continue to be overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness

Consistent with all PiT counts conducted to date in BC, people who identify as Indigenous are overrepresented; 40% of respondents identified as Indigenous compared to 6% of the Census population.

In some regions, this overrepresentation is higher than in others. For example, northern regions have the highest overrepresentation with 76% in Kitimat, 88% in Prince Rupert, 83% in Smithers, and 84% in Terrace. Also notable, among respondents that identified as Indigenous, a higher percentage were unsheltered (44%) versus sheltered (34%).

6,773 respondents were experiencing Sheltered Homelessness (in a shelter, transition house, detox center, safe house, EWR, or identified as no fixed address in a hospital or other facility), and 4,579 were experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness.

People who reported experiencing unsheltered homelessness varied by region. Parksville's proportion of unsheltered respondents increased from 78% to 96%. Other areas with high proportions of people reporting unsheltered homelessness include Squamish at 86%, Smithers at 81%, Sechelt at 77%, Kitimat at 76%, Powell River at 74%, and Dawson Creek at 65%.

People experiencing homelessness across BC are often long-term residents of their communities

A significant portion of respondents (67%) had been in the community they were counted in for more than five years, and 23% reported that they have always lived in that community. This is contrary to the perception that people commonly migrate to BC from other provinces to access services or to large metropolitan areas from smaller communities.

Economic pressures, substance use challenges, and conflict are the main causes of housing loss

Respondents were asked what caused their most recent housing loss. Not enough income was the most common response (37%). The second most common reason was a substance use issue (25%), and the third most common reason for housing loss was a landlord/tenant conflict or a conflict with a spouse or partner, with 17% each. The only significant differences were in Kitimat, which noted the highest reason as "conflict with spouse" (47%), and Merritt with flood/fires at 19%.

There was a clear shift from previous PiT counts, where many respondents reported that substance use was the main reason for a loss of housing, although substance use/addiction remains the primary health concern noted by respondents (68%).

Seventy-one percent (71%) of Indigenous respondents had lived or generational experience of residential school

For the first time, in partnership with the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee (IHSC) and the Indian Residential School Survivor's Society, respondents were asked if they, a parent, or a grandparent,

had attended a residential school. With the exception of Parksville at 39%, 52% to 93% of respondents noted experience with residential school, demonstrating a clear correlation between these experiences and homelessness. The results were notably higher in northern regions.

2SLGBTQIA+ overrepresentation

Members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community continue to be overrepresented, representing 11% of the homeless population compared to 4% of the population of Canada. Significantly, 65% of respondents who reported their first experience of homelessness before they were 25 identify as 2SLGBTQ+. Respondents who identified with a gender other than a man or woman were more likely to have experienced homelessness as a youth.

Numbers of youth and seniors

Youth under the age of 25 accounted for 9% of respondents. One-third (33%) of respondents identified having lived in foster care, a youth group home, or an independent living agreement, highlighting the unmet need to support people aging out of care. Youth homeless rates were high in Prince Rupert at 26%, Dawson Creek at 21%, and Kitimat at 20%.

Twenty-one percent of respondents were seniors (55 years of age or older). Some communities have notably high and increasing rates of senior homelessness, including Merritt at 31%, Prince Rupert at 28%, Cranbrook at 29%, Comox Valley at 27%, and Parksville at 25%.

Number of reported health needs

Sixty-nine percent (69%) of respondents indicated two or more health concerns. Almost half (47%) reported having a medical condition or illness, 41% reported a physical disability, 54% reported a mental health issue, 68% reported an addiction issue, and 27% reported a learning disability or cognitive impairment. Additionally, one-third (33%) of respondents identified having an acquired brain injury, meaning a brain injury that occurred after birth.

Men are more likely to be included

Two-thirds (66%) of survey respondents identified as men, 32% identified as women, and 2% identified with another gender identity. Research and community feedback suggest that men are more likely to be counted using the PiT methodology. Women may stay with families and friends or in unsafe situations rather than staying on the streets or accessing services for the homeless. As such, they are likely undercounted using a PiT count methodology.

Locations in the last year

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of unsheltered respondents identified as having stayed in a shelter in the past year, and 53% had stayed at someone else's place. Of sheltered respondents, 45% had stayed outside for at least one night in the previous year. Almost one-third (32%) of all respondents identified staying in an encampment in the previous year.

Additionally, survey respondents who completed daytime surveys in some communities were asked if they felt safe at the location where they stayed the previous night, with options of "yes" or "no." In outdoor locations, women were less likely to feel safe than men, particularly when staying outside or in a makeshift shelter or tent.

Services accessed

The most common services accessed were food (63% - more common in unsheltered respondents), emergency room (55%), and housing services (44%).

Length of experience of homelessness

The number of people experiencing homelessness for more than one year increased substantially in many regions, particularly Terrace (increased by 30%), Williams Lake (increased by 22%), and Vernon (increased by 17%). Smithers has a noticeably high proportion of people experiencing homelessness for over one year, increasing from 80% to 94%. However, the number of those experiencing homelessness for more than one year decreased significantly in some regions too, indicating that potentially a lot of people are entering homelessness for the first time in those areas. This includes Port Alberni which decreased by 20% and Victoria which decreased by 11.5%.

Analysis:

The 2023 PiT Count data clearly shows that while the demographics of homelessness vary from region to region in terms of age and gender breakdown, there is a consistent overrepresentation of Indigenous people experiencing homelessness. This overrepresentation is consistent with counts in previous years and continues to have a major impact on Indigenous communities that ripples through generations. The number of people experiencing homelessness continues to rise, and appropriate solutions are long overdue.

The PiT counts demonstrate that lack of income is the leading cause of homelessness. Rent assistance programs in BC are not universally available and do not provide enough to cover the affordability gap. In addition, there is a lack of designated funding streams for Indigenous people. Income and Disability Assistance are nowhere near the levels needed to maintain housing in the current market, and subsidies are difficult to combine. Increases to these programs and designated funding streams are crucial aspects of a province-wide poverty reduction strategy, along with an increase to the minimum wage, access to childcare and affordable internet, guaranteed annual income programs, or opportunities for advanced education for lower income groups.

Addiction, substance use, and mental health challenges continue to be primary health issues among the homeless population, significantly impacting housing loss. Coordinated mental health and addiction support services must be prioritized for both the sheltered and unsheltered populations in addition to financial and housing supply strategies.

Different strategies will be required in different regions to reflect the variances illustrated by PIT count data. For example, Kitimat has notably high rates of women experiencing homelessness, particularly those who connect their experience to be a result of conflict with a spouse. They are mostly Indigenous women and mostly unsheltered. This highlights the need to focus on women-specific transitional housing and shelters in the region. In comparison, Merritt has extremely high rates of senior homelessness, and almost 1 in 5 connect their homelessness to a natural disaster such as fires or floods. This not only calls for the need to explore climate-resilient housing more broadly and ensure that seniors are not disproportionately impacted but also to ensure organized responses to natural disasters that focus on keeping people housed.

Changes to the PiT count methodology would create a more holistic snapshot of Indigenous homelessness. The PiT count lacks Indigenous leadership in most regions, and including Indigenous-led counts could help ensure cultural sensitivity and access to more relevant data for Indigenous communities. Indigenous communities and organizations should have access to disaggregated data from the current PiT counts to inform their advocacy and programming efforts.

The PiT count report and data highlight the pressing need for the following actions and initiatives. AHMA will include these priorities in any future advocacy work and communication with stakeholders pertaining to PiT counts and homelessness response plans.

1. Indigenous-led programs and services for unsheltered homeless populations due to a high percentage of Indigenous respondents reporting being unsheltered.
2. Indigenous-led homelessness-focused projects in Terrace, Smithers, Prince Rupert, and Kitimat due to the exceedingly high Indigenous proportion of respondents.
3. Focus on increasing shelter and housing access in Dawson Creek, Kitimat, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Parksville, Port Alberni, Powell River, Sechelt and Gibsons, Squamish, and Smithers due to high percentages or percentage increases of unsheltered homelessness.
4. Increase income assistance and disability assistance rates to reflect the fact that not enough income is the major driver for entry in homelessness.
5. Work with health partners to ensure that health supports for those with acquired brain injuries, and those struggling with addiction, are embedded into all housing and services for those experiencing homelessness.
6. Indigenous-led projects specifically for seniors in Merritt, Prince Rupert, Dawson Creek, and Kitimat, to respond to high rates of senior homelessness in these regions.
7. Indigenous-led projects specifically for women in Kitimat, particularly for those fleeing domestic violence, to respond to high rates of homelessness for this demographic.
8. Indigenous-led projects specifically for youth in Prince Rupert, Dawson Creek, and Kitimat due to high proportion of youth experiencing homelessness in those regions.
9. Indigenous-led projects specifically for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in Fort St. John, Kitimat, Port Alberni, Prince Rupert, and Terrace due to a high percentage or percentage increase of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals experiencing homelessness in those regions.
10. An Indigenous-led component of the PiT count with Indigenous-led analysis and data summaries.
11. Access to disaggregated data and cross-tabulations for Indigenous respondents.

References

[2023 Report on Homeless Counts in BC \(bchousing.org\)](https://bchousing.org)

APPENDIX A – DATA FOR EACH PIT COUNT

From March to early May 2023, a number of PIT counts were undertaken, including:

Provincial Government funded homeless count	Federal Government funded homeless count	Independently funded homeless count
Campbell River Comox Valley Cranbrook Dawson Creek Fort St. John Kitimat Merritt Parksville/Qualicum Penticton Port Alberni Powell River Prince Rupert Quesnel Salmon Arm Sechelt/Gibson Smithers Squamish Terrace Vernon Williams Lake	Cowichan Valley Nanaimo Kamloops Greater Vancouver Greater Victoria	Fraser Valley Salt Spring Island

Summary data for each PiT Count is included below:

Campbell River

Description	2021	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	116	197 ↑ (+70%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	62%	50% ↓
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	N/A	77% -
Percentage unsheltered	56%	57% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Substance use (39%)	Not enough income (33%) ↓
Percentage with acquired brain injury	26%	31% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (69%)	Addiction (68%) ↓

Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	67%	68% ↑
Gender	Man 59%, Woman 39%, Another 2%	Man 58% ↓, Woman 40% ↑, Another 2% -
2SLGBTQIA+	17%	12% ↓
Age groups	Youth 36%, Adult 54%, Senior 10%	Youth 18% ↓, Adult 59%, ↑ Senior 22% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	69%	40% ↓
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	45%	No data available yet

Comox Valley

Description	2020	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	132	272 ↑ (106%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	20%	28% ↑ (8%)
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	67% -
Percentage unsheltered	56%	35% ↓
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (34%)	Not enough income (56%) ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	33%	44% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (57%)	Mental Health (76%), Addiction (76%) ↑
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	78%	77% ↓
Gender	Man 59%, Woman 35%, Another 6%	Man 59% -, Woman 36% ↑, Another 4% ↓
2SLGBTQIA+	10%	17% ↑
Age groups	Youth 14%, Adult 69%, Senior 17%	Youth 8% ↓, Adult 65% ↓, Senior 27% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	40%	51% ↑

Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	30%	Data is not available yet.
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Cowichan Valley

Description	2020	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	129	223 ↑ (73%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	34%	46% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	84%
Percentage unsheltered	42%	78% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for housing loss	Not enough income (45%) Substance use 24% Conflict with landlord 21%	Not enough income (37%) ↓ Substance Use 31% ↑ Conflict with landlord 22%
Percentage with acquired brain injury	35%	40% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (63%) Mental health (43%)	Addiction (79%), Mental health (56%) ↑
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	69%	80% ↑
Gender	Man 65%, Woman 34%, Another gender identity 1%	Man 61% ↓ Woman 38% ↑, Gender diverse 1%
2SLGBTQIA+	8%	7%
Age groups	Youth 9%, Adult 64%, Senior 27%	Youth 7% ↓, Adult 77% ↑ Senior 16% ↓
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	NA	49% ↑
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	32%	36% ↑

Cranbrook

Description	2020	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	63	116 ↑ (84%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	48%	36% ↓
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	61% -
Percentage unsheltered	56%	37% ↓
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (40%)	Not enough income (42%) ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	24%	32% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (64%)	Addiction (63%) ↓
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	74%	67% ↓
Gender	Man 57%, Woman 40%, Another 3%	Man 66% ↑, Woman 34% ↓, Another 0% ↓
2SLGBTQIA+	16%	11% ↓
Age groups	Youth 14%, Adult 70%, Seniors 16%	Youth 3% ↓, Adult 68% ↑, Senior 29% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	45%	48% ↑
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	27%	No data available yet.

Dawson Creek

Description	N/A	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	N/A	52
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	N/A	66%
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	N/A	81%
Percentage unsheltered	N/A	65%
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	N/A	Substance use (38%)

Percentage with acquired brain injury	N/A	19%
Highest reported health concern	N/A	Addiction (73%)
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	N/A	45%
Gender	N/A	Man 58%, Woman 42%, Another 0%
2SLGBTQIA+	N/A	9%
Age groups	N/A	Youth 21%, Adult 76%, Senior 3%
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	N/A	56%
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	N/A	No data available yet.

Fort St. John

Description	2020	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	76	102 ↑ (34%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	57%	65% ↑ (8%)
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	65% -
Percentage unsheltered	54%	55% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (28%)	Not enough income (37%) ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	28%	30% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (62%)	Addiction (65%) ↑
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	42%	56% ↑
Gender	Man 68%, Woman 30%, Another 2%	Man 65% ↓, Woman 35% ↑, Another 0% ↓
2SLGBTQIA+	4%	11% ↑
Age groups	Youth 11%, Adult 69%, Senior 21%	Youth 2% ↓, Adult 85% ↑, Senior 13% ↓
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	53%	65% ↑

Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	32%	No data available yet
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Fraser Valley

Description	2020	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	895	1094 ↑ (22%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	20%	36% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	22%	21.2%
Percentage unsheltered	58%	48% ↓
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Health issues (30%) Rent too high/Income too low (53.45)	Health issues (34%) ↑ Housing and financial issues 31%
Percentage with acquired brain injury	13%	24% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (51%) Mental Health (33%)	Addiction (58%) ↑ Mental Health (44%) ↑
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	56%	73% ↑
Gender	Man 67.6%, Woman 32.1%, Another 0.0%	Man 67.9% ↑, Woman 31.2% ↓, Another 0.2% ↑
2SLGBTQIA+	8%	9% ↑
Age groups	Youth 7%, Adult 81%, Senior 12%	Youth 4% ↓, Adult 81%, Senior 15% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	26%	31% ↑
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	26%	31% ↑

Kamloops

Description	2021	2023
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Number of people experiencing homelessness	206	312 ↑
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	47%	52% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	43% -
Percentage unsheltered	38%	78% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (38%)	Not enough income (71%) ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	33%	25% ↓
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (86%)	Addiction (65%) ↓ Mental Health (49%)
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	54%	84% ↑
Gender	Man 76%, Woman 22%, Another 0.0%	Man 60% ↓, Woman 37% ↑, Another 0.0%
2SLGBTQPIA+	2%	3% ↑
Age groups	Youth 9%, Adult 62%, Senior 25%	Youth 6% ↓, Adult 80% ↑, Senior 15% ↓
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	43%	46% ↑

Kitimat

Description	N/A	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	N/A	55
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	N/A	76%
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	N/A	83%
Percentage unsheltered	N/A	76%
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	N/A	Conflict with spouse (47%)
Percentage with acquired brain injury	N/A	19%
Highest reported health concern	N/A	Mental Health (62%)
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	N/A	42%
Gender	N/A	Man 31%, Woman 67%, Another 2%

2SLGBTQIA+	N/A	21%
Age groups	N/A	Youth 20%, Adult 75%, Senior 5%
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	N/A	55%
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	N/A	No data available yet.

Merritt

Description	N/A	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	N/A	67
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	N/A	64%
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	N/A	76%
Percentage unsheltered	N/A	55%
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	N/A	Fire or flood (19%)
Percentage with acquired brain injury	N/A	48%
Highest reported health concern	N/A	Addiction (67%)
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	N/A	78%
Gender	N/A	Man 67%, Woman 33%, Another 0%
2SLGBTQIA+	N/A	18%
Age groups	N/A	Youth 10%, Adult 59%, Senior 31%
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	N/A	55%
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	N/A	No data available yet.

Nanaimo

Description	2020	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	433	515 ↑
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	33%	33%

Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	N/A	N/A
Percentage unsheltered	61.9%	78.4% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (34%)	Not enough income (48.6%) ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	22.9%	28.0% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (77.6%)	Addiction (75.5%) ↓
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	59.9%	60.9% ↑
Gender	Man 68.3%, Woman 28.5%, Another 5%	Man 64.7% ↓, Woman 29.4% ↑, Another 3% ↓
2SLGBTQIA+	3.8%	4.9%
Age groups	N/A	Youth 6.4% ↓, Adult 64% ↓, Senior 29.6% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	39.1%	37.7% ↓

Parksville and Qualicum

Description	2021	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	87	103 ↑ (18%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	29%	30% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	52% -
Percentage unsheltered	78%	96% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (29%)	Not enough income (56%) ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	25%	41% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (68%)	Addiction (65%) ↓
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	76%	75% ↓
Gender	Man 68%, Woman 31%, Another 1%	Man 63% ↓, Woman 35% ↑, Another 2% ↑
2SLGBTQIA+	11%	11%

Age groups	Youth 6%, Adult 74%, Senior 20%	Youth 3% ↓, Adult 72% ↓, Senior 25% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	44%	43% ↓
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	25%	No data available yet.

Penticton

Description	2021	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	114	116 ↑ (2%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	31%	39% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	39%
Percentage unsheltered	35%	45% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (29%)	Not enough income (36%) ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	42%	54% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Mental Health (65%)	Addiction (71%)
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	56%	66% ↑
Gender	Man 64%, Woman 30%, Another 6%	Man 68% ↑, Woman 30%, Another 2% ↓
2SLGBTQIA+	15%	12%
Age groups	Youth 10%, Adults 66%, Seniors 24%	Youth 6% ↓, Adult 85% ↑, Senior 9% ↓
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	48%	54% ↑
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	28%	No data available yet.

Port Alberni

Description	2021	2023
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Number of people experiencing homelessness	125	163 ↑ (30%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	65%	66% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	84% -
Percentage unsheltered	42%	62% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Substance use issue (55%)	Not enough income (35%) Note: substance use dropped to 24% ↓
Percentage with acquired brain injury	35%	35% -
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (88%)	Addiction (76%) ↓
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	73%	53% ↓
Gender	Man 56%, Woman 44%, Another 0%	Man 61% ↑, Woman 36% ↓, Another 3% ↑
2SLGBTQIA+	11%	21%
Age groups	Youth 9%, Adult 74%, Senior 18%	Youth 19% ↑, Adult 65% ↓, Senior 16% ↓
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	56%	59% ↑
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	60%	No data available yet.

Powell River

Description	N/A	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	N/A	126
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	N/A	18%
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	N/A	60%
Percentage unsheltered	N/A	74%
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	N/A	Not enough income (41%)
Percentage with acquired brain injury	N/A	31%
Highest reported health concern	N/A	Addiction (72%)

Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	N/A	80%
Gender	N/A	Man 60%, Woman 40%, Another 0%
2SLGBTQIA+	N/A	12%
Age groups	N/A	Youth 9%, Adult 74%, Senior 18%
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	N/A	59%
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	N/A	No data available yet.

Prince Rupert

Description	2021	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	118	164 ↑ (39%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	87%	88% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	94%
Percentage unsheltered	62%	41% ↓
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (47%)	Not enough income (44%) ↓
Percentage with acquired brain injury	19%	27% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (60%)	Addiction (57%) ↓
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	51%	58% ↑
Gender	Man 66%, Woman 33%, Another 1%	Man 60% ↓, Woman 37% ↑, Another 3% ↑
2SLGBTQIA+	11%	25%
Age groups	Youth 11%, Adult 68%, Senior 21%	Youth 26% ↑, Adult 45% ↓, Senior 28% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	37%	49% ↑
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	37%	No data available yet.

Quesnel

Description	2020	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	121	127 ↑ (5%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	64%	59% ↓
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	64% -
Percentage unsheltered	60%	58% ↓
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (34%)	Not enough income 49% ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	34%	49% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction 84%	Addiction 83% ↓
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	50%	72% ↑
Gender	Man 50%, Woman 46%, Another 4%	Man 57% ↑, Woman 40%, Another 2%
2SLGBTQIA+	10%	17%
Age groups	Youth 16%, Adult 73%, Senior 11%	Youth 4% ↓, Adult 89% ↑, Senior 7% ↓
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	62%	58% ↓
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	34%	No data available yet.

Salmon Arm

Description	N/A	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	N/A	69
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	N/A	30%
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	N/A	92%
Percentage unsheltered	N/A	54%
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	N/A	Not enough income (41%)

Percentage with acquired brain injury	N/A	31%
Highest reported health concern	N/A	Mental Health (67%)
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	N/A	58%
Gender	N/A	Man 61%, Woman 37%, Another 2%
2SLGBTQIA+	N/A	15%
Age groups	N/A	Youth 4%, Adult 78%, Senior 18%
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	N/A	40%
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	N/A	No data available yet.

Sechelt and Gibsons

Description	2020	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	84	97 (15%) ↑
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	24%	44% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	59%
Percentage unsheltered	54%	77% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (31%)	Not enough income (43%) ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	24%	36% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Mental Health (57%)	Addiction (74%) Note: it was 45% in 2020
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	61%	77% ↑
Gender	Man 65%, Woman 32%, Another 3%	Man 69% ↑, Woman 31% ↓, Another 0% ↓
2SLGBTQIA+	6%	6%
Age groups	Youth 8%, Adult 69%, Senior 23%	Youth 12% ↑, Adult 65% ↓, Senior 24% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	34%	52% ↑

Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	19%	No data available yet.
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Smithers

Description	2021	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	33	57 ↑ (73%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	93%	83% ↓
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	79% -
Percentage unsheltered	100%	81% ↓
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Substance use (48%)	Not enough income (36%)
Percentage with acquired brain injury	25%	26% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (67%)	Addiction (75%)
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	80%	94% ↑
Gender	Man 52%, Woman 44%, Another 4%	Man 69% ↑, Woman 31% ↓, Another 0% ↓
2SLGBTQIA+	12%	13%
Age groups	Youth 18%, Adult 57%, Senior 25%	Youth 3% ↓, Adult 79% ↑, Senior 18% ↓
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	54%	53% ↓
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	48%	No data available yet.

Squamish

Description	2021	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	107	119 ↑ (11%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	18%	32% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or	-	60% -

generational experience of residential schools		
Percentage unsheltered	78%	86% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (49%)	Not enough income (41%) ↓
Percentage with acquired brain injury	17%	22% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (48%)	Mental Health (43%) ↓
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	56%	63% ↑
Gender	Man 64%, Woman 34%, Another 1%	Man 64% -, Woman 33% ↓, Another 3% ↑
2SLGBTQIA+	14%	17%
Age groups	Youth 11%, Adult 71%, Senior 17%	Youth 9% ↓, Adult 67% ↓, Senior 24% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	38%	46% ↑
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	16%	No data available yet.

Terrace

Description	2022	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	84	156 ↑ (86%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	79%	84% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	81% -
Percentage unsheltered	36%	47% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Addiction (28%)	Substance use (32%) ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	No data available.	43% -
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (75%)	Addiction (77%) ↑
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	51%	81% ↑
Gender	Man 65%, Woman 32%, Another 3%	Man 56% ↓, Woman 41% ↑, Another 3% -
2SLGBTQIA+	No data available	21%

Age groups	Youth (<29) 16%, Adults (30-50) 54%, Seniors (51+) 30%	Youth (<25) 13% ↓, Adults (25-54) 66% ↑, Senior (55+) 21% ↓
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	56%	54% ↓
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	48%	No data yet available.

Vancouver

Description	2020	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	3634	4821 ↑ (33%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	33%	33% -
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	64% -
Percentage unsheltered	28%	30% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (28%)	Not enough income (35%) ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	27%	30% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (60%)	Addiction (71%) ↑
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	53%	69% ↑
Gender	Man 73%, Female 25%, Another 2%	Man 69% ↓, Woman 28% ↑, Another 3% ↑
2SLGBTQIA+	11%	12%
Age groups	Youth 9%, Adult 67%, Senior 24%	Youth 8% ↓, Adult 70% ↑, Senior 22% ↓
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	43%	47% ↑
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	32%	31% ↓

Vernon

Description	2021	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	224	279 ↑ (25%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	40%	42% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	80% -
Percentage unsheltered	24%	29% ↑
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (39%)	Substance use (27%)
Percentage with acquired brain injury	35%	45% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (85%)	Addiction (73%) ↓
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	63%	80% ↑
Gender	Man 64%, Woman 33%, Another 3%	Man 61% ↓, Woman 38% ↑, Another 1% ↓
2SLGBTQIA+	11%	14%
Age groups	Youth 9%, Adult 81%, Senior 11%	Youth 3% ↓, Adult 78% ↓, Senior 19% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	43%	47% ↑
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	30%	No data available yet.

Victoria

Description	2020	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	1523	1665 ↑ (9%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	32%	33% ↑
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	62%	75% ↑
Percentage unsheltered	18%	15% ↓
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Not enough income (26%)	Not enough income (23.7%) ↓
Percentage with acquired brain injury	29%	32.5% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Substance use (67%)	Substance use (68%) ↑

Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	61%	49.5% ↓
Gender	Man 63%, Woman 33%, Another 2%	Man 65% ↑, Woman 27% ↓, Another 3% ↑
2SLGBTQIA+	12%	12%
Age groups	Youth 10%, Adults 70%, Seniors 19%	Youth 8% ↓, Adults 65% ↓, Seniors 25% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	59%	50% ↓
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	55%	49% ↓

Williams Lake

Description	2020	2023
Number of people experiencing homelessness	51	77 ↑ (51%)
Percentage identifying as Indigenous	78%	72% ↓
Percentage of Indigenous respondents with lived or generational experience of residential schools	-	83%
Percentage unsheltered	51%	26% ↓
Highest self-reported reason for homelessness	Conflict with partner (31%), substance use (31%)	Not enough income (56%), substance use (56%) ↑
Percentage with acquired brain injury	24%	33% ↑
Highest reported health concern	Addiction (72%)	Addiction (88%) ↑
Percent experiencing homelessness for more than one year	39%	61% ↑
Gender	Man 60%, Woman 40%, Another 0%	Man 61% ↑, Woman 39% ↓, Another 0%
2SLGBTQIA+	3%	8%
Age groups	Youth 0%, Adult 91%, Senior 9%	Youth 2% ↑, Adult 73% ↓, Senior 25% ↑
Percentage who first experienced homelessness as a youth	43%	52% ↑
Percent who had been in foster care, youth group home, or youth agreements	50%	No data available.

