



Metro Vancouver Homeless Count 2011 Preliminary Report

TOTAL HOMELESS POPULATION

- A total of 2,623 people were found to be homeless on March 16 according to initial results from the 2011 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count. This included ‘unsheltered homeless’ or people who were found outside on the street, in parks, at drop-in programs and ‘sheltered homeless’ or those who spent the night in shelters, safe houses, transition houses, hospitals, jails, remand centres, and detox and recovery facilities.
 - Overall, there was a 1% decrease since the 2008 Count when the total number of people found homeless was 2,660.

- Compared to 2008, the 2011 data shows a reduction in the number of unsheltered homeless people (e.g. on the streets, parks) and an increase in the number of homeless people who are spending their nights in sheltered locations.
 - In 2011, 731 homeless people were found to be unsheltered, representing a 54% decrease since 2008 when 1,574 unsheltered homeless people were counted.
 - In 2011, 1,892 homeless people were sheltered including 1,783 people who stayed in shelters, safe houses, transition houses, and 109 people with no fixed address (NFA) who stayed in hospitals, jails, remand centres, detox and recovery facilities. This represents a 74% increase since 2008, when 1,086 homeless people were counted as sheltered.
 - In 2011, 163 people were observed as homeless (compared to 398 in 2008). As in 2008, the observed homeless are not included in the total homeless number, as they were not interviewed and could have been counted elsewhere during the process.

Table 1: Unsheltered & Sheltered Homeless Populations in Metro Vancouver by Sub-Region (2011)

Sub-Region	Unsheltered	Sheltered		TOTAL
		Emergency Facilities ¹	No Fixed Address ²	
Burnaby	69	4 ³	0	73
Delta	5	0	0	5
Langley	60	44	1	105
Maple Ridge	61	40	1	102
New Westminster	39	82	3	124
North Shore	52	65	0	117
Richmond	33	15	0	48
Surrey	231	152	5	388
Tri-Cities	27	19	1	47
Vancouver	145	1362	98	1605
Unspecified	9	0	0	9
Sub-Total	731	1783	109	2623
TOTAL	731	1892		2623

¹ Those found in ‘emergency facilities’ include those staying in emergency shelters, youth safe houses and transition houses. This number also includes 54 children under the age of 19 who were accompanied by adults.

² Persons with no fixed address (NFA) who stayed in a hospital, detox centers, or police departments during the night of the survey on March 15.

³ Although Burnaby does not operate a permanent shelter, the Extreme Weather Response shelter was open on the evening of March 15.

Table 2: Changes in the Unsheltered Homeless Population in Metro Vancouver (2008 to 2011)

Sub-Region	2008 Unsheltered	2011 Unsheltered	Actual Change	% Change
Burnaby	77	69	-8	-10%
Delta	11	5	-6	-55%
Langley	74	60	-14	-19%
Maple Ridge	40	61	21	53%
New Westminster	72	39	-33	-46%
North Shore	63	52	-11	-17%
Richmond	37	33	-4	-11%
Surrey	307	231	-76	-25%
Tri-Cities	76	27	-49	-64%
Vancouver	815	145	-670	-82%
Unspecified	2	9	7	—
Total	1574	731	-843	-54%

- Compared to 2008, there was a 54% decrease in the number of unsheltered homeless people found on March 16.
 - Vancouver experienced an 82% reduction in the number of unsheltered homeless people, which is a 670 person reduction.
 - Across the communities in Metro Vancouver, Surrey had the largest number of unsheltered homeless with a total of 231 people, followed by Vancouver with 145 people.

Table 3: Changes in the Sheltered Homeless Population in Metro Vancouver (2008 to 2011)

Sub Region	2008 Sheltered	2011 Sheltered ⁴	Actual Change	% Change
Burnaby	9	4	-5	-56%
Delta ⁵	6	0	n/a	n/a
Langley	12	45	33	275%
Maple Ridge	50	41	-9	-18%
New Westminster	52	85	33	63%
North Shore	60	65	5	8%
Richmond	19	15	-4	-21%
Surrey	95	157	62	65%
Tri-Cities	18	20	2	11%
Vancouver	765	1460	695	91%
Total	1086	1892	806	74%

- The overall sheltered homeless population increased by 74% or 806 people between 2008 and 2011.
 - The largest concentration of sheltered homeless was found in Vancouver, where 1,460 sheltered people who were homeless were counted. This represents a 91% or 695 person increase since 2008.
 - Besides Vancouver, the communities of Langley, Surrey and New Westminister also experienced significant increases in the number of sheltered people who were homeless with 275%, 65%, and 63%, respectively.

⁴ Sheltered totals include 54 accompanied children and 109 NFA numbers. NFA numbers were not included in 2008 data.

⁵ The 2008 Cold/Wet Weather shelter open during the 2008 Count was not operating on the evening of March 15.

ABORIGINAL AND YOUTH HOMELESS POPULATIONS

- Aboriginal and youth numbers in Table 4 and 5 are part of the total homeless numbers. These numbers may include cross-sections of both Aboriginal and youth numbers.

Table 4: Proportion of Aboriginal Homeless Populations by Sub-Region (2011)

Sub-Region	Unsheltered		Sheltered		Total	
	# Aboriginal	% of Total	# Aboriginal	% of Total	# Aboriginal	% of Total
Burnaby	8	12%	1	25%	9	12%
Langley	12	20%	5	11%	17	16%
Maple Ridge	11	18%	4	10%	15	15%
New Westminister	11	28%	18	21%	29	23%
North Shore	13	25%	8	12%	21	18%
Richmond	10	30%	1	7%	11	23%
Surrey	69	30%	26	17%	95	24%
Tri-Cities	4	15%	3	15%	7	15%
Vancouver	52	36%	376	26%	428	27%
Unspecified	3				3	
Total	193	27%	442	23%	635	24%

- A total of 635 Aboriginal people were found to be homeless on March 16, 2011. This represents a 7% decrease compared to 2008 when 683 homeless Aboriginal people were found.
 - 67% of the total number of homeless Aboriginal people counted was found in Vancouver, followed by 15% in Surrey.

Table 5: Youth Homeless Populations by Sub-Region (2008-2011)⁶

Sub-Region	2011 Youth Sheltered ⁷	2011 Youth Unsheltered	2011 Youth Total	2008 Youth Total	2008-2011 # Change
Burnaby	0	7	7	5	2
Langley	6	16	22	9	13
Maple Ridge	6	23	29	7	22
New Westminister	12	3	15	0	15
North Shore	3	15	18	13	5
Richmond	2	10	12	0	12
Surrey	9	31	40	53	-13
Tri-Cities	1	7	8	18	-10
Vancouver	121	73	194	154	40
Unspecified	0	4	4	11	-7
Total	160	189	349	270	79

- A total of 349 unaccompanied youth (under the age of 25) were counted as homeless in 2011.
 - This is a 29% increase since 2008, when 270 homeless youth were identified.

⁶ Youth numbers include unaccompanied youth under the age of 25. The strategy to locate unaccompanied youth who were homeless on count day was enhanced for 2011.

⁷ Shelter numbers include 14 NFA Youth.