

*“There’s not enough housing
for everybody” - Montana*

FACING HOMELESSNESS

Each year the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (Coalition) and the University of Victoria’s Centre for Addictions Research of BC release a Report on Housing and Supports.

The report outlines data from six key areas of homelessness: housing, income, temporary accommodation, emergency shelters, and housing and outreach programs. This research helps us understand the factors that contribute to homelessness and poverty in Greater Victoria, and to identify specific service and infrastructure needs in the community.

CONTRIBUTORS TO HOMELESSNESS

- The gap between income and housing costs is one of the most important contributors to homelessness in Greater Victoria
- Although vacancy rates the region overall have risen, there are fewer low end of market suites available to those living on low incomes.
- Resources available to individuals and families on low incomes have not increased – they still cannot afford current rental market rates.

AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

- 27% of households in Greater Victoria are in core housing need, nearly 11% are in severe housing need.
- Subsidized housing continues to be difficult to access with more than 1,445 people on the Housing Registry

EXTENT OF HOMELESSNESS

- More than 1,600 unique individuals used an emergency shelter bed in five of six emergency shelters in Greater Victoria
- The number of individuals may be similar to 2011/12, the occupancy rate of emergency shelters has increased from 111% to 112%
- On a single night, more than 1,000 people were counted in temporary accommodation in our region

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

- Greater Victoria service providers are consistently housing people and keeping them housed
- While some new subsidized units have been added for families and seniors, no new units have been added for those who are homeless or Aboriginal people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase the number of Homeless Outreach Program rental supplements available.
- Revisit the criteria for rental assistance programs to broaden their reach.
- Increase the number of subsidized housing units in our community
- Undertake specific assessment of the needs of youth and families, including Aboriginal peoples experiencing homelessness.

Report on Housing & Supports 2012/13

Source: Pauly B., Cross, G., Vallance, K., Wynn-Williams, A., Stiles, K. (2013). Report on Housing and Supports 2012/13 Facing Homelessness. Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness and Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia