



FACING HOMELESSNESS

Greater Victoria Report
on Housing & Supports
2012/13

Data Supplement 2012/13*

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Introduction

Homelessness continues to be a major concern for our community. The rise of homelessness in rural and urban centers throughout Canada has been associated with changes in the supply and availability of low-cost and affordable housing. Consequently, adequate housing and income are part of a stable foundation needed to address homelessness. In the absence of these, some people are more likely than others to become homeless, and many more are at risk of homelessness.¹ Homelessness is not a choice, it is a consequence of factors that create a situation in which individuals have few choices and are often forced to the streets or shelters².

In the Victoria Report on Housing & Supports for 2012/13 entitled Facing Homelessness, we outline key contributors to homelessness beginning with housing and income. We report on the number of people at risk of homelessness in our community as highlighted by numbers of people in core housing need, those experiencing food insecurity and the number of people on the Housing Registry. We provide a picture of the extent of homelessness in our community by looking at number of unique individuals using emergency shelters, those being turned away from shelters, and the number of people using temporary accommodation on a single night. Lastly, we look to our responses to homelessness including the number of new units added and the number of people housed during the past year. Throughout the 2012/13 report on housing and supports, the voices of people with experiences of homelessness are highlighted. Their voices provide insight into what these numbers mean in terms of the impact on real people. We are grateful for their wisdom and acknowledge their important and insightful contributions to the report. The full report, Facing Homelessness: Report on Housing & Supports 2012/13 is available at www.victoriahomelessness.ca.

This data supplement is an adjunct to the full report and provides more detailed information in relation to housing, income, extent of and responses to homelessness that might be of interest to those specifically working in this area. The preparation of a data supplement emerged from discussions with key community partners as a means of ensuring additional information that might be of value to community partners was made available. This is the first data supplement we have produced and we welcome feedback on the value of the supplement from those who use it.

¹ National Alliance to End Homelessness. (2000). A plan not a dream: How to end homelessness in ten years. Washington, DC: National Alliance to End Homelessness.

² Gaetz, S., Donaldson, Richter, T., Gulliver, T. (2010). The state of homelessness in Canada. Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness.

Contributors to Homelessness

Housing

A cornerstone of preventing and solving homelessness is access to safe, affordable and available housing. Victoria, like other urban centres, has seen a loss in the availability of affordable housing (both private market and public housing) since the 1990's.³ This can be traced to changes in federal government policy away from a direct investment in affordable housing⁴. This has led to an increasing reliance on market housing.

In Victoria, however, the private rental market is often costly and unavailable for many people living on low incomes⁵. While the vacancy rate in Victoria has risen to 2.8%, bachelor suites in general have lower vacancy rates (1.3% overall vacancy rate for Bachelor suites)⁶. Low end of market suites (less than \$700/month) are even more unavailable. For example, a 1 bedroom suite has an overall vacancy rate of 2.9% but it is only 1.0% for a 1 bedroom that is less than \$700 per month and 0.9% for a bachelor suite less than \$700 per month⁷. **Please see the full Report on Housing and Supports (2012/13) for information related to vacancy rates and cost of market rental housing in Victoria CMA.** In this data supplement, we provide additional data from CMHC related to numbers and costs of available rental units.

Since 2006, the overall rental stock has remained relatively unchanged but there has been a decline in the total number of suites on the market that are less than \$700/month. In 2012, there were only 1337 bachelor units with rents less than \$700/month compared to 2545 in 2006. For 1 bedroom units, there were 1,222 with rents less than \$700/month in 2012 compared to 8,538 in 2006.

³ Capital Regional District (2007). Regional Housing Affordability Strategy for the Capital Regional District

⁴ Gaetz et al. (2013); Shapcott. (2009).

⁵ Rental market data presented in this report accounts for only purpose-built rental stock. In the Victoria CMA, purpose-built rental units account for only half of the rental units in the region (and increasingly so in urban centers across Canada). Most of the recent growth in the rental stock has been in the secondary market, which includes condominiums, basement suites, and garden suites. Condominiums are typically more expensive than purpose-built rental stock. All rental market data presented in the Data Supplement Report is for the rental universe containing both private row (townhouse) and apartment units combined, and drawn from the fall rental market reports and surveys.

⁶ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2012). Rental Market Report: Victoria CMA.

⁷ Ibid.

| Number of Units by Rent Range and Unit Type for Victoria CMA ⁸ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Year | Unit Type | Less than \$700 | Data Code | \$700 - \$799 | Data Code | \$800 - \$899 | Data Code | \$900 - \$999 | Data Code | \$1000+ | Data Code | Total | Data Code |
| 2012 | Bach | 1,337 | a | 991 | b | 168 | b | ** | | 87 | c | 2,612 | a |
| 2012 | ¹ Bdrm. | 1,222 | b | 4,019 | a | 5,598 | a | 1,473 | a | 992 | b | 13,304 | a |
| 2012 | ² Bdrm. | ** | | 279 | c | 984 | a | 1,807 | a | 4,156 | a | 7,272 | a |
| 2012 | ³⁺ Bdrm. | n/u | | ** | | 16 | c | ** | | 733 | b | 776 | b |
| 2011 | Bach | 1,478 | a | 889 | b | 113 | b | 34 | d | 17 | d | 2,531 | a |
| 2011 | ¹ Bdrm. | 1,490 | a | 4,274 | a | 5,239 | a | 1,491 | b | 798 | c | 13,292 | a |
| 2011 | ² Bdrm. | 100 | d | 335 | b | 1,085 | a | 1,806 | a | 3,833 | a | 7,159 | a |
| 2011 | ³⁺ Bdrm. | n/u | | ** | | 23 | b | 31 | d | 720 | b | 778 | b |
| 2010 | Bach | 1,492 | a | 831 | b | 123 | c | ** | | ** | | 2,510 | a |
| 2010 | ¹ Bdrm. | 1,985 | a | 4,172 | a | 4,977 | a | 1,317 | b | 754 | b | 13,204 | a |
| 2010 | ² Bdrm. | 149 | c | 395 | a | 1,227 | a | 1,823 | a | 3,571 | a | 7,165 | a |
| 2010 | ³⁺ Bdrm. | ** | | ** | | 26 | b | 37 | c | 715 | b | 794 | b |
| 2009 | Bach | 1,693 | a | 669 | b | ** | | ** | | ** | | 2,529 | a |
| 2009 | ¹ Bdrm. | 2,495 | a | 4,582 | a | 4,347 | a | 1,100 | a | 616 | c | 13,141 | a |
| 2009 | ² Bdrm. | 229 | c | 514 | a | 1,378 | a | 1,952 | a | 3,205 | a | 7,277 | a |
| 2009 | ³⁺ Bdrm. | n/u | | 22 | a | 23 | b | 56 | b | 716 | b | 818 | b |
| 2008 | Bach | 1,924 | a | 463 | b | ** | | ** | | ** | | 2,556 | a |
| 2008 | ¹ Bdrm. | 4,058 | a | 4,812 | a | 2,860 | a | 678 | c | 634 | c | 13,041 | a |
| 2008 | ² Bdrm. | 361 | b | 877 | a | 1,794 | a | 1,868 | a | 2,349 | a | 7,249 | a |
| 2008 | ³⁺ Bdrm. | ** | | 19 | b | ** | | 94 | b | 595 | b | 765 | b |
| 2007 | Bach | 2,473 | b | 128 | c | ** | | ** | | ** | | 2,643 | a |
| 2007 | ¹ Bdrm. | 5,838 | a | 5,169 | a | 1,448 | b | 534 | c | 231 | c | 13,220 | a |
| 2007 | ² Bdrm. | 355 | b | 1,264 | a | 2,445 | a | 1,718 | a | 1,320 | b | 7,101 | a |
| 2007 | ³⁺ Bdrm. | ** | | ** | | 43 | b | 172 | b | 511 | b | 780 | a |
| 2006 | Bach | 2,545 | b | ** | | ** | | 34 | d | ** | | 2,646 | b |
| 2006 | ¹ Bdrm. | 8,538 | a | 3,450 | a | 725 | b | 261 | b | 332 | d | 13,306 | a |
| 2006 | ² Bdrm. | 666 | b | 1,730 | a | 2,423 | a | 1,150 | a | 1,188 | a | 7,157 | a |
| 2006 | ³⁺ Bdrm. | ** | | ** | | 86 | c | 208 | b | 454 | b | 812 | b |

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2006-2012). Rental Market Survey October 2006-2012.

⁸ Data Reliability Codes: a = Excellent; b = Very good; c = Good; d = Fair (Use with Caution); ** = Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable; n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category.

Rental Stock

Looking at the rental stock in Greater Victoria shows us that the majority of the rental apartment stock is located within the City of Victoria, where there are lower vacancy rates. Moreover, we can see that since 2010, very few new purpose built rental units have been added to the rental stock in Greater Victoria.

| Total Number of Units in Rental Universe by Area ⁹ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|-------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-------|------------|-----|-----|--------------------|--------|--------|
| Area/ Year | Bachelor | | | 1 Bedroom | | | 2 Bedroom | | | 3+ Bedroom | | | Total Rental Units | | |
| | '10 | '11 | '12 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '10 | '11 | '12 |
| Cook St. Area | 342 | 345 | 346 | 1,811 | 1,821 | 1,833 | 612 | 599 | 611 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 2,792 | 2,793 | 2,818 |
| Fort St. Area | 496 | 498 | 511 | 2,749 | 2,757 | 2,768 | 1,275 | 1,273 | 1,265 | 40 | 45 | 41 | 4,560 | 4,573 | 4,585 |
| James Bay Area | 554 | 552 | 540 | 2,055 | 2,059 | 2,047 | 1,080 | 1,069 | 1,063 | 27 | 29 | 29 | 3,716 | 3,709 | 3,679 |
| Remainder of City of Victoria | 774 | 770 | 829 | 2,793 | 2,806 | 2,891 | 1,189 | 1,199 | 1,267 | 88 | 90 | 63 | 4,844 | 4,865 | 5,050 |
| Saanich /Central Saanich | 181 | 186 | 183 | 1,599 | 1,577 | 1,582 | 1,277 | 1,261 | 1,259 | 299 | 283 | 299 | 3,356 | 3,307 | 3,323 |
| Esquimalt | 117 | 112 | 114 | 1,448 | 1,455 | 1,453 | 1,058 | 1,061 | 1,062 | 127 | 122 | 134 | 2,750 | 2,750 | 2,763 |
| Westshore ¹⁰ | 43 | 43 | 44 | 126 | 159 | 161 | 279 | 296 | 296 | 169 | 179 | 179 | 617 | 677 | 680 |
| Oak Bay | 54 | 54 | 57 | 566 | 599 | 562 | 423 | 426 | 427 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 1,057 | 1,053 | 1,058 |
| North Saanich | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sidney | 5 | 5 | 5 | 116 | 116 | 114 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 260 | 260 | 258 |
| Region Totals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Victoria ¹¹ | 2,166 | 2,165 | 2,226 | 9,408 | 9,443 | 9,539 | 4,156 | 4,140 | 4,206 | 182 | 192 | 161 | 15,912 | 15,940 | 16,132 |
| Remainder of CMA ¹² | 400 | 400 | 403 | 3,855 | 3,866 | 3,872 | 3,172 | 3,179 | 3,179 | 613 | 602 | 628 | 8,040 | 8,047 | 8,082 |
| Victoria CMA Total | 2,566 | 2,565 | 2,629 | 13,263 | 13,309 | 13,411 | 7,328 | 7,319 | 7,385 | 795 | 794 | 789 | 23,952 | 23,987 | 24,214 |

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2011-2012). Rental Market Report: Victoria CMA.

In lieu of purpose-built rental units, condominiums are increasingly being added to the rental stock. In 2012, apartment condominiums accounted for approximately 10% of the rental stock in Greater Victoria. Condominiums are built with the purpose of home ownership, though the current trend of investor-owned condominiums being rented out has indirectly added to the rental supply in the region¹³. That said, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation estimates that 20.7% of Greater Victoria's apartment condominiums are part of the region's

⁹ Note that this chart does not include secondary suites. CMHC's rental market survey "targets only privately initiated structures with at least three rental units, which have been on the market for at least three months." CMHC (2012). Rental Market Report: Victoria CMA.

¹⁰ Westshore includes: Langford, View Royal, Colwood, Sooke

¹¹ City of Victoria includes: Cook St, Fort St, James Bay, Remainder of City of Victoria

¹² Remainder of CMA includes: Saanich/Central Saanich, Esquimalt, Westshore (Langford/View Royal/Colwood/Sooke), Oak Bay, North Saanich, Sidney.

¹³ Federation of Canadian Municipalities. (2012). No Vacancy: Trends in Rental Housing in Canada.; Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2012). Rental Market Report: Victoria CMA.

rental supply¹⁴. Currently, minimal data is available on secondary market values, though condominium rental units are generally considered to be high-end substitutes for purpose-built rental units¹⁵.

| Rental Market Stock in Victoria CMA 2012 | |
|---|-------------|
| Type of Housing | Total Stock |
| Purpose-built | 24,214 |
| Apt. condominiums | 4,623 |
| Other secondary market | 19,347 |

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2012). *Rental Market Report: Victoria CMA*.

Income

Earning an adequate income is another key factor in preventing and solving homelessness.

Please see the full Report on Housing and Supports (2012/13) for information on living wage for families and income for two basic costs for people on social assistance and those earning a minimum wage.

¹⁴ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2012). *Rental Market Report: Victoria CMA*.

¹⁵ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2012). *Canadian Rental Market Report*.

At Risk of Homelessness

Many people in our community are at-risk of homelessness. The significant number of people in both core housing need and waiting for subsidized housing are additional warning signs and signal the need for further action. **Please see the full Report on Housing and Supports (2012/13) for information on core housing need.**

Housing Registry

The Housing Registry serves as an important indicator of the number of households in need of subsidized housing and who may be at risk of homelessness¹⁶. As of March 31, 2013, there were 1,477 households on the Housing Registry in the Capital Regional District¹⁷. **Please see full report on Housing and Supports (2012/13) for information related to trends in numbers of people using the Housing Registry.**

| Housing Registry Applicant Households Residing in the Capital Regional District and BC- As of March 31 of Each Year | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Region | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| CRD | 2,088 | 1,978 | 1,764 | 1,172 | 1,343 | 1,377 | 1,545 | 1,477 |
| Province of BC | 15,343 | 14,548 | 13,932 | 9,839 | 10,846 | 12,397 | 13,684 | 13,913 |
| CRD % of Total Applicants in BC | 13.6% | 13.6% | 12.7% | 11.9% | 12.4% | 11.1% | 11.3% | 10.6% |

Source: BC Housing. (2006-2013). Operations Branch, Housing Services Reporting, 4th Quarter Activity - March 31.

The drop in numbers of households on the housing registry between 2006 and 2009, reflects the drop in the number of families due in large part to the introduction of the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) for working families in October 2006. See below. Since 2009 the number of families on the housing registry has stabilized (there were 410 families on the registry in 2013 and 426 in 2009). Overall, these numbers illustrate the sustained need for subsidized housing in Greater Victoria.

¹⁶ The BC Housing Registry is a centralized database for participating housing providers, coordinated by BC Housing. It allows individuals to apply to subsidized housing using one application form (BC Housing, 2007, Glossary.). Not all applicant households on the registry are unhoused and not all housing providers participate in the registry.

¹⁷ Housing Registry statistics are based on a snapshot of those on the waitlist on the last day of the fiscal year.

The following table provides greater insight as to the type of applicants on the housing registry.

| Housing Registry Applicant Households by Household Type Residing in the Capital Regional District, as of March 31 of Each Year | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Type of Applicant | 2006¹⁸ | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Families ¹⁹ | 1,153 | 1,071 | 803 | 426 | 490 | 465 | 512 | 410 |
| People with Disabilities ²⁰ | 415 | 401 | 366 | 266 | 300 | 322 | 374 | 356 |
| Seniors ²¹ | 406 | 395 | 409 | 293 | 357 | 391 | 450 | 470 |
| Wheelchair Modified ²² | 16 | 11 | 15 | 44 | 52 | 52 | 43 | 69 |
| Singles ²³ | 30 | 24 | 18 | 22 | 28 | 25 | 21 | 15 |
| Rent Supplements ²⁴ | 5 | 5 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Transfers ²⁵ | 57 | 61 | 131 | 116 | 107 | 116 | 135 | 147 |
| Pending Applications ²⁶ | 6 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 |

Source: BC Housing. (2006-2013). Operations Branch, Housing Services Reporting, 4th Quarter Activity - March 31.

¹⁸ The Rental Assistance Program (RAP) for working families was introduced in October 2006.

¹⁹ Family: A minimum of two people, including one dependent child.

²⁰ People with Disabilities: A single person who can live independently and qualifies for a disability pension, or can't work because of a disability, and is under 55 years of age.

²¹ Seniors: One or two persons, with at least one person who is 55 years or older.

²² Wheelchair Modified: At least one applicant requires a wheelchair modified unit. Applicant may be family, senior or person with disabilities.

²³ Singles: Singles and couples under age 55 who do not meet the definition of people with disabilities.

²⁴ Rent Supplement: At least one applicant qualifies to be considered for a private market rent supplement (i.e. live in areas of the province where there is limited or no subsidized housing, or have a unique need that cannot be accommodated in existing subsidized housing). Applicant may be family, senior or person with disabilities.

²⁵ Transfer: Tenants wishing to transfer from one social housing unit to another.

²⁶ Pending: Applicants who having Pending status.

| Housing Registry Applicant Households by Household Type Residing in BC, as of March 31 of Each Year | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Type of Applicant²⁷ | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Families | 8,560 | 7,858 | 6,577 | 3,849 | 4,025 | 4,254 | 4,546 | 4,150 |
| People with Disabilities | 2,522 | 2,550 | 2,484 | 1,907 | 2,217 | 2,519 | 2,876 | 2,950 |
| Seniors | 2,992 | 2,870 | 3,118 | 2,273 | 2,602 | 3,256 | 3,774 | 4,159 |
| Wheelchair Modified | 69 | 60 | 75 | 249 | 299 | 402 | 487 | 569 |
| Singles | 509 | 451 | 499 | 612 | 752 | 870 | 837 | 715 |
| Rent Supplements | 26 | 30 | 69 | 35 | 26 | 26 | 30 | 27 |
| Transfers | 579 | 569 | 982 | 897 | 887 | 1,028 | 1,097 | 1,295 |
| Pending Applications | 86 | 160 | 128 | 17 | 38 | 42 | 37 | 48 |

Source: BC Housing. (2006-2013). Operations Branch, Housing Services Reporting, 4th Quarter Activity - March 31.

²⁷ The same definitions for types of applicants provided for the "Housing Registry Applicants Households in the CRD" table apply to this table.

Food Bank Use

When money goes mostly to rent, there is little left for food. Consequently, food insecurity is another indicator of those who are risk of homelessness. In Greater Victoria there was an increase in the number of people accessing food banks from the previous year²⁸. **Please see full Report on Housing & Supports (2012/13) for additional information on individuals accessing food bank**

In 2011, 21,300 (15.5%) of households were considered food insecure in Victoria CMA²⁹. By contrast, this is higher than the rate of food insecurity amongst households in Vancouver CMA (9.4%)³⁰. On a larger scale, Victoria's rate is also higher than both the rate for BC (11%) and Canada (12.3%)³¹. This means that there are compromises in the quality and quantity of food for adults and/or children. This has an enormous impact on health and well-being.

In the data supplement, we provide information on the number of households and their demographics based on household data from two food banks. The overall numbers of people using food banks found in the full report on Housing and Supports is based on data from four food banks.

| Family Demographics of Households Accessing Two Food Banks in Greater Victoria, March 2012³² Total Households = 9,514 | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Client Category | Total Households | Percent of Households Served | Total Percentage of Families with Children |
| households assisted that were single parent families with children | 1,724 | 18.1% | 28.5% |
| households assisted that were dual parent families with children | 988 | 10.4% | |
| households assisted that were couples without children | 772 | 8.1% | n/a |
| households assisted that were single people | 6,030 | 63.4% | n/a |

²⁸ Not all food banks in Greater Victoria participated in the 2012 Hunger Report. Due to data limitations, trending for income indicators and client totals is not possible. The total usage number for Greater Victoria presented in the report is based on four food banks (out of the five used in the report last year), and even with this limited data, there was still an increase over 2011. Food Bank Canada. (2012). Hunger Count 2012: British Columbia Summary of Findings.

²⁹ "Food security exists when "all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." By contrast, "food insecurity indicates deprivation in terms of a basic human need: access to nutritious food in sufficient quantities and of sufficient quality to maintain good health." PROOF. (2013). Household Food Insecurity in Canada, 2011.

³⁰ Victoria and Vancouver rates based on unpublished data. Personal communication with Dr. Valerie Tarasuk, PROOF, 2013. The data is by Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) and the prevalence estimates for food insecurity have a 95% confidence interval (including marginal, moderate, and severe food insecurity): Victoria: 15.5% (11.3% - 19.8%); Vancouver: 9.4% (7.6% - 11.1%).

³¹ PROOF. (2013). Household Food Insecurity in Canada, 2011.

³² Of the four Greater Victoria food banks that participated in the 2012 Hunger Count, only two provided data on family demographics.

| Housing Indicators of Households Accessing One Large Food Bank in Greater Victoria, March 2012³³ | | |
|--|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Household Category | Total | Percent of Households Served |
| households assisted that rent | 6,558 | 71.7% |
| households in social/subsidized housing | 1,463 | 16% |
| households that were homeowners | 183 | 2% |
| households temporarily with family or friends | 421 | 4.6% |
| households in a shelter or group home | 229 | 2.5% |
| households in band-owned housing | 46 | 0.5% |
| households that were living on the street | 238 | 2.6% |
| unknown households | 9 | 0.1% |

³³ Of the four Greater Victoria food banks that participated in the 2012 Hunger Count, only one provided data on housing indicators, though it is the largest food bank in the region. This food bank provided data on family demographic and income indicators as well.

Experiencing Homelessness

To get a sense of how many people are currently experiencing homelessness in Greater Victoria, we can look at how many people use emergency shelters annually, the number of people using temporary accommodation on a single night of the year, the number of times people are turned away from emergency shelters monthly and from all facilities on one night of the year. While these are undercounts, they tell us a great deal about the scope of the problem and whether or not the situation is changing. In this data supplement, we provide information on the profile of those who use emergency shelters.

Emergency Shelter Use

Drawing on data from five Greater Victoria emergency shelters over the past year, at least 1,659 individuals used an emergency shelter at least one time³⁴. **Please see full Report on Housing & Supports (2012/13) for detailed information on Emergency Shelter use.**

Profile of Emergency Shelter Program Clients in Greater Victoria

Many different people access emergency shelters in Greater Victoria.

Since 2008, the proportion of women using emergency shelters has been far lower than the number of male users. In 2012/13, 20% of emergency shelter clients were women and 80% were men³⁵.

Similar to last year, 19% of emergency shelter clients self-identified as Aboriginal. This number has remained relatively consistent over the past five years. However, these figures likely represent an undercount as 25% of emergency shelter clients were categorized as 'don't know'³⁶.

For a variety of reasons, including safety concerns and restrictions, some people do not stay in shelters (e.g. families, women, and youth). Common restrictions include no pets and being barred for past incidences.

The following tables provide a more in-depth look at emergency shelter clients in Greater Victoria³⁷.

³⁴ Of the five adult programs, all of them are run by Victoria Cool Aid Society and three operate year-round (Next Steps, Sandy Merriman, and Rock Bay Landing emergency shelter beds) and two operate seasonally (Rock Bay Landing seasonal mat program and Divine Intervention seasonal mat programs). The one youth shelter program is a seasonal mat program run by Beacon Community Services. Due to unavailability of HIFIS data, one shelter is not included in the reporting of the number of unique individuals using emergency shelters. Note that Divine Intervention was included in data for 2010-11 but was not included in 2011-12 because it did not operate. Victoria Cool Aid Society. (2013). Crystal Reports unique individuals crosstab report based on Homeless Individuals and Families Information System. Beacon Community Services. (2013). Out of the Rain Youth Shelter.

³⁵ BC Housing. (2008-2013). Homelessness Services System.

³⁶ BC Housing. (2012-2013). Homelessness Services System.

³⁷ Homelessness Services System (HSS) data is entered by service providers. The accuracy of the data is dependent on provider entry. HSS sites cannot communicate through the database. This means that all data in this table represent records, not unique individuals. Individuals get a new client id number and record when they go to a different shelter. While the data does not represent unique individuals, the general trends revealed in the database have been validated against other sources and reflect what is known about the homeless population in BC.

| Profile of Emergency Shelter Program (ESP) Clients in Capital Regional District by Gender, Age Group, and Aboriginal Identity | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Indicators | Category (% of population) | Fiscal Year | | | | |
| | | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
| Gender | Male | 71% | 72% | 72% | 74% | 80% |
| | Female | 29% | 28% | 28% | 26% | 20% |
| | Other | < 1% | < 1% | < 1% | < 1% | < 1% |
| Age Group ³⁸ | 19 - 36 Years | 39% | 38% | 42% | 41% | 42% |
| | 37-55 Years | 53% | 51% | 48% | 47% | 46% |
| | 56 Years and Older | 8% | 11% | 10% | 12% | 12% |
| Aboriginal Status | Aboriginal Identity | 20% | 23% | 22% | 19% | 19% |
| | Non-Aboriginal | 80% | 77% | 78% | 81% | 81% |

Source: BC Housing. (2008-2013). Homelessness Services System.

| Profile of Emergency Shelter Program (ESP) Clients in Capital Regional District by Income Source³⁹ | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Category (% of Population) | Fiscal Year | | | | |
| | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
| None | 17% | 14% | 21% | 27% | 27% |
| Employment | 14% | 15% | 14% | 13% | 13% |
| Employment Insurance (EI) | 3% | 4% | 5% | 3% | 3% |
| Income Assistance (IA) | 33% | 36% | 31% | 26% | 24% |
| Income Assistance - Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB) | 5% | 5% | 5% | 4% | 4% |
| Income Assistance - Persons with Disabilities (PWD) | 27% | 26% | 18% | 20% | 20% |
| Canada Pension Plan (CPP) | 6% | 4% | 6% | 7% | 7% |
| Old Age Security (OAS) | < 1% | < 1% | < 1% | 1% | 2% |
| Other | 7% | 7% | 6% | 6% | 7% |

Source: BC Housing. (2008-2013). Homelessness Services System.

³⁸ The Emergency Shelter Program has a mandate to serve adults, therefore age categories start at 19 years of age.

'Emergency Shelter' refers to Emergency Shelter program beds only.

³⁹ Income Sources will add up to more than 100%, as clients can select more than one income source.

Extreme Weather Response mats (EWR – known as Extreme Weather Protocol in Greater Victoria), supplement the year-round emergency shelters and seasonal emergency shelters⁴⁰. The EWR mats provide shelter only during extreme weather conditions, and are generally on the floor of a large hall. In 2012/13, on nights when the EWR mats were activated in Victoria, an average of 59 mats were available from October to December and 93 mats were available from January to March⁴¹. People accessing the EWR mats in Victoria in 2012/13 were 9% female and 91% male⁴².

| Profile of Extreme Weather Response (EWR) Shelter Clients in Capital Regional District ⁴³ | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Indicators | Criteria (% of population) | Fiscal Year | | | | | | |
| | | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 ⁴⁴ | 2012/13 ⁴⁵ |
| Gender | Male | 89% | 88% | 79% | 83% | 94% | 91% | 91% |
| | Female | 11% | 12% | 21% | 17% | 6% | 9% | 9% |
| | Other | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Source: BC Housing. (2006-2013). *Extreme Weather Response Database*.

⁴⁰ The seasonal emergency shelters include one program targeted for youth 25 and under.

⁴¹ BC Housing. (2013). *Extreme Weather Response Database*.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ EWR shelters are open between November 1 and March 31 annually, unless there are extreme weather conditions outside of those dates, in which case the EWR shelter(s) in the affected areas will open.

⁴⁴ Rock Bay Landing, Salvation Army Chapel, Sandy Merriman, and Out of the Rain provided additional mats during EWR activations from November 2011 to March 2012, but provided no data to BC Housing as these mats were not funded under EWR.

⁴⁵ Rock Bay Landing, Salvation Army Chapel, Sandy Merriman, and Out of the Rain provided additional mats during EWR activations from November 2012 to March 2013, but provided no data to BC Housing as these mats were not funded under EWR.

Facility Count

On February 6, 2013 we conducted a count of the number of people who accessed facilities for the homeless on one night. This includes individuals and families staying in emergency shelters and those who are provisionally accommodated. On one night there were 1,069 individuals homeless or at risk of homelessness. Of this number, 1,014 were enumerated in a facility and 55 people were turned away. While this reflects a drop from last year (1,205), this is due to our inability to enumerate the number of people in hotels and motels in the region. 82 facilities were enumerated with 53 of those facilities being located in the City of Victoria. In this data supplement, we provide additional information on the gender and age by facility type as well as gender and age for those turned away. **Please see full Report on Housing & Supports (2012/13) for additional information on the Facility Count.**

| Total Individuals Enumerated in Count by Facility Type ⁴⁶ | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Emerg. Shelter | Extreme Weather | Seasonal Emerg. | Trans'l Housing | Hotel/Motel | Treatment | Other | Total |
| 153 | 35 | 55 | 656 | N/A | 38 | 77 | 1,014 |

| Individuals Enumerated in Temporary Facilities on February 6, 2013 | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Category | Sheltered | Turned away | Total |
| <i>Adult male</i> | 591 | 28 | 619 |
| <i>Adult female</i> | 248 | 15 | 263 |
| <i>Adult other</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Total adult</i> | 839 | 43 | 882 |
| <i>Youth male</i> | 39 | 1 | 40 |
| <i>Youth female</i> | 38 | 3 | 41 |
| <i>Youth other</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Total youth</i> | 77 | 4 | 81 |
| <i>Child male</i> | 54 | 4 | 58 |
| <i>Child female</i> | 44 | 4 | 48 |
| <i>Child unknown</i> | 0 | N/A | 0 |
| <i>Total children</i> | 98 | 8 | 106 |
| TOTAL | 1,014 | 55 | 1,069 |

Sixty-three families including 106 children were counted among the individuals enumerated. Facilities enumerated (except for treatment and other) were between 89% and 93% occupied on the night of the count.

⁴⁶ Note that this total does not include individuals who were turned away from temporary facilities.

| Total Individuals Enumerated in Count by Gender (including turnaways) | |
|--|------------|
| Category | Total |
| <i>Adult male</i> | 619 |
| <i>Youth male</i> | 40 |
| <i>Child male</i> | 58 |
| Total Male | 717 |
| <i>Adult female</i> | 263 |
| <i>Youth female</i> | 41 |
| <i>Child female</i> | 48 |
| Total Female | 352 |
| <i>Adult other</i> | 0 |
| <i>Youth other</i> | 0 |
| <i>Child other</i> | 0 |

Fifty-five people were turned away on the night of the count. Women were more likely to be turned away from transitional facilities while men were more likely to be turned away from emergency shelters.

| Turnaways by Gender/Age and Facility Type | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Category | Emerg. Shelter | Extreme Weather | Seasonal Emerg. | Trans'l Housing | Hotel/Motel⁴⁷ | Treatment | Other | Total |
| <i>Adult male</i> | 22 | 0 | 0 | 5 | N/A | 1 | 0 | 28 |
| <i>Adult female</i> | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| <i>Adult other</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Youth male</i> | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| <i>Youth female</i> | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| <i>Youth other</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Child male</i> | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| <i>Child female</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| <i>Child other</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 0 | 2 | 22 | N/A | 1 | 0 | 55 |

⁴⁷ Data for hotel/motel not available

Community Responses to Homelessness

To understand our community response to homelessness we are focusing on three things that can help us understand if we are making gains to house and support people. These include the addition of new affordable housing units, the number of individuals we have housed who remained housed and steps taken to prevent homelessness. **Please see full Report on Housing and Supports (2012/13) for information on number of new units added and number of individuals housed.**

Subsidized Housing Units

Throughout Greater Victoria, subsidized units are available to individuals and families. Rents in subsidized units are generally set at 30% of a household's income, but rents may also be a flat rent, such as the income assistance shelter allowance amount. These units are operated by BC Housing and other non-profit partners.

In BC Housing's non-profit and directly managed subsidized units, the average monthly tenant rent contribution as of March 31, 2013 ranged from \$334 (for tenants in units designated for individuals at risk of homelessness or formerly homeless), to \$512 (for low-income families), to \$1,050 (for frail seniors includes shelter and support costs)⁴⁸. These housing costs are considered affordable for people on low incomes.

⁴⁸ BC Housing. (2013). Housing Connections, March 31. Tenant rent contributions are calculated based on the BC Rent Scale before adjustments such as heat allowance. Tenants in assisted living tend to pay more than 30% of their income to cover additional services provided in these units.

| Average Monthly Tenant Rent Contributions by Client Group in the Capital Regional District, as of March 31⁴⁹ | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Client Group | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Homeless Housed ⁵⁰ | \$330 | \$320 | \$334 |
| Frail Seniors ⁵¹ | \$1,013 | \$1,028 | \$1,050 |
| Special Needs ⁵² | \$332 | \$360 | \$348 |
| Independent Seniors (excluding SAFER) ⁵³ | \$389 | \$389 | \$392 |
| Low Income Families (excluding RAP) ⁵⁴ | \$540 | \$540 | \$512 |
| All Client Groups | \$501 | \$508 | \$500 |

Source: BC Housing. (2011-2013). *Housing Connections*, March 31.

⁴⁹ Tenant households profiled in this table are current tenants in BC Housing subsidized units as of March 31 of the reporting year. Tenant rent contribution is calculated based on the BC Rent Scale before adjustments such as heat allowance. Market rent tenants and caretakers have also been excluded from this data.

⁵⁰ Homeless Housed: Refers to housing for clients that is provided for a minimum of 30 days and up to two or three years. The housing includes the provision of on- or off-site support services to help the clients more towards independence and self-sufficiency. This housing is targeted to individuals who are at the risk of homelessness, or formerly homeless.

⁵¹ Frail Seniors: Housing for seniors who need access to housing with on-going supports and services. Tenant rent contributions for frail seniors include shelter and support costs.

⁵² Special Needs: Housing for clients who need access to affordable housing with support services. These clients include for example adults with mental and/or physical disabilities or youth.

⁵³ Independent Seniors: Housing for seniors where minimal or no additional services are provided. Seniors are usually defined as individuals who are 65 years of age and older.

⁵⁴ Low Income Families: Independent housing for low to moderate income households with a minimum of two people including at least one dependent child.

The following is a breakdown of the stock of subsidized housing units operated by BC Housing in the CRD, excluding rent supplements and emergency shelters funded by BC Housing.

| Total Subsidized Housing Units by Client Group in Capital Regional District (Excluding Rent Supplements for those At-Risk of Homelessness, Families, Seniors and Emergency Shelters) | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Client Group⁵⁵ | Fiscal Year | | | | | |
| | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
| Homeless Housed | 277 | 262 | 262 | 333 | 445 | 445 |
| Frail Seniors | 1,247 | 1,316 | 1,433 | 1,513 | 1,523 | 1,500 |
| Special Needs ⁵⁶ | 929 | 993 | 936 | 960 | 987 | 900 |
| Aboriginal | 234 | 234 | 234 | 234 | 234 | 234 |
| Independent Seniors | 2,044 | 2,020 | 2,004 | 2,051 | 2,041 | 2,107 |
| Low Income Families | 1,970 | 2,052 | 2,072 | 2,121 | 2,157 | 2,190 |
| Total Subsidized Housing Units Per Year | 6,701 | 6,877 | 6,941 | 7,212 | 7,387 | 7,376 |

Source: BC Housing. (2007-2013). Central Property System, March 31.

Rental Assistance

In addition to increasing the stock of affordable housing in the region, the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness' Housing Procurement Action Plan aims to increase the number of rental subsidies available to individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Such subsidies enhance the ability of individuals to access rental market housing. **Please see full report on Housing and Supports (2012/13) for details regarding number and trends in provision of BC Housing funded rental supplements for RAP⁵⁷, SAFER⁵⁸ and Homelessness Outreach programs.**

| Average Rate of Rent Supplement of Households in BC Receiving Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Program | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
| RAP (and other family rent subsidies) | \$329.69 | \$273.22 | \$342.09 | \$347.99 | \$360.95 | \$368.60 | \$371.96 |
| SAFER (and other seniors rent subsidies) | \$160.66 | \$153.97 | \$150.53 | \$151.99 | \$154.76 | \$151.49 | \$150.59 |

Source: BC Housing. (2006-2013). RAP and SAFER Quarterly Reports.

⁵⁵ The definitions for client groups provided for the table titled "Average Monthly Rent Contributions by Client Group" apply to this table.

⁵⁶ Units categorized as 'women and children fleeing violence' are transitional accommodation and not permanent affordable housing. Units for women and children fleeing violence are included in the Special Needs client group.

⁵⁷ The Rental Assistance Program for working families (RAP) provides eligible low-income, working families with cash assistance to help with their monthly rent payments. To qualify, families must have a gross household income of \$35,000 or less, have at least one dependent child, and have been employed at some over the last year. The program was introduced in 2006.

⁵⁸ The Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program helps to make private market rents affordable for BC seniors with low to moderate incomes. SAFER provides monthly cash payments to subsidize rents for eligible BC residents who are age 60 or over and who pay rent for their homes.

| Average Monthly Rent for the Recipients of SAFER and RAP Subsidies in the Capital Regional District for March 31⁵⁹ | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Program | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | |
| | Before Subsidy | After Subsidy | Before Subsidy | After Subsidy | Before Subsidy | After Subsidy |
| RAP | \$1,100 | \$751 | \$1,091 | \$742 | \$1,118 | \$775 |
| SAFER | \$720 | \$594 | \$735 | \$612 | \$770 | \$651 |

Source: BC Housing. (2011-2013). SAFER and RAP System, March 31.

| Households Receiving Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) Rent Supplements in Capital Regional District and BC | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Region | Program | Fiscal Year | | | | | |
| | | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
| Province of BC | RAP | 4,639 | 8,267 | 8,786 | 9,370 | 9,671 | 10,211 |
| | SAFER | 15,541 | 15,780 | 15,848 | 15,818 | 16,474 | 16,757 |
| CRD | RAP | 13 ⁶⁰ | 611 | 678 | 740 | 719 | 756 |
| | SAFER | 1,500 | 1,481 | 1,467 | 1,524 | 1,555 | 1,546 |
| CRD % of BC | RAP | 0.3% | 7.4% | 7.7% | 7.9% | 7.4% | 7.4% |
| | SAFER | 9.7% | 9.4% | 9.3% | 9.6% | 9.4% | 9.2% |

Source: BC Housing. (2007-2013). RAP and SAFER Databases; BC Housing. (2007-2013). Central Property System, March 31.

Research by the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria in 2010 calculated that approximately 50% of those eligible to receive rental assistance (RAP program) were not on the program. Many working families in the CRD who require such financial assistance may not access it for a variety of reasons. One reason documented by the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria is that the application process takes time, so families who are in emergency need cannot access the subsidy as quickly as required⁶¹.

Number of People Housed

Outreach programs are available to assist people in the transition from homeless to housed. For many individuals, this support is necessary in the step into permanent housing. BC Housing provides funding for outreach and to help connect clients to housing through three programs: the Emergency Shelter Program (ESP), Homeless Outreach Program (HOP), and Aboriginal Homelessness Outreach program. Together, these have helped house hundreds of people since 2008/09.

There may be overlap in the type of clients served by each program. However, compared to the Emergency Shelter outreach program (ESP) the Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) tends to serve a higher proportion of women, youth, and individuals identifying as Aboriginal. In terms of

⁵⁹ SAFER and RAP recipients profiled in this report are active participants in the SAFER and RAP programs as of March 31, 2013. Monthly rent of SAFER and RAP recipients is the actual monthly rent paid or half of the monthly room and board payment.

⁶⁰ The Rental Assistance Program for working families (RAP) was introduced in 2006.

⁶¹ Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria. (2010). BC's Rental Assistance Program: A Policy Review for the Capital Regional District.

the type of housing that the programs are securing for clients, ESP has a higher rate of clients being housed in social housing units, whereas HOP has a higher rate of clients being housed in market rental units⁶².

| Proportion of People Housed through ESP and HOP/AHOP by Where Housed and Housing Type in Capital Regional District | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Program | Housing Type⁶³ | Fiscal Year | | | | |
| | | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
| ESP | Market rental | 30% | 34% | 32% | 32% | 33% |
| | SRO | 22% | 22% | 19% | 21% | 9% |
| | Social Housing | 15% | 13% | 23% | 30% | 32% |
| | Other | 34% | 31% | 26% | 17% | 26% |
| HOP/AHOP | Market rental | 51% | 49% | 64% | 63% | 65% |
| | SRO | 21% | 24% | 15% | 7% | 13% |
| | Social Housing | 20% | 20% | 15% | 27% | 16% |
| | Other | 8% | 7% | 6% | 4% | 6% |

Source: BC Housing. (2008-2013). Homelessness Services System.

| HOP/AHOP and ESP Programs in Capital Regional District Client Profile by Gender, Age Group, and Aboriginal Identity⁶⁴ | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Program/Year | | Fiscal Year | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 2008/09 | | 2009/10 | | 2010/11 | | 2011/12 | | 2012/13 | |
| | | HOP | ESP | HOP | ESP | HOP | ESP | HOP | ESP | HOP | ESP |
| Gender-Housed | Male | 51% | 73% | 54% | 67% | 62% | 69% | 58% | 74% | 58% | 75% |
| | Female | 49% | 27% | 46% | 33% | 38% | 31% | 42% | 26% | 42% | 25% |
| Age Group | 19-36 Years | 31% | 24% | 31% | 22% | 26% | 23% | 42% | 23% | 37% | 23% |
| | 37-55 Years | 56% | 62% | 54% | 63% | 59% | 60% | 47% | 55% | 52% | 55% |
| | 56 Years and Older | 13% | 14% | 14% | 15% | 15% | 17% | 11% | 22% | 11% | 22% |
| Aboriginal Identity | Aboriginal | 28% | 17% | 30% | 20% | 31% | 18% | 27% | 17% | 21% | 18% |
| | Non-Aboriginal | 72% | 83% | 70% | 80% | 69% | 82% | 73% | 83% | 79% | 82% |

Source: BC Housing. (2008-2013). Homelessness Services System.

⁶² BC Housing. (2009-2013). Homelessness Services System.

⁶³ Market housing includes, flat in market housing, flat in market housing with rent subsidy, room in house/flat, and secondary suite.

⁶⁴ Numbers based on percentage of clients of all those who were housed through the outreach programs.

| HOP and ESP Programs Client Profile by Health Conditions, Remain Housed⁶⁵ | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Criteria/Program/Year | | Fiscal Year | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 2008/09 | | 2009/10 | | 2010/11 | | 2011/12 | | 2012/13 | |
| | | HOP | ESP | HOP | ESP | HOP | ESP | HOP | ESP | HOP | ESP |
| Addictions Present (Self-Identified) | Yes | 36% | 55% | 44% | 54% | 57% | 61% | 51% | 50% | 50% | 53% |
| | No | 64% | 45% | 56% | 46% | 43% | 39% | 49% | 50% | 50% | 47% |
| Disability Present (Self-Identified) | Yes | 58% | 65% | 59% | 63% | 58% | 50% | 47% | 50% | 49% | 50% |
| | No | 42% | 35% | 41% | 37% | 42% | 50% | 53% | 50% | 51% | 50% |
| Mental Health Condition/s Present (Self-Identified) | Yes | 46% | 50% | 48% | 53% | 57% | 53% | 52% | 45% | 54% | 51% |
| | No | 54% | 50% | 52% | 47% | 43% | 47% | 48% | 55% | 46% | 49% |
| Stay Housed ⁶⁶ | % of people that were found to stay housed after the 6 month check-up | 76% | 53% | 80% | 58% | 86% | 76% | 97% | 82% | 92% | 90% |

Source: BC Housing. (2008-2013). Homelessness Services System.

Homelessness Prevention Fund

Please see full Report on Housing and Supports (2012/13) for information on the Homeless Prevention Fund.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Note that the 'stay housed' data does not represent all clients of these programs but are based on the number of people they were able to get in contact with 6 months after being housed for each fiscal year. For instance, 90% of the individuals program staff were able to get in contact with were still housed after 6 months.

Recommendations

While there have been efforts to include housing for people that are homeless, many more are still homeless and at risk. In doing this report for the past four years, we have not yet seen a decrease or change in the number of people using shelters or in transitional facilities. Our recommendations reflect this reality of both the work we have done and the work we have left to do.

- Increase the number of Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) 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 numbers of youth, family and Aboriginal experiencing homelessness.]

Data Limitations

Greater Victoria does not have an integrated data system such as HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) which is used extensively in the U.S. and by the Calgary Homeless Foundation. In the absence of such a system, we draw data from multiple data systems with varying levels of data quality. As well, data reporting by any single data provider can change from year to year, which requires reanalysis of previous year's data and revisions to previous findings, thus impacting reliability overtime. All data refers to the 2012-2013 fiscal year (April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 inclusive), unless otherwise noted. Data based on snapshots is extracted as of March 31, 2013.

If data reported is prior to 2012-13, it represents in most cases the most recent data available.

Data provider-specific limitations:

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: All rental market data from CMHC data is produced by the Rental Market Survey, which targets only privately initiated structures with at least three rental units, which have been on the market for at least three months. Included are all non-farm, non-band, non-reserve, private households. CMHC reporting does not include secondary suites, rooms rented monthly in houses, or hotels. Households tested for core housing need include only private non-farm, non-band, non-reserve households with incomes greater than zero and shelter-cost-to-income ratios less than 100%.

Food Banks Canada: Data reported through the Hunger Count is based on the total number of individuals who receive groceries from food banks and their affiliated agencies during the month of March of a given year. The Hunger Count does not include people who receive food from food banks through prepared-meal programs, such as soup kitchens. The month of March is the study period because it is an unexceptional month, without predictable high or low use patterns.

Geographic data limitations:

Greater Victoria is used in this report to refer to both the Capital Regional District and the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area. Different data reporting structures limit the ability to report consistently. For a direct comparison between Victoria CMA and CRD, see <http://www.crd.bc.ca/regionalplanning/maps/documents/MapVCMA.pdf>.

The Victoria Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) includes: thirteen municipalities; Juan de Fuca Electoral Area [Capital H (Part 1) which is comprised of East Sooke, Jordan River, Malahat, Otter Point, Shirley, and Willis Point]; and nine First Nations reserves.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) includes the Victoria CMA as well as Salt Spring Island; the Southern Gulf Islands; and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area [Capital H (Part 2) which is comprised of the area north and west of Jordan River to Port Renfrew]; and an additional four First Nations reserves.

Data reporting based on CMA: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation rental market data

Data reporting based on CRD: BC Housing, Food Banks Canada, facility count (Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness), Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation core housing data

Data sources not contingent on geography: shelter-specific data, Ministry of Social Development, Dieticians of Canada

Shelter Data Limitations:

Currently, not all Victoria area shelters use HIFIS (Homeless Individuals and Families information System). Several emergency shelter indicators such as number of unique individuals is are based on shelters for which HIFIS data is available. Where HIFIS data is reported this includes five of the six major shelters in Victoria.

BC Housing extracts data from a live BC Housing database called the Homelessness Service System. Data in this database is entered and updated by agencies, so the accuracy of the data is dependent on provider entry. Data presented in this report was extracted as of March 31, 2013, and thus represents a snapshot in time (previously entered data may be updated by the providers at any time, so data is based on snapshots of what was in the system on the date of the snapshot). This data base includes housing and shelter programs funded by BC Housing

The number of shelter beds that BC Housing funds and monitors changes from year to year, meaning the data collected and reported are drawn from an annually shifting sample of the shelter population. This limits the ability to compare shelter data over time.

All emergency shelter data is based on client records, not individuals. Individuals get a new client id number and record when they go to a different shelter. While the data does not represent individuals, the general trends revealed through the database have been validated against other sources and appear to reflect what is known about the homeless population in BC.

There have been some refinements to the data extraction methodologies to improve data reporting between 2009/10 and 2010/11, as well as 2011/12 and 2012/13. It is not believed that these changes will significantly affect comparisons between the reporting years where comparisons are reported. .

All percentages are based on the total number of records where there is a response to the question being examined, not the total number of records (i.e. records missing for the indicator in question are excluded from the calculations, so as not to skew responses).

Housing Outreach Data Limitations:

All housing outreach data is based on client records, not individuals. Because BC Housing data are taken from several housing outreach providers, there is no way to distinguish clients between different providers. It is possible that two records may come from the same individual (i.e. if the client used a different name at 2 agencies), or that an individual could potentially be housed by different sites during a year (client will get a new record if housed through a different site).

Housing information is based on the most recent incidence of housing for a particular record. Only the most recent housing placement is considered in this analysis.

Data Sources

Thank you to our data providers and expert resources:

BC Housing, BC Non-Profit Housing Association, BC Statistics, Beacon Community Services, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Capital Regional District, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria, Dieticians of Canada, Food Banks BC, Food Banks Canada, Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour, Participating facilities in the 2013 Facility Count, Statistics Canada, Victoria Cool Aid Society.

To read Facing Homelessness: Greater Victoria Report on Housing & Supports 2012/13, go to www.victoriahomelessness.ca.