MORE THAN A

2016 GREATER VICTORIA POINT IN TIME COUNT

More Than a Number: 2016 Greater Victoria Point in Time Count Technical Report

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Acknowledgments

This report is dedicated to all of the individuals living in homelessness in our community. Your stories and strength inspire us.

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1. Introduction

The 2016 Greater Victoria Point in Time Count (PiT Count) provides an estimate of the extent of homelessness as well as a snapshot of some of the needs of those who are homeless in our region on a single night. This report provides a more in-depth analysis of the PiT enumeration and homeless needs survey, than what was presented in the summary report.[1]

The first point in time count and needs assessment was the 2007 Homeless Needs Survey conducted by Victoria Cool Aid Society and the Community Social Planning Council. Starting in 2011, the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, in collaboration with the Centre for Addictions Research of BC and the Community Social Planning Council, has conducted an annual Facility Count that estimates the number of people staying in emergency shelters and temporary accommodations in the capital region[2]. Successive annual counts have allowed for year-over-year comparisons to help understand our community's progress towards ending homelessness in the region. In addition to these "point-in-time" estimates, a yearly estimate of the number of unique individuals experiencing homelessness with at least one stay in an emergency shelter is conducted annually using data from the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS).[3] The 2016 PiT Count was funded through the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) and involved the collaboration of 30 HPS funded communities across Canada. These 30 HPS funded communities conducted PiT Counts within the first four months of 2016 to apply a national lens to the issue of homelessness across Canada.

The 2016 Greater Victoria Point in Time Count sought to find out how many people were experiencing homelessness on a given night in Greater Victoria, why they were experiencing homelessness and hear their stories in the hopes of creating change. To do this, the 2016 Point in Time Count used a combination of approaches to provide a snapshot of the number of people who are either experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness in Greater Victoria, with a specific focus on those who were unsheltered, emergency sheltered, and provisionally accommodated as per the Canadian Definition of Homelessness.[4] All of these groups are considered to be homeless because they do not have a safe and permanent place to call home.

On the night of February 10th, 2016, there were at least 1,387 people experiencing homelessness in Victoria. It is important to remember that behind each number is an individual with their own personal story, meaning there were 1,387 individuals with 1,387 stories, who on the night of February 10th, did not have a safe place they could call their home. They shared their stories and time graciously and patiently with researchers and volunteers, and hopefully the evidence produced through this study will lead to concrete steps towards addressing homelessness in our region.

Summary data from Salt Spring Island are also included in this report as a separate section. Salt Spring Island was not part of the geographic scope of this project because project funding was specially earmarked for the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area (Greater Victoria) but because Salt Spring Island is included in the Capital Region, Salt Spring service providers conducted a separate Salt Spring Island point in time count on the same date which is included in this report to add to a more regional perspective on homelessness.

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[1] Albert et al, 2016. The summary report can be accessed online at: https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/housing-pdf/pitcount-report26apr2016.pdf?sfvrsn=2

[2] See the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness report website: http://victoriahomelessness.ca/get-informed/coalition-reports/

[3] The National Homeless Information System (NHIS) is an initiative of the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) designed to facilitate the collection of data from homeless service providers in support of creating a national portrait of homelessness. The NHIS funding stream supports the implementation and deployment of the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) software, which facilitates the collection of shelter data at the local level (Government of Canada, 2016). Accessed online at: http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/communities/homelessness/nhis/index.shtml

[4] Homelessness is defined by the Canadian Homelessness Research Network as:
- **Unsheltered,** or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation;
- **Emergency Sheltered,** including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as Violence Against Women shelters;
- **Provisionally Accommodated,** referring to those whose accommodation is temporary and who do not have their own home or security of tenure;
- **Insecurely Housed,** referring to people who are 'at-risk' of homelessness, and whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.

1.1 Point in Time Count Structure

Project Oversight and Community Involvement

The project was coordinated by the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria in collaboration with Center for Addictions Research of BC (UVIC) which provided research expertise and supported the ethics review process. It was overseen by the Capital Regional District and the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. Project partners included Island Health, the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness, and the Homeless Partnering Strategy which provided a range of supports including funding, outreach and communications supports, expertise in research design, and participation on the community advisory committee. In addition, the collaboration with CARBC also meant that CARBC researchers were able to conduct an optional substance use survey with a subset of the homeless population who completed the homeless needs survey. The sharing of resources means that the community will benefit from a deeper, more nuanced understanding of homelessness in the region, and be able to respond accordingly, using evidence to guide building solutions together.

A Community Advisory Committee was struck to provide input on the interview guide, approach, design and administration. Members of the committee represented a cross section of those involved in the health and housing sectors in the region: youth serving programs, women's serving programs, the Victoria Police Department, Island Health, Aboriginal housing providers, and members of the Social Inclusion Advisory Committee of the Coalition to End Homelessness to ensure the perspectives of people with lived experience were included in the design and implementation of the project as social inclusion is a key principle of the work on housing and homelessness in the region.

Social Inclusion

Social Inclusion broadly refers to processes wherein individuals experiencing structural marginalization, such as homeless individuals, are involved in decision-making processes impacting their lives. Individuals with lived experience of homelessness are uniquely positioned to inform solutions to homelessness as they are able to provide perspectives typically not available to and provide to policy and program planners.[5] However people who experience homelessness are significantly impacted by social exclusion, as structures exclude homeless individuals from economic, social, cultural, and political processes.[6]

Practical actions, such as providing compensation in the form of stipends, food, bus tickets, and childcare[7] must be provided for those experiencing homelessness to offset the social exclusion and structural barriers to participation that homeless individuals face. These actions recognize the important contributions that those with lived experience of homelessness bring to the table, compensating them for their time but also for the opportunity cost of participating in meetings as opposed to spending time at food banks or meal programs. However, these material supports are only the beginnings of meaningful inclusion. Respect, sharing of power and decision making are essential in order to level the playing field for those experiencing social exclusion to participate in decisions that impact their lives.[8]

Point-in-Time Count organizers in Greater Victoria invited individuals with lived experience of homelessness to participate in the Count in various ways. Two individuals from the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness' Social Inclusion Advisory Committee (SIAC) sat on the Community Advisory Council, and provided input from the beginning stages of planning the count. Two individuals from SIAC were engaged to participate in volunteer training, and offered their own experiences of homelessness in conversation with volunteers. Two individuals from SIAC were engaged to hand out leaflets at community social services concerning the count, and provide information to participants concerning the voluntary and confidential nature of the survey. All of the members with lived experience were compensated for their time in the form of honorarium, bus tickets, and with the provision of food at meetings. In addition, the research team visited Super InTent City to invite residents to provide feedback on how they might participate in the Count, and where

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[5] Sakamoto, Khandor, Chapra, Hendrickson, Maher, Roche, Chin (2008), as cited in Norman and Pauly (2013).
[6] Norman and Pauly, 2013; Norman, T., et al. (2015)
[7] Norman and Pauly, 2013
[8] Norman, T., et al. (2015)

would work best for them to participate in the survey process that would not create a burden for residents or infringe upon their space.

2. Methodology

While Canadian researchers are working to improve the methodologies used to measure the number of people experiencing homelessness in a given geographic area, point in time homelessness counts are frequently used to establish **an estimate** of the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on a given day, **not a census** of the number of individuals experiencing homelessness.[9] A PiT Count is a strategy to help determine the extent of homelessness in a community on a given night or at a single point in time. A PiT count combined with a needs survey can allow a community to better understand the nature and extent of homelessness and the people who are homeless in a community. Such assessments can support better planning, and when done on more than one occasion, may allow communities to assess their progress in reducing homelessness. PiT counts most often result in underestimates of homelessness overall and certain groups such as women, youth and family are usually underrepresented in the findings.

The 2016 Greater Victoria PiT Count included an enumeration of those unsheltered, using emergency shelters, and staying in temporary accommodations, as well as a voluntary needs assessment survey that asked questions about participants' experiences of homelessness and their needs.

The PiT Count and Needs Assessment took place on February 10th, starting at 12:00 pm and ending at 12:00 am on February 11th, 2016. The PiT Count took place across Greater Victoria in outdoor spaces, emergency shelters and temporary accommodations. The PiT Count combined an enumeration strategy (counting individuals sleeping outside, sheltering in emergency shelters or temporarily accommodated, as well as individuals who were turned away from emergency shelters or similar facilities) with a voluntary housing needs survey. Individuals were surveyed largely between 8:00 pm and 11:00 pm on the night of February 10th, although some were surveyed earlier in the day at targeted day programs for individuals who would not be sheltering outdoors or seeking shelter in facilities between 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Trained volunteers and program staff conducted the voluntary survey. In addition, program staff provided anonymous data on the number of individuals staying in their facilities and the number of individuals turned away.

The survey was completely voluntary and ethical approval for conduct of the Point in Time Count was obtained through the University of Victoria/Island Health Ethics Review Committee. The following section provides more detail on the scope of the study, study design, and survey administration.

2.1 Definition of Homelessness

This study used the Canadian definition of homelessness to guide study design and analysis. Homelessness is defined by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness as:

- **Unsheltered,** or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation;
- **Emergency Sheltered,** including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as Violence Against Women shelters;
- **Provisionally Accommodated,** referring to those whose accommodation is temporary and who do not have their own home or security of tenure;
- **Insecurely Housed,** referring to people who are 'at-risk' of homelessness, and whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.[10]

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[9] Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2015
[10] Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (2012). Canadian Definition of Homelessness.

2.2 Scope of the Study

The following table details the categories of homelessness and the methods that were used to include people experiencing homelessness in the study.[11] For the purposes of this report, individuals and families who were emergency sheltered and provisionally accommodated are referred to as part of the sheltered homeless population in the count. Thus, findings are reported for the unsheltered and sheltered homeless population. The study was primarily focused on individuals and families experiencing the first three categories of homelessness.

Table 1

Type of Homelessness	Definition/Sub-category	Living Situation	Method	Included
UNSHELTERED	**Absolutely homeless** and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation[12]	1. Public space (e.g. sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelters) 2. Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck) 3. Makeshift shelter, tent or shack 4. Abandoned/vacant building 5. Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation	Homeless needs survey Outdoor areas/Walking routes Drop-in programs	✓
UNSHELTERED	**Emergency sheltered** those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as Violence Against Women shelters[13]	1. Overnight/short term emergency shelters (adults and youth) 2. Seasonal emergency shelters which are only during certain months of the year, usually over the fall and winter months 3. Shelters for individuals and children fleeing domestic violence	Homeless needs survey Administered at facility locations Enumeration/ Administrative data provided by service provider	✓
	Provisionally Accommodated Those whose accommodation is temporary and who do not have their own home or security of tenure.[14]	1. Transitional Housing – from one month to three years (depending on the facility/program) 2. Undergoing treatment for mental health crisis, or addictions or participating in a detox program, 3. Living at a hotel/motel 4. In a correctional facility, police cells or staying in a halfway house 5. Hospital beds 6. Someone else's place	Homeless needs survey Administered at facility locations Enumeration/ Administrative data provided by service provider Drop-in programs	✓
	Insecurely Housed Referring to people who are 'at-risk' of homelessness, and whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.	1. Individuals and families who are precariously housed – insecure tenure 2. People at imminent risk of homelessness due to loss of income, eviction, major life changes, etc.		✗

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[11] The format of this table is based on what was used in the Winnipeg Street Census Final Report (2015).
[12] Canadian Homelessness Research Network, Canadian Definition of Homelessness
[13] Ibid.
[14] Canadian Homelessness Research Network, Canadian Definition of Homelessness

2.3 Study Design and Administration

The Pit Count consisted of two main methods: an enumeration of individuals and families staying in, and turned away from, emergency shelters, and enumeration or street count of individuals who were unsheltered. Individuals who were unsheltered on the night of the count were enumerated through a voluntary homeless needs survey. In addition to these two components, there was a third optional substance use survey conducted by CARBC with a subset of the homeless population who completed the main survey. The findings of this survey are reported separately and can be accessed through the CARBC Website or by contacting CARBC. Ethics approval for this study was obtained from the University of Victoria Research Ethics Committee and from the Health Research Ethics Board for Island Health, certificate number BC2015-147.

Sheltered Enumeration

The region has been conducting a facility count for seven years. The methodology for this aspect of the study was the one used for previous facility counts. In the enumeration process, emergency and seasonal shelters, transitional housing facilities, correctional facilities, and health facilities were sent an enumeration form and were asked to record the number of individuals staying in their facility on the night of February 10, 2016, along with the number of individuals turned away from the facility. These forms were returned to the research team the following day, and team members followed up with facilities to address any questions about the data. For a breakdown of the number and types of facilities that participated, see the enumerations section of this report. For an example of the form, see Appendix A of this report.

Unsheltered Enumeration

In addition to the facility count described above, individuals who were experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of the PiT Count were enumerated through their participation in the housing needs survey. The screening questions at the beginning of the survey asked if the individual had a permanent residence to return to that evening and where they were staying that night. These questions allowed researchers to tally the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and then proceed with the rest of the survey. See below for more details on the survey.

Housing Needs Survey

There were two components to the housing needs survey: the "*unsheltered*" component, and the "*sheltered*" component. A core set of 12 questions were provided by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) and the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH). The survey also included 16 additional questions that reflected important information needs for the region, which were developed locally by working closely with the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness and the members of the Community Advisory Committee. See Appendix B for an example of the form.[15]

Unsheltered Survey

Trained volunteers surveyed individuals in downtown Victoria and parks throughout the Greater Victoria region where individuals camp and congregate. To avoid screening out people who didn't "look" homeless, volunteers asked every individual they encountered on their route, between 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm on February 10, where they were spending the night, and if they qualified for the survey. If individuals were without permanent housing for the night, volunteers asked if they wanted to participate in the survey. Volunteers made clear that participation was optional and participants could skip questions and stop at any time. Volunteers also had the option of recording the number of people they observed as experiencing homeless, for example, of someone was sleeping a doorway or on the sidewalk. Individuals who were observed were not included in the overall count of individuals experiencing homelessness as it was impossible to determine if they had already been surveyed. Individuals identified as without permanent housing but who did not or could not participate in the survey were tallied.

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[15] The survey form for the sheltered and unsheltered surveys only differed by the initial screening questions, in the interest of saving space, only one example is provided. Contact project researchers for more information.

Sheltered Survey

Trained volunteers and facility staff surveyed individuals staying at emergency shelters and transitional facilities between 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. An identical screening process was undertaken as was with the unsheltered survey, wherein residents were asked where they were sleeping, and then given the option to participate. Those who chose not to participate were counted in order to establish a response rate. Individuals who were sheltered but did not participate in the survey would have been enumerated in the facility count aspect of the study.

Volunteers were also placed at several drop-in programs wherein clients were not likely to be surveyed between 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm that evening, such as families and individuals accessing foodbanks, outdoor sex workers busy working, youth, individuals accessing harm reduction programming, and immigrant and refugees experiencing homelessness.

Participant Compensation

Survey participants were given $5.00 (cash) as compensation for their participation. Compensation for research participants is considered best practice in participatory research as a gesture to recognize the time and energy it takes for individuals to share their experiences. At any point during the survey participants were able to discontinue and still receive the honorarium. Participants were asked to indicate that they received their honorarium by marking an "X" on the Honorarium Tracking Form, however participants were encouraged not to write their names.

3. Enumeration results

3.1 Individuals enumerated on the night of the count

Table 2 presents the summary of the PiT Count results. A total of 1,142 individuals (sheltered and turned away) were counted accessing facilities, 192 individuals were enumerated who indicated they were unsheltered, and 53 who indicated they were provisionally accommodated, for a total of 1,387 individuals on the day of the count. In 2014, 1,089 sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness were enumerated on one night in February.[16]

Table 2

Overall number of people experiencing homelessness on February 10th, 2016	
Sheltered Homeless (Facility Count of 1,077 sheltered and 65 turned away, and 53 surveyed individuals staying at someone's place)	1,195
Unsheltered Homeless (vacant building, makeshift shelter, tent, or shack, other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation, public spaces, or a vehicle)	192
Total	**1,387**

A further breakdown of the PiT Count results in Table 3 (next page) shows that the majority, approximately 60%, of the individuals enumerated were sheltered on the night of the count. For the purposes of this study, the definition of sheltered includes two categories in the Canadian Definition of Homelessness:

- **Emergency Sheltered,** including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as Violence Against Women shelters;
- **Provisionally Accommodated,** referring to those whose accommodation is temporary and who do not have their own home or security of tenure[17]

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[16] Albert, M., et al (2014)
[17] Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (2012). Canadian Definition of Homelessness.

Table 3

Summary of Where People Stayed on February 10th, 2016					
Where People Stayed	**Definition/Sub-Category**	**Breakdown of Findings**	**# of respondents**	**Total of Category**	**Percent of Total**
UNSHELTERED	**Absolutely homeless** and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation[18]	Surveyed– those who indicated they were unsheltered	192	192	13.8%
SHELTERED	**Emergency Sheltered** those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as Violence Against Women shelters[19]	Emergency shelters (138 sheltered and 13 turned away)[20]	151	353	25.5%
		Seasonal shelters (195 sheltered and 7 turned away)	202		
	Provisionally Accommodated Those whose accommodation is temporary and who do not have their own home or security of tenure.[21]	Transitional Housing (573 sheltered and 43 turned away[22])	616	842	60.7%
		Treatment (38 sheltered and 2 turned away)	40		
		Hotel/Motel (21 sheltered and 0 turned away)	21		
		Someone else's place (from survey)	53		
		Other** (112 sheltered and 0 turned away)	112		
	Total			**1,387**	**100.0%**

** Other category includes correctional facilities, detox beds, police cells, a halfway house, and emergency room beds.

[18] Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (2012). Canadian Definition of Homelessness.
[19] Ibid.
20 It is important to note that on the day of the count, the Extreme Weather Protocol was no in effect.
[21] Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (2012). Canadian Definition of Homelessness.
[22] Individuals are turned away from Transitional Housing facilities if they have no vacancies.

Of the number of individuals enumerated, 24% were staying at emergency shelters: year-round, seasonal (only open certain months of the year), and at Violence Against Women shelters, and close to 14% were unsheltered on the day of the count which means they were sleeping on the streets, or in places not intended for human habitation. Categories or cells of less than 6 are suppressed in the table below to protect individuals' identities. Thus the cells in Table 4 will not total 1,387 as this total includes suppressed categories. See Table 4 below for more detail.

Table 4

		Sheltered		Turned away (includes all shelter and provisionally sheltered categories)
	Unsheltered	**Emergency Sheltered (emergency and seasonal)**	**Provisionally Accommodated**	
Total Individuals Enumerated by age category and gender, 2016				
Adult male	122	254	428	12
Adult female	33	65	193	28
Adult trans*[23]	**	**	**	**
Adult Unknown	**	**	**	**
Total adult	**158**	**320**	**625**	**40**
Youth male	10	9	32	**
Youth female	22	**	32	**
Youth trans*	**	**	**	**
Total youth	**33**	**12**	**69**	**6**
Child male	0	**	62	**
Child female	0	0	41	18
Child trans*	0	0	0	0
Child unknown gender	0	0	0	0
Total children	**0**	**	**103**	**19**
Category Totals	**191**	**328**	**797**	**65**
Grand Total = 1,387[24]				

** Cell counts under 6 were suppressed to protect individuals' identities therefore category totals in the table will not add up to the overall total.

Sheltered Individuals

Table 5 provides more detail as to the types of shelter that sheltered individuals were accessing on the night of the PiT Count. A total of 1,077 individuals were sheltered in emergency or seasonal shelters, transitional housing, in treatment, staying in a hotel/motel, or in other facilities. Figure 1 below shows the adult gender distribution by select facility type. These facility types were chosen as they had the highest number of individuals accessing them on the night of the count. Also, the facility category 'Other' had no gender diversity recorded. Out of the total number of adults accessing facilities, 73% identified as male, 27% identified as female, and less than 1% identified as trans. A similar gender distribution was seen across the facilities

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[23]trans* is an umbrella term, referring to individuals who self-identified to facility staff as transgender, transvestite, genderqueer, genderfluid, non-binary, agender, non-gendered, as a trans man, a trans woman, or as two spirit. We recognize that individuals that are trans* may also identify as males or females, or as men or women, and so we made a choice to separate out self-identified trans* individuals from males and females in our data collection process in order to build up information about their experiences in homelessness, as there is limited research about trans* individuals and homelessness.
[24] This total includes suppressed categories

highlighted below in Figure 1. The gender distribution for each facility type highlighted in Figure 1 is out of 100%. For example, out of the total number of adults accessing emergency shelters, 69.4% identified as male, and 29.9% identified as female.

Table 5

Sheltered Individuals Enumerated by Gender/Age and Facility Type, 2016							
	Emergency Shelter	Seasonal Emergency	Extreme Weather***	Transitional Housing	Hotel/Motel	Treatment	Other****
Adult male	93	161	0	253	18	22	112
Adult female	40	25	0	159	**	14	0
Adult trans	**	0	0	**	0	0	0
Total Adult	**134**	**186**	**0**	**415**	**21**	**36**	**112**
Youth male	**	8	0	23	0	**	0
Youth female	**	**	0	28	0	0	0
Youth trans	0	0	0	**	0	0	0
Total Youth	****	**9**	**0**	**55**	**0**	****	**0**
Child male	**	0	0	62	0	0	0
Child female	0	0	0	41	0	0	0
Child trans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Child	****	**0**	**0**	**103**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Facility Type Totals	**138**	**195**	**0**	**573**	**21**	**38**	**112**
Grand Total = 1,077							

* Cell counts under 6 were suppressed to protect individuals' identities, totals are reported as they are an aggregate of the total number of categories
***The Extreme Weather Protocol (EWP) was not activated on the night of the PiT Count
****Other category includes: correctional facilities, detox beds, police cells, a halfway house, and emergency room beds.

Figure 1
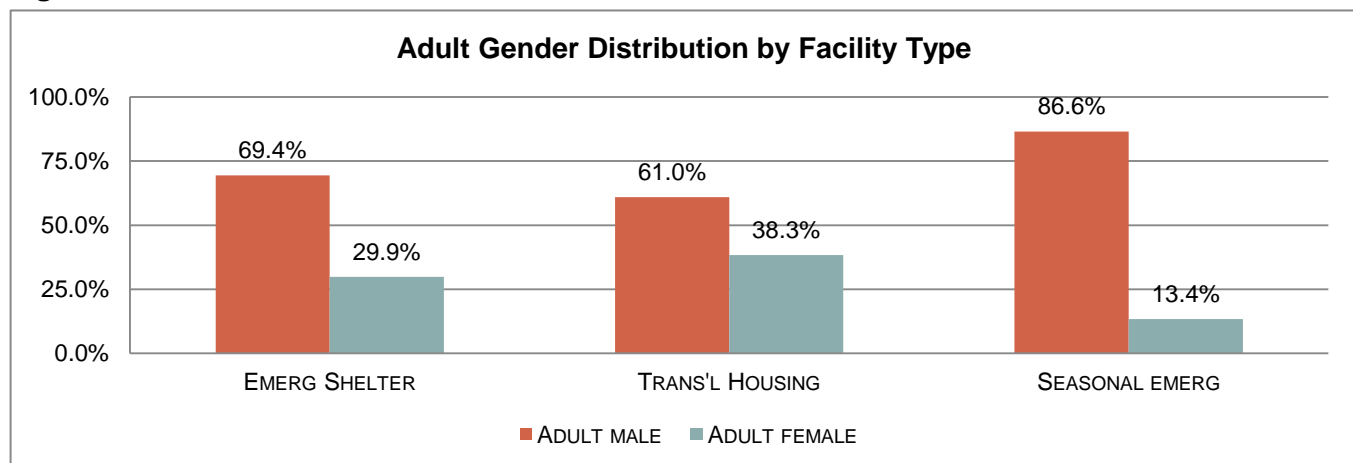
The proportion of individuals who identified as trans was less than 1% and therefore do not show up in the graph. While these individuals make up a small proportion of the population accessing services, this does not mitigate the need for targeted services that meet the unique needs of trans individuals as they often experience extreme marginalization.

Year over Year Comparison

The total number of sheltered individuals since 2011 has remained relatively constant apart from an increase and then decrease over 2012 to 2013. Fluctuations over time are largely due to the number of facilities available and willing to participate in the enumeration. The difference between 2014 and 2016 is 12 individuals. Figure 2 shows the number of sheltered individuals enumerated since 2011. It is important to note that the individuals represented in Figure 2 were counted on one night in the year presented, and the number does not represent the total number of unique individuals who accessed facilities that given year. This number is considerably higher.

Figure 2

Total sheltered individuals, Facility Counts 2011-2016
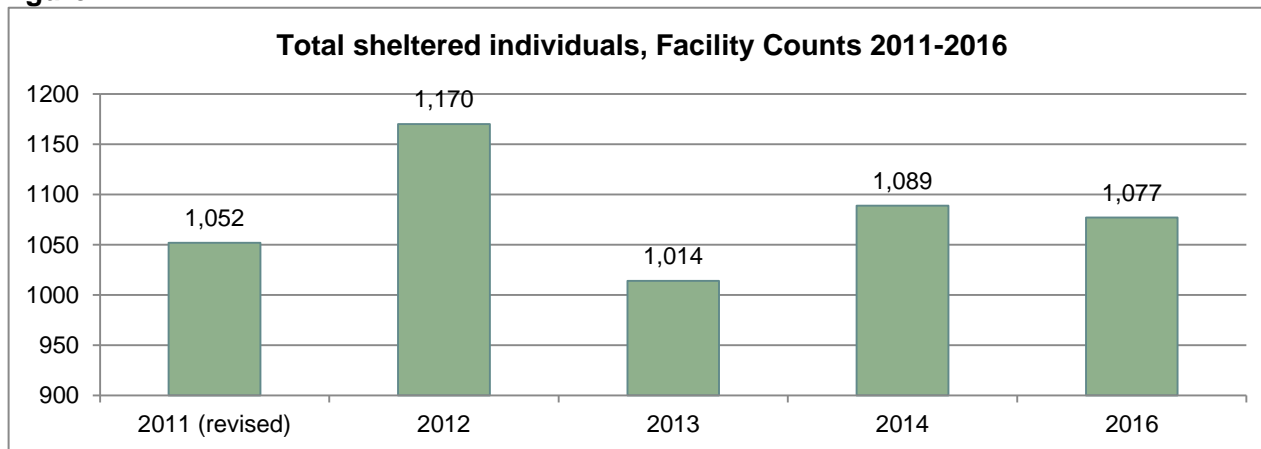
Sheltered Families and Children

The number of children and families that have been enumerated through the facility counts has somewhat decreased since 2011. This has, in large part, been the result of a decrease in the number of hotels and motels that participated in the counts which are often used for families in need of housing.[25] Figure 3 presents the year over year point in time count of the number of children and their families accessing facilities. In 2016, almost all of the families enumerated were in transitional housing.

Figure 3

Number of Families and Children (sheltered) by Year, 2011 - 2016

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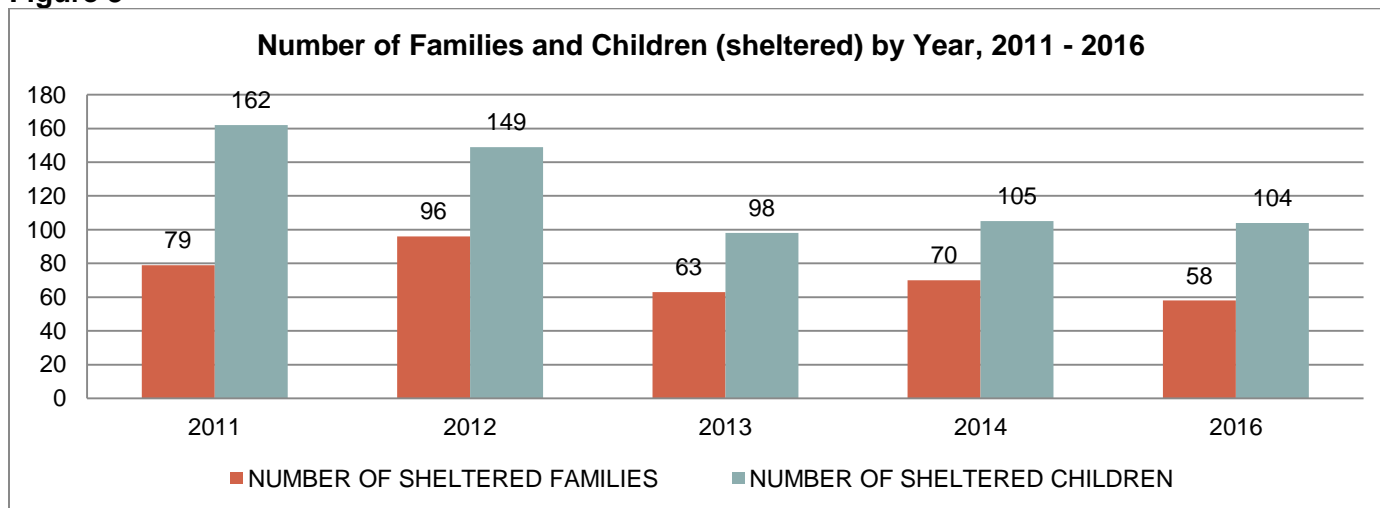
[25] Albert, M. et al (2014)

Individuals turned away

Turnaways are individuals that presented at or contacted the participating facility (within 24 hours prior to the count) who were seeking accommodation on the day of the enumeration, but were not able to stay there. On the night of February 10th, 2016, 65 individuals were counted as 'turned away' from facilities. Individuals are considered turned away from transitional housing when there are no vacancies.

3.2 Where individuals were counted

Individuals who were unsheltered were enumerated in nine different geographic areas across Greater Victoria, predominantly in public spaces.[26] Sheltered and provisionally accommodated individuals were enumerated at 68 different emergency and temporary housing facilities in 2016. This does not include individuals who were identified as "staying at someone else's place" on the night of the count as these individuals were enumerated through the housing needs survey.

Unsheltered Enumeration

The project team worked closely with the Victoria Police Department, the Saanich Police Department, regional by-law officers, and members of the Social Inclusion Advisory Committee to determine the outdoors areas where people experiencing homelessness may be residing and/or spending time. It is important to note that while enforcement officers do have some knowledge of the places where unsheltered individuals may be residing/spending time, they do not know of all the places. Table 6 below shows the survey areas and routes that were used on February 10th, 2016.

Table 6

Geographic Areas and Routes for the Unsheltered Enumeration, 2016	
Area	**Description**
1	Route 1 – James Bay Route 2 & 3 – Beacon Hill, Holland Park and South of Burdett to Southgate Route 4 – Ross Bay, Fairfield, Oak Bay
2	Downtown Core –South of Yates to Burdett/Belleville (including Tent City)
3	Downtown Core – South of Bay to Yates
4	Fernwood/Jubilee
5	Hillside/Mayfair
6	Vic West & Burnside-Gorge
7	Cuthbert Park & Esquimalt
8	Saanich
9	West Shore

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[26] The Victoria and Saanich Police Departments, the WestShore RCMP, and municipal and regional by-Law officers helped to identify outdoor and public spaces areas most frequently used by unsheltered individuals.

Sheltered Enumeration Facility

A year over year comparison of the number of participating facilities that shelter people who are homeless shows a reduction in the number of facilities (see Table 7 below). This reduction in the number of facilities participating in the sheltered portion of the 2016 Point in Time Count was driven by a number of factors. These factors include: 5 facilities on Salt Spring Island were not included in 2016 which had participated in previous enumerations because the geographic scope was changed for 2016; 4 facilities have closed since the 2014 enumeration (Empress, Edith Gulland, Fernwood and Sooke EWP); 10 Island Health facilities did not participate; and 2 hotels that had participated previously were not included (totals 21). There were also 5 new facilities, and 3 more that didn't participate in 2014 but did participate in 2016 which translates into a net loss of 13 facilities participating in the enumeration. The reduction in the number of participating facilities compared to previous enumerations highlights the challenge of undercounting individuals experiencing homelessness.

Table 7

Total Number of Facilities[27] 2011 to 2016	
Year	**Number of Facilities**
2016	68
2014	87
2013	82
2012	73
2011	63

Out of the 68 facilities that participated in the enumeration, 70.5% were located in the City of Victoria, and 10% of the facilities were located in the District of Saanich. See Table 8 below for details.

Table 8

Number of Facilities by Municipality, 2016							
Municipality	Emergency Shelter	Extreme Weather	Transitional Housing	Treatment	Hotel/Motel	Other	Seasonal Emergency	**TOTAL**
Central Saanich	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	**2**
Colwood	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
Esquimalt	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	**2**
Langford	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
Saanich	0	1	3	1	1	1	0	**7**
Saanichton	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
Sidney	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	**2**
Sooke	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
Victoria	6	1	25	5	1	5	5	**48**
View Royal	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
Multi-site	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	**2**
Total	**6**	**2**	**36**	**6**	**2**	**11**	**5**	**68**

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[27] This is a count of the number of emergency and seasonal shelters, and provisional accommodations (facilities) where individuals experiencing homelessness were enumerated, but excludes those who were counted as "staying at someone else's place".

All participating facilities were close to full capacity on the night of the count. See Table 9 for details. It is important to note that the occupancy rates included in this table are what facilities reported on the night of the count only and do not represent the overall occupancy rates for the year.

Table 9

Occupancy by Facility Type – Beds, 2016				
	Emergency Shelter	**Extreme Weather**	**Seasonal Emergency**	**Transitional Housing**
Total beds available	160	N/A	180	496
Total individuals in beds only	154	N/A	165	486
Occupancy rate of beds	**96%**	**N/A**	**92%**	**98%**

Facilities for youth

There are nine youth serving facilities in Greater Victoria. One of these facilities is a detox facility that serves youth across Vancouver Island who must receive a medical referral in order to be eligible for the program. Table 10 shows the number of youth staying in youth designated facilities only and does not include youth staying at non-youth designated facilities. Women's' emergency shelters also offer services to female youth although they are not included in this table because the facilities included here are designated to serve youth only. Youth are under-represented in this enumeration given the small number of youth designated facilities, and because of concerns around their own safety, are often difficult to locate.

Table 10

Occupancy in beds specifically designated for youth				
	Emergency Shelter	**Seasonal Emergency**	**Transitional Housing**	**Treatment/ Rehab**
Total individuals in beds or units	3	9	46	2
Total beds available	10	30	52	11
Total individuals in beds only	3	9	45	2
Occupancy rate of beds	**30%**	**30%**	**87%**	**18%**

3.3 Summary of the Enumeration

There were 1,387 individuals counted on one night who were unsheltered and emergency or provisionally accommodated in Greater Victoria. In 2007, there were 1,242 unsheltered and sheltered individuals who were enumerated as part of the Homeless Needs Survey.[28] Compared to 2007, this is an increase in the number of individuals enumerated. As this is a one night count, it does not capture the number of unique individuals using shelters throughout the year. In 2014/15, the number of unique individuals identified as homeless and using emergency shelter at least once during the year was 1,725.[29] The fact that the PiT Count number is slightly lower than the period prevalence estimates obtained from HIFIS[30] reports of unique individuals using emergency shelters is not surprising in that the HIFIS data provide an annual overview (period prevalence). So the HIFIS numbers of unique individuals are likely to capture those who might be homeless at times during the year and not just on the night of the count.   It is important to note that the facilities involved were all over 90% capacity on the night of the count. At the same time 65 individuals were turned away while many more were unsheltered on the night of the count, which indicates a lack of capacity in the system to accommodate all of those in need.[31]

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[28] Victoria Cool Aid Society, 2007
[29] Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, 2015
[30] Homeless Individuals and Families Information System
[31] Albert et al (2016)

4. Housing Needs Survey Results

On the night of February 10th, 2016, 721 individuals experiencing homelessness participated in the housing needs survey. This section provides the results of each survey question and additional analysis where possible.

An additional opt-in substance use survey was conducted by the Centre for Addictions Research (CARBC) that consisted of questions related to patterns of substance use and harms as well as survey participant access to treatment and harm reduction services. This survey included 116 individuals across multiple venues and was directed toward gaining a better understanding of the substance use and health/support needs of those who are homeless. Individuals were provided with stipends for participating in one or both surveys. The results of this portion of the survey are reported in a separate report and will be available on the CARBC website or by contacting the CARBC website.

4.1 Demographics

Gender

The majority of survey participants identified as male (67.7%), and a third (30.7%) of the survey participants identified as female. The number of survey participants that identified as transgender or another gender identity was too small to support effective data analysis and the number is suppressed to protect the identity of the survey participants.

Age

Over 1 in 5 survey participants were below the age of 30 (21.8%), and individuals over the age of 50 represented a similar proportion (20.8%) of survey respondents, see Figure 4 below for detail. Over a quarter (26.2%) of the survey participants were in their 30s, and 20.5% reported they were in their 40s. In comparison to the general population of the Victoria CMA, the median age of survey participants was 40, and the median age of the general population is 44.2.[32] Individuals under the age of 30 represent over a third (33%) of the general population, and individuals over the age of 50 represent approximately 40% of the general population[33], a much higher rate than individuals experiencing homelessness in Greater Victoria.[34] The fact that there is a higher proportion of seniors in the general population is not surprising as people who are homeless often experience poor health and are subject to early and premature death with age of death occurring decades earlier than for the general population.[35]

Figure 4

Age of Survey Particpants (N = 721) and Age of General Population

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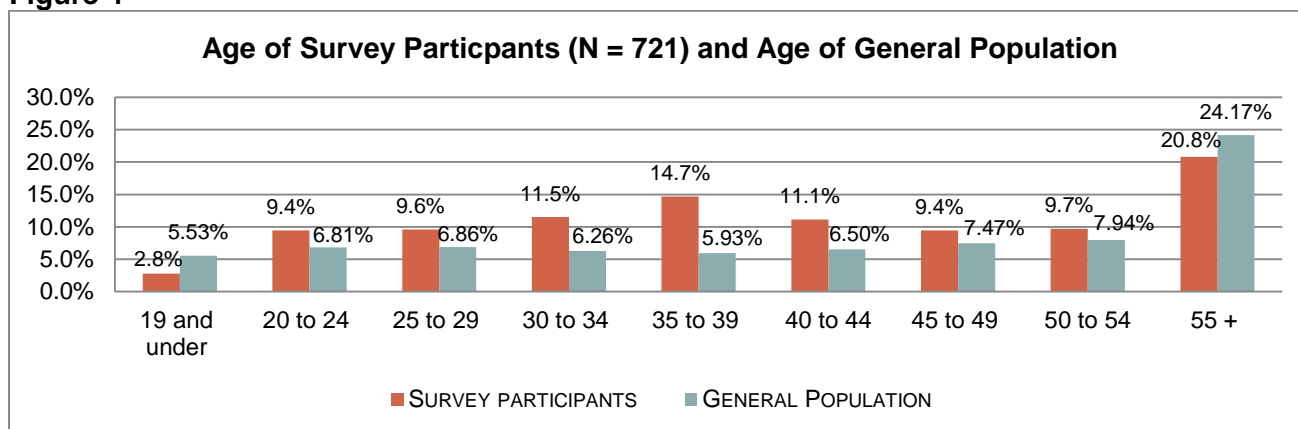
[32] 2011 Census, Statistics Canada
[33] 2011 Census Profile
[34] The Census age categories of 15 to 19, and 55 to 74 were used in this comparison as they most closely represented the age distribution of the survey participants. Those below the age of 15 and above the age of 75 were not included in the 19 and under category and the 55+ age category for the general population.
[35] Hwang, S. W., et al. (2009); Megaphone (2016)

4.2 Aboriginal People Experiencing Homelessness in Greater Victoria
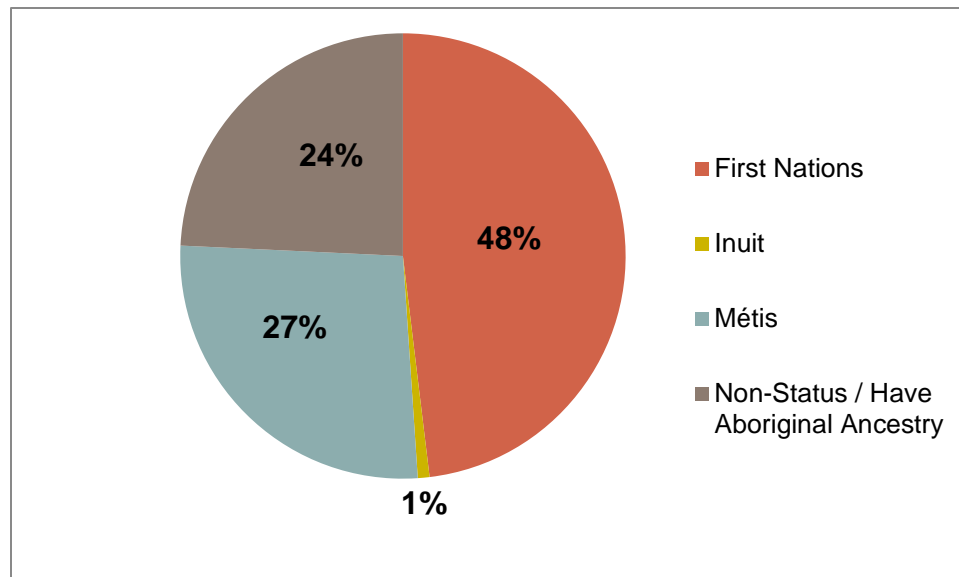
Aboriginal Identity

Survey participants were asked if they identified as Aboriginal or had Aboriginal ancestry. Aboriginal in the Table 11 below is defined as First Nations, Inuit, Métis, or Non-Status who have Aboriginal ancestry. Approximately a third of survey (32.6%) respondents identified as having Aboriginal ancestry. These results clearly indicate that Aboriginal individuals in Greater Victoria experience homelessness at a disproportionate level when compared to non-Aboriginal individuals. According to the 2011 National Household Survey, Indigenous individuals represented 4.2%[36] of the general population in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), whereas they represent 32.6% of individuals experiencing homelessness and who participated in the survey.

Table 11

Aboriginal Identity of Survey Participants (N= 721)		
	# of respondents	Percentage[37]
Aboriginal	235	32.6%
Not Aboriginal	459	63.7%

Figure 5 below shows that out of the 235 Individuals who identified as Indigenous, almost half identified as First Nations, over a quarter identified as Métis, and almost a quarter identified as non-status and having Aboriginal ancestry, and approximately 1% identified as Inuit.

Figure 5

First Nations Communities where Aboriginal Participants Were From

Survey respondents who identified as Aboriginal were asked about their home community. Out of the total number of respondents who identified as Aboriginal, 37% shared the name of their home community, typically First Nations reserves. Table 12 below provides the names of these communities. It is important to note that while some respondents answered yes to this question, not all Aboriginal people know the name of their home community, or they were unsure. Survey respondents came from 60 different communities, with the majority of people coming from communities in British Colombia and many of them from the three tribal groups on Vancouver Island and the surrounding area. This information is critical as it informs the design of strategies and supports to help individuals and also helps to identify and prioritize the First Nation communities to work with to develop culturally sensitive strategies.

In March 2016, The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) conducted a survey with Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness in Victoria and found very similar results. Out of the 100 people that were surveyed, 48 were from First Nations communities across Vancouver Island, and another 19 were from First Nations communities in BC which debunks the narrative that Victoria is a destination for people from other provinces and territories because of the climate. This is simply not the case and the belief that people come here to be homeless is inconsistent with findings from the ACEH and the PiT Count.[38]

Table 12

First Nations Community	# of respondents[39]		First Nations Community	# of respondents
Ahousaht –BC	1-5		Matsqui - BC	1-5
Beardy's and Okemasis - SK	1-5		Mistawasis - SK	1-5
Beecher Bay - BC	1-5		Nak'azdli - BC	1-5
Bigstone Cree Nation - AB	1-5		Namgis First Nation - BC	1-5
Brokenhead Ojibway Nation - MB	1-5		Nuchatlaht - BC	1-5
Campbell River - BC	1-5		Old Massett Village Council - BC	1-5
Camperville - MB	1-5		Osoyoos - BC	1-5
Carcross/Tagish First Nations - YT	1-5		Oweekeno/Wuikinuxv Nation	1-5
Clearwater River Dene - SK	1-5		Pacheedaht First Nation - BC	1-5
Comox -BC	1-5		Paq'tnkek First Nation - NS	1-5
Cowichan - BC	1-5		Pauquachin - BC	1-5
Ditidaht - BC	1-5		Saddle Lake - AB	1-5
Eagle Village First Nation – Kipawa - QC	1-5		Saik'uz First Nation - BC	1-5
Enoch Cree Nation #440 - AB	1-5		Sechelt - BC	1-5
Esquimalt - BC	1-5		Semiahmoo - BC	1-5
Fort McKay First Nation - BC	1-5		Sioux Valley Dakota Nation - MB	1-5
Garden River First Nation - ON	1-5		Skidegate - BC	1-5
Gitxaala Nation - BC	1-5		Snuneymuxw First Nation - BC	1-5
Green Lake - SK	1-5		Songhees First Nation - BC	1-5
Gwa'Sala-Nakwaxda'xw - BC	1-5		South Island Metis Nation - BC	1-5
Heiltsuk - BC	1-5		Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations - BC	1-5
Huu-ay-aht First Nations - BC	1-5		Tl'azt'en Nation - BC	1-5
Inuvialut - YT	1-5		Tsartlip - BC	1-5
Kahnawake - QC	1-5		Tsawout First Nation - BC	1-5

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[38] Homelessness Partnering Strategy Report, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (2016)
[39] To protect the identity of the respondents, the frequency of responses is noted as 1-5 if the count was less than 6.

Kitamaat - BC	1-5		Tseshaht - BC	1-5
Laichwiltach - BC	1-5		Tseycum - BC	1-5
Lheidli T'enneh - BC	1-5		Wasauksing First Nation - ON	1-5
Malahat First Nation - BC	1-5		White River First Nation - YT	1-5
Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em - BC	1-5		Williams Lake - BC	1-5
Manto Sipi Cree Nation - MB	1-5		Yellow Quill - SK	1-5
			GRAND TOTAL	**84**

Providing Context: On-Reserve Housing

Aboriginal people across Canada face some of the worst housing conditions in the country, both on and off reserve. On-reserve housing is very often plagued by poor quality building materials and construction, black mold, poor ventilation, poor insulation, and overcrowding among many other problems. Many argue that the lack of proper on-reserve housing significantly contributes to the Aboriginal housing and homelessness crisis in Canada.[40]

Homeless Needs Survey respondents who identified as Aboriginal (N=235) were asked questions developed by the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness to explore the experiences that Aboriginal survey participants had with on-reserve housing. Over three quarters of Aboriginal survey participants had lived on a reserve and a quarter felt it was their choice to leave their home community. It is important to mention that choice in this context is complex in that individuals may choose to leave to find employment, or accommodations but they may be seeking accommodations off-reserve because of over-crowding. See Table 13 below for detail.

A very small percentage of survey participants had owned their own home on reserve or were currently on a housing waitlist for their home reserve. This may be because the lack of housing on reserves is made more complex because there is a limited supply of housing to begin with and often there is no supply of dwellings for singles on reserves. The low percentage of individuals on a 'housing waitlist' may be the result of little to no housing options for single people, and sometimes few if any options for single elders.

Table 13

Aboriginal Survey Participants Experiences (N = 235)	
	Yes (% of total)
Have lived previously on a reserve	77.4%
Have lived previously on reserve and was their choice to leave	23.4%
Have previously lived on reserve and owned their own home	3.8%
Currently on a housing waitlist in your on-reserve home community	3.4%

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[40] Patrick (2014)

Residential School and Aboriginal Day School Attendance

The devastation of Aboriginal cultures across Canada was perpetuated through colonial practices that included residential schools and Aboriginal Day Schools. It is well-documented that the impact of these systems on Aboriginal children has led to intergenerational trauma and dispossession.[41] Therefore, it is important to understand whether or not Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness have attended a residential or day school so that housing and supports solutions can incorporate strategies to address trauma and work towards the provision of culturally safe and appropriate spaces and services. Approximately 10% of the survey responses who identified as Aboriginal attended a residential school or a day school. See Table 14 for details.

Similar results were found by the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) when they surveyed 100 Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness. Out of the 100 participants they surveyed, 25 indicated they had attended residential school, and the number doubled to 52 out of 100, when asked whether one or both parents attended residential school which speaks to intergenerational trauma and dispossession.[42] The ACEH survey also revealed that 58 of the 100 surveyed had either been in ministry care or one of their parents had been in ministry care.[43]

Table 14

Aboriginal Survey Participants Experiences (N = 235)	
	Yes (% of total)
Went to Residential School (missing/decline to answer = 38)**	11.1%
Went to Aboriginal Day School (missing/decline to answer = 43)**	11.1%

**Note: The missing/decline to answer data are included to provide context for the survey results

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[41] Patrick (2014); Homelessness Partnering Strategy Report. Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (2016)
[42] Homelessness Partnering Strategy Report.
[43] Homelessness Partnering Strategy Report. Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (2016)

4.3 Experiences

Survey respondents came from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

Experience in Government Care

Many people who experience homelessness have childhood histories of involvement in government care. A recent study found that a history of foster care was a strong predictor for duration of homelessness as an adult.[44] Consistent with this, 30% of all survey respondents indicated they had been in foster care and/or in a group home, and over half of those who had experience in government care identified as Aboriginal. Aboriginal children and youth are over-represented in the government care system; in 2012 Aboriginal children represented over 55% of all children in government care.[45] See Table 15 below for detail.

Table 15

Respondents who spent time in foster care/group homes			
		Yes time in care	No time in care
Identifies as Aboriginal	Yes (N = 235)	47%	51%
	No (N = 459)	22%	76%

'Ageing out' of care without appropriate supports in place, is often cited as a risk factor that leads to experiences of homelessness in adulthood.[46] Out of the survey respondents who indicated they had spent time in government care, 41.2% said they had aged out of care.

Immigrants and Refugees

Approximately 3% of survey respondents reported that they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee in the past 5 years. See Table 16 for details. New immigrants and refugees can be among those who are marginalized in a given community because of their precarious tenure in Canada (lack of citizenship or landed-immigrant status).

Table 16

Respondents who came to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years (N = 721)		
	# of respondents	Percentage
Yes came to Canada within the past 5 years	23	3.2%
Did not come to Canada within the past 5 years	677	93.9%
		Missing = 21

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[44] Patterson, et al. (2015)
[45] Albert (2013)
[46] BC Representative for Children and Youth (2014)

Military or RCMP Service

There is little data on people with military or RCMP service experiencing homelessness in Canada. International studies have indicated individuals with a military or policing background make up a significant part of the homeless population in the given country of the study.[47] Approximately 6.5% of survey respondents had ever served in the military or in the RCMP, see Table 17 for details.

Table 17

Respondents who had ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP (Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force) (N = 721)		
	# of respondents	**Percentage**
Yes	47	6.5%
No	651	90.3%
		Missing = 23

---

[47] Ray and Forchuk, (2011)

4.4 Mobility

There is a general misperception that individuals experiencing homelessness in Greater Victoria are from other places and that homelessness is not a homegrown issue in our region. Survey participants shared important information that counters this assumption. As noted above, the vast majority of Aboriginal participants were from Victoria, Vancouver Island and BC. In the Homeless Needs Survey, almost three quarters (72%) of survey participants indicated they have been in Greater Victoria longer than a year, while only 28% indicated they had moved to Victoria in the past year. See Figures 6 and 7 below.

Figure 6

Moved to Victoria in the Past Year
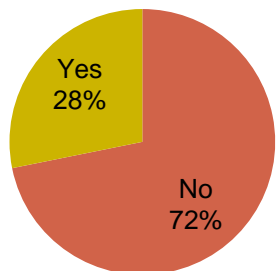
Figure 7

Province living in before moving to Victoria
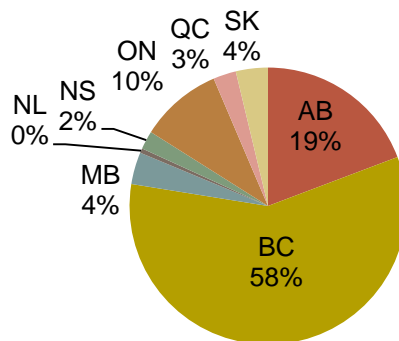
Out of the survey participants that did move to Victoria in the past year, the majority had moved from somewhere else in BC, most predominantly from Vancouver Island/Coast and the Mainland/Fraser Valley. People often move to urban areas in hopes of a better future. Table 18 below presents the list of BC communities where survey respondents originate, and the frequency of responses for each community indicated. To protect the identity of the respondents, the frequency of responses is noted as 1-5 if the count was less than 6.

Table 18

BC Community	# of respondents		BC Community	# of respondents
Abbotsford	1-5		Lake Cowichan	1-5
Agassiz	1-5		Lillooet	1-5
Alert Bay	1-5		Maple Ridge	1-5
Campbell River	1-5		Mission	1-5
Castlegar	1-5		Nanaimo	10
Chilliwack	1-5		Nelson	1-5
Cobble Hill	1-5		Parksville	1-5
Comox	1-5		Port Alberni	6
Coombs	1-5		Port Coquitlam	1-5
Coquitlam	1-5		Port Hardy	1-5
Courtenay	1-5		Prince George	1-5
Duncan	1-5		Smithers	1-5
Gibsons	1-5		Surrey	1-5
Grand Forks	1-5		Terrace	1-5
Kamloops	1-5		Tofino	1-5
Kelowna	9		Vancouver	34
Keremeos	1-5		Vernon	1-5
			Grand Total	**104**

4.5 First experiences of homelessness

Canadian research on experiences of youth and adult homelessness draws a strong connection between experiences of homelessness as a child or youth and the likelihood of experiencing homelessness, and even chronic homelessness, as an adult.[48] Almost half of the survey respondents identified that their first experience of homelessness was as a youth (a youth is considered being under the age of 25). See Figure 8 below for details.

Figure 8

Age when first became homeless (N = 683)
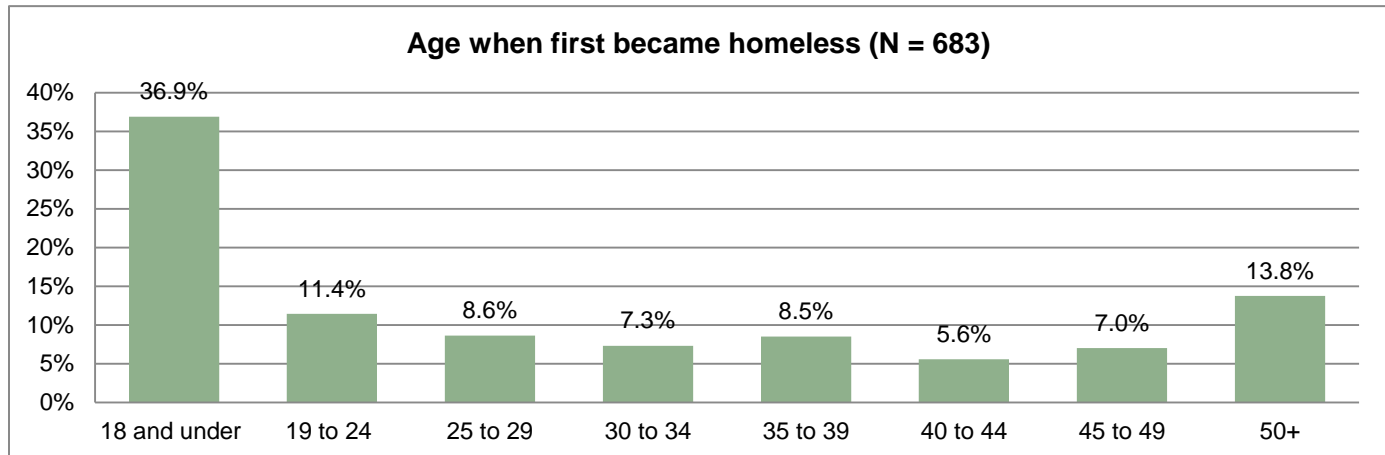
4.6 Experiences of homelessness in the past year

Experiences of Chronic Homelessness

Survey participants were asked to share an estimate of how much of the time over the past year they had experienced homelessness. Of the respondents that answered this question (N=640), the majority 78.8% (N= 504) had been homeless for more than six months. See Figure 9 below. Respondents reported being homeless an average of 230 days or 8 months but 40% of survey respondents had spent an entire year homeless. These findings indicate that people are not moving out of homelessness.

Figure 9

Time spent homeless over the past year (N= 640)

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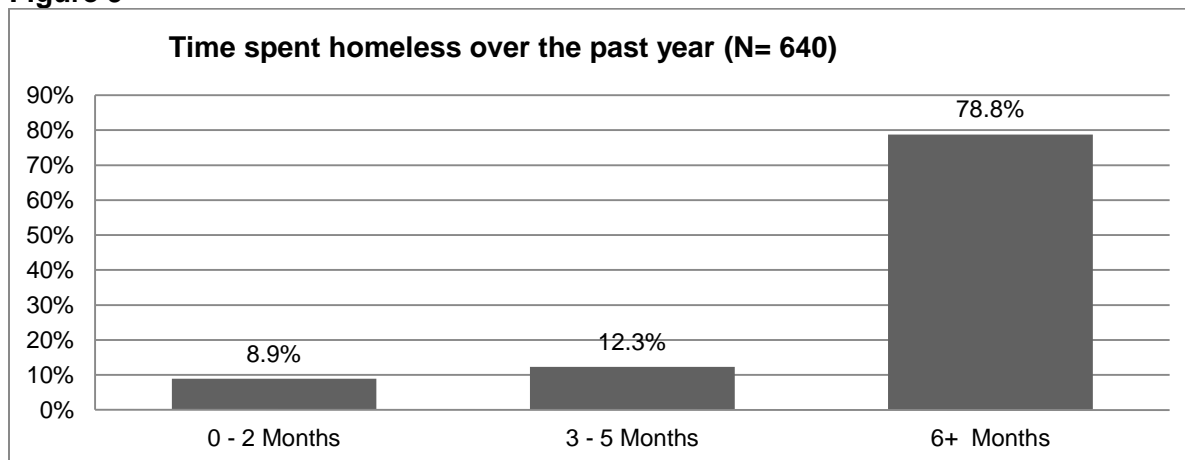
[48] Baker Collins (2013).

Number of Times Homeless

When asked about how many episodes or different times they experienced homelessness in the past year, approximately 68.1% of the survey respondents indicated they had experienced homelessness less than three different times: 60.5% had one episode of homelessness, and 7.6% had two episodes of homelessness in the past year. A further 17.2% had experienced homelessness more than three times during the past year. See Figure 10 below. The range of responses was a minimum of one time, and a maximum of 15 times, and survey respondents experienced homelessness on an average of 1.6 different times over the past year.

Figure 10

Number of episodes of homelessness over the past year (N = 721)

- 1 Time: 60.5%
- 2 Times: 7.6%
- 3+ Times: 17.2%
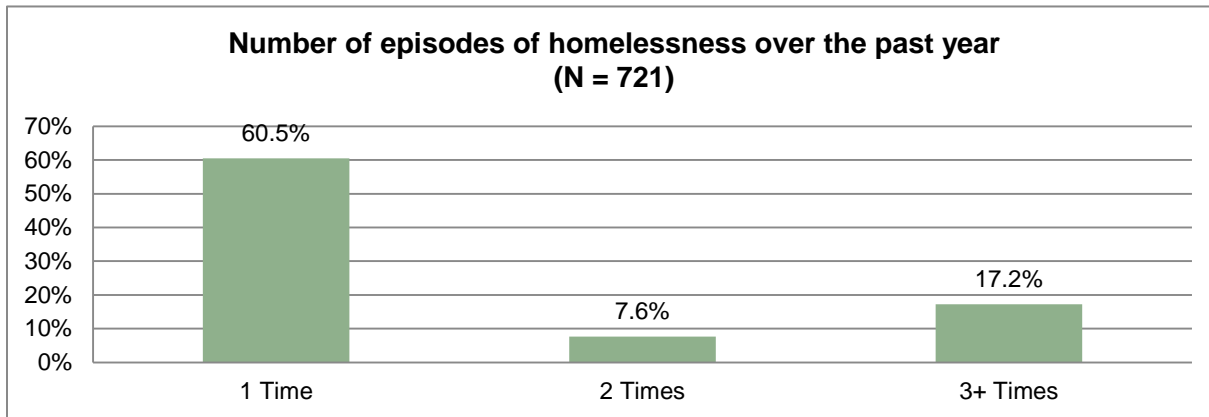
(Missing = 106)

4.7 People Experiencing Homelessness Want Permanent Housing

No one grows up wanting to experience homelessness. Individuals become homeless for a variety of reasons, and the majority of people experiencing homelessness do not wish to remain that way. Survey participants were asked if they wanted permanent housing and 90% responded with a resounding yes. See Figure 11 below.

Figure 11

Do you want permanent housing? (N=721)

- Don't Know: 1.5%
- No: 6.5%
- Yes: 90.8%
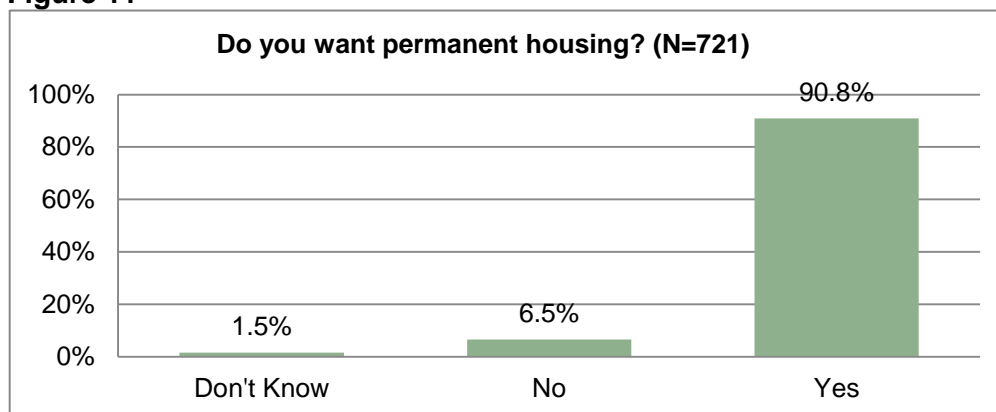
4.7 Barriers to finding a home

The table below shows the distribution of the barriers survey participants felt they faced in securing stable housing. When asked what survey participants thought was keeping them from finding a home, not surprising close to two-thirds of survey participants indicated that having a low income was a barrier; similar to reasons why many survey participants' lost their housing. Over half of the participants indicated that rents are too high, and one in five indicated that their addiction was a barrier to them securing housing. This throws an important light on the fundamental need for housing that is affordable and/or adequate income to afford housing. Again, these findings reinforce the need for housing that is accessible especially to those who use substances or have health issues.[49] Response categories with less than 10 responses were not included in the table to protect the anonymity and confidentiality of survey respondents. See Table 19 for details.

Table 19

Barriers to Housing** (N = 721)	
	Percent
Low Income	60.1%
Rents too High	56.2%
Addiction	20.9%
Discrimination	14.8%
Health/Disability Issues	14.4%
Mental Health Issues	12.8%
Poor housing conditions	9.4%
Family breakdown/conflict	6.9%
Pets	6.0%
Criminal history	5.8%
Domestic violence	5.0%
Lack of rental requirements	4.0%
Children	3.7%
Lack of housing options	3.3%
Lack of available housing	2.9%
Suitable employment	2.8%
Lack of life skills	2.4%
Don't want housing	2.2%
Program requirements	1.7%

*** Survey participants could provide more than one answer to this question.*

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[49] Albert et al (2016)

4.8 Loss of housing

Survey participants were asked to state what caused them to lose their housing. Table 20 shows that one in five respondents indicated that their most recent loss of housing was due to addiction or substance use issues, and another similar proportion indicated it was because of job loss. Respondents also reported being evicted for a variety of reasons including illness, incarceration, hospitalization, among others. Survey participants were able to choose multiple options so many of the reasons they describe are not mutually exclusive, and often occur concurrently. It is important to remember that this was the most current loss of housing for respondents and not necessarily their first experience of homelessness. The pathways into homelessness are often complex and influenced by multiple factors such as poverty and lack of housing supply as well as trauma and abuse that exacerbate issues such as addiction or substance use. What this points to is the need for Housing First programs that have clear and well developed harm reduction policies and strategies and no eviction policies for substance use. As well, these findings point to the need for strategies to assist people who are suffering financial crisis due to employment, health or other reasons.[50]

Table 20

Reasons for Housing Loss**(N=721)	
	Percentage
Addiction or substance use	20.8%
Job loss	18.9%
Evicted unable to pay rent	13.6%
Evicted other reason	12.6%
Illness or medical reason	12.1%
Family conflict: spouse or partner	10.1%
Domestic abuse: spouse or partner	8.7%
Unsafe housing conditions	7.8%
Incarcerated (jail or prison)	5.5%
Family conflict: parent or guardian	5.1%
Poverty	4.4%
Conflict with other adult	4.2%
Own choice	3.7%
Hospitalization or treatment program	3.1%
Illness or death in the family	2.4%
Relocation	2.2%
Unsuitable housing options	1.8%
Domestic abuse: parent or guardian	1.4%
Conflict with landlord	1.4%

** Survey participants could provide more than one answer to this question.

Along with their survey responses, respondents also reported that they lost their housing because their children were apprehended, they were a refugee, they had experienced a flood, fire or other type of disaster, and/or that they had left government care. Response categories with less than 10 responses were not included in the table to protect the anonymity and confidentiality of survey respondents.

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[50] Albert et al (2016)

4.9 Services needed

Survey participants were asked about the kinds of services they needed in relation to a particular self-described health condition. The top six service needs are shown in Table 21 below. Almost half of the respondents indicated they needed services related to their addiction (48.7%), approximately 40% indicated they needed services for serious or on-going medical conditions, followed by a needs for services related to their mental health. This is particularly important as these findings show self-identified needs and indicate areas in which people are seeking services that they perceive as important to them. A third of the respondents indicated they needed support related to a physical injury, and almost 1 in 5 indicated they needed services related to a brain injury. Close to 1 in 5 also indicated they needed services related to their learning disability. Survey participants were able to choose multiple options so many of the reasons they describe are not mutually exclusive, and often occur concurrently.

Table 21

Top 6 Service Needs (N=721)	
	Percentage
Addiction or substance use	48.7%
Serious or ongoing medical condition	39.9%
Mental health	37.6%
Physical disability	30.4%
Brain injury	18.9%
Learning disability	17.8%
Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder	5.4%
Pregnancy	1.5%

** Survey participants could provide more than one answer to this question.

Homelessness on Salt Spring Island

Salt Spring Island was not among the designated communities federally funded for the Point in Time counts that have occurred across Canada in 2016, but the community did carry out a Point in Time Count on the same day that it occurred in Greater Victoria (without the survey/interview component) using the resources of Salt Spring Island Community Services and the Housing First Program.

The PiT count on Salt Spring Island faced several challenges. With no permanent shelter and a limited capacity seasonal shelter, many individuals experiencing homelessness are spread out, living in bush camps, vehicles, boats, or couch surfing arrangements (the hidden homeless). It is generally accepted that homeless counts are under reports of the actual numbers of people experiencing homelessness in a given area and that counts in rural communities, for reasons such as those experienced on Salt Spring Island, are prone to even greater under reporting than in urban areas.

Notwithstanding these challenges, 55 unsheltered individuals and 28 sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on Salt Spring Island were enumerated on the night of the count. The last homeless count performed in 2008 documented 32 homeless on Salt Spring, less than half of the current count. The 2015 count also found that the availability of shelter of any kind for the homeless on Salt Spring was limited.[51]

Table 22

Where People Stayed on February 10th, 2016, Salt Spring Island					
Where People Stayed	**Definition/Sub-category**	**Breakdown of findings**	**# of respondents**	**Total of Category**	**% of Total**
UNSHELTERED	**Absolutely homeless** and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation[52]	Boats	18	55	66%
		Trailer or Vehicle	7		
		Shacks	4		
		Tents	4		
		Hidden Homeless	22		
SHELTERED	Emergency Sheltered	Seasonal Shelter	15	15	18%
	Provisionally Accommodated	Men's Transitional House Women's Transitional House	5 4 Women 4 Children	13	16%
	Total			**83**	**100%**

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[51] Data and narrative provided by Salt Spring Island Community Services, 2016
[52] Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (2012). Canadian Definition of Homelessness.

Limitations of the Study

This study has provided the region with important information regarding the experiences of individuals experiencing homelessness. Nonetheless this study had limitations that are worth noting.

Study Implementation

The short time frame in which the Point in Time Count was organized limited the research team's ability to support data collection in outlying geographic areas (outside of the downtown core). The time frame also meant that the team did not have sufficient time to plan magnate events to reach more youth and individuals with Aboriginal ancestry. It is strongly recommended that the next study be allocated at least 12 months for planning and implementation if possible. This will also provide time to implement more outreach strategies to reach more people including the hidden homelessness, a group not included in this study.

Survey Design

The survey tool was designed to collect data on experiences of homelessness across Canada, and while the local community was able to add a small number of questions, we were not able to include more questions to explore specific community questions around homelessness or change the questions that were provided. This means that the data collected across Canada are comparable, but it also means that the local team was not able to rework questions that were identified as having the potential of being interpreted differently by survey respondents. This makes analysis and data interpretation challenging and therefore limits what researchers are able to conclude from the findings, and limits the ability to run more complex analyses of the data.

Data collection

While every effort was made to collect data consistently and accurately, the following issues highlight why these kinds of surveys are undercounts of the population that is experiencing homelessness:

- Sheltered Count: not all service providers were able to complete the forms in a timely manner or with the level of accuracy that we needed. This was largely due to the time constraints of staff and, different interpretations of the enumeration form questions. To address this, project staff followed up with facility staff to ensure consistency in data collection and reporting.
- Homeless Needs Survey Data Collection: Volunteers from diverse backgrounds were central to the success of the PiT Count, which means that ensuring consistency can be a challenge. To address this, the survey team actively recruited skilled volunteers and provided mandatory training for all volunteers.
- Unsheltered Count: It was difficult to find and connect with people who were unsheltered during the night of the count as individuals often avoid homeless serving agencies because of a lack of trust and/or to ensure their own privacy.

Analysis

Each community that participates in the HPS Point in Time Count Study was required to enter the data into Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) software. The predominant function of this software is for service providers to track clients and client use patterns of their services. Thus, it is not designed for in-depth data analysis/. It was also cumbersome for data cleaning. Project staff worked closely with HPS staff to address some of these issues where possible.

Conclusion

The results of 2016 Greater Victoria PiT Count clearly demonstrate that the region requires a focused, and nuanced, investment in housing and a range of service interventions to support individuals experiencing homelessness. A large number of people are experiencing long periods of homelessness, not by choice, but mostly due to economic conditions or the lack of availability of appropriate housing with supports. A vast majority of these individuals are also seeking long-term housing as a solution. Also, the evidence points to the fact that preventative action with a focus on youth is needed to help reduce homelessness in the future. As well, services and supports must reflect various cultural needs, as is evidenced in the number of Aboriginal people currently facing homelessness in the region. There are also specific needs for those who use substances and suffer from mental health issues that must be met. This points to the need for increasing availability of evidence based health and harm reduction services to support these individuals, in particular, the need for culturally safe services for people experiencing homelessness. Through concerted efforts in all of these areas, regional initiatives to address homelessness are more likely to be successful in future.[53]

Recommendations

A clear and persistent finding is that there is a need for increasing available and affordable housing in Greater Victoria. This is consistent with at least six years of reports on housing and homelessness that document and highlight the lack of an available supply of low cost and affordable housing available to people on extremely low incomes, and the $375 available for shelter on social assistance.[54] To date, increases in the housing supply have not been adequate to address the numbers of people experiencing homelessness. The following recommendations are based on these study results.

Build, and increase the supply of permanent, affordable housing units across the region by working with all levels of government.

Listen to Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness, and work with Aboriginal people to develop culturally safe and appropriate services and supports that address their unique needs.

Work collaboratively with First Nations and Tribal Councils on the Island to develop culturally safe strategies to address housing and homelessness for Aboriginal people.

Increase peoples' incomes by working with all levels of government to develop policies and strategies to increase income assistance rates, and the minimum wage, so residents can afford housing.

Clearly incorporate harm reduction polices and strategies into homelessness and housing programs as well as expanding evidence based harm reduction services in the community.

Integrate substance use and mental health services, and primary health care services so that these services are available and accessible for individuals who need the services, where and when they need the services.

Youth homelessness requires more attention in the region. Given the age when survey respondents indicated they first experienced homelessness, more attention to preventing youth homelessness may contribute to positive outcomes in addressing homelessness in the region.

Monitor progress and work with community partners, and all levels of government to continually update and refresh data collection and survey design, analytical tools and strategies. Plan the project over a longer period of time, and work to provide more resources to expand the geographic scope of the data collection.

Continue to collaborate with community partners to share resources and maximize community benefit.

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[53] Albert, M., et al (2016)
[54] For more information, see the Reports page on the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness's website: http://victoriahomelessness.ca/get-informed/coalition-reports/

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Appendices

Appendix A: Sheltered Enumeration – Enumeration Form
Appendix B: Homeless Needs Survey

Appendix A

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ENUMERATION FORM
2016 Greater Victoria Point-in-Time Count

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University of Victoria | Centre for Addictions Research of BC

COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
research·insights·solutions

greater victoria coalition to end homelessness
hope has found a home

For Shelters, Institutions, Recovery, Safe Houses, Overnight Services (including motels)
For individuals or families in temporary accommodation on the night of February 10th, 2016

This form is adapted from Housing and Urban Development (2012) A Guide to Counting Sheltered Homeless People by UVIC Centre for Addictions Research of BC

Please fill out the following based on your records of people staying overnight in your facility **on the night of February 10th between 8:00 pm and 12:00 am** (8:00 pm on February 10th and 12:00 am, February 11th).

Please see p. 4-5 for additional instructions and definitions. Please fill out fields relevant to your facility and use comments field to indicate reason for those fields that have been left blank. Note that not all fields will apply to all facilities. This form has three (3) pages.

Agency Name: _____

Facility Name: _____

Municipality: _____

1. **How many individuals stayed in your facility on the night of February 10? Please complete the following chart for ALL individuals in your facility.**

# of adults:	Male:	Female:	Trans*:
# of youth[1]:	Male:	Female:	Trans*:
# of children[2]:	Male:	Female:	Trans*:

[1] Youth are individuals sheltered in facilities designated for youth, regardless of age.
[2] Children are individuals sheltered in facilities designated for families, staying with a family member/guardian, regardless of age.

2. **How many families stayed in your facility on the night of February 10?**

Number of families:

3. **How many individuals were turned away[3] on the night of February 10? (if applicable)**

# of adults:	Male:	Female:	Trans*:
# of youth[4]:	Male:	Female:	Trans*:
# of children[5]:	Male:	Female:	Trans*:

[3] Turnaways are individuals that presented at or contacted your facility (within 24 hours prior to the count) who were seeking accommodation on the day of the enumeration, but were not able to stay there.
[4] Youth are individuals sheltered in facilities designated for youth, regardless of age.
[5] Children are individuals sheltered in facilities designated for families, staying with a family member/guardian, regardless of age.

4. Demographics:

Demographic	How many?
Aboriginal Ancestry	
Canadian Forces (had any service in)	
Immigrant	
New to Community	

Facility Inventory:

Type of beds[6]:

☐ Emergency Shelter (stays of 30 days or less)	☐ Hotel/Motel
☐ Emergency Weather Protocol mats	☐ Treatment/Rehab
☐ Transitional Housing (housing for 30 days to 2-3 years)	☐ Other (please specify): _____

[6] Check one. See guide on p. 4-5 for definitions of bed types.

# of regular single person capacity beds (excluding multi-bed units for families):	

OR

# of regular family capacity units[7]:	
For each family unit, please indicate the number of total beds.	
Unit 1:	Unit 6:
Unit 2:	Unit 7:
Unit 3:	Unit 8:
Unit 4:	Unit 9:
Unit 5:	Unit 10:

[7] Use units if your facility shelters families and capacity changes according to family composition

# of Extreme Weather Protocol mats (if applicable):

Target Group:

☐ None	☐ Youth
☐ Men	☐ Families
☐ Women	☐ Other (please specify): _____

Any unusual circumstances that may have affected the count?

_____

_____

Additional comments:

_____

_____

_____

NOTE: This information is confidential and anonymous. No personal identifying data is required. All responses will be aggregated by facility type and presented in a way so as not to identify any individual facility.

Please SUBMIT THIS FORM (3 pages) NO LATER THAN NOON on
Thursday, February 11th, 2016. Please submit using ONE of the following methods:
- Email completed form to marika@communitycouncil.ca OR
- Confidential fax to the Community Social Planning Council at 250.479.9411
- Call to arrange pick-up: 250-383-6166 ext. 101

Thank you for your participation!

Name of agency contact: _____

Position: _____

Contact phone number: _____ Contact email: _____

Instructions and Definitions:

Please note that not all fields will apply to all facilities. If field does not apply, please *leave field blank*. Additional notes on blank fields can be recorded in "additional comments" field at the end of the form.

1. Individuals: If age unknown, please estimate.

   - Adult: 25+
   - Youth: individuals sheltered in facilities designated for youth, regardless of age.
   - Children: individuals sheltered in facilities designated for families, staying with a family member/guardian, regardless of age.

2. Gender: Trans refers to those persons who identify as, for example, transgender, including trans men, trans women, individuals that are gender non binary, or gender fluid.

3. Families: For the purposes of this form, a family is any combination of a parent/guardian and dependent staying at the same facility. For example, an 18-year-old mother and her child; 2 parents and 2 children; a guardian and his/her dependent. Family refers to the group of people that make up a family as one single unit, rather than the number of individuals (recorded in Question 1).

4. Number of turnaways: How many persons presented at or contacted your facility but were not able to stay there?

   For emergency shelters, turnaways are people who presented at the shelter but were not able to stay there.

For other types of accommodation, turnaways are people who either presented at the facility and were unable to stay there; or contacted the facility looking for accommodation within the 24 hours prior to the count, and were unable to stay there.

Note that reasons for turnaway are varied. Reason for turnaway does not need to be recorded. Turnaways may occur because: no available or appropriate beds/rooms; client not suitable due to inappropriate behavior, barred/restricted, does not meet entrance criteria; shelter not suitable due to restrictions (gender, families, minors, pets, handicap accessible).

5. Number of regular capacity beds: on an average night, how many beds would be available for client use (can be occupied or unoccupied on Feb 10th)?

    Number of additional Extreme Weather Protocol mats: if EWP were in effect, how many EWP mats would be available for client use (can be occupied or unoccupied on Feb 10th)?

    Type of beds: Check one; see below for bed types. If your facility provides more than one type of bed (i.e. a facility with emergency shelter beds and transitional housing beds), please fill out separate forms for each type of bed. If type not listed, please check "other" and specify.

    - *Emergency Shelter:* Short-stay accommodation of 30 days or less. Emergency shelters provide single or shared bedrooms or dorm-type sleeping arrangements, with varying levels of support to individuals.

    - *Emergency Weather Protocol mats:* Cold/wet weather services include shelter facilities and services that operate and/or are funded on a seasonal basis. Shelters add cold wet weather beds (seasonal beds and mats) to provide the option of a warm, dry place to sleep for people who are homeless as winter weather sets in and the need increases.

    - *Transitional Housing:* Housing from 30 days to two or three years that includes the provision of support services, on- or off-site, to help people move towards independence and self-sufficiency. Transitional housing is often called second-stage housing, and includes housing for women fleeing abuse.

    Target group: Are the beds in your facility designated or intended for a specific demographic? Beds need not be exclusively used for that group, but organizational mandate suggests that a certain demographic be targeted for those beds. Please check all that apply.

    Any unusual circumstances: this field is to record any exceptional circumstances about the night of February 10th. This may include, but is not limited to, the following: staffing shortages, facility circumstances (e.g. units closed because repairs required, etc.)

    Additional comments: please record any additional comments you may have, including reason fields may have been left blank (e.g. reason field does not apply).

Appendix B

Hello, my name is_____ and I'm a volunteer for the **Greater Victoria housing needs survey**. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

A. Have you answered this survey with a person with this button?
   [Yes: Thank and tally] [No: Go to B]

CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMED CONSENT SCRIPT:

- **Participation is voluntary** and **your name will not be recorded**.
- You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the interview at any time**.
- All data and surveys will be stored in a locked office or computer.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada, and will help with research to improve services.
- **Everything you say will be confidential except** if you tell us about:
  o Plans to harm yourself or others
  o Harm or danger to a child

In these cases I will be required to report this information

B. Are you willing to participate in the survey?
   [Yes: Go to C] [No: Thank and tally]

C. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?

a. YES	b. NO	c. DON'T KNOW	d. DECLINE TO ANSWER

D. Where are you staying tonight? [Do not read categories]

a. Decline to answer b. Own apartment/house	c. Someone else's place (friend or family) d. Motel/hotel* e. Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre*	f. Emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter g. Transitional housing h. Public space (e.g., sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter) i. Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck) j. Makeshift shelter, tent or shack k. Abandoned/vacant building l. Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation m. Respondent doesn't know [likely homeless]
Thank and tally below. Note responses to C & D	**Ask follow up question(s)**	**Begin survey and note responses to C & D**

Thank you for agreeing to participate. Please note that you will receive $5.00 for completing the survey.

Facility name:		**Start - finish time:**		**AM/PM**
Interviewer:		**Contact phone:**		

NOTE ANSWERS FROM SCREENING QUESTIONS

C. Do you have permanent residence that you can return to tonight?

a. YES	b. NO	c. DON'T KNOW	d. DECLINE TO ANSWER

D. Where are you staying tonight? [DO NOT READ CATEGORIES]

c. Someone else's place (friend or family)	h. Public space (e.g., sidewalks, squares, parks, forests, bus shelter)
d. Motel/hotel*	i. Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
e. Hospital, jail, prison, remand centre*	j. Makeshift shelter, tent or shack
f. Emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter	k. Abandoned/vacant building
g. Transitional housing	l. Other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation
	m. Respondent doesn't know [likely homeless]

BEGIN SURVEY

1.   What family members are with you today? [Indicate survey numbers for adults]

☐   NONE   ☐   OTHER ADULT - Survey #: ___ ___ ___ ___
☐   PARTNER - Survey #: ___ ___ ___ ___   ☐   DECLINE TO ANSWER

☐   CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate age for child/dependent]

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
GENDER										
AGE										

2.   What year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]

☐ ____/_____/_____ DAY/MONTH/YEAR	☐ DON'T KNOW	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

3.   What gender do you identify with? [DO NOT READ CATEGORIES]

☐ MALE	☐ TRANSGENDER	☐ DON'T KNOW
☐ FEMALE	☐ OTHER RESPONSE_____	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

3B.   If other response is selected, please specify:

☐ TRANS WOMAN	☐ GENDERQUEER	☐ NON-BINARY
☐ TRANS MAN	☐ GENDERFLUID	☐ INTERSEX
☐ TWO-SPIRIT	☐ ANDROGYNOUS	☐ NONE OF THE ABOVE

4.   Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without status [If yes, please follow-up to specify.] **If NO, skip to question 5.**

☐ YES -->	☐ If YES: ☐ FIRST NATIONS
☐ NO	☐ INUIT
☐ DON'T KNOW	☐ MÉTIS
☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER	☐ NON-STATUS / HAVE ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY

4B.   Which Aboriginal community are you from?

☐ COMMUNITY/RESERVE NAME _____	☐ DON'T KNOW	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4C.   Have you ever been in a residential school?

☐ YES	☐ NO	☐ DON'T KNOW	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4D.   Have you previously lived on a reserve?

□ YES	□ NO	□ DON'T KNOW	□ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4E. If you have previously lived on a reserve, did you own a home on reserve?

□ YES	□ NO	□ DON'T KNOW	□ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4F. If you have previously lived on a reserve, was it your choice to leave?

□ YES	□ NO	□ DON'T KNOW	□ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4G. Are you currently on a housing waitlist in your on-reserve home community?

□ YES	□ NO	□ DON'T KNOW	□ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4H. Have you ever attended an Aboriginal Day School?

□ YES	□ NO	□ DON'T KNOW	□ DECLINE TO ANSWER

5. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP? [Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]

□ YES, MILITARY □ YES, RCMP	□ NO	□ DON'T KNOW	□ DECLINE TO ANSWER

6. Did you move to Greater Victoria in the past year?

□ YES	□ NO	□ DON'T KNOW	□ DECLINE TO ANSWER

6B. If you moved to Greater Victoria in the last year, where were you living prior to coming here?

□ COMMUNITY NAME_____ AND PROVINCE_____ □ OR COUNTRY □ DON'T KNOW □ DECLINE TO ANSWER

7. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?

□ YES	□ NO	□ DON'T KNOW	□ DECLINE TO ANSWER

8. Over the past year, *how much of the time* have you been homeless? [Best estimate]

□ LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS □ DON'T KNOW □ DECLINE TO ANSWER	□ IF UNSURE:	□ 0-2 MONTHS □ 3-5 MONTHS □ 6-12 MONTHS

9. Over the past year, *how many different times* have you experienced homelessness? [Best estimate. Including this time]

□ NUMBER OF TIMES _____ □ DON'T KNOW □ DECLINE TO ANSWER	□ IF UNSURE:	□ 1 TIME [current episode] □ 2 TIMES □ 3 OR MORE TIMES

9B. How old were you when you first became homeless in your life?

□ AGE_____	□ DON'T KNOW	□ DECLINE TO ANSWER

10. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year? [Indicate "yes" if respondent is staying in a shelter.]

□ YES	□ NO	□ DON'T KNOW	□ DECLINE TO ANSWER

11. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read options. Select all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

□ ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION □ ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE □ JOB LOSS □ EVICTED: UNABLE TO PAY RENT □ EVICTED: OTHER REASON □ DOMESTIC ABUSE: SPOUSE OR PARTNER □ DOMESTIC ABUSE: PARENT OR GUARDIAN Other reason/Notes:	□ FAMILY CONFLICT: SPOUSE OR PARTNER □ FAMILY CONFLICT: PARENT OR GUARDIAN □ LEFT CARE (CHILD PROTECTION)/(PROV. TERM) □ INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON) □ HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM □ UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS □ DON'T KNOW □ DECLINE TO ANSWER

12. Where do you get your money from? [May provide examples. Select all that apply]

☐ EMPLOYMENT	☐ SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G., CPP/OAS/GIS)
☐ INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	☐ CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
	☐ MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS
☐ EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	☐ OTHER SOURCE _____
☐ WELFARE/INCOME ASSISTANCE	☐ NO INCOME
☐ DISABILITY BENEFIT	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

13. (C7)I'm going to read a list of services that you may or may not need. Let me know which of these apply to you. Do you have a need for services related to… [Read categories. Select all that apply]

☐ SERIOUS OR ONGOING MEDICAL CONDITION	☐ BRAIN INJURY
☐ PHYSICAL DISABILITY	☐ FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)
☐ LEARNING DISABILITY	☐ PREGNANCY (IF RESPONDENT IS FEMALE)
☐ ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	☐ NONE OF THE ABOVE
☐ MENTAL ILLNESS	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

14. (C3)Have you ever been in foster care and/or group home?

☐ YES	☐ NO	☐ DON'T KNOW	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

14B. If so, did you age out of care?

☐ YES	☐ NO	☐ DON'T KNOW	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

15. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? [Select all that apply]

☐ LOW INCOME	☐ HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES	☐ DISCRIMINATION
☐ NO INCOME ASSISTANCE		☐ DON'T WANT HOUSING
☐ RENTS TOO HIGH	☐ MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES	☐ OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)_____
☐ POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS	☐ ADDICTION	
☐ FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT	☐ CRIMINAL HISTORY	☐ NO BARRIERS TO HOUSING
☐ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	☐ PETS	☐ DON'T KNOW
	☐ CHILDREN	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

16. (C8) Do you want to get into permanent housing?

☐ YES	☐ NO	☐ DON'T KNOW	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

Thank you for participating in this survey!