2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver

Final Report | September 2017

Prepared for the
Metro Vancouver Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity

By
BC Non-Profit Housing Association and M. Thomson Consulting

Acknowledgements

2017 Homeless Count Partners:

Canada

metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

Lu'ma Native Housing Society

City of Vancouver

vancouver foundation

fostering CHANGE

real estate foundation
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Surrey Homelessness & Housing Society

Port Metro Vancouver

Significant in-kind support was provided by:

Metro Vancouver & Fraser Valley Council of Community Homelessness Tables

Vancity
Make Good Money.

TransLink

New Westminster

community voicemail
connect achieve outcomes

Transit Police

Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy

BCNPHA
BC Non-Profit Housing Association

The Homeless Count Logo is provided by the Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy, a partner of the 2017 Homeless Count: http://www.gvss.ca/

The Burnaby, Surrey and Coquitlam School Districts were instrumental in piloting the Youth Count Strategy which provided new insights into youth homelessness.

The implementation of the 2017 Homeless Count is only possible due to the ongoing and dedicated work of local Community Homelessness Tables and those hundreds of volunteers across the region who participated on March 7/8, 2017. Thank you!

This report can be found on the Metro Vancouver Community Entity website, along with other reports generated from the 2017 Homeless Count and previous regional Homeless Counts.

For further information and data, contact: HPSCE-MV@metrovancouver.org

To cite this Metro Vancouver Community Entity report:

> B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association and M.Thomson Consulting. (2017). *2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver.* Prepared for the Metro Vancouver Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity. Burnaby, BC: Metro Vancouver.

Or:

Author:	BC Non-Profit Housing Association & M.Thomson Consulting
Year published:	2017
Title:	"2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver"
City:	Burnaby
Publisher:	Metro Vancouver Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity
Website:	http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/resources/Pages/default.aspx

A research project of the size and complexity of the 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver is only possible with the participation and support of many individuals and organizations. The Consultants would like to thank all the agencies, service providers, government staff and others who helped organize and implement the Count.

In particular, we would like to thank:

- All the people who currently face the challenge of homelessness for taking the time and providing the very personal information that makes up the foundation of this report.
- All 1,186 volunteers who gave so generously of their time to attend a training session and participate in a Homeless Count shift.
- The members of the 2017 Homeless Count Project Team
- A special thank you to Jonquil Hallgate, Chair of the Council of Community Homelessness Tables and Wanda Mulholland, Co-ordinator of The Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby in reviewing early drafts of this document and providing continuous support and guidance.
- All of the Chairs and Co-ordinators of the Community Homelessness Tables across the region who supported their Area Co-ordinators and provided feedback and local support.
- All the Co-ordinators for the Count: Alice Sundberg, Barbara Westlake, Brenda Madrazo, Chloe Good, Dave Baspaly, Eric Schwartz, Erick Parmiter, Hollie McKeil, James Caspersen, Jeff Scheffel, Jonquil Hallgate, Ken Falconer, Kiernan Hillan, Mike Meyer, Peter Greenwell, Polly Krier, Samantha Gambling, Sarah Thomas, Sonja Johnston, Veronica Reiss and Wanda Mulholland.
- A special thank you to Jennifer Hales City of Vancouver Count Coordinator, who provided in-kind support and shared her experience of past Counts.
- Health care personnel from Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health Care, as well as RCMP and municipal police officers, for providing data on people of no fixed address who were in their facilities during the Count.
- The major funder of the 2017 Homeless Count was the Government of Canada, and other funding was also provided by the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Foundation, Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, and Port Metro Vancouver.
- Other key partners provided in-kind donations: Translink, the City of New Westminster, South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service, Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy, Vancity Savings Credit Union, and BC Non-Profit Housing Association.

2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver

March 8th 2017

A Point-in-Time Homeless Count has been conducted every three years in Metro Vancouver since 2002. The data provided here was collected on March 8 2017 over a 24-hour period to give a snapshot of homelessness in the region.

The Count

3,605
people were found to be experiencing homelessness

Homelessness increased
30%
since 2014

In comparison...
the general population grew by
6.5%
between 2011 and 2016

"Where did you stay last night?"

- **29%** Unsheltered
- **64%** Shelter
- **7%** Extreme Weather Response Shelter

Demographics

Gender

- **72%** Male
- **27%** Female
- **1%** Another Gender

Age Breakdown

- **16%** Youth (under 25)
- **21%** Seniors (over 54)

4% served in the **Canadian Forces**

34% of respondents self-identified as **Indigenous/ Aboriginal**

In comparison...
2% of the general population identified as Indigenous/ Aboriginal in 2011

51% had been **homeless for over 1 year**

50% had been **in the same community over 10 yrs**

Barriers to Housing & Sources of Income

"What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own?"



Top Reported Sources of Income

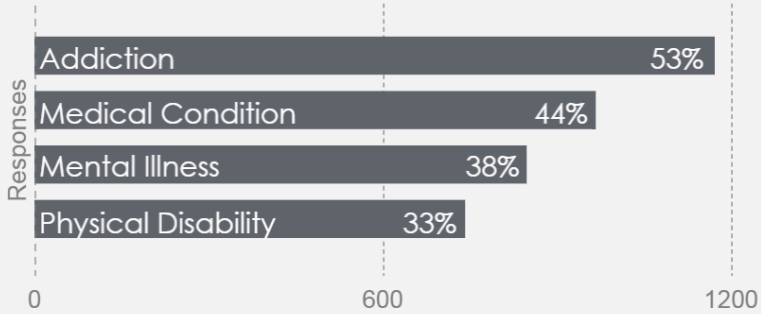
42% basic income assistance

28% disability benefit

21% **had either a full or part-time job**

Health & Service Use

83% reported at least one 'health condition'



52% reported two or more 'health conditions'

Most Frequently Used Services in the Past Year

1st Emergency Room

2nd Meal Program

3rd Ambulance

Executive Summary: Profile of Homelessness in Metro Vancouver in 2017

Growing Number of People Experiencing Homelessness

A total of 3,605 people in the Metro Vancouver region were identified as homeless on March 8, 2017. Of those, 1,032 were unsheltered and 2,573 sheltered. Among the sheltered, 256 individuals stayed in Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelters. With shelters across the region operating at capacity, those staying in EWR shelters would likely have been counted on the street were the EWRs not operating.

The majority of the sheltered homeless population included 2,050 people staying overnight in homeless shelters, transition houses and safe houses while another 267 people with no fixed address stayed in hospitals, jails and detox facilities. Not counting EWR clients, the unsheltered homeless population included 1,032 people living outside and/or staying temporarily with others (couch surfing) and using homelessness services on the day of the Count.

The largest homeless population was found in Vancouver, with 2,138 people, and Surrey with 602 people. Region-wide, 828 more people were identified as homeless in 2017 compared to 2014, representing a 30% increase in homelessness and the highest number since 2002 when the first Metro wide count occurred. Homelessness increased in all communities, except on the North Shore, between 19% (Burnaby) and 142% (Delta/White Rock). The highest absolute increases occurred in Vancouver (335), Surrey (199) and Langley (114).

Indigenous People Over-Represented

The total number of Indigenous/Aboriginal people reported is a count of those who participated in the survey and self-identified as Indigenous/Aboriginal. A total of 746 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 34% of all respondents to the survey. Indigenous people continue to represent about one-third of the homeless population in the region. This is the highest proportion reported to date in a regional Count and constitutes a strong over-representation compared to the total population where 2% identify as Aboriginal as per the 2011 Census.

More Seniors and Fewer Youth Found to be Experiencing Homelessness

A total of 201 children under 19 years of age and 185 youth between 19 and 24 years were found homeless on March 8, for a total of 386 children. Young people under 25 years represented 16% of the homeless population in 2017 compared to 20% in 2014. Young people are the only age group where the Count results showed a decrease.

A total of 380 seniors between 55 and 65 years and another 176 seniors above the age of 65 years responded to the survey on March 8, for a total of 556 seniors. Seniors aged 55 and over represented 23% of the homeless population compared to 18% in 2014. This continues the upward trend of seniors in relation to the total homeless population that has been evident since the 2008 Count.

Men Continue to Be Majority of People Counted

Among those who responded to the survey, women accounted for 27% of the total homeless population (628 individuals) while men represented 72% (1,688 individuals). Other gender identities, reported for the first time in a regional Homeless Count, represented 1% of the total homeless population (25 individuals).

Home Community of People Experiencing Homelessness

Questions related to movement between communities aim to determine whether people move from one area to another and how long they have been in an area. The majority of people experiencing homelessness were long-time residents of their community. Fifty percent (50%) of respondents reported they had lived in the city where they were interviewed for 10 or more years (including the 16% of respondents who said “they had always lived here”).

For the 22% (496 individuals) who had moved in the last year, 470 individuals specified a previous location: 30% had moved from within the Metro Vancouver region, 27% had moved from elsewhere in B.C. and 30% had come from other parts of Canada. The latter is particularly true for respondents in the City of Vancouver and less so for respondents in other communities across Metro Vancouver who were predominantly from another community in the Metro region (52%).

Lack of Income, Housing Cost and Availability Main Barriers to Accessing Housing

The three most cited barriers to finding housing were: the high cost of rent (50%), a lack of income (49%) and the lack of availability of housing that suits their needs (30%).

Patterns of Service Use

Health services were among the most commonly accessed services: fifty percent (50%) of the respondents had used an emergency room in the past year; 40% had used the hospital for non-emergencies; 39% had used an ambulance; and, 39% had used a health clinic. In all cases, the sheltered population used these health services more than the unsheltered. Meal programs were another highly accessed service, used by 47% of the respondents, as well as drop-in services, which were used by 37% of respondents. In both cases, people in the unsheltered population were more likely to use these services.

Health of People Experiencing Homelessness

A majority of the respondents (82%) have at least one health condition, including addiction, mental illness, physical disability or a medical condition/illness. More than half of the respondents (52%) have two or more health conditions. The incidence of reported health conditions has increased for all types of health conditions since 2014 by 3 percent or 4 percent depending on the health condition. More than half (53%) of the total population reported an addiction, 44% reported a medical condition, 38% reported living with mental illness and 33% reported a physical disability.

Source of Income

There is a wide range of income sources among the respondents. Most respondents received income from Income Assistance (42%), followed by a disability benefit (28%). Of the respondents, 15% earned an income from binning/bottle collecting and 22% were employed part- or full-time.

A map of the communities of the Metro Vancouver region throughout which the 2017 Homeless Count was conducted:



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Glossary of Terms and Definitions

Term	Description
Aboriginal/ Indigenous identity	Aboriginal identity refers to whether the respondent identifies with the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. This includes those who reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who reported Registered or Treaty Indian status that is registered under the Indian Act of Canada and/or those who reported membership in a First Nation or Indian band. Aboriginal peoples of Canada are defined in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35 (2) as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.[1]
Children	For the purposes of the Count, the term "children" refers to "accompanied children" under the age of 19 who were with their parent or guardian during the Homeless Count. No personal survey record of these individuals exists, as they were not interviewed.
EWR shelters	Extreme Weather Response Shelters are activated when "Conditions [are] deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life and/or health of people who are homeless".[2]
LGBTQ2+	Individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit or questioning.
No answer/not known	In many tables there is a line for 'no answer/not known'. This includes both individuals who declined to answer a question but who may have completed the rest of the survey, and those individuals who did not answer the survey at all, but were counted through shelter statistics forms.
No fixed address (NFA) locations	Includes jails, detox centres and hospitals/short-term medical facilities; individuals are included in "Sheltered" unless broken out differently in specific tables.
Seniors	Individuals aged 55 and older.
Sheltered	Sheltered refers to all individuals in the Count who were identified as homeless and who stayed overnight on the night of March 7 in an emergency shelter, transition house for women and children fleeing violence, or safe house for youth. It also includes individuals with no fixed address who were staying temporarily in a hospital, jail or detox facility the night of March 7, unless this information is detailed differently in specific tables.
Shelters	Includes shelters (temporary nightly shelters, winter response shelters and other shelter programs), safe houses and transition houses, no fixed address locations and EWR shelters.
Turnaways	The number of turnaways from a shelter refers to the number of instances that a shelter turns a person away because the shelter is full or for another reason. It is not the same as the number of unique individuals turned away from the shelter. For example, two shelters may have reported the same person being turned away on the same night. Turnaways are not captured in the No Fixed Address statistics.

[1] Statistics Canada. No date. "Aboriginal variables – by statistical unit." *Definitions, data sources and methods.* Last updated April 21, 2015. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/concepts/definitions/aboriginal (accessed June 15, 2017).

[2] Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy. November 2015. Metro Vancouver Extreme Weather Response Criteria. http://www.gvss.ca/PDF-2014/Metro%20Vancouver%20EWR%20Weather%20Criteria%20151101.pdf (accessed June 15, 2017). EWR shelters are different from Winter Response Shelters, which operate continuously during winter months in selected locations.

Unsheltered	The unsheltered respondents include all individuals in the Count who completed a street survey on March 8 and who had no physical shelter overnight on March 7 (i.e. were staying outside, in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks and vehicles). It also includes people who were staying temporarily at someone else's place (couch surfing) overnight on March 7, and who were interviewed on the street or at a homeless service on March 8.
Youth	For the purposes of the Count, the term "youth" refers to young people under the age of 25 who were not accompanied by a parent during the Count. Some youth were under the age of 16. "Children" includes anyone under the age of 19 who was accompanied by a parent.

Introduction

The 2017 Homeless Count was a 24-hour snapshot of people experiencing homelessness in the Metro Vancouver region on March 8, 2017. The purpose of a Homeless Count, or Point in Time Count (PiT) is to estimate the number of people who are homeless in the region, obtain a demographic profile of this population, and identify trends compared to previous Counts. Count numbers are understood to be the minimum number of people who are homeless on this given day in the Metro Vancouver region. We acknowledge that the number of people who are actually homeless is likely greater than what is presented in the report because individuals who experience homelessness may not be present/visible to be interviewed may choose not to be interviewed or be part of what is referred to as the "hidden homeless".

During the Homeless Count demographic information was obtained from people who did not have a place of their own where they could expect to stay for more than 30 days and or where they were not paying rent. This included people who:

- Stayed overnight on the night of March 7 in homeless shelters, including transition houses for women fleeing violence and youth safe houses, and people with no fixed address staying temporarily in hospitals, jails or detox facilities;
- Stayed outside or temporarily indoors with others (couch surfing).[3]

Homeless Counts have been conducted across Metro Vancouver every three years since 2002. Decision-makers, funders and community agencies have relied on the regional Count to understand trends in the visible homeless population.

[3] Only a small percentage of the hidden homeless population is likely to be identified in a Homeless Count.

The Challenge of Accurately Estimating Homelessness

Point-in-time Homeless Counts estimate the number of people who are homeless during a 24-hour period. This is not the same as estimating the number of people who move in and out of homelessness. Over the course of a year, some people will become homeless for the first time, some will find permanent housing, and others will find temporary housing and cycle in and out of homelessness.



1. The Homeless Count methodology is most effective at counting one segment of the homeless population that is sometimes referred to as the **"visible" homeless**. This population is shown above the waterline in Figure 1. Using the metaphor of an iceberg, the visible homeless represent just the tip of the iceberg — and the focus of this report.

2. The **"hidden" homeless** includes people who do not have a regular address of their own where they have security of tenure, and who may be staying temporarily in another household — often called "couch surfing." This population is considered to be "hidden" because they usually do not access homeless supports and services even though they are improperly or inadequately housed. During the 2017 Homeless Count, a total of 279 individuals[4] were identified as couch surfing.[5] The hidden homeless, for the purpose of the Count, also includes people who are deep in forests or parks, in nooks and crannies or in abandoned buildings where volunteers do not find them. The Homeless Count includes people if they are found during the Count and complete a survey, which is a small proportion of the total hidden homeless population. Some individuals also decline to be surveyed for various reasons.

3. Many more people are **at risk of becoming homeless**, which is not further discussed in this report. Based on 2011 census data, about 62,355 Metro Vancouver households were in core housing need[6] and spend at least 50% of their income on shelter — and are therefore considered to be at risk of homelessness. In 2006 this number was 56,000 households. No numbers were available for 2016 at the time this report was written.

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[4] This includes individuals who said they were staying at someone else's place, or individuals 25 or older who stayed with a parent or guardian and do not pay rent.

[5] A 2009 pilot study in the Metro Vancouver region estimated that about 9,000 individuals were hidden homeless at the time of the survey and about 23,500 persons had been hidden homeless in the previous year. (Margaret Eberle et al. 2009. Results of the pilot study to estimate the size of the hidden homeless population in Metro Vancouver.) Note: the margin of error is 7,650 at the 95% confidence level, which means that 95 times out of 100, the interval from 1,545 persons to 16,846 persons includes the actual number of hidden homeless individuals in Metro Vancouver.

[6] A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, affordability or suitability standards and it would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets both housing standards). See: Housing in Canada Online. Definitions of Variables. No date. http://cmhc.beyond2020.com/HiCODefinitions_EN.html (accessed June 15, 2017).

1

The Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Metro Vancouver

Findings

1. The Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Metro Vancouver

This section provides an overview of the total number of people enumerated in the 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver. It also includes data from previous years, where available, to identify trends.

1.1. Total Population Experiencing Homelessness Included in the Count

One of the primary purposes of the Homeless Count is to estimate the number of people who are homeless in the region and identify trends compared to previous Counts. The sheltered and unsheltered homeless population included in the Count is shown in Table 1.

There were 3,605 individuals counted as homeless in Metro Vancouver on March 7 and 8, 2017. Of those, 3,481 were adults or unaccompanied youth and 119 were children accompanied by their parents. Among the 119 children counted as homeless, 112 were sheltered and seven were unsheltered.

The 3,605 counted as homeless included 1,032 individuals on the street (29% of the total respondents) and 2,573 (71%) who were counted in shelters. Among those who were sheltered, 256 individuals stayed in Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelters that were open because the weather conditions were severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life and/or health of people who are homeless. Virtually all shelters across the region operated at capacity overnight on March 7.

Table 1: Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Population (2017)[7]

Homeless category	Adults and Unaccompanied youth		Accompanied Children[8]		Total Population	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Unsheltered	1,025	29%	7	6%	1,032	29%
EWR shelters[9]	256	7%	0	0%	256	7%
Sheltered	2,205	63%	112	94%	2,317	64%
Shelters	1,826	52%	38	32%	1,864	52%
Transition houses	85	2%	71	60%	156	4%
No fixed address	264	8%	3	3%	267	7%
Safe houses	30	1%	0	0%	30	1%
Total Population	**3,486**	**100%**	**119**	**100%**	**3,605**	**100%**

[7] Includes age data collected from some no fixed address sites, including hospitals and jails, to indicate accompanied children.
[8] "Accompanied children" refers to children under 19 who were with their parent or guardian during the Homeless Count. No individual survey record of these individuals exists, as they were not interviewed. Unaccompanied youth refers to anyone under the age of 25 who was not physically accompanied by a parent during the Count (e.g. interviewed on the street or in a school). Some unaccompanied youth were under the age of 16.
[9] Shelter providers and community partners report that those who access EWR shelters are typically much more street entrenched, and would likely be unsheltered on nights where EWR shelters do not operate. Because they were sheltered during the night of the Count, individuals in EWR shelters are included in the sheltered homeless total in the report. However, wherever possible we have broken out EWR shelter users into a distinct column for comparison with both the sheltered and unsheltered respondent population. For comparison with previous years, however, the EWR shelter users need to be included in the total sheltered number given that EWR users were not broken out of the total in previous Counts when EWR shelters were open.

Trends

Comparing the 2017 information to past Counts and the population change in Metro Vancouver as a whole provides an indicator of our progress in reducing homelessness. Table 2 provides a summary of trends in homeless numbers since 2005.

- Between 2014 — when 2,777 people were found homeless — and 2017 there was a measured increase of 828 people experiencing homelessness (a 30% increase).
- Looking at longer trends over time reveals that homelessness has increased by 66% (1,431 people) since 2005, when 2,174 people were found homeless regionally.
- Compared to changes in the overall population for Metro Vancouver, as documented through 2016 census data, homelessness has increased disproportionately. Metro Vancouver's population

increased by 6.5% between 2011 and 2016, while homelessness increased by 36% in the same time frame.[10]

Table 2: Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2002 to 2017) - Trends

Homeless Category	2005	2008	2011	2014	2017	Change since 2014	
						#	%
Sheltered respondents	1,047	1,086	1,892	1,820	2,573	753	41%
Shelters	1,047	1,086	1,892	1,820	2,317	n/a	n/a
EWR shelters					256	n/a	n/a
Unsheltered respondents	1,127	1,574	758	957	1,032	75	8%
Total	2,174	2,660	2,650	2,777	3,605	828	30%

1.2. Shelter Capacity and People Turned away from Emergency Shelters

The availability of shelter beds is one of the factors influencing whether or not a person can find shelter on any given night. The number of people found unsheltered and the number of instances a person was turned away from a shelter are indicators of the sufficient availability of shelter beds.

In the 2017 Homeless Count there were 1,891 beds available in regular shelters and safe houses, an increase in capacity of 239 beds since 2014 (see Table 3), while the number of transition house beds was up by 19 (for a total of 258 additional beds). However, while the number of available shelter beds increased since 2014, there was also a rise in street homelessness of 75 individuals in the same three-year period (not including those who stayed in EWR shelter beds). Although some EWR shelter beds were open during the 2014 Homeless Count, 2017 was unique in the history of the Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver in that EWR shelter beds were opened region-wide.

The demand for shelter was so high on the evening of March 7 that shelters, safe houses, EWR shelters, transition houses and detox facilities reported 334 instances of turning away individuals, primarily because they had reached full capacity. The increase in shelter beds did not result in lower number of persons turned away in 2017 compared to 2014.

Table 3: Turnaways[11] and Capacity of Emergency Shelters, Safe Houses, and Transition Houses (2014, 2017)

Shelter category	2014[12]		2017		Capacity Change
	Capacity	Turnaways	Capacity	Turnaways	#

[10] Statistics Canada 2016. Census. http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CMACA&Code1=933&Geo2=PR&Code2=59&Data=Count&SearchText=vancouver&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1 "Census Profile, 2016 Census: Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area". Last updated April 14, 2017. (accessed June 22, 2017).

[11] The number of turnaways refers to the number of instances that a shelter turned an individual away from the shelter and is not the same as the number of unique individuals turned away. For example, two shelters may have reported the same person being turned away on the same night. Turnaways are not captured for no fixed address locations.

[12] The 2014 total capacity and turnaways for shelters may include some EWR shelter guests. As a result, the reported increase in overall capacity may actually be smaller than shown.

Shelters/safe houses	1,652	278	1,891	250	239
EWR shelters	n/a	n/a	380	3	n/a
Transition houses	159	39	178	81	19
Total	**1,811**	**317**	**2,449**	**334**	**638**
Detox facilities	n/a	n/a	100	2	n/a

2

Profile of the Population Identified as Homeless in Metro Vancouver

2. Profile of the Population Identified as Homeless in Metro Vancouver

This section provides a profile of the population who were identified as homeless and surveyed in the Homeless Count and identifies trends based on data from previous Counts.

The Count Methodology

Data for the 2017 Homeless Count was collected through two streams, in line with previous Counts:

- Basic data on shelter capacity, occupancy, children and adults and gender was obtained from shelter providers and No Fixed Address locations. The data provided by shelter providers and NFA locations provides the total number of sheltered respondents.
- Approximately 1,200 volunteers conducted a survey on the night of March 7 in shelters and during the day on March 8 on the street. The survey included screening and interview questions that were asked of every person who was identified as homeless and who agreed and was able to participate in the survey. The number of people screened in as experiencing street homelessness also provides the total number of unsheltered/street homeless.

Detailed demographic information used to establish a profile of the homeless population is only available for people who answered the survey.

The overall survey participation rate for people in shelters was 55% in 2017. It is not possible to provide a participation rate for the unsheltered respondents because the total population is not known (see section 7.6 for details).

2.1. Indigenous Peoples Experiencing Homelessness

For the first time the Indigenous community – through the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee (AHSC) – has prepared a separate report to more adequately highlight the status of people who identify as Indigenous and who are homeless. It serves as a standalone report on Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness and as the full section in the 2017 Homeless Count Report. The report can be found in Appendix 8.1: Indigenous Homelessness Report.

The following is a summary of key data findings pertaining to Indigenous homelessness:

The total number of Indigenous/Aboriginal people reported is a count of those who participated in the survey and self-identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal. A total of 746 survey respondents identified as Indigenous/Aboriginal, representing 34% of all respondents. The reported number of 746 is only a reflection of the participation rate. Indigenous/Aboriginal homelessness is more accurately expressed as a part of the total number of homeless people.

Sixty percent (60%) of homeless Indigenous/Aboriginal respondents were found in Vancouver and 18% in Surrey.

Three hundred eighty seven (387) Indigenous/Aboriginal individuals who were surveyed were unsheltered, while 47 stayed in EWRs and 312 were in other forms of shelter. This results in a part of the 52% of all Indigenous/Aboriginal homeless being unsheltered compared to 29% for the overall homeless population.[13] Hence, Indigenous/Aboriginal people are not only more likely to be homeless than non-Aboriginal people, but Aboriginal homeless are also more likely to be unsheltered compared to non-Aboriginal homeless.

[13] The overall homeless population includes Indigenous/Aboriginal and non-Indigenous/Aboriginal homeless.

Table 4. Number of Unsheltered & Sheltered Homeless Indigenous/Aboriginal People in Metro Vancouver by Sub-Region (2017)

Sub-Region	Unsheltered Total		Sheltered						Total Homeless	
			Total		EWRs		Shelters &NFAs			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Burnaby	11	3%	3	1%	2	4%	1	0%	14	2%
Delta/White Rock	6	2%	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%	7	1%
Langley	24	6%	13	4%	2	4%	11	4%	37	5%
Ridge Meadows	8	2%	15	4%	2	4%	13	4%	23	3%
New Westminster	12	3%	19	5%	10	21%	9	3%	31	4%
North Shore	0	0%	10	3%	2	4%	8	3%	10	1%
Richmond	10	3%	6	2%	5	11%	1	0%	16	2%
Surrey	75	19%	62	17%	7	15%	55	18%	137	18%
Tri-Cities	13	3%	10	3%	7	15%	3	1%	23	3%
Vancouver	228	59%	220	61%	10	21%	210	67%	448	60%
Total	387	100%	359	100%	47	100%	312	100%	746	100%

Trends

With 34%, Indigenous/Aboriginal people continue to represent about one-third of the homeless population in the region. This is the highest proportion reported to date in a regional count and constitutes a very strong over-representation compared to the total population.

Table 5. Changes in the Indigenous/Aboriginal Homeless Population in Metro Vancouver – Total (2008 to 2017) - Trends

Indigenous/Aboriginal Identity	2008 Total Homeless		2011 Total Homeless		2014 Total Homeless		2017 Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous/Aboriginal	688	32%	394	27%	582	31%	746	34%
Non-Indigenous/Non-Aboriginal	1,453	68%	1,074	73%	1,282	69%	1,453	66%
Total Respondents	2,141	100%	1,468	100%	1,864	100%	2,199	100%
No Answer	519		1,182		913		1,406	
Total	2,660		2,650		2,777		3,605	

2.2. Gender

During the Homeless Count survey respondents self-identified their gender identity.

Among those who responded to the survey, women accounted for 27% of the total homeless population while men represented 72%. Another 1% reported another gender identity.

The sheltered and unsheltered respondents were more likely to be men than women, and there was a higher proportion of men among the unsheltered respondents (74%) compared to the sheltered respondents (71%). In the EWR shelters, there was a smaller proportion of women (22%) than in regular shelters (28%).

Other gender identities, reported for the first time in a regional Homeless Count, represented 1% of the total homeless population. Of the 2,195 who were surveyed, 35 identified as transgender, 19 of whom were sheltered and 16 of whom were unsheltered respondents. Note that individuals who identify as transgender may also identify as female/woman, male/man or another gender identity, therefore the number of transgender people is higher than "Another gender identity" in Table 6. [14]

Table 6: Gender Identity - Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)[15]

Gender Identity	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	958	71%	852	70%	106	78%	730	74%	1,688	72%
Female[16]	379	28%	349	29%	30	22%	249	25%	628	27%
Another gender identity	17	1%	17	1%	0	0%	8	1%	25	1%
Total Respondents	**1,354**	**100%**	**1,218**	**100%**	**136**	**100%**	**987**	**100%**	**2,341**	**100%**
No answer/not known	1,219		1,099		120		45		1,264	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

[14] This data is not reflected in a data table in this report, but is derived from responses to the question "Do you identify as transgender?" which directly followed the gender identity question in the survey.

[15] Includes gender data collected from some no fixed address sites, including some hospitals and jails, which was not included in the preliminary report.

[16] Previous Homeless Count reports and community agencies have stated that women tend to be part of the hidden homeless population, often staying with families and friends or in unsafe situations rather than stay on the streets or access services for the homeless. As such, they are likely to be undercounted using a Point in Time count methodology.

Trends

- Within the population of persons identified as homeless on the date of the Homeless Count the gender split has remained stable over time with women representing between 27% (2008, 2014, 2017) and 31% of the total homeless population (2011).

Table 7: Gender Identity - Total (2002 to 2017) - Trends[17]

Gender Identity	2008 Total		2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	1,679	72%	1,452	69%	1,419	73%	1,688	72%
Female	619	27%	652	31%	527	27%	628	27%
Transgender[18]	22	1%	8	0%	9	0%	n/a	n/a
Another gender identity	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	1%
Total Respondents	**2,320**	**100%**	**2,112**	**100%**	**1,955**	**100%**	**2,341**	**100%**
No answer/not known	340		538		822		1,264	
Total	**2,660**		**2,650**		**2,777**		**3,605**	

2.3. Age

Different age cohorts were represented in the overall homeless population. Adults aged 25 to 54 years old (63%) represented the largest proportion of people experiencing homelessness. This age group was also more likely to be unsheltered than sheltered[19]. Seniors accounted for 21% of the homeless population, and made up a larger proportion of those found in shelters (24%) than on the street (17%).[20] Youth accounted for the same proportion of sheltered and unsheltered respondents (16%), but were less likely to be found in EWR shelters where they represent only 6% of all clients.

[17] Includes gender data collected from some no fixed address sites, including some hospitals and jails, which was not included in the preliminary report.

[18] In 2017 the gender question was changed to reflect modern concepts of gender identity. Gender indicators were asked in two questions: one which focused on personal gender identity (man/woman/another gender identity), and a second on whether an individual identified as transgender.

[19] The following (and additional) detailed age breakdowns can also be found in table 47 in the supplementary data section in the appendix. Respondents per age group: 25-34 years: 437; 35-44 years: 522; 45-54 years: 550.

[20] Numbers for seniors vary from those released in the preliminary data report due to a data correction.

Table 8: Age Groups - Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)

Age Groups	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (<24 years)	229	16%	221	17%	8	6%	157	16%	386	16%
Adults (25-54 years)	860	60%	769	59%	91	68%	649	67%	1509	63%
Seniors (>55 years)	351	24%	316	24%	35	26%	167	17%	518	21%
Total Respondents	**1,440**	**100%**	**1,306**	**100%**	**134**	**100%**	**973**	**100%**	**2,413**	**100%**
No answer	2,573		2,317		256		1,032		3,605	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

Trends

- The adult population aged 25 to 54 years continues to be the largest age group among the homeless.
- The number and proportion of seniors experiencing homelessness has continued to grow since 2008. Seniors aged 55 and over represent 21% of the homeless population compared to 18% in 2014. The proportion of seniors among those who are homeless is greater in 2017 than in any past Count year.
- With 383 individuals counted, the proportion of youth/children under 25 years who are homeless has remained close to historic levels with an overall decline by 27 individuals. Due to the overall increase in homelessness its share at the total homeless population reduced from 20% in 2014 to 16% of the total population in 2017.

Table 9: Age Groups - Total (2002 to 2017) – Trends

Age Groups	2008 Total		2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (<25 years)[21]	364	15%	397	24%	410	20%	386	16%
Adults (25-54 years)	1823	76%	1000	61%	1257	61%	1509	63%
Seniors (>55 years)	212	9%	268	16%	371	18%	518	22%
Total Respondents	**2,399**	**100%**	**1,665**	**100%**	**2,038**	**100%**	**2,408**	**100%**
No answer	261		985		739		1,197	
Total	**2,660**		**2,650**		**2,777**		**3,605**	

Focus on Accompanied Children

[21] There were 201 individuals under the age of 19, while 184 were between the age of 19 and 24 — these could be accompanied or unaccompanied (see table 47 (supplementary data) in the appendix).

Children, for the purposes of the Homeless Count, should be understood as "accompanied children" and refer to those who are under 19 and with a parent or guardian during the Homeless Count. Youth programs and shelters typically serve youth between the ages of 16 and 24 years.

The number of homeless children (accompanied by a parent) under the age of 19 was 119 in 2017, an increase from 88 in 2014. Of those 119 children, 112 were in shelters, compared to 79 in 2014 (sheltered children are typically found in family shelters and transition houses). Seven children were found unsheltered, which was a slight decrease from the nine children counted in 2014.

Table 10: Accompanied Children – Total (2002 to 2017) - Trends[22]

Children with Parents	2002	2005	2008	2011	2014	2017
	#	#	#	#	#	#
Sheltered	69	52	80	68	79	112
Unsheltered	2	22	14	6	9	7
Total Respondents	71	74	94	74	88	119

2.4. First Language

A new survey question was introduced in 2014 to learn the first language of respondents, that is the language learned at birth or "mother tongue".

Results from the 2017 Count showed 9% of the unsheltered population and 18% of the sheltered population did not learn English as their first language. French speakers accounted for 3% of the total population experiencing homelessness (4% in the sheltered population, 3% in the unsheltered population), while 11% of the population (14% in shelters, 6% on the street) spoke another first language.

Among the other first languages, the most common were other European languages (spoken by 78 people), Semitic languages such as Hebrew and Arabic (31 people) and First Nations languages (28 people).

The proportion of respondents who spoke a language other than English or French as their first language has increased by 66 individuals since 2014 (a 2% point increase). Meanwhile, the proportion of those experiencing homelessness who spoke either English or French as a first language dropped by one percentage point between 2014 and 2017.

[22] This data was collected through shelter statistics forms and the question, "Who are you with today?" during the interview. Children under 19 with their parents were not interviewed but are included in the total.

Table 11: First Language - Total (2014, 2017)

First language	2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%
English	1,569	87%	1,870	86%
French	64	4%	70	3%
Other	166	9%	232	11%
Total Respondents	**1,799**	**100%**	**2,172**	**100%**
No answer	978		1,433	
Total	**2,777**		**3,605**	

2.5. Newcomers to Canada

A question on newcomers was also introduced in 2014 to learn whether homelessness prevention services could better accommodate people who were new to Canada within the last five years. Table 12 shows that almost all respondents to this question (95%) answered that they have been in Canada at least five years.[23]

In 2017 there were 105 newcomers who were homeless, up from 46 in 2014 (a two percent point increase), representing a larger proportion of the total population experiencing homelessness. This is a relative increase from 3% to 5% of respondents to the survey. With 59 more survey respondents being newcomers than in 2014, the newcomer population showed an absolute increase of 128%. Among the 105 newcomers, 24 were refugee claimants (21 sheltered and three unsheltered). (See Table 28 for details.)

Table 12: New to Canada in the last 5 years – Total (2014, 2017)

New to Canada in the last 5 years	2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%
New to Canada	46	3%	105	5%
Not new to Canada	1,510	97%	2,142	95%
Total Respondents	**1,556**	**100%**	**2,247**	**100%**
No answer/not known	1,221		1,358	
Total	**1,556**		**3,605**	

[23] For those staying in shelters 6% were new to Canada, while 3% of the street population arrived in the last five years. See table 45 in the appendix for more details.

2.6. Sexual Identity

A new question was asked in 2017 to begin to learn about the sexual orientation of those experiencing homelessness. This question was based on feedback from service agencies that individuals who are non-heterosexual, particularly youth, tend to be at greater risk of homelessness.

A total of 171 people in the unsheltered population identified as LGBTQ2+ or questioning, while 25 identified "other" as a sexual identity.

Table 13: Sexual Identity - Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)

Sexual identity	Total	Sheltered		Unsheltered Total	Total
		Shelters	EWR		
	#	#	#	#	#
LGBTQ2+ or questioning	96	86	10	75	171
Not LGBTQ2+ or questioning	1,099	979	120	825	1,924
Other	13	11	2	12	25
Total Respondents[24]	**1,208**	**1,076**	**132**	**912**	**2,120**
No answer	1,365	1,241	124	120	1,485
Total	**2,573**	**2,317**	**256**	**1,032**	**3,605**

[24] The 2017 Count was the first time this question was asked in a regional Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver. Some volunteers expressed discomfort asking the question, which may have led to lower response rates compared with other questions.

2.7. Veterans of Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP

For the second time (in 2014 and 2017), survey participants were asked whether they had served in the Canadian Armed Forces, including RCMP in order to better understand homelessness among veterans.

Among the total population, 4% had served in the Canadian Armed Forces or RCMP, while another 3% had served in another country's military.

Table 14: Veterans of Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and Other Countries by Type – Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)

Armed Forces/ RCMP	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canadian Armed Forces	54	4%	48	4%	6	4%	40	4%	94	4%
RCMP	3	0%	3	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	0%
Other country's Armed Forces	43	3%	40	4%	3	2%	28	3%	71	3%
No Armed Forces service	1,151	92%	1,024	92%	127	94%	899	93%	2050	93%
Total Respondents	**1,251**	**100%**	**1,115**	**100%**	**136**	**100%**	**967**	**100%**	**2,218**	**100%**
No answer/not known	1,322		1,202		120		65		1,387	
Total	**1,251**		**1,115**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

2.8. Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what was keeping them from finding a place of their own. Table 15 identifies the range of barriers identified by respondents.

The three most cited reasons given as a barrier to finding housing for those who were experiencing homelessness were the high cost of rent (50%) and a lack of income (49%). Thirty percent (30%) of the total homeless population selected a new option added this year, "No housing available that suits my needs" as a main barrier to housing.

Table 15: Barriers to Housing – Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)[25]

Barriers to Housing (more than one response possible)	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Rent too high	652	53%	580	53%	72	53%	421	45%	1073	50%
Income too low	631	52%	562	52%	69	51%	423	45%	1054	49%
No housing available that suits my needs	409	34%	365	34%	44	33%	239	25%	648	30%
Addiction	228	19%	209	19%	19	14%	189	20%	417	19%
Poor housing conditions	245	20%	221	20%	24	18%	155	16%	400	18%
Discrimination	188	15%	157	14%	31	23%	139	15%	327	15%
No income/no income assistance	176	14%	152	14%	24	18%	144	15%	320	15%
Family breakdown/abuse/conflict	179	15%	161	15%	18	13%	120	13%	299	14%
Mental health issues	141	12%	129	12%	12	9%	84	9%	225	10%
Evicted	123	10%	110	10%	13	10%	73	8%	196	9%
Conflict with law	80	7%	68	6%	12	9%	48	5%	128	6%
Pets	69	6%	60	6%	9	7%	43	5%	112	5%
Other[26]	292	24%	251	23%	41	30%	238	25%	530	24%
Total Respondents	**1,220**		**1,085**		**135**		**944**		**2,164**	
No answer/not known	1,353		1,232		121		88		1,441	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

[25] The corresponding survey question asks for one or more responses. As a result percentages may not add to 100%.
[26] "Other" may include age, availability, not being interested, accessibility, credit rating, lack of references, roommate issues, affordability, exploitation, being on a waiting list, moving/travelling, landlord's prejudice, house rules, time consuming, no knowledge of the area, health issues, language barriers, being a refugee, safety concerns or a lack of help/support.

Trends

- High rent was cited in 2017 as a barrier to housing by the most respondents (50%) followed by income too low (49%), which was also the barrier cited by most respondents in 2014 and 2011.
- In 2017 the option "No housing available that suits my needs" was added, and 30% of respondents indicated this was a barrier.

Table 16: Barriers to Housing – Total (2011 to 2017) - Trends [27]

Barriers to Housing (more than one response possible)	2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Rent too high	803	54%	761	42%	1073	50%
Income too low	857	58%	869	47%	1054	49%
No housing available that suits my needs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	648	30%
Addiction	473	32%	501	27%	417	19%
Poor housing conditions	350	24%	313	17%	400	18%
Discrimination	n/a	n/a	249	14%	327	15%
No income/no income assistance	331	22%	376	21%	320	15%
Family breakdown/abuse/conflict	375	25%	310	17%	299	14%
Mental health issues	277	19%	280	15%	225	10%
Evicted	201	13%	197	11%	196	9%
Conflict with law	228	15%	130	7%	128	6%
Pets	n/a	n/a	79	4%	112	5%
Other[28]	370	25%	463	25%	530	24%
Total Respondents	1,489		1,831		2,164	
No answer/not known	1,161		946		1,441	
Total	2,650		2,777		3,605	

[27] The corresponding survey question asks for one or more responses. As a result percentages may not add to 100%.

[28] "Other" may include age, availability, not being interested, accessibility, credit ratings, lack of references, roommate issues, affordability, exploitation, being on a waiting list, moving/travelling, landlord's prejudice, house rules, time consuming, no knowledge of the area, health issues, language barriers, being a refugee, safety concerns or a lack of help/support.

2.9. Care of the Ministry

In 2017, for the first time, survey respondents were asked whether they are or have in the past, been "in Ministry care". This question was intended to determine what proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness had spent time as children in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (or a comparable Ministry in another province).

Results showed that 21% of the total homeless population were previously or were at the time of the Homeless Count in Ministry care. Of the 37 respondents under 19, 48% had been or are currently in Ministry care.

Of the 423 individuals who indicated they were in Ministry care at one time or at the time of the Homeless Count, 374 provided additional details about their situation: 18 were currently under the care of the Ministry and 356 (or 18% of all respondents to the survey) were in the Ministry's care in the past. Nearly a quarter of respondents under 19 are currently in care (23%), and 21% had been in Ministry care. Nineteen to twenty-four-year olds were most likely to have been in Ministry care, with 38% of this group responding that they had been or were currently in Ministry care.[29]

Table 17: Currently or Previously in Ministry Care - Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)[30]

Age Groups	Has been or is currently in Ministry Care		Currently in Ministry Care		Previously in Ministry Care		Unclear or Missing Response		Has not been in Ministry care		Total Respondents	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 19 Years	37	48%	18	23%	16	21%	3	4%	40	52%	77	100 %
19-24 Years	63	38%	0	0%	59	35%	4	2%	105	63%	168	100 %
25-34 Years	107	28%	0	0%	96	25%	11	3%	273	72%	380	100 %
35-44 Years	101	22%	0	0%	93	20%	8	2%	367	78%	468	100 %
45-54 Years	72	15%	0	0%	60	12%	12	2%	418	85%	490	100 %
55-64 Years	35	10%	0	0%	27	8%	8	2%	308	90%	343	100 %
65+ Years	8	8%	0	0%	5	5%	3	3%	87	92%	95	100 %
Total	**423**	**21%**	**18**	**1%**	**356**	**18%**	**49**	**2%**	**1,598**		**2,021**	

[29] Twenty-five individuals over the age of 19 indicated that they were currently in Ministry care, indicating that the question was not clear to them. These individuals have been removed from the data set.

[30] "The Ministry" was not clearly defined in the way the question was asked. When asked, people would interpret it to mean "being in the care system," which can extend to other, past forms of Ministry care, including Ministry care in other provinces. Volunteers were trained that "residential school" was not a valid answer option.

2.10. Health Conditions – Incidence and Types

The surveys asked respondents about their health, and specifically whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, addiction and/or mental illness. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement. The 2017 Homeless Count information about health includes only health conditions self-reported by respondents, and not those that were observed by volunteers (as was done in previous Counts).[31]

Incidence of Health Conditions

A majority of those counted (82%) have at least one health condition, including addiction, mental illness, physical disability or a medical condition/illness. More than half of the respondents (52%) had two or more health conditions.

Table 18: Incidence of Health Conditions – Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)

Health Conditions	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
No health conditions	232	18%	207	18%	25	18%	152	16%	384	17%
One health condition	376	30%	334	30%	42	31%	297	31%	673	30%
Two or more health conditions	652	52%	582	52%	70	51%	512	53%	1,164	52%
Total Respondents	**1,260**	**100%**	**1,123**	**100%**	**137**	**100%**	**961**	**100%**	**2,221**	**100%**
No answer/not known	1,313		1,194		119		71		1,384	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

Trends

- In previous Counts, volunteers also included their own perception of the individual's health conditions on their surveys. In 2017 volunteers were asked to not provide responses based on their own perceptions. Despite this methodological change, the incidence of individuals who have a health condition is higher compared with every year except 2011. Eighty-two percent (82%) of persons surveyed reported having one or more health condition.
- Correspondingly, the proportion of people with two or more health conditions has also increased since 2014 (up by 7% from 45% in 2014).

[31] In previous years, volunteers were asked to also report perceived health concerns. This was discontinued in 2017. For further discussion see the methodology and limitations section (7.7). In 2014, between 0.8% and 4.1% of health conditions were perceived by interviewers.

Table 19: Incidence of Health Conditions – Total (2005 to 2017) - Trends[32]

Health Conditions	2005 Total		2008 Total		2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
No health conditions	445	26%	616	28%	3	0%	360	20%	384	17%
One health condition	666	39%	601	27%	426	38%	614	35%	673	30%
Two or more health conditions	608	35%	1016	45%	694	62%	801	45%	1,164	52%
Total Respondents	**1,719**	**100%**	**2,233**	**100%**	**1,123**	**100%**	**1,775**	**100%**	**2,221**	**100%**
No answer/not known	455		427		1,527		1,002		1,384	
Total	**2,174**		**2,660**		**2,650**		**2,777**		**3,605**	

Types of Health Conditions

More than half (53%) of the total population reported an addiction, 44% reported a medical condition, 38% reported a mental illness and 33% reported a physical disability. The unsheltered population was more likely than the sheltered population to report an addiction (60% vs. 47%), while the sheltered population was somewhat more likely to report a medical condition (46% vs. 41%).

Table 20: Types of Health Conditions – Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)[33]

Health conditions (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Addiction	598	47%	524	47%	74	54%	574	60%	1,172	53%
Medical condition/illness	575	46%	516	46%	59	43%	392	41%	967	44%
Mental illness	484	38%	433	39%	51	37%	364	38%	848	38%
Physical disability	421	33%	369	33%	52	38%	321	33%	742	33%
Total Respondents	**1,260**		**1,123**		**137**		**961**		**2,221**	
No answer/not known	1,313		1,194		119		71		1,384	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

[32] Caution should be used in comparing 2017 and past year numbers to establish trends, as previous Counts included perceived health conditions. In 2017 attributions of health conditions were omitted. The shift away from perceived health conditions means that longitudinal comparisons, while indicative, are not statistically valid.

[33] The corresponding survey question asks for one or more responses. As a result percentages may not add to 100%.

Trends

- The incidence of reported health conditions has increased for all types of health conditions in absolute and relative terms. In 2017 all health conditions were more likely to be reported by 3% or 4% respectively.

Table 21: Types of Health Conditions – Total (2002 to 2017) - Trends[34] [35]

Health Conditions (more than one response possible)	2002 Total		2005 Total		2008 Total		2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Addiction	337	39%	838	48%	1,365	61%	712	54%	871	49%	1,172	53%
Medical condition/illness	256	30%	601	35%	1,023	46%	608	46%	723	41%	967	44%
Mental illness	195	23%	389	22%	725	33%	463	35%	610	34%	848	38%
Physical disability	132	15%	364	21%	699	31%	470	36%	507	29%	742	33%
Total Respondents	864		1,731		2,229		1,314		1,775		2,221	
No answer/not known	257		443		431		1,336		1,002		1,568	
Total	1,121		2,174		2,660		2,650		2,777		3,605	

Health Conditions by Length of Time Homeless

- Individuals who have been experiencing homelessness for a year or more are more likely to have a health condition than those who have been homeless for less than a year.
- This was most pronounced for addictions, where 59% of individuals who had been homeless for a year or more reported having an addiction, compared with 46% of individuals who had been homeless for less than a year.

Table 22: Length of Time Homeless by Health Conditions (2017)

Health Condition	Less than a Year		One Year or More		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Addiction	497	46%	674	59%	1171	53%
Medical condition/illness	445	41%	521	46%	966	44%
Mental illness	396	36%	451	40%	847	38%
Physical disability	332	31%	409	36%	741	33%
Total Respondents	1085		1134		2,219	

[34] The corresponding survey question asks for one or more responses. Percentages may not add to 100%.

[35] Caution should be used in comparing 2017 and past year numbers to establish trends, as previous Counts included perceived health conditions. In 2017 attributions of health conditions were omitted. In 2014, the following share of the total reported health conditions were not self-reported by those interviewed, but were observed by interviewers: Addiction (1.8%); Mental Illness (4.1%); Physical Disability (1.8%); and Medical Condition (0.8%).

2.11. Sources of Income

Respondents were asked to identify their sources of income and were encouraged to identify as many sources as apply.

There is a wide range of income sources among the homeless population. Most respondents received income from income assistance (42%), followed by a disability benefit (28%), part- or full-time employment (22%), and/or binning/bottle collecting (15%). When comparing the sheltered and the unsheltered populations, a larger proportion of sheltered respondents (25%) had some form of employment compared to 17% for the unsheltered. Sheltered individuals (22%) were more likely to source part of their income through informal means, such as retrieving recyclables from bins for cash (binning) than those who were found unsheltered.

Table 23: Sources of Income – Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)[36]

Sources of Income (more than one response possible)	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Government Transfers										
Income assistance	533	43%	471	42%	62	46%	394	41%	927	42%
Disability benefit	370	30%	336	30%	34	25%	245	26%	615	28%
CPP or other pension[37]	127	10%	118	11%	9	7%	38	4%	165	7%
OAS/GIS	62	5%	56	5%	6	4%	18	2%	80	4%
Employment Insurance	22	2%	20	2%	2	1%	4	0%	26	1%
Youth agreement	3	0%	3	0%	0	0%	5	1%	8	0%
Employment										
Part-time employment	212	17%	188	17%	24	18%	134	14%	346	16%
Full-time employment	98	8%	91	8%	7	5%	24	3%	122	6%
Other Sources										
Binning, bottle collecting, etc.	129	10%	101	9%	28	21%	210	22%	339	15%
Panhandling	77	6%	61	5%	16	12%	155	16%	232	11%
Friends/family	102	8%	82	7%	20	15%	87	9%	189	9%
No income	117	9%	104	9%	13	10%	91	9%	208	9%
Vending	48	4%	45	4%	3	2%	105	11%	153	7%
Honoraria	21	2%	19	2%	2	1%	18	2%	39	2%
Other[38]	82	7%	77	7%	9	7%	96	10%	178	8%
Total Respondents	**1,251**		**1,115**		**136**		**958**		**2,209**	
No answer/not known	1,322		1,202		120		74		1,396	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

[36] The corresponding survey question asks for one or more responses. Percentages may not add to 100%.

[37] This category combines both the Canada Pension Plan and other pensions. Because some pensions include disability pensions, individuals may indicate that they receive a disability pension as a disability benefit, rather than an "other pension." The categories of income are imprecise but the wording remained consistent with previous years for comparison purposes.

[38] The category "other" can include a range of sources, including criminal activity (*drug dealing, theft, hustling*, etc.), sex work, insurance claims, child tax benefits, government grants, student loans and trust funds.

Trends

Table 24 shows trends in income sources between 2008 and 2017.

- The proportion of respondents receiving income assistance in 2017 remained relatively constant from 2014 at 42%. At the same time, the proportion of those on disability benefits was higher than any past year, increasing from 21% in 2014 to 28% in 2017.
- In addition, the proportion of the population experiencing homelessness who reported income streams through income support programs such as Old Age Security (OAS), Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), and Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) had increased from being accessed by 2% in 2008 to 11%, reflecting that a higher proportion of seniors are experiencing homelessness.

Table 24: Sources of Income – Total (2008 to 2017) - Trends[39]

Sources of Income (more than one response possible)	2008 Total		2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Government Transfers								
Income assistance	960	43%	789	52%	777	43%	927	42%
Disability benefit	403	18%	296	20%	376	21%	615	28%
OAS/GIS/CPP	53	2%	53	4%	157	9%	245	11%
Employment Insurance	26	1%	45	3%	27	1%	26	1%
Youth agreement	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	0%	8	0%
Employment								
Part-time employment	421	19%	177	12%	287	16%	346	16%
Full-time employment			63	4%	82	4%	122	6%
Other Sources								
Binning, bottle collecting, etc.	478	22%	306	20%	252	14%	339	15%
Panhandling	277	12%	188	12%	203	11%	232	11%
Friends/family	60	3%	216	14%	129	7%	189	9%
No income	182	8%	97	6%	171	9%	208	9%
Other[40]	372	17%	247	16%	204	11%	370	17%
Total Respondents	**2,219**		**1,513**		**1,823**		**2,209**	
No answer/not known	441		1,137		954		1,396	
Total	**2,660**		**2,650**		**2,777**		**3,605**	

[39] The corresponding survey question asks for one or more responses. Percentages may not add to 100%.

[40] "Other" includes honoraria and vending to align with longitudinal data. CPP is included under OAS/GIS/CPP to align with longitudinal data.

2.12. Length of Time Homeless

Table 25 shows the length of time for which individuals had experienced homelessness.

A slight majority of respondents (51%) reported they had been homeless for more than a year and are considered long-term homeless. Another 34% had been homeless for less than six months; within this group, 190 people had been homeless for less than one week and are considered newly homeless.

A higher proportion of the sheltered population had been homeless for less than six months (40%) compared to the unsheltered respondents (27%), who were more likely to have been homeless for a year or more (60%) compared to the sheltered (44%).

Long-term homelessness is reported more often by men (54% were homeless for more than one year) than by women (42%) (*Data not shown in table*).

Table 25: Length of Time Homeless – Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)

Length of time homeless	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 6 months	514	40%	468	41%	46	33%	264	27%	778	34%
Under 1 month	129		116		13		61		190	
1 month to under 6 months	385		352		33		203		588	
6 months to under 1 year	196	15%	171	15%	25	18%	135	14%	331	15%
1 year or more	560	44%	493	44%	67	49%	593	60%	1,153	51%
Total Respondents	**1,270**	**100%**	**1,132**	**100%**	**138**	**100%**	**992**	**100%**	**2,262**	**100%**
No answer/not known	1,303		1,185		118		40		1,343	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

Trends

Table 26 shows trends in the length of time individuals were homeless since 2002.

- The proportion of respondents who reported being homeless for one year or more increased from 41% in 2014 to 51% in 2017, representing an increase of 402 more people being long-term homeless. As a result, with 51% of the homeless population reporting being homeless for a year or more, 2017 saw the highest proportion of individuals who had been long-term homeless of any of the last six Counts. In 2002 this number represented only 20% of the total homeless population.
- The number of respondents considered newly homeless (less than one month) decreased from 337 in 2014 to 190 in 2017.
- Table 26 also shows that for every Count, between 200 and 400 people became homeless within the month prior to the Count, and that a steady flow of people who are newly homeless in the region continues. We do not know, however, if these individuals are homeless for the first time or

if they are episodically homeless (i.e. have experienced a previous episode of homelessness within the year).[41] [42]

Table 26: Length of Time Homeless – Total (2002 to 2017) - Trends

Length of time homeless	2002 Total		2005 Total		2008 Total		2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 6 months	573	68%	884	50%	828	39%	685	45%	921	51%	778	34%
Under 1 month	320		424		272		233		337		190	
1 month to under 6 months	253		460		556		452		584		588	
6 months to under 1 year	100	12%	262	15%	271	13%	222	15%	145	8%	331	15%
1 year or more	166	20%	628	35%	1,017	48%	610	40%	751	41%	1,153	51%
Total Respondents	**839**	**100 %**	**1,774**	**100 %**	**2,116**	**100 %**	**1,517**	**100 %**	**1,817**	**100 %**	**2,262**	**100 %**
No answer/not known	282		400		544		1,133		960		1,343	
Total	**1,121**		**2,174**		**2,660**		**2,650**		**2,777**		**3,605**	

[41] This should not be interpreted as a net increase of 300 new homeless individuals each month as some people who are homeless are also likely to exit homelessness each month.

[42] A question regarding the number of times a person has been homeless in the past year was not included in the data analysis for validity concerns.

2.13. Length of Time in Municipality Interviewed

Table 27 shows the length of time individuals had lived in the communities where they were interviewed.

According to the 2017 Count, people experiencing homelessness are much more likely to be long-term residents of a community (10 years or more) than having moved most recently. Fifty percent (50%) of respondents reported they had lived in the city where they were interviewed for 10 or more years (including the 16% of respondents who said they had always lived in the city where they were interviewed). Twenty-two (22%) said they had lived in that community for less than a year (496 people).

A greater proportion of individuals in the unsheltered population (20%) reported they had always lived in the city where they were interviewed compared to individuals in the sheltered population (13%). Few individuals (2%) reported having just moved to the municipality where they were interviewed less than a week before the Homeless Count, while 6% of the total population had been in the community for less than a month. [43]

Table 27: Length of Time in Municipality Interviewed – Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)

Length of time in municipality	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 1 week	29	2%	24	2%	5	4%	14	1%	43	2%
1 week to under 1 month	61	5%	60	5%	1	1%	20	2%	81	4%
1 month to under 6 months	170	13%	150	13%	20	15%	67	7%	237	10%
6 months to under 1 year	89	7%	82	7%	7	5%	46	5%	135	6%
1 year to under 5 years	218	17%	194	17%	24	18%	183	18%	401	18%
5 years to under 10 years	99	8%	85	8%	14	10%	128	13%	227	10%
10 years or more	435	34%	387	34%	48	35%	338	34%	773	34%
Always lived here	168	13%	150	13%	18	13%	197	20%	365	16%
Total Respondents	**1,269**	**100%**	**1,132**	**100%**	**137**	**100%**	**993**	**100%**	**2,262**	**100%**
No answer	1,304		1,185		119		39		1,343	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

[43] One of the reasons may be that people who wanted to stay in a shelter needed to move to another community to access a bed.

Trends

Table 28 shows trends over time in how long individuals had resided in the city where they were interviewed.

- The responses to the survey question asking how long individuals had resided in the city where they were interviewed were consistent with previous Counts. The 2017 Count also showed that the majority of respondents had lived in the municipality where they were interviewed for at least five years.
- This year continues the trend seen in past Counts, which shows that half of the homeless are long-time residents of their community (10 years or more).

Table 28: Length of Time in Municipality Interviewed – Total (2008 - 2017) - Trends

Length of time in Municipality	2008 Total		2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 1 year	416	20%	379	25%	373	21%	496	22%
1 year to under 5 years	409	19%	296	19%	296	17%	401	18%
5 years to under 10 years	312	15%	198	13%	189	11%	227	10%
10 years or more	972	46%	645	42%	911	51%	1,138	50%
Total Respondents	**2,109**	**100%**	**1,518**	**100%**	**1,769**	**100%**	**2,262**	**100%**
No answer/not known	551		1,132		1,008		1,343	
Total	**2,660**		**2,650**		**2,777**		**3,605**	

Previous Location if New to the Community

The 2017 Count shows that the majority of people experiencing homelessness were long-time residents of their community. For the 22% (496 individuals) who had moved in the last year, Table 29 takes a closer look at their previous locations.

In total, there were 470 individuals who specified a previous location; of those, 30% had moved from within the Metro Vancouver region while 27% had moved from elsewhere in B.C. and 30% had come from other parts of Canada.

Respondents in Surrey primarily came from other areas of Metro Vancouver (46%) or elsewhere in B.C. (30%). In Vancouver, those who arrived within the last year were predominantly from the rest of Canada (48%) or the rest of B.C. (25%). Respondents in all other communities across Metro Vancouver were predominantly from another community in the Metro region (52%).

Table 29: Previous Location if New to Community for Less than one Year by Current Community - Total (2017)

Previous Location	Current Community							
	Respondents in Surrey		Respondents in City of Vancouver		Respondents in other Metro Communities		Total Respondents New to Community	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Metro Vancouver	41	46%	32	13%	69	52%	142	30%
Fraser Valley	4	4%	8	3%	9	7%	21	4%
Rest of B.C.	27	30%	61	25%	19	14%	107	23%
Rest of Canada	13	15%	120	48%	22	17%	155	33%
Another country	4	4%	27	11%	14	11%	45	10%
Total Respondents	**89**	**100%**	**248**	**100%**	**133**	**100%**	**470**	**100%**

2.14. First Time Experiencing Homelessness

Table 30 shows the number of individuals who were experiencing homelessness for the first time, or multiple times, in the past year.

More than half (55%) of respondents reported they had been homeless more than once. The unsheltered population was more likely to have experienced multiple episodes of homelessness than the sheltered population (58% vs. 52%).

Table 30: First Time Experiencing Homelessness - Sheltered and Unsheltered (2017)[44]

First Time Experiencing Homelessness	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
More than once	644	52%	576	52%	68	50%	545	58%	1,189	55%
First time homeless[45]	595	48%	527	48%	68	50%	397	42%	992	45%
Total Respondents	**1,239**	**100%**	**1,103**	**100%**	**136**	**100%**	**942**	**100%**	**2,181**	**100%**
No answer/not known	1,334		1,214		120		90		1,424	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

Comparison

Table 31 shows that in 2014 more people were experiencing homelessness for the first time (57%), whereas in 2017 more people (55%) had experienced homelessness in previous times.

Table 31: First Time Experiencing Homelessness - Total (2014, 2017)

First Time Homeless	2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%
More than once	669	43%	1,189	55%
First time homeless	888	57%	992	45%
Total Respondents	**1,557**	**100%**	**2,181**	**100%**
No answer/not known	1,220		1,424	
Total	**2,777**		**3,605**	

2.15. Patterns of Service Use

[44] A follow-up question regarding the number of times a person was homeless in the past year was omitted from the analysis. The survey question was found to not be valid.

[45] Volunteers expressed confusion with the possible response "first time homeless" and how to answer the question if a person had been homeless for a year or more. Many respondents reported on the length of time they had been homeless rather than on the number of times.

Homeless Count survey participants were asked what services they have used in the past 12 months.

Individuals experiencing homelessness used a variety of services, including health, housing, addiction, employment and other services, over the course of the past year. It is important to note, however, that the use of services is not only dictated by an individual's needs but also the availability of services, which varies widely between communities.

Health services were among the most commonly accessed services: half of the respondents had used an emergency room in the past year; 40% had used the hospital for non-emergencies; 39% had been in an ambulance; and, 39% had used a health clinic. In all cases, the sheltered population used such health services more than the unsheltered.

Meal programs were another highly accessed service, used by 47% of the respondents, as well as drop-in services, which were used by 37% of respondents. In both cases, people in the unsheltered population were more likely to use these services. Outreach programs were used by 33% of the population, which was consistent for both the sheltered and unsheltered.

More than a quarter of the respondents (27%) had used some form of addiction services (25% for unsheltered, 29% for sheltered), and 26% had used a food bank.

Table 32: Services Used – Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)[46] [47]

Services Used (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Emergency room	664	54%	588	54%	76	56%	425	45%	1,089	50%
Meal programs/soup kitchens	551	45%	470	43%	81	60%	463	49%	1,014	47%
Hospital (non-emergency)	553	45%	492	45%	61	45%	317	34%	870	40%
Health clinic	537	44%	483	44%	54	40%	306	32%	843	39%
Ambulance	501	41%	444	41%	57	42%	344	37%	845	39%
Drop-in	445	36%	383	35%	62	46%	365	39%	810	37%
Outreach	411	33%	365	33%	46	34%	315	33%	726	33%
Addiction services	358	29%	322	30%	36	26%	235	25%	593	27%
Addiction services (Supervised Injection Site)	110	9%	102	9%	8	6%	107	11%	217	10%
Addiction services (all other services)	248	20%	220	20%	28	21%	133	14%	381	18%
Food bank	315	26%	265	24%	50	37%	250	27%	565	26%
Mental health	302	25%	273	25%	29	21%	166	18%	468	22%
Employment/job help	301	25%	265	24%	36	26%	156	17%	457	21%
Dental	250	20%	220	20%	30	22%	133	14%	383	18%
Housing help/eviction prevention	203	17%	185	17%	18	13%	134	14%	337	16%
Faith-based/spiritual services	212	17%	185	17%	27	20%	144	15%	356	16%
Legal	175	14%	148	14%	27	20%	127	13%	302	14%
Transitional housing	199	16%	185	17%	14	10%	45	5%	244	11%
Parole/services for ex-offenders	80	7%	63	6%	17	13%	70	7%	150	7%
Budgeting/trusteeship	53	4%	48	4%	5	4%	14	1%	67	3%
Newcomer services	41	3%	38	3%	3	2%	11	1%	52	2%
Other	42	3%	38	3%	4	3%	41	4%	83	4%
None	27	2%	27	2%	0	0%	31	3%	58	3%
Total Respondents	**1,227**		**1,091**		**136**		**942**		**2,169**	
No answer/not known	1,346		1,226		120		90		1,436	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

[46] Individuals experiencing homelessness may access many services over the course of a year. Surveyors and surveyed may be biased to recall or inquire about specific services over others depending on the importance they attain to them and how recent they used a specific service. This bias cannot be measured.

[47] The corresponding survey question asks for one or more responses. Percentages may not add to 100%.

Trends

While Table 33 shows that Homeless Count respondents used similar services in 2017 compared to 2014, some differences are evident.

- In 2014 the top three services used by respondents were meal programs, hospital emergency rooms and drop-in centres; by comparison, in 2017 the top three services were emergency rooms, meal programs/soup kitchens and the hospital (non-emergency).
- Emergency room, hospital and ambulance uses all increased compared to previous years – in relative and in absolute terms. Mental health and addiction services were up slightly and food bank use decreased.

Table 33: Services Used – Total (2011 to 2017) - Trends

Services Used (more than 1 response possible)	2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Emergency room	617	42%	746	42%	1,089	50%
Meal programs/soup kitchens	783	53%	825	46%	1,014	47%
Hospital (non-emergency)	518	35%	573	32%	870	40%
Health clinic	722	49%	684	38%	843	39%
Ambulance	400	27%	530	30%	845	39%
Drop-in	706	48%	715	40%	810	37%
Outreach	537	36%	609	34%	726	33%
Addiction services	388	26%	425	24%	598	28%
Food bank	612	41%	535	30%	565	26%
Mental health	325	22%	335	19%	468	22%
Employment/job help	464	31%	414	23%	457	21%
Dental	387	26%	335	19%	383	18%
Housing help/eviction prevention	244	16%	226	13%	337	16%
Faith-based/spiritual services	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	356	16%
Legal	261	18%	237	13%	302	14%
Transitional housing	201	14%	177	10%	244	11%
Parole/services for ex-offenders	144	10%	124	7%	150	7%
Budgeting/trusteeship	45	3%	45	3%	67	3%
Newcomer services	39	3%	29	2%	52	2%
Other	127	9%	211	12%	83	4%
None	63	4%	112	6%	58	3%
Total Respondents	**1,484**		**1,778**		**2,169**	
No answer/not known	1,166		999		1,436	
Total	**2,650**		**2,777**		**3,605**	

3

Homelessness by Municipal Sub-Region

3. Homelessness by Municipal Sub-Region

3.1. Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, by Municipal Sub-Region

Table 34 shows adults and unaccompanied youth, and accompanied children, by sub-region for communities across Metro Vancouver.

On March 8 a total of 3,605 people in Metro Vancouver were identified as experiencing homelessness (3,486 adults and unaccompanied youth, and 119 accompanied children); of those, 1,032 were unsheltered and 2,573 were sheltered. The largest populations experiencing homelessness were found in Vancouver (2,138 people) and Surrey (602 people).

Table 34: Total Respondents by Municipal Sub-Region (2017)[48] [49]

Sub-Region	Sheltered Respondents		Unsheltered Respondents		Total	
	Adults and unaccompanied youth	Accompanied children	Adults and unaccompanied youth	Accompanied children	#	%
Burnaby	15	5	49	0	69	2%
Delta	0	0	19	0	19	1%
Langley	108	19	79	0	206	6%
New Westminster	90	13	30	0	133	4%
North Shore	81	8	11	0	100	3%
Richmond	37	4	29	0	70	2%
Ridge Meadows	90	4	30	0	124	3%
Surrey	384	15	201	2	602	17%
Tri-Cities	72	4	39	2	117	3%
Vancouver	1,561	40	534	3	2,138	59%
White Rock	23	0	4	0	27	1%
Total Respondents	2,461	112	1,025	7	3,605	100%

[48] Accompanied children refers to children under 19 who were with their parent or guardian during the Homeless Count. No record of these individuals exists, as they were not interviewed. Unaccompanied youth refers to anyone under the age of 25 who was not physically accompanied by a parent during the Count (e.g. interviewed on the street or in a school). Some youth were under the age of 16.

[49] Includes age data from no fixed address sites for accompanied children.

Table 35 provides a more detailed break out for the sheltered and unsheltered respondents.

Table 35: Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents by Municipal Sub-Region (2017)

Sub-Region	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total Homeless	
	Total		Shelters		EWR Shelters					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Burnaby	20	1%	13	1%	7	3%	49	5%	69	2%
Delta	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	19	2%	19	1%
Langley	127	5%	96	4%	31	12%	79	8%	206	6%
New Westminster	103	4%	76	3%	27	11%	30	3%	133	4%
North Shore	89	3%	78	3%	11	4%	11	1%	100	3%
Richmond	41	2%	25	1%	16	6%	29	3%	70	2%
Ridge Meadows	94	4%	84	4%	10	4%	30	3%	124	3%
Surrey	399	16%	355	15%	44	17%	203	20%	602	17%
Tri-Cities	76	3%	43	2%	33	13%	41	4%	117	3%
Vancouver	1,601	62%	1,537	66%	64	25%	537	52%	2,138	59%
White Rock	23	1%	10	0%	13	5%	4	0%	27	1%
	2,573	100%	2,317	100%	256	100%	1,032	100%	3,605	100%

Trends

Table 36 shows changes in the population of individuals experiencing homelessness between 2014 and 2017, by sub-region.

- Region-wide, 828 more people were identified as experiencing homelessness in 2017 compared to 2014, representing a 30% increase in homelessness and the highest number to date.
- Homelessness increased in all communities, between 19% (Burnaby) and 142% (Delta/White Rock), except on the North Shore.
- The highest absolute increases occurred in Vancouver (335), Surrey (199) and Langley (114).

Table 36: Total Number of People who are Homeless by Municipal Sub-Region (2005 to 2017) - Trends

Sub-Region	2005 Total	2008 Total	2011 Total	2014 Total	2017 Total	2014 – 2017 Change	
						#	%
Burnaby	42	86	78	58	69	11	19%
Delta/White Rock[50]	12	17	14	19	46	27	142%
Langley	57	86	103	92	206	114	124%
Ridge Meadows	44	90	110	84	124	40	48%
New Westminster	97	124	132	106	133	27	25%
North Shore	90	127	122	119	100	-19	-16%
Richmond	35	56	49	38	70	32	84%
Surrey	392	402	400	403	602	199	49%
Tri-Cities	40	94	48	55	117	62	113%
Vancouver	1,364	1,576	1,581	1,803	2,138	335	19%
Unspecified	1	2	13	0	0	0	0%
Total Respondents	**2,174**	**2,660**	**2,650**	**2,777**	**3,605**	**828**	**30%**

[50] Communities may be grouped together in longitudinal data tables for comparison with previous years.

3.2. Age and Municipal Sub-Region

Table 37 shows youth and children (below age 25) by sub-region and Table 38 outlines the prevalence of senior homelessness by geography.

Homeless Youth by Municipal Sub-Region

- Most children and youth who were experiencing homelessness were found in Vancouver (44% of children/youth), Surrey (17%) and Langley (13%)

Table 37: Youth and Children by Municipal Sub-Region - Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)[51]

Sub-Region	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Burnaby	5	2%	5	2%	0	0%	12	8%	17	4%
Delta	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	10	7%	10	3%
Langley	22	9%	22	10%	0	0%	28	19%	50	13%
New Westminster	14	6%	14	6%	0	0%	3	2%	17	4%
North Shore	13	6%	13	6%	0	0%	1	1%	14	4%
Richmond	6	3%	4	2%	2	13%	4	3%	10	3%
Ridge Meadows	7	3%	7	3%	0	0%	0	0%	7	2%
Surrey	32	14%	29	13%	3	20%	32	21%	64	17%
Tri-Cities	12	5%	7	3%	5	33%	16	11%	28	7%
Vancouver	125	53%	120	54%	5	33%	44	29%	169	44%
White Rock	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total Respondents	236	100%	221	100%	15	100%	150	100%	386	100%

[51] Includes age data collected from some no fixed address sites, including some hospitals and jails, which was not included in the preliminary report.

Seniors Experiencing Homelessness by Municipal Sub-Region

Table 38 shows seniors (over 55 years) by municipal sub-region. The majority of seniors experiencing homelessness were found in Vancouver (49%) and Surrey (23%), and evenly distributed throughout the rest of the region.

Table 38: Seniors by Municipal Sub-Region - Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)[52]

Sub-Region	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Burnaby	2	1%	0	0%	2	6%	16	10%	18	4%
Delta	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5	3%	5	1%
Langley	14	4%	12	4%	2	6%	10	6%	24	5%
New Westminster	15	4%	8	3%	7	20%	7	4%	22	4%
North Shore	18	5%	15	5%	3	9%	3	2%	21	4%
Richmond	6	2%	4	1%	2	6%	9	5%	15	3%
Ridge Meadows	17	5%	16	5%	1	3%	1	1%	18	4%
Surrey	92	27%	81	27%	11	31%	22	13%	114	23%
Tri-Cities	8	2%	7	2%	1	3%	8	5%	16	3%
Vancouver	158	47%	153	51%	5	14%	86	51%	244	49%
White Rock	6	2%	5	2%	1	3%	0	0%	6	1%
Total Respondents	**336**	**100%**	**301**	**100%**	**35**	**100%**	**167**	**100%**	**503**	**100%**

[52] Includes age data from some no fixed address sites.

3.3. Length of Time Spent in Municipal Sub-Region

Table 39 shows length of time in the community for each sub-region.

- Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the respondents have lived in their community for one year or more.
- In New Westminster, which had the highest number of people who had been in the city in which they were interviewed for less than a year, 61% had been in the city for a year or more. As many as 87% of the population experiencing homelessness (in Tri-Cities) had lived in their community for more than a year.

Table 39: Total Respondents by Length of Time in Municipal Sub-Region (2017)

Sub-Region	Under 6 Months		6 Months to Under 1 Year		1 Year or More		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Burnaby	9	15%	3	5%	48	80%	60	100%
Delta	1	5%	4	21%	14	74%	19	100%
Langley	26	21%	6	5%	91	74%	123	100%
New Westminster	32	36%	3	3%	54	61%	89	100%
North Shore	14	24%	1	2%	43	74%	58	100%
Richmond	10	19%	1	2%	41	79%	52	100%
Ridge Meadows	13	14%	3	3%	75	82%	91	100%
Surrey	71	15%	21	4%	383	81%	475	100%
Tri-Cities	8	9%	4	4%	81	87%	93	100%
Vancouver	176	15%	88	7%	925	78%	1,189	100%
White Rock	1	8%	1	8%	11	85%	13	100%
Total Respondents	**361**	**16%**	**135**	**6%**	**1,766**	**78%**	**2,262**	**100%**

4

People Living on Waterways:
Waterways Count

4. People Living on Waterways: Waterways Count

As a pilot project the Waterways Count surveyed people on Metro Vancouver's waterways. On March 8, volunteer boat crews across Metro Vancouver approached vessels that appeared to house persons who reside as a live-aboard. The Waterways Count captured a total of 12 individuals living aboard boats who identified as homeless. Many more vessels were approached with individuals who did not identify as homeless.

Eight persons surveyed were men/male and three were women/female. One person identified as Aboriginal/Indigenous. Five people reported no health conditions (45%), five reported one health condition (45%) and one reported two or more health conditions. Four individuals reported mental illness (36%), and an addiction, medical condition or physical disability was reported by one individual for each (9%).

Six of the individuals interviewed had been homeless for more than one year and six for less than a year. Six individuals had lived in the municipality they were interviewed in for less than a year and six for more than a year, with four of these individuals having lived there for 10 years or more (33%). Seventy-three percent of individuals interviewed were employed either full or part-time, while other sources of income included income assistance (9%), CPP (9%), OAS/GIS (9%), binning (9%) and panhandling (9%).

To ensure longitudinal comparability results from the Waterways Count are not tallied into the overall totals in this report.

5

Surrey Extended Urban Strategy (SEUS)

5. Surrey Extended Urban Strategy: Individuals Interviewed through the SEUS Count in Surrey-Newton

The Surrey Enhanced Urban Strategy (SEUS) was a pilot approach to count people in a limited geographic area of Surrey for an extended two days on March 9 and March 10 following the same methodology and routes as during the main Homeless Count.

A total of **13 additional individuals were interviewed in Surrey-Newton through SEUS** who were not approached or interviewed during the point-in-time count on March 8th. On March 8, the day of the Homeless Count, 119 individuals were surveyed in the same area. There were therefore a total of 132 individuals experiencing homelessness who were surveyed in Surrey-Newton, with SEUS participants representing 10% of those interviewed.[53]

To ensure longitudinal comparability, results from the SEUS pilot are not tallied into the overall totals in this report.

[53] Of the 13 interviewed through SEUS, seven of the individuals interviewed were men/male (54%), while six were women/female (46%). Three individuals (23%) identified as Aboriginal/Indigenous. Two individuals were 55 or older (16%), while one individual was between 19 and 24 (8%). Ten individuals were between 25 and 54 years of age (77%). Eight of the individuals interviewed had been homeless for less than one year, while five had been homeless for a year or more. Twelve of the 13 (92%) had lived in Surrey for a year or more, with eight having lived there for more than 10 years (61%). Four (31%) reported having been in Ministry care. Six individuals (46%) received income from welfare/income assistance, while three individuals were on disability benefits (23%) and three individuals received income through binning (23%).

6

Supplementary Data

6. Supplementary Data

The following data tables are provided as an Appendix to the main report for longitudinal comparability and supplementary information.

6.1. Accompanying people experiencing homelessness

- Participants in the Homeless Count were asked if there was anyone with them. If they were with someone, they were asked to identify who that person was. Overall, 77% of respondents reported that they were alone.
- This rate was as high as 80% in the sheltered, and 72% for the unsheltered population.
- Individuals who were accompanied were most likely to be with their partner/spouse or with friends. Individuals on the street were more likely to be with friends than any other company and more people with pets were found in shelters than on the street.

Table 40: Accompanying the Respondents - Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)[54]

Accompanying the Homeless (more than one response possible)	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alone	1,010	80%	902	81%	108	79%	707	72%	1,717	77%
With partner/spouse	82	7%	68	6%	14	10%	90	9%	172	8%
With friends	45	4%	37	3%	8	6%	121	12%	166	7%
With children	71	6%	71	6%	0	0%	7	1%	78	3%
With relative	26	2%	23	2%	2	1%	24	2%	50	2%
With pet	25	2%	21	2%	5	4%	16	2%	41	2%
With other	19	2%	18	2%	1	1%	12	1%	31	1%
Total Respondents	**1,256**		**1,120**		**136**		**978**		**2,234**	
No answer/not known	1,317		1,197		120		56		1,373	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

[54] The corresponding survey question asks for one or more responses, therefore percentages and number totals may not add to 100%.

Trends

- With regards to who accompanied the homeless, no noticeable changes were observable to previous years. With 77% of respondents were along compared to 79% in 2014. Over time, individuals interviewed alone ranged from 75% of the total population (2011), to 82% of the total population (2005).

Table 41: Accompanying the Respondents - Total (2005 to 2017) - Trends[55]

Accompanying the Homeless (more than one response possible)	2005 Total		2008 Total		2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alone	1,502	82%	1,670	76%	1,122	75%	1,451	79%	1,717	77%
With partner/spouse	178	10%	243	11%	113	8%	105	6%	172	8%
With children	40	2%	43	2%	55	4%	41	2%	78	3%
With pet	34	2%	59	3%	31	2%	31	2%	41	2%
With other	76	4%	229	10%	178	12%	237	13%	247	11%
Total Respondents	1,830		2,200		1,504		1,839		2,234	
No answer/not known	344		460		1,146		938		1,373	
Total	2,174		2,660		2,650		2,777		3,605	

[55] The corresponding survey question asks for one or more responses. Percentages may not add to 100%.

6.2. Where the Unsheltered Respondents Stayed / Stayed in Shelters

As part of the unsheltered survey, respondents were asked where they had stayed the previous night and whether they had stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months.

Table 42 shows that among the unsheltered population a variety of locations were used. Forty-four percent (44%) of the unsheltered population slept outside on the night of March 7 and 26% stayed at someone else's place.

Table 42: Where the Unsheltered Respondents Stayed - Unsheltered Respondents (2017)

Location	Unsheltered Respondents	
	#	%
Outside	450	44%
Someone else's place	269	26%
Makeshift shelter or tent	88	9%
Vehicle	58	6%
Abandoned/vacant building	15	1%
Parent or guardian's house	10	1%
On a boat	2	0%
Other[56]	133	13%
Total Respondents	**1,025**	**100%**
No Answer/Not Known	7	
Total	**1,032**	

Whether the Unsheltered Respondents Stayed in a Shelter in the last 12 months

The unsheltered/street survey included a question asking respondents if they had stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months. This question helps determine whether the unsheltered respondents used a shelter. In 2017, approximately half the unsheltered population (49%) reported having stayed in a shelter at some point in the last 12 months. This indicates that gathering information on the homeless population using only shelter data would miss a significant proportion of the homeless population who do not use shelters.

The proportion of the unsheltered population who reported staying in a shelter in the last 12 months was slightly less in 2017 than in 2014, when 54% of respondents reported having stayed in a shelter at some point in the preceding year. Reasons for not staying in a shelter in the last night can be found in Section 6.3.

[56] "Other" includes bank lobbies, fast food restaurants, drop-in centres, warming centres and a range of outdoor or temporary accommodation options.

Table 43: Stayed in a Shelter in the Last 12 Months - Unsheltered Respondents (2008, 2014, 2017) – Trends

Previous Stay in a Shelter	2008 Unsheltered Respondents		2014 Unsheltered Respondents		2017 Unsheltered Respondents	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	790	53%	485	54%	465	49%
No	689	47%	420	46%	484	51%
Total Respondents	**1,479**	**100%**	**905**	**100%**	**949**	**100%**
No answer/not known	95		52		83	
Total	**1,574**		**957**		**1,032**	

6.3. Reasons for Not Staying in a Shelter

The unsheltered survey included a question asking why respondents did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The most frequent reason was that the individual was able to stay with a friend (20%), while 16% didn't like shelters and 12% were turned away from one. Another 15% said they did not feel safe in shelters and 24% did not stay in a shelter for another reason.

In comparison to past years people's *ability to stay with a friend* is down significantly (20% in 2017, compared to 27% in 2014). The number of people who dislike shelters is down slightly from 21% to 16%.

Table 44: Reason for Not Staying in a Shelter - Unsheltered Respondents (2008 to 2017) - Trends

Reason (select only one)	2008 Unsheltered Respondents		2011 Unsheltered Respondents		2014 Unsheltered Respondents		2017 Unsheltered Respondents	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Able to stay with friend	215	15%	274	39%	206	27%	172	20%
Dislike	450	32%	169	24%	159	21%	135	16%
Don't feel safe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	59	8%	123	15%
Turned away/full	225	16%	28	4%	97	13%	103	12%
Bedbugs/pests	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23	3%	35	4%
Rules	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	38	4%
Turned away/other reason	36	3%	15	2%	29	4%	18	2%
Can't get to shelter	99	7%	13	2%	13	2%	14	2%
Didn't know about shelter	48	3%	11	2%	10	1%	4	0%
Other[57]	322	23%	192	27%	167	22%	203	24%
Total Respondents	**1,395**	**100%**	**702**	**100%**	**763**	**89%**	**845**	**100%**
No answer/not known	179		56		194		187	
Total	**1,574**		**758**		**957**		**1,032**	

[57] "Other" includes not knowing it was open, being banned, able to stay elsewhere, avoiding being around drugs, bad experiences and a range of other personal reasons.

6.4. Newcomers to Canada and Refugee Claimants – Details

Of the 105 newcomers (people who are new to Canada in the past year) 44 provided further information regarding their refugee status: 24 were refugee claimants, of whom 21 were sheltered and three were unsheltered; 61 newcomers did not specify their status.

Table 45: Newcomers who are Refugee Claimants - Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)

Newcomers to Canada who are Refugee Claimants	Sheltered			Unsheltered Respondents	Total
	Total	Shelters	EWR		
	#	#	#	#	#
New to Canada	72	68	4	33	105
Refugee claimant	21	21	0	3	24
Not a refugee claimant	17	15	2	3	20
No response	34	32	2	27	61
Not new to Canada	1,191	1,058	133	951	2,142
Total Respondents	**38**	**36**	**2**	**6**	**44**
No answer/not known	1,310	1,191	119	48	1,358
Not New to Canada	**2,573**	**2,317**	**256**	**1,032**	**3,605**

6.5. Detailed Age Breakdowns

Table 46 provides a detailed age breakdown for all people experiencing homelessness. Table 47 provides a longitudinal comparison for various age groups (next page).

Table 46: Age Groups - Sheltered and Unsheltered Respondents (2017)[58]

Age Groups	Sheltered						Unsheltered Total		Total	
	Total		Shelters		EWR					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 19 years	132	9%	131	10%	1	1%	69	7%	201	8%
19-24 years	97	7%	90	7%	7	5%	88	9%	185	8%
25-34 years	245	17%	218	17%	27	20%	192	20%	437	18%
35-44 years	292	20%	259	20%	33	25%	230	24%	522	22%
45-54 years	323	22%	292	22%	31	23%	227	23%	550	23%
55-64 years	259	18%	232	18%	27	20%	136	14%	395	16%
65+ years[59]	92	6%	84	6%	8	6%	31	3%	123	5%
Total Respondents	**1,330**	**100%**	**1,306**	**100%**	**134**	**100%**	**966**	**100%**	**2,413**	**100%**
No answer/not known	1,243		1,011		122		66		1,194	
Total	**2,573**		**2,317**		**256**		**1,032**		**3,605**	

[58] Includes age data collected from some No Fixed Address sites, including some hospitals and jails, which was not included in the preliminary report.

[59] Numbers for seniors above the age of 65 vary from those released in the preliminary report due to a data correction.

Trends

Table 47: Age Groups - Total (2002 to 2017) - Trends[60]

Age Groups	2008 Total		2011 Total		2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 19 years	153	6%	102	6%	191	9%	201	8%
19-24 years	211	9%	221	13%	219	11%	185	8%
Youth - unknown age	0	0%	74	4%	0	0%	0	0%
25-34 years	436	18%	275	17%	332	16%	437	18%
35-44 years	726	30%	328	20%	413	20%	522	22%
45-54 years	661	28%	397	24%	512	25%	550	23%
55-64 years	180	8%	210	13%	281	14%	395	16%
65+ years	32	1%	58	3%	90	4%	123	5%
Total Respondents	**2,399**	**100%**	**1,665**	**100%**	**2,038**	**100%**	**2,413**	**100%**
No answer/not known	261		985		739		1,197	
Total	**2,660**		**2,650**		**2,777**		**3,605**	

[60] Includes age data collected from some No Fixed Address sites, including some hospitals and jails, which was not included in the preliminary report.

6.6. Veterans of Canadian Armed Forces

Table 48 shows a comparison between respondents in 2014 and 2017 who indicated they had served in the Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP. In 2017, the survey included the option to identify whether the respondent had served in the armed forces of another country.

Table 48: Veterans of Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and Other Countries - Total (2014, 2017) [61]

Canadian Armed Forces/ RCMP	2014 Total		2017 Total	
	#	%	#	%
Yes	58	6%	97	4%
No	842	94%	2050	92%
Other country's Armed Forces services	n/a	n/a	71	3%
Total Respondents	900	100%	2,218	100%

[61] In 2017 the wording of the question was changed to include 'Other country's military' as an option. This increased specificity may have impacted responses and the longitudinal comparability between 2014 and 2017 data.

7

Methodology, Implementation and Limitations

7. Methodology, Implementation and Limitations

This section describes the methodology of the 2017 Homeless Count in the Metro Vancouver region. It also provides an overview of the project management approach and implementation team, the response rate and limitations of the Homeless Count.

7.1. Point-In-Time Approach

The 2017 Homeless Count in the Metro Vancouver region followed the same basic methodology and protocols used in previous Counts in the region. The Count took place over a 24-hour period to provide a "snapshot" of homelessness in the region during that time and included both a shelter and street count as described below. To ensure consistency with previous research, the Count was conducted in early/mid-March.

Shelter Count

The shelter count took place on the evening of Tuesday, March 7, 2017. This part of the Count involved obtaining information about individuals staying overnight in emergency shelters for people experiencing homelessness, Emergency Weather Response shelters (EWRs), transition houses for women and children fleeing abuse, safe houses, detox facilities, and people with no fixed address (NFA) staying in hospitals and jails.

EWR shelters were open across the region for the first time in the Metro Vancouver regional Count's history. This represented an opportunity to ensure that these individuals were both counted and interviewed.

Volunteer interviewers were assigned to shelters unless a shelter wanted their own staff to conduct the interviews. Transition houses, youth safe houses and detox facilities chose to have staff conduct the interviews.

To ensure that the Count was as accurate as possible, each emergency shelter, transition house for women and children fleeing abuse, youth safe house and detox facility was asked to complete a Shelter Statistics form to record the total number of people who stayed overnight (March 7) and the number of people turned away. Not all clients in the shelters agreed to or were available to be surveyed; however, because of the Shelter Statistics form, some basic demographic data as well as the total number of people staying in a shelter facility were available.

Jails provided basic demographic data (age, gender and, where available, Aboriginal identity) and a tally of individuals with No Fixed Address staying in jail cells on the night of March 7.

Health authorities participated in two ways. Hospital data was collected through the relevant health authorities (Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health). Both health authorities provided a tally of individuals with no fixed address and VCH was able to provide age and gender data. For the first time both health authorities participated in interviewing patients with no fixed address in four selected hospitals, two in each Health region. These hospitals were St. Paul's and Vancouver General Hospital under Vancouver Coastal Health, and Surrey Memorial and Ridge Meadows Hospital, under Fraser Health. Selected health staff were trained on the survey and conducted interviews in both emergency rooms and

acute mental health units. Not all patients consented to be interviewed; however, health staff conducting the interviews were also provided a Shelter Statistics form to count any individuals declining to be interviewed.

A complete list of shelter and No Fixed Address locations is included in Section 7.8.

Street Count

The street count began early in the morning on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 and was implemented throughout the day and evening. The street count included a count of and interviews with individuals experiencing homelessness who were found that day and who were homeless according to the definition used by the Count, based on a set of screening questions.

The street count focused on finding people in public areas or locations where people who are homeless were likely to be found, including certain streets, alleys, parks, bottle depots, and places where services and programs were available, such as meal programs and drop-in centres. Area Co-ordinators identified these locations for each community in partnership with community agencies, outreach workers and municipal staff prior to the Count. Area Co-ordinators in communities with rural areas undertook an extended mapping process in an effort to identify homeless individuals and camps in rural and isolated areas of the region. This led to the addition of some routes in rural areas, where in previous years the primary focus had been on urban centres and population clusters.

Volunteer interviewers, working in teams of two, were assigned to specific locations and given maps and/or instructions to look for people who were homeless and to conduct a survey. Most volunteer shifts ranged from about two to three hours.

As part of the street survey, respondents were asked where they had stayed the previous night. The purpose was to determine if the individual "screened in" (i.e. met the definition of homeless being used for the Count) and qualified for the rest of the survey. Individuals who reported staying in a shelter, safe house, transition house, detox, or hospital were screened out because they would have been included as part of the shelter count. People who stayed at someone else's place were considered homeless and "screened in."[62]

Survey Design and Administration

Two survey instruments were used for the Homeless Count: a street survey and shelter survey. They are similar and can be reviewed in Section 7.9.

A few new questions were asked for the first time in a Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver and these are discussed in the report. Some survey questions were modified slightly to conform to the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy survey wording, but it was determined by the survey committee that

[62] Youth under the age of 25 who were living at home with a parent were not considered homeless, whereas an adult "couch surfing" at their parent's home was considered homeless. This was based on the assumption that youth were more likely to be able to live at home with their parents than adults.

this would not substantively change the comparability of responses. Some key changes to the survey include:

- Aboriginal identity was asked, as in the past, but additional options for self-identification were included.
- In 2017 the gender question was changed to reflect current concepts of gender identity. Gender indicators were asked in two questions: one which focused on personal gender identity (man/woman/another gender identity) and a second on whether an individual identified as transgender.
- In the past, volunteers have been asked to observe medical conditions (addiction, mental illness, etc.). The option for volunteers to record their own perceptions of individuals' medical conditions was removed in 2017 for ethical reasons. Instead, the results of the health-related questions are based only upon an individual self-reporting. In the past self-reporting has been combined with observed/perceived medical conditions.
- Two additional questions were added to the survey: one question regarding sexual orientation and one question asking whether the individual had ever been in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

All volunteers were required to attend a two-hour training session to learn how to conduct the survey, how to approach people who are homeless, and how to stay safe during the Homeless Count. Volunteers were instructed to pick up their Count package 15 minutes before their shift from the Local Area Station. Packages included one button for each volunteer, a clipboard, plastic cover, at least 10 surveys, detailed instructions for completing the survey (which were reviewed during a training session), a blank copy of the waiver volunteers signed at the training session, general information about the Count, a pen, instructions about their route and/or a map, as well as some candies and cigarettes (to be used as an ice-breaker to establish a level of trust in order to initiate a conversation.).[63] People approached by volunteers were offered a cigarette prior to being asked to participate in a survey, rather than after completing a survey, to ensure nobody had an incentive to complete an interview more than once. Volunteers with the youth strategy were provided with bus tickets to offer to youth instead of cigarettes.

Volunteers were instructed to wear volunteer Count buttons at all times during their shift so they could be identified with the Count. Similar to Homeless Counts in previous years, other than 2011, volunteers were advised to try and wake up a person who was sleeping so the person would have the opportunity to be included in the Count. Volunteers were also instructed to stop an interview immediately if they were approached by the media and to protect the privacy of the person they were interviewing.

7.2. Volunteer Interviewers

There were 1,186 volunteers who participated in the 2017 Homeless Count. Volunteers included some professional outreach staff who were able to participate in the Count as part of their employment.

[63] At most shelters outside Vancouver and for the full street count, volunteers worked in teams of two.

Volunteers were able to register online, using FluidSurveys, where data is retained on a Canadian server. Table 49 shows the number of volunteers for each municipal sub-region for this and past Counts.

Table 49: Total Homeless Count Volunteers (2008 to 2017) by Municipal Sub-Region

Sub-Region	2008 Volunteers	2011 Volunteers	2014 Volunteers	2017 Volunteers
Burnaby	58	99	90	105
Delta	n/A	16	8	12
Langley	42	37	45	48
Ridge Meadows	18	33	40	34
New Westminster	48	70	36	46
North Shore	60	19	51	42
Richmond	51	39	54	30
Surrey/White Rock	125[64]	77	162	115/89 (Total=204)[65]
Tri-Cities	45	52	39	42
Vancouver[66]	252	173	330	335
Aboriginal Strategy	71	76	60	70
Shelter Volunteers	36	Included above	Included above	172
Total	806	691	915	1,140[67]

7.3. Additional Strategies

Aboriginal Strategy

The goal of the Aboriginal strategy was to engage with Aboriginal individuals experiencing homelessness on the day of the Count. The strategy included confirming routes where a large number of Aboriginal individuals would be present and recruiting and training 70 Aboriginal volunteers, including 10 youth, to conduct interviews on those key routes, and deploying those volunteers via participating Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee organizations. Sixty individuals, including individuals with lived experience and an additional 10 Aboriginal youth, were recruited as volunteers through the Aboriginal strategy.

Surrey Enhanced Urban Strategy (SEUS)

In order to better understand the limitations of the Point-in-Time (PiT) Count Methodology an additional strategy in the Newton area of Surrey was implemented to attempt to identify homeless individuals who were missed on Count day. A similar approach was previously implemented in Montreal's 2015 Homeless Count that included surveys for two days after their 24-Count in selected service locations.

[64] Includes Delta.
[65] 89 individuals were deployed as part of the SEUS Strategy
[66] Includes volunteers for Pacific Spirit Regional Park, in Electoral Area A. Does not include 95 shelter volunteers, which are included in the shelter volunteer total.
[67] Does not include volunteers deployed during the waterways strategy (39 people).

Surveying was continued on established routes and at partner organizations' sites for two additional days on March 9 and 10 in the Newton area of Surrey. The enhanced survey consisted of screening questions that determined whether individuals had already been counted (a) in the 24-hour count on March 8 and (b) in the follow-up survey on March 9 and 10. Nine indicators were collected (age, gender, Aboriginal identity, length of time homeless, source of income, Canadian Armed Forces service, length of time in the community, where individuals came from, Ministry of Children and Family Development care). This data set was kept separate from the 24-hour PiT count data and is discussed briefly in this report in Section 5.

Rural Strategy

As noted above, the consultants provided a strategy to implement measures intended to better serve rural areas and count individuals who are homeless in these areas. The primary means of addressing these gaps was through a strengthening of the mapping approach conducted by area co-ordinators and stakeholders in rural areas, and by allowing a longer lead time to engage with service providers and other stakeholders. Some communities also decided to host "magnet events" (e.g., comfort kits, food, outreach or nursing services might be offered) to attract individuals through the provision of services (e.g. food, clinic, cultural events). The purpose of these events is to draw individuals who may not regularly access services to areas where volunteers are present in order to be counted and interviewed.

Waterways Strategy

The purpose of the Waterways strategy was to survey individuals living on vessels around Metro Vancouver. Due to the transient and diverse nature of the population of people living aboard boats around Metro Vancouver, this strategy was limited in its success, but provided significant lessons learned for future study. For further discussion see Section 4.

This initial Waterways Count succeeded in developing an organizational structure and processes for conducting the waterways survey, which was managed by a Waterways Co-ordinator. From an initial conceptual plan, the Co-ordinator developed a stakeholder base and reached out to public organizations, government agencies and businesses to secure boats, experienced crews and targeted volunteer recruitment. Through these stakeholders, boats and crews were recruited to provide comprehensive coverage on the waterways around Metro Vancouver, including the Fraser River and its tributaries and Burrard Inlet. Boats with crews were deployed on waterways across the region, with a particular emphasis in certain areas that live-aboard boaters are known to frequent.

The Co-ordinator and stakeholders developed an approach protocol, used an adapted version of the survey and the results are kept separate from the core findings of the Homeless Count. The Waterways Count results are found in Section 4 of this report.

Youth Strategy

The youth strategy was developed in order to better engage with and count youth experiencing homelessness. There were multiple components to the youth strategy:

- Stipends were available for youth (19 to 24 years) with lived experience of homelessness to participate in the count as volunteers. Youth registered through one of the partner agencies and

served as regular volunteers assigned to routes through Area Co-ordinators. Anyone between the ages of 19 and 24 was paired with an experienced volunteer or with a team of two.

- Funds were available for youth organizations to support the activities of the Count. These activities consisted largely of connect events.
- A Co-ordinator was hired specifically for the youth strategy to recruit and manage youth volunteers in Metro Vancouver communities through youth-serving agencies.
- Strategic outreach to *all* organizations that work with youth and to engage them in the Count preparations. Funds were intended for Area Co-ordinators who contacted these organizations.
- Stipends were provided to youth safe houses to ensure training of their staff.
- Four communities piloted the deployment of surveys in schools – either in all schools (Tri-Cities) or some schools (Delta/Surrey/Langley/Burnaby – all secondary) in their district for the 2017 Homeless Count. Permission was obtained via the school board office (i.e. superintendent). Area Co-ordinators liaised with managers responsible for youth workers to co-ordinate logistics around survey deployment.
- A survey question was added regarding Ministry of Children and Family Development care to address the homeless youth currently in Ministry care.

7.4. Project Management and Implementation Team

The Homeless Count is an initiative of the Metro Vancouver Homeless Partnering Strategy Community Advisory Board (CAB). In 2017, at the request of the CAB, the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity for the Metro Vancouver region hired BC Non-Profit Housing Association in partnership with M. Thomson Consulting to provide all project management to implement the 207 Homeless Count, analyze results and develop the final reports.

As in previous years, Infocus Management Consulting served as the Aboriginal co-ordinator and co-ordinated the supplementary 2017 Aboriginal strategy, in partnership with the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee (AHSC) and Aboriginal service agencies.

The Homeless Count is a complex undertaking that requires several co-ordinating roles. In total the consultants hired 21 co-ordinators between September 2016 and March 2017. The project team is described below.

a. *Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity (HPS CE):* The HPS CE was responsible for all administrative oversight for the Count process, including convening the project team, overseeing the project consultants, managing communications and taking ownership of the data upon completion of the Count.
b. *Project Team:* A project team consisting of members of the Community Advisory Board, Community Homelessness Tables and other key stakeholder agencies provided advice on the Count methodology, survey, implementation issues, communications, data analysis, and the preliminary and final reports.
c. *Community Homelessness Tables (CHTs)/communities:* The nine CHTs played an important role in assisting the project consultants and project team to identify area co-ordinators, recruit volunteers and identify locations for the Count. The City of Vancouver assumed these functions for the Homeless

Count in Vancouver. Homeless-serving agencies and outreach teams throughout the region also contributed their expertise and knowledge to support the Homeless Count.

d. *Area Co-ordinators:* The Consultants engaged Area Co-ordinators for the nine communities to help recruit volunteer interviewers, identify locations for the street surveys, assign volunteers to the locations and specific shifts for Count day, participate in the volunteer training sessions, set up Area Stations on Count day, and return all surveys after the Count. Each community had one Area Co-ordinator except Surrey and the City of Vancouver, which had three (Surrey) or four co-ordinators (Vancouver). In 2017 an additional co-ordinator was hired for the implementation of the Enhanced Urban Strategy in Surrey.
e. *Shelter Co-ordinators:* Two Shelter Co-ordinators were responsible for co-ordinating the Homeless Count in the emergency shelters, transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, youth safe houses, and detox facilities. One Shelter Co-ordinator was responsible for Vancouver and the other was responsible for the other communities in the Metro Vancouver region. The Shelter Co-ordinators ensured that all shelter facilities participated in the Count, provided the facilities with all the information, surveys and supplies needed for the Count, assigned volunteer interviewers to their locations (if appropriate), participated in the training sessions, facilitated the participation of shelter staff in training, and ensured that all surveys and required forms were returned after the Count.[68]
f. *Youth Co-ordinator:* A Youth Co-ordinator was engaged to implement the youth strategy. The youth strategy is described above.
g. *Aboriginal Co-ordinator:* As recommended by the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee, Infocus Consulting was engaged to work with Aboriginal service providers across the region to identify locations where Aboriginal people who are homeless were likely to be found and to recruit Aboriginal volunteers to administer the survey with Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people were trained together with other volunteers.
h. *Waterways Co-ordinator:* The project consultants hired an additional co-ordinator to manage the waterways component of the Count.

7.5. Training

The consultants worked with the Area and Shelter Co-ordinators to organize 22 training sessions for the volunteers registered for the Count. An experienced local consultant conducted most of the training sessions. In addition, co-ordinators provided on-site training to many groups around the region and the Tri-Cities and Delta co-ordinators organized training for school youth workers. The large number of training sessions made it possible for more agencies and volunteers to participate in the Count. There were two designated training sessions for waterways volunteers.

[68] Some facilities wanted volunteers to conduct surveys while others preferred to have their own staff conduct the interviews.

7.6. Survey Participation Rate

Homeless Count data was collected through two streams, in line with previous Counts:

- Basic data on shelter capacity, occupancy, children and gender was obtained from shelter providers and No Fixed Address locations. This information provides the number of sheltered respondents.
- A street and shelter survey was implemented on March 8 and on the night of March 7. Screening and interview questions were asked of every person who was identified as homeless and who agreed and was able to participate in the survey. Information gathered through the survey also provides the number of street homeless.

Detailed demographic information used to establish a profile of the homeless population is only available for people who answered the survey.

Individuals chose not to participate in the survey for a number of reasons. The most common reasons provided by volunteers and service providers include privacy concerns, inability to participate (due to substance use or mental health issues), and unwillingness to participate because they may have done so in the past and their situation has not changed. For some shelters, individuals may not be present (yet) when a volunteer team is conducting surveys.

Participation Rate of Sheltered Respondents

The shelter response rate for the 2017 Homeless Count was 55%. A total of 2,463[69] individuals were interviewed in a shelter facility including emergency shelters, transition houses for women and children fleeing abuse, safe houses and detoxes. It also includes adults, unaccompanied youth and accompanied children for whom gender and age data was collected and in no fixed address facilities (hospitals, jails). A total of 1,354 individuals were surveyed.[70] This included 1,265 adults and unaccompanied youth who were interviewed in an emergency shelter, transition house for women and children fleeing abuse, youth safe house or detox facility and 89 individuals (adults, unaccompanied youth and accompanied children) who were in a hospital or jail and for whom demographic data was collected.[71]

This response rate of 55% was lower than the 2014 Homeless Count, when 59% of the sheltered respondents (1,022 out of 1,741) were surveyed. It has been suggested that finding ways to improve the response rate for the sheltered respondents should be a priority in planning for the next Homeless Count.[72]

Participation Rate of Unsheltered Respondents

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[69] This includes all respondents to interviews and individuals from no fixed address sites (jails and hospitals) for whom gender and age data was collected. It does not include the 110 accompanied children in shelters, safe houses and transition houses for whom no demographic data was collected. It does include two accompanied children from no fixed address sites where gender and age information was collected.

[70] This total can be found in table 4 (Gender Identity) and includes all adults and unaccompanied youth interviewed or captured through no fixed address data reporting in jails and hospitals. It also includes two accompanied children from no fixed address sites.

[71] Children who were accompanied by a parent were not interviewed. Data for the 100 individuals with no fixed address were provided by the hospitals and jails.

[72] Offering to place volunteers in each of the emergency shelters was an attempt to improve the response rate. However, more work is needed to address this issue.

It is not possible to provide a response rate for the unsheltered respondents because the total population is not known.

In addition to those who were identified as homeless, volunteers also initiated a survey with a minimum of 993 individuals who were “screened out." A respondent was screened out if they reported that they had already answered a survey, currently had a place to stay that they paid rent for, or had stayed in a shelter, safe house, transition house, detox or hospital (in which case they would have been included in the shelter count). These individuals are not included in the Count.

7.7. Limitations

Homeless Counts are inherently undercounts and the 2017 Homeless Count in the Metro Vancouver region was no exception. Despite best efforts to include everyone who was homeless during the Count, it is understood that some people who are homeless will be missed and some do not wish to participate. A number of service providers have expressed concern that the numbers underestimate the true extent of homelessness and are not consistent with community perceptions based on the number of people seeking services.

A number of factors, discussed below, have been identified that may have affected the results of the 2017 Homeless Count. Some of them apply to Homeless Counts in general while others are specific to the 2017 Homeless Count.

Lack of Willingness to Participate

Many people who are homeless do not want to be counted and prefer to remain hidden. People who are homeless may be tired of being surveyed and may not be willing to be surveyed since they have participated in several Counts and have not seen any changes or benefit. Stigma regarding homelessness frequently impacts a person’s willingness to participate in the Homeless Count or to be identified as homeless.

Hidden Homelessness

Service providers have expressed concern that the Homeless Count numbers underestimate the number of youth who are homeless, or who need services to end and prevent homelessness. Homeless youth are not the same as homeless adults - they are much less visible. In addition, homelessness for youth can take many forms: living in unsafe situations, couch surfing (staying temporarily with friends), as well as being out on the streets. It was also observed that many young people do not consider themselves homeless or do not want to admit they are homeless. Stigma regarding homelessness frequently impacts a person’s willingness to participate in the Homeless Count or to be identified as homeless.

The hidden homeless for the purpose of the Homeless Count also includes people who are deep in forests or parks, in nooks and crannies or in abandoned buildings where volunteers don’t find them.

Similarly, service providers have expressed concern that women who are homeless are undercounted. They may use coping strategies such as couch surfing or living in unsafe situations to avoid street homelessness.

A concern was also expressed that the Homeless Count does not include people in mental health or addiction treatment programs. It was suggested that because the majority of these individuals do not have secure housing when they leave the program, they should be counted as homeless.[73]

The Weather

The weather during the 2017 Homeless Count was particularly cold, with snow on the night of the shelter count on March 7. This led to the opening of EWR shelters, which was an opportunity to count individuals who might have been missed on the street (and would not have otherwise been able to find shelter beds). However, it also means that a large number of homeless individuals are grouped with the sheltered respondents, when in fact they may typically be more likely to be on the street for much of the year. The cold weather may have also resulted in more individuals finding coping strategies such as couch surfing to avoid sleeping on the street, and therefore remained hidden on Count day.

Geography of the Community

In the past, agencies in suburban communities have said it is particularly difficult to find people who are homeless in low density neighbourhoods, large parks, and forest areas. In 2017, the development of a rural strategy aimed to address this with mixed results: while some connect events were effective at attracting people, others met with less success. While some additional routes were effective at capturing additional individuals, in some cases the transient nature of individuals camping in rural areas made it difficult to identify with certainty where these individuals would be found on Count day.

Counting in Shelters

An increasing number of shelters are low barrier or flexible in terms of when they allow clients to enter and leave. This can make it challenging to choose a shift time for shelter volunteers, as shelter clientele may not be present during the scheduled volunteer shift.

Length of Survey

The nature of the survey itself also presents limitations regarding participation and response rates. The survey added questions in 2017 without substantively cutting any other questions from 2014, thus resulting in a longer survey than in 2014. The longer length of the survey presented a barrier to some individuals. It is highly recommended that the survey be reviewed for length as part of the next Homeless Count.

Volunteers found some new questions, such as the question on sexual orientation, uncomfortable to ask. Others reported a negative response from individuals being interviewed. This may have also impacted response rates.

[73] People in the treatment programs are not included in the Count because they may remain in the program for more than 30 days, which does not meet the definition of homeless used for the Count. The Count does, however, include people with no fixed address who are in a detox facility.

Emergency Weather Response Shelters

As noted above, EWR shelter openings presented an opportunity to enumerate individuals who might have otherwise been on the street and chosen not to participate. However, logistically it also posed some problems:

- Surveying at EWR shelters required additional volunteers who were on standby until a final call was made, the day before the Count.
- Separating EWR shelter clients from regular shelter clients was attempted, in order to ensure that we are able to conduct a separate analysis on those individuals. However, in three to four shelters this proved logistically difficult (and in two of those was impossible and EWR shelter surveys were co-mingled with regular shelter surveys).

Other Limitations and Considerations

In addition to the limitations discussed above, which could impact participation and response rates, several limitations regarding the survey questions themselves and data analysis should be noted.

- Questions with long lists of options are likely to receive less accurate responses. For example, an individual answering the question regarding service use may not accurately remember all the services used in the last year.
- In the income question, there are several categories (income assistance, disability benefit and other pension) that overlap. Some individuals may receive a disability pension, for example, that could be identified by individuals as either a disability benefit or a pension.
- In many tables there is a line for “No answer/not known.” This includes both individuals who declined to answer the question but may have completed the rest of the survey, and those individuals who did not answer the survey at all, but were counted through shelter statistics forms.
- The 2014 Count noted that some data from 2011 is inconsistent with previous trends and may be less reliable than 2008 data for the purpose of identifying trends and making comparisons.
- The final two questions regarding episodic homelessness were not clear for many individuals. While they responded clearly to the question “Is this your first period of homelessness,” the follow up question “How many times in the past year have you been homeless, including this time?” was not answered clearly and therefore data is not included in this report.

7.8. List of Shelters and No Fixed Address Sites

	Shelter Name	Community	Type of Shelter
1	Burnaby- EWR Shelter Program Westminster Bible Chapel Operated by Lookout Society	Burnaby	EWR
2	Dixon House	Burnaby	Transition House
3	Fraserdale Short Stay Program Fraserside Community Services Society	Burnaby	Shelter
4	Ishtar Transition house	City of Langley	Transition House
5	Langley- EWR Shelter Program The Salvation Army Gateway of Hope	City of Langley	EWR
6	Langley- Temporary Winter Shelter Program The Salvation Army Gateway of Hope	City of Langley	Shelter
7	Langley- Year Round Shelter Program The Salvation Army Gateway of Hope	City of Langley	Shelter
8	Hollyburn North Shore Seniors Safe House	City of North Vancouver	Safe House
9	Hollyburn North Shore Youth Safe House	City of North Vancouver	Safe House
10	Northshore- Backup EWR Shelter Program Northshore Neighborhood House	City of North Vancouver	EWR
11	Northshore- Primary EWR Shelter Program Northshore Shelter EWR	City of North Vancouver	EWR
12	Northshore- Year Round Shelter Program Northshore Shelter	City of North Vancouver	Shelter
13	Sage Transition House	City of North Vancouver	Transition House
14	Monarch Place	New Westminster	Transition House
15	New Westminster- EWR Program Cliff Block Residence	New Westminster	EWR
16	New Westminster- EWR Women's Shelter Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver	New Westminster	EWR
17	New Westminster- Year Round Family Shelter Program Fraserside Emergency Family Shelter	New Westminster	Shelter
18	New Westminster- Year Round Men's Shelter Program The Russell Housing Centre	New Westminster	Shelter
19	New Westminster- Year Round Men's Shelter Program The Salvation Army Stevenson House for Men	New Westminster	Shelter
21	New Westminster- Year Round Women's Shelter Elizabeth Gurney House	New Westminster	Shelter
22	Nova Transition House	Richmond	Transition House
23	Richmond- EWR Shelter Program Saint Alban Anglican Church - Inn from the Cold	Richmond	EWR
24	Richmond- EWR Shelter Program The Salvation Army Richmond House EWR	Richmond	EWR
25	Richmond- Year Round Men's Shelter Program The Salvation Army Richmond House	Richmond	Shelter
26	Cythera Transition House	Ridge Meadows	Transition House
27	Maple Ridge- EWR Shelter Program Caring Place	Ridge Meadows	EWR
28	Maple Ridge- Temporary Winter Shelter Program RainCity Housing and Support Society	Ridge Meadows	Shelter
29	Maple Ridge- Year Round Shelter Program The Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries	Ridge Meadows	Shelter
30	All Nations Youth Safe House (Kla-how-eya)	Surrey	Safe House
31	Ama Transition House	Surrey	Transition House

32	Evergreen Transition House	Surrey	Transition House
33	Surrey EWR Program Cloverdale Community Kitchen	Surrey	EWR
34	Surrey- EWR Program SUMS Shelter, Surrey Urban Mission Society	Surrey	EWR
35	Surrey- EWR Youth Shelter Program Operated by Pacific Community Resources	Surrey	EWR
36	Surrey Temporary Shelter Program Positive Haven C/O Gateway Shelter	Surrey	EWR
37	Surrey- Temporary Winter Shelter Program Boulevard Shelter	Surrey	Shelter
38	Surrey Temporary Winter Shelter Program Parkway Shelter	Surrey	Shelter
39	Surrey- Temporary Winter Shelter Program SUMS Shelter, Surrey Urban Mission Society	Surrey	Shelter
40	Surrey- Women's EWR Program Nightshift Ministries EWR	Surrey	EWR
41	Surrey Year Round Shelter Program Gateway Shelter	Surrey	Shelter
42	Surrey Year Round Shelter Program Hyland House Cloverdale Shelter	Surrey	Shelter
43	Surrey Year Round Shelter Program Hyland House Newton EWR	Surrey	EWR
44	Surrey Year Round Shelter Program Hyland House Newton	Surrey	Shelter
45	Surrey Year Round Shelter Program The 104th Guilford Shelter	Surrey	Shelter
46	Surrey- Year Round Women's Shelter Program Sheena's Place	Surrey	Shelter
47	Surrey- Year Round Women's Shelter Program Cynthia's House	Surrey	Shelter
48	Surrey/White Rock EWR Shelter Program First United White Rock EWR	Surrey	EWR
49	Virginia Sam	Surrey	Transition House
51	Libra Transition House (Ishtar)	Township of Langley	Transition House
52	Joys Place Transition House	Tri-Cities	Transition House
53	TriCities- EWR Shelter Program RainCity Housing and Support Society	Tri-Cities	EWR
54	TriCities- Year Round Shelter Program RainCity Housing and Support Society	Tri-Cities	Shelter
55	412 Women's Emergency Shelter	Vancouver	Shelter
56	Aboriginal Shelter (co-ed)	Vancouver	Shelter
57	Aboriginal Youth Safehouse	Vancouver	Safe House
58	Anderson Women's Healing Lodge	Vancouver	Transition House
59	Bloom Group - Powell Place	Vancouver	Shelter
60	Bloom Group - Springhouse family shelter	Vancouver	Shelter
61	Catholic Charities (men's)	Vancouver	Shelter
62	Catholic Charities (men's) Temporary Night time shelter	Vancouver	Temporary Nighttime Shelter
63	Cordova Street Shelter @49 W. Cordova (PHS) (Winter Response Shelter) (co-ed)	Vancouver	Winter Response Shelter
64	Covenant House - female shelter	Vancouver	Shelter
65	Covenant House - male shelter	Vancouver	Shelter

66	Directions (youth safehouse)	Vancouver	Safe House
67	Directions EWR Shelter	Vancouver	EWR
68	Directions Winter Response Shelter (FSGV)	Vancouver	Winter Response Shelter
69	Evelyne Saller Centre	Vancouver	EWR
70	First Avenue Shelter (Raincity) (Winter response shelter) (co-ed)	Vancouver	Winter Response Shelter
71	First Baptist Church (co-ed)	Vancouver	Shelter
72	First United Church (co-ed)	Vancouver	Shelter
73	Gathering Place	Vancouver	Temporary Nighttime Shelter
74	Helping Spirit Lodge	Vancouver	Transition House
75	Hornby (Raincity) (Winter response shelter) (co-ed)	Vancouver	Winter Response Shelter
76	Kate Booth House	Vancouver	Transition House
77	Lookout - Yukon Shelter (co-ed)	Vancouver	Shelter
78	Lookout Downtown (co-ed) (Al Mitchell Place)	Vancouver	Shelter
79	New Fountain, PHS (co-ed)	Vancouver	Shelter
80	Raincity - Triage (co-ed)	Vancouver	Shelter
81	Salvation Army, Temp. Winter Shelter (Winter Response Shelter) (co-ed) ("The Chapel" / "Cafeteria")	Vancouver	Temporary Nighttime Shelter
82	Salvation Army, Anchor of Hope (co-ed) (Winter Response Shelter)	Vancouver	Winter Response Shelter
83	Salvation Army, Beacon (men's) (Regular shelter @138 E. Cordova Street)	Vancouver	Shelter
84	Salvation Army, Beacon/winter shelter (Winter Response Shelter) (men only)	Vancouver	Winter Response Shelter
85	Salvation Army, Belkin House - Downtown Community Court	Vancouver	Shelter
86	Salvation Army, Belkin House (not co-ed)	Vancouver	Shelter
87	Salvation Army, Belkin House EWR	Vancouver	EWR
88	Salvation Army, Crosswalk (co-ed) (Regular shelter)	Vancouver	Shelter
89	Salvation Army, Haven (men's) (Regular shelter)	Vancouver	Shelter
90	Sister Space (Atira) women only	Vancouver	Temporary Nighttime Shelter
91	St. Mark's Church	Vancouver	EWR
92	Union Gospel Mission (men's)	Vancouver	EWR
93	Union Gospel Mission (men's)	Vancouver	Shelter
94	Vancouver Rape Relief + Women's Shelter	Vancouver	Transition House
95	Vi Fineday family shelter	Vancouver	Shelter

8. Appendices

The following appendices are presented in the below order

8.1. 2017 Indigenous Homelessness Report

This report serves as a standalone report and as the section on Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Homeless Count Report.

8.2. 2017 Veterans Homelessness Brief

This brief serves as a snapshot to highlight findings of homelessness among veterans in the Metro Vancouver region.

8.3. 2017 Gender Homelessness Brief

This brief serves as a snapshot to highlight variations between gender groups and their experience of homelessness.

8.4. 2017 Seniors Homelessness Brief

This brief serves as a snapshot to highlight the status of seniors experiencing homelessness.

8.5. 2017 Lower Mainland (FVRD + MVRD) Homelessness Report

This report combines compares and contrasts information from 2017 homeless counts in the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) and the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD). Its goal is to highlight differences and similarities between both Lower Mainland regions and its communities with regards to the people experiencing homelessness.

8.6. 2017 Municipal/ Sub-Regional Homelessness Briefs

These briefs contain findings from the 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver pertaining to the city of Burnaby, the city of Surrey and the community of Ridge Meadows (Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows).

How to cite this report

About the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS):

The federal government has provided resources to address homelessness since the 2000's - including the triennial Metro Vancouver regional Homeless Counts 2002-2017. Under an agreement with the Government of Canada, the Metro Vancouver Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) Community Entity (MV CE) administers funding and manages projects awarded HPS funds. The MV CE works closely with the local HPS Community Advisory Board (CAB) in the funding awards process. Within the parameters of the HPS Community Plan, the CAB sets the annual funding priorities and targets, and sets the terms of reference for each call for proposals, reviews and recommends proposals. The CAB allocated funds and set the Terms of Reference for the 2017 Homeless Count, the sixth in the Metro Vancouver region.

This report can be found on the Metro Vancouver Community Entity website, along with other reports generated from the 2017 Homeless Count and previous regional Homeless Counts: http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/resources/Pages/default.aspx

For further information and data, contact: HPSCE-MV@metrovancouver.org

To cite this Metro Vancouver Community Entity report:

> B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association and M.Thomson Consulting. (2017). *2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver.* Prepared for the Metro Vancouver Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity. Burnaby, BC: Metro Vancouver.

Or:

Author:	BC Non-Profit Housing Association & M.Thomson Consulting
Year published:	2017
Title:	"2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver"
City:	Burnaby
Publisher:	Metro Vancouver Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity
Website:	http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/resources/Pages/default.aspx

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BC Non-Profit Housing Association:

BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) is the provincial umbrella organization for the non-profit housing sector, providing programs, services, research and education to strengthen the capacity of non-profit housing providers. Together non-profit housing societies manage more than 60,000 units of long-term, affordable housing in over 2,000 buildings across the province.

BCNPHA's research arm was established in 2008 to conduct evidenced-based research that supports the non-profit housing sector and demonstrates the need and value of affordable housing in communities across the province.

Our research mandate includes issues impacting the whole housing spectrum and has helped to inform planning and policy decisions that affect the supply of affordable housing for a broad range of BC residents. Find more information at http://bcnpha.ca/programs-and-services/research-consulting/ or contact us at research@bcnpha.ca.

M.Thomson Consulting:

M.Thomson Consulting is a housing and homelessness-focused sole-proprietor consulting practice operated by Matt Thomson since 2010. Over the years Matt has worked with a range of agencies and organizations in the field of housing and homeless research, including non-profits, municipal and regional governments, the provincial government and the federal Homeless Partnering Strategy. Matt's work has spanned the province, having worked in Northwestern BC, the Lower Columbia Region, Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, the Sunshine Coast, Metro Vancouver and Victoria.

Matt has implemented Homeless Counts in Terrace, Smithers and the City of Vancouver, and conducted research on homelessness across the province.

Matt holds a Master of Arts in Planning from the University of British Columbia, and a Bachelor of English Literature from the University of Victoria. Please contact Matt at mthomson@gmail.com.