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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 4/1/2026 5:19:07 PM

Subject: Memo to Mayor & Council: 2025 Homeless Count - Vancouver

Attachments: ACCS - GM - Memo - (Council) - 2025 Homeless Count - Vancouver (2026-04-01).pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached is a memo from Margaret Wittgens, GM Arts, Culture and Community Services that provides advance information on the Vancouver specific data from the 2025 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count, prior to a report being presented to City Council at the April 14, 2026 meeting.

- Homelessness continues to be a growing and persistent challenge in Vancouver and communities across the region. The survey findings point to lack of income and eviction as primary drivers for housing loss.
- The City continues to partner with governments and non-profit organizations to identify and activate additional spaces and enhance services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Vancouver.
- Staff also continue to emphasize the need for expanded regional delivery of housing, mental health, and social services to address root causes, reduce system pressures, and support more balanced and effective responses across the region.

If you have any questions please contact Margaret and she will provide a response through the weekly Councillor Q&A or will be prepared to respond in advance of or on April 16.

Thank you,
Sandra

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the x̱məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and Sel̓ílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

April 1, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Chris Freek, Director of Civic Engagement & Communications
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Teresa Jong, Administrative Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Margaret Wittgens
General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: 2025 Homeless Count - Vancouver

RTS #: 18460

Purpose and Executive Summary

This memo provides advance information on the 2025 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count, prior to a report that will be presented to City Council at the April 14, 2026, meeting. We are sharing the information in advance as we are aware there has been some recent media interest in the count results.

The memo provides Vancouver specific data from the 2025 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count. While primary responsibility for homelessness response and service delivery rests with the provincial and federal governments, the scale and impacts of homelessness in Vancouver have had significant effects on residents, neighbourhoods, and local services. As a result, the City has traditionally played a complementary role by contributing targeted resources, policies, and regulatory measures to support senior governments' efforts and to help mitigate local impacts where feasible. Accordingly, this memo also includes a summary of the City's ongoing programs, services, and initiatives related to homelessness response in which the City is a contributor.

Context and Background

Homelessness

Homelessness continues to be one of the most significant challenges facing Vancouver today. While its impacts are acutely felt locally, it is not unique to Vancouver as communities across the region, province, country and North America are experiencing similar pressures. The drivers of homelessness are complex and multifaceted. Key contributors include:

- **Structural factors** such as a lack of affordable housing, insufficient mental health and addictions services, lack of sufficient income supports or employment programming, and ongoing stigma and discrimination in programs and services are drivers of homelessness.
- **System failures** such as gaps within public systems, including child welfare, criminal justice, social, health or other systems are also contributors to homelessness. When these systems fail to provide appropriate discharge planning and supports or transition planning and supports, individuals must seek homelessness services sector for support when homelessness could have been prevented.
- **Individual factors** can also play a role, including intergenerational trauma such as the impacts of residential school system, traumatic events (e.g., house fire or job loss), personal crisis (e.g. family break-up or domestic violence), mental health and substance use challenges (including brain injury and fetal alcohol syndrome), and/or lack of family and relational support systems. Any of these individual stressors or vulnerabilities could cause or contribute to someone falling into homelessness or create challenges to staying housed without additional supports.

Homelessness is devastating for individuals, undermining physical and mental health, personal safety, and social and family connections. As time without housing extends, these harms intensify – health deteriorates, trauma accumulates, and relationships with supports and services weaken – making recovery increasingly complex. At the same time, widespread homelessness affects communities and neighbourhoods by placing pressure on emergency services, health care, and public spaces, and by contributing to visible distress, safety concerns, and reduced community well-being. These impacts underscore the importance of timely prevention, early intervention, and sustained supports for both individuals and the broader community.

While the drivers of homelessness are complex, Preventing and addressing homelessness requires three foundational and interconnected elements: housing, income, and supports:

- **Housing** provides the essential stability and safety people need to recover and rebuild their lives; without it, all other interventions are far less effective.
- Adequate and reliable **income** enables individuals to meet basic needs, maintain housing, and reduce reliance on emergency systems.
- **Supports** – such as mental health and addictions care, health services, employment assistance, and culturally appropriate, trauma-informed programs – help people address underlying challenges and sustain long-term housing stability.

Together, housing, income, and supports form a comprehensive approach: housing creates stability, income provides security and purpose, and appropriate supports enable people to remain housed and thrive.

Point In Time Homeless Counts:

Point-in-Time (PiT) homeless counts have been conducted every three years in the region since 2005 (between 2010 and 2020 Vancouver conducted annual counts in the intervening years). The most recent 2025 count is the third time all the counts aligned –federal, provincial and regional - in the same year.

PiT counts provide a 24-hour snapshot of people who are experiencing homelessness, including important baseline information on the estimated number, key demographic characteristics, and service provision needs, as well as trends in the data over time. While PiT counts are understood to be an undercount (estimated as much as 20%¹) and represent only those individuals identified during the 24-hour period, it is an accepted methodological tool for collecting data on homelessness at a single Point-in-Time, to provide an overview about on-going trends.

2025 Homeless Count Total

On March 10 and 11, 2025, the City of Vancouver participated in the [Metro Vancouver Homeless Count](#) organized by the Greater Vancouver designated Community Entity, Lu'ma Native Housing Society and administered by the Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC).

Discussion

This section summarizes the key findings of the 2025 homeless count and highlights trends in the data. Details of the count are provided in Appendix A.

General Trends

Across the Metro region, the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness reached an all-time high of 5,200 in 2025 (up 9% from the 2023 count), with the leading causes for housing loss including not enough income, substance use challenges and evictions.

In Vancouver, the number of people experiencing homelessness reached 2,715 (up 12% from the 2023 count): 763 respondents identified as unsheltered and 1,952 people were staying in sheltered locations, including emergency shelters, detox centres, transition houses, and hospitals or police facilities, with no fixed address. The Count data highlights that respondents who identify as Indigenous, Black, women, and/or seniors homeless for the first time are at a disproportionate risk. Percentages are based on valid responses to each specific question. These increases are consistent with the growth trend since regional point-in time homeless counts began in 2005, with the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the region from 2005 to 2025 increasing by 141%. Comparatively, Statistics Canada estimates that the Vancouver census metropolitan area's total population from 2005 to 2024 has increased by 44%.²

According to the Count, Vancouver is home to over half the Metro region's homeless population compared to only a quarter of the Metro region's total population living in the city.

Prevalence of Long-Term Homelessness

The data shows that when individuals become homeless, they are increasingly likely to be homeless for a longer period of time. Seventy-nine percent (79%, n=1,105) of survey respondents indicated they had been homeless for one year or more compared to 71% (n=762) in the 2023 count. Survey respondents who are unsheltered are more likely to experience instances of homelessness longer than a year compared to sheltered respondents (87% for unsheltered (n=543) compared to 73% for sheltered respondents (n=562)).

¹ Chris Glynn†, Thomas H. Byrne, and Dennis P. Culhane "Quantifying uncertainty in HUD estimates of homelessness" estimated that PiT counts undercount by roughly 20% and propose a refined methodology that can be used to provide for developing and reporting uncertainty estimates for future PIT counts.

² [Population estimates, July 1, by census metropolitan area and census agglomeration, 2021 boundaries](#)

Length of Time in Vancouver

While 31% (n=419) of survey respondents reported living in Vancouver for less than 5 years, over half of respondents have been living in the City of Vancouver for at least ten years or more (n=736) and 20% (n=276) of those respondents have been living in Vancouver for their entire life. This is consistent across the Metro Vancouver region and previous counts and highlights the need for services for people in all Metro Vancouver communities. Additionally, 22% (n=250) of survey respondents first became homeless outside of Vancouver, where there are fewer housing and homelessness services to support them. This is consistent with results from the 2023 Count.

Gender, Sexual Orientation and Trans Experience

Although survey respondents primarily identify as men, there was an increase in the percentage of respondents who identified as women: 28% in 2025 (n=458) compared to 23% in 2023 (n=268). Despite this increase, it is worth noting that women are less likely to be counted as they are more likely to be hidden, stay temporarily with friends or family and difficult to find and survey for the count. The majority of respondents identified as straight, and five percent (n=68) identified having trans experience.

Indigenous Identity

Individuals who identify as Indigenous continue to be overrepresented in the Homeless Count which highlights the ongoing impacts of colonialism and intergenerational trauma experienced by many Indigenous peoples. Forty-two percent (42%, n=660) of respondents in the 2025 count identified as Indigenous (up from 39%, n=440 in 2023). It is also important to note that Indigenous respondents are more likely to be unsheltered: 51% (n=344) of respondents who identified as Indigenous were unsheltered compared to 35% (n=316) of sheltered respondents.

Of respondents who identified as Indigenous, 70% (n=359) identified experience with Residential Schools, including nine percent (n=48) who had been in residential schools themselves.

Age

Homelessness impacts people of all ages. Consistent with previous counts, adults (77%, n=1,181) represent the largest proportion of survey respondents, while almost half of respondents experienced homelessness for the first time while in their youth (n=636).

For seniors specifically, 40% (n=95) experienced homelessness for the first time as a senior, meaning until they were 55 years old, they did not have any experiences of homelessness.

Income and Eviction Leading Reasons for Housing Loss

There are many reasons why people may become homeless, with the most prevalent survey responses being not enough income, substance use issues, and/ or conflict or abuse by other people. Forty-two percent (42%, n=527) of respondents indicated that their most recent housing loss was due to an eviction. This is the first time that a separate question focusing on eviction was included

Income Supports Not Meeting the Needs for People Experiencing Homelessness

For the first time in the 2025 Count, respondents were asked specifically if they were or were not on Income Assistance (or disability assistance). This was asked separately to understand what percentage of respondents receive some form of income assistance. The vast majority

(83%, n=1,163)) indicated they were on at least one form of government assistance. Respondents were then asked if they have other sources of income. GST Refunds, informal employment and money from family/friends were the next most common responses.

Racial Identify

Black and African diaspora respondents disproportionately experience homelessness. Black individuals make up nine percent (n=143) of the respondents in the Count yet only 1% of Vancouver's overall population. This is an increase from seven percent (n=74) in 2023.

Health Conditions and Youth in Care

Thirty-eight percent (38%, 525) of respondents reported experience as a youth in Ministry Care. Forty four percent (44%, n=641) of respondents identified having a medical condition/illness, 35% (n=516) reported a physical disability and 26% (n=375) reported living with impaired learning, intellectual, cognitive, or developmental function.

Mental health conditions are widespread (61%, n=889) as is substance use (69%, n=1,011). These self-reported health conditions are prevalent at a higher rate among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (compared to those that are sheltered). Additionally, 23% (n=329) of respondents reported having an acquired brain injury.

Programs and Services to Respond to Homelessness

City of Vancouver Responses to Homelessness

The City of Vancouver has demonstrated sustained leadership in responding to homelessness and mental health and substance use (MHSU) challenges through policy development, strategic partnerships, and significant land, capital, and operating investments. In collaboration with senior government, Vancouver Coastal Health, and non-profit organizations, the City has supported emergency shelters, supportive and social housing, outreach services, harm reduction initiatives, and integrated community-based crisis response. Vancouver has enabled more than 1,400 year-round shelter spaces, including seven shelters on City owned land (approximately 370 beds). Additionally, since 2017 Vancouver has committed 48 City-owned sites to support the development of over 4,900 units of social and supportive housing. Over 2,800 of these units have completed to date, with the balance nearing construction or already underway. An additional 12 City-sites will be advanced in 2026. In 2023, Council also approved up to \$8 million annually to expand targeted MHSU service enhancements.

The longitudinal data provided by the homeless count continues to help inform policy, programs and services needed to respond to homelessness. The City is in a unique position to identify local needs and advocate for senior government investments and legislative change. The City also plays an important role in:

- Land use policy and regulation to enable the development of temporary shelters, as well as social and supportive housing and to manage change in the SRO stock through the SRA and Vacancy Control by-laws.
- Investments through grants to social service organizations and the provision of land/City-owned spaces to support shelter activation and the creation of services (e.g. Wellness Centre by Watari at 320 Alexander and storage program by Aboriginal Front Door at 390 Main Street), and
- Direct service provision through Homelessness Services, and City-operated social service centres such as Gathering Place, Evelyne Saller and Carnegie Community Centre.

Appendix B highlights some of the programs and services provided over the last year.

Regional Responses to Homelessness

Despite the City's efforts, the homelessness and MHSU crises continue to intensify, with Vancouver experiencing a disproportionately high per capita impact relative to the region. This reflects Vancouver's function as the urban centre of the region, including the location of many government programs and services, as well as the more limited availability of comparable housing, treatment, and support and shelter services in other parts of the region. As a result, while increasing across the region, pressures related to homelessness and acute MHSU challenges continue to be more concentrated in Vancouver, relative to our regional population share, with impacts felt by individuals, neighbourhoods, local businesses, and City services.

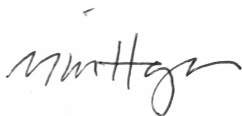
While the City maintains compassionate and evidence-based responses to homelessness, long-term solutions will require greater coordination across the region and a more balanced regional delivery of housing, shelters, treatment, and support services to help ensure people can access appropriate services closer to their home communities, and reduce the reliance on services in Vancouver, and support more equitable and effective outcomes region-wide.

Appendix C includes some cursory data analysis of regional comparisons.

FINAL REMARKS

Homelessness continues to be a growing and persistent challenge in Vancouver and communities across the region. Overall, the 2025 count data shows an increase in the total number of people experiencing homelessness, an increasing proportion of those identifying as women and continued overrepresentation of people identifying as Indigenous. The survey points to lack of income and eviction as primary drivers for housing loss. Factors including a lack of affordable housing, legacy of colonization and Residential School, racism, and health system and child protection gaps are larger systemic and structural issues that continue to drive homelessness in the region.

In response, the City continues to work in partnership with senior governments and non-profit organizations to identify and activate additional spaces and enhance services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Vancouver. Staff also continue to emphasize the need for expanded regional delivery of housing, mental health, and social services to address root causes, reduce system pressures, and support more balanced and effective responses across the region.



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APPENDIX A 2025 HOMELESS COUNT RESULT DATA

Metro Vancouver: Total Residents Experiencing Homelessness – 2023/2025

- A total of 5,232 people experiencing homelessness in Metro Vancouver
- Highest PiT count recorded in Metro Vancouver (up 9% from 2023).

Table 1: Total Residents Experiencing Homelessness – 2023/2025 – Metro Vancouver

Sub Region	2023	2025	Change #	Change %
Burnaby	209	205	-4	-2%
Delta	44	75	31	70%
Langley	235	243	8	3%
New Westminster	203	217	17	7%
North Shore	168	168	0	0%
Richmond	162	175	13	8%
Ridge Meadows	135	183	48	36%
Surrey	1,060	1,078	18	2%
Tri-Cities	160	144	-16	-10%
Vancouver	2,420	2,715	295	12%
White Rock	17	26	9	53%
UBC	8	3	-5	-3%
Total	4821	5,232	411	9%

City of Vancouver Data

Total of 2,715 City of Vancouver Residents Experienced Homelessness - Sheltered and Unsheltered

- Highest PiT count recorded in the City of Vancouver (up 12% from 2023).
- Percentages are based on valid responses to each specific question

Table 2: Total Residents Experiencing Homelessness - Sheltered and Unsheltered - Vancouver

	Adults and Youth (19+)		Accompanied Children (under 19)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered	1,825	71%	127	95%	1,952	72%
Unsheltered	756	29%	7	5%	763	28%
Total	2,581	100%	134	100%	2,715	100%

Long-term homelessness is prevalent

Table 3: Length of Time Homeless - Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 6 months	114	15%	37	6%	151	11%
6 months to <1 year	96	12%	45	7%	141	10%
1 year and over	562	73%	543	87%	1,105	79%
Total Respondents	772	100%	625	100%	1,397	100%
Don't know / no answer	1,180		138		1,318	
Total	1,952		763		2,715	

Majority of People Experiencing Homeless are Longterm Vancouver Residents

Table 4: Length of Time in Community - Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 Year	126	16%	42	7%	168	12%
1 year to under 5 years	155	20%	96	16%	251	18%
5 years to under 10 years	110	14%	100	17%	210	15%
10 years or more	237	30%	223	38%	460	34%
Always been here	153	20%	123	21%	276	20%
Total Respondents	781	100%	584	100%	1,365	100%
Don't know / no answer	1171		179		1,350	
Total	1,952		763		2,715	

Increase in Women Experiencing Homelessness

Table 5: Gender Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man	601	64%	487	72%	1088	68%
Woman	300	32%	158	23%	458	28%
Another Gender Identity	32	3%	31	5%	63	4%
Total Respondents	933	100%	676	100%	1,609	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	1019		87		1,106	
Total	1,952		763		2,715	

Table 6: Sexual Orientation - Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/ Heterosexual	726	85%	540	87%	1266	86%
2SLGBTQS+	114	13%	68	11%	182	12%
Another response	13	2%	16	3%	29	2%
Total Respondents	853	100%	624	100%	1477	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,099		139		1,238	
Total	1,952		763		2,715	

Table 7: Trans Experience - Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Trans Experience	47	5%	21	3%	68	5%
No Trans Experience	821	95%	599	97%	1,420	95%
Total Respondents	868	100%	620	100%	1,488	100%
Don't know / no answer	1,084		143		1,227	
Total	1,952		763		2,715	

*Indigenous Overrepresentation***Table 8: Indigenous Identity - Vancouver**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous	316	35%	344	51%	660	42%
Not Indigenous	596	65%	326	49%	922	58%
Total Respondents	912	100%	670	100%	1,582	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,040		93		1,133	
Total	1,952		763		2,715	

Table 9: Experience with Residential School (respondents who identified as Indigenous) – Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	172	69%	187	71%	359	70%
Yes - self	24	10%	24	9%	48	9%
Yes - parent	92	37%	94	36%	186	36%
Yes - grandparent	98	40%	112	43%	210	41%
No	76	31%	75	29%	151	30%
Total Respondents	248	100%	262	100%	510	100%

*Homelessness Impacts People of All Ages***Table 10: Age – Vancouver**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	45	5%	20	3%	65	4%
Adult (25-54 Years)	623	72%	558	85%	1,181	77%
Senior (55+)	199	23%	80	12%	279	18%
Total Respondents	867	100%	658	100%	1,525	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,085		105		1,190	
Total	1,952		763		2,715	

Table 11: Age of First Homeless Experience - Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	289	36%	347	58%	636	46%
Adult (25-54 Years)	418	53%	242	40%	660	47%
Senior (55+)	85	11%	12	2%	97	7%
Total Respondents	792	100%	601	100%	1,393	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,160		162		1,322	
Total	1,952		763		2,715	

Table 12: First Experience of Homelessness by Age Group - Vancouver

	Youth		Adult		Senior	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
First Homeless as a Youth	58	100%	522	49%	40	17%
First Homeless as an Adult	N/A	N/A	540	51%	105	44%
First Homeless as a Senior	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	95	40%
Total Respondents	58	100%	1,062	100%	240	100%

Income and Eviction Leading Reasons for Housing Loss

Table 13: Top Reasons for Housing Loss – Vancouver	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Not enough income for housing	336	42%	176	32%	512	38%
Addiction/ substance use issue	167	21%	87	16%	254	19%
Unfit/Unsafe housing condition	136	17%	93	17%	229	17%
Conflict with landlord	135	17%	90	16%	225	17%
Conflict with spouse/ partner	129	16%	79	14%	208	15%
Mental health issue	129	16%	56	10%	185	14%
Experienced abuse by spouse/ partner	109	14%	54	10%	163	12%
Physical health issue	116	14%	46	8%	162	12%
Conflict with other	88	11%	65	12%	153	11%
Total Respondents	805		558		1363	
Don't Know/ No Answer	1147		205		1352	
Total	1952		763		2715	

Table 14: Was your most recent housing loss related to an eviction? – Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	277	38%	250	48%	527	42%
No	450	62%	267	52%	717	58%
Total Respondents	727	100%	517	100%	1244	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	1225		246		1471	
Total	1952		763		2715	

*Income Not Meeting the Needs for People Experiencing Homelessness***Table 15: Are you on income assistance? – Vancouver**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	657	82%	506	86%	1,163	83%
No	148	18%	83	14%	231	17%
Total Respondents	805	100%	589	100%	1,394	100%
Don't know / no answer	1147		174		1,321	
Total	1952		763		2,715	

Table 16: Top Sources of Income - Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Assistance	373	45%	261	44%	634	45%
Persons with Disability	304	37%	269	45%	573	40%
GST/HST refund	120	15%	67	11%	187	13%
Informal employment	60	7%	89	15%	149	10%
Money from family/friends	82	10%	55	9%	137	10%
No Income	59	7%	46	8%	105	7%
Total Respondents	826	100%	597	100%	1,423	
Don't know / no answer	1126		166		1,292	
Total	1952		763		2,715	

Black Community Overrepresentation

Table 17: Racial Identity

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Arab	8	1%	6	1%	14	1%
Asian - East	27	3%	20	3%	47	3%
Asian - South East	14	2%	3	0%	17	1%
Asian - South	26	3%	12	2%	38	2%
Asian - West	20	2%	3	0%	23	2%
Black	113	13%	30	5%	143	9%
Black - Caribbean and Latin America	26	3%	13	2%	39	3%
Black - African	18	2%	13	2%	31	2%
Black - Canadian/American	74	8%	9	1%	83	5%
Latin American	33	4%	14	2%	47	3%
White	503	56%	366	58%	869	57%
Not Listed	26	3%	11	2%	37	2%
Total Respondents	897		633		1,530	
	1,055		130		1,185	
Total	1,952		763		2,715	

Connection between Youth in Care and Homelessness

Table 18: Youth in Care – Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	268	33%	257	45%	525	38%
No	533	67%	318	55%	851	62%
Total Respondents	801	100%	575	100%	1,376	100%
Don't Know/ No Answer	1,151		188		1,339	
Total	1952		763		2715	

Table 19: Health Conditions- Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Medical Condition/Illness	342	41%	299	48%	641	44%
Physical Disability	261	31%	255	41%	516	35%
Learning, intellectual, developmental, cognitive function	183	22%	192	31%	375	26%
Mental Health	476	57%	413	67%	889	61%
Substance Use	509	61%	502	81%	1,011	69%
Senses (e.g. hearing, sight)	225	27%	238	39%	463	32%
Acquired Brain Injury	134	16%	195	32%	329	23%
Total Respondents	838		618		1,456	
Don't know / no answer	1,114		145		1,259	
Total	1952		763		2,715	

APPENDIX B

HIGHLIGHT OF CITY OF VANCOUVER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RESPONDING TO HOMELESSNESS

The following section highlights a number of City of Vancouver existing programs and services and is not intended to be exhaustive of the collective efforts of local government, community and social service providers in addressing homelessness.

Homelessness Services Outreach Team

The City's Homelessness Services Outreach Team ("Outreach Team") connects directly with individuals in need of housing, income, and other support services, both at the outreach offices (392 Powell Street and 112 Keefer St) and in neighbourhoods throughout the city. Table 1 below highlights the number of clients served in 2025.

Table 1: 2025 Homelessness Services Outreach Team Metrics

Homelessness Services Outreach Team Metrics	2025
Unique clients per day	90-100
Unique Individuals Served	6,539
New clients accessing Homelessness Services	1,624
Housing Units Secured	503
Individuals served age 55+	35%

Homelessness Services at Won Alexander Cumyow Civic Office (112 Keefer)

In July 2023, as part of the Uplifting Chinatown Action Plan, the City of Vancouver established the Won Alexander Cumyow Civic Office as a satellite City office in Chinatown ("Chinatown Office"). The Office aims to bolster local coordination, responsiveness, and promote a community-engaged approach in the area. The primary goal of the office is to have City staff available to engage with the community to better understand on the ground issues, provide connections to City services and other City departments as needed.

As community engagement at the Office increased, a need for expanded translation support and services was identified. The Homelessness Services Outreach team was identified to provide specific expertise, including support in accessing housing and other support services. In October 2023, Homelessness Services Outreach staff began working part-time, gradually increasing their presence to full-time (Monday-Friday) in December 2023. Staff provide in-person and culturally specific outreach services to Chinatown residents at the office.

In 2025, the Chinatown Office saw 1,388 visitors, of which 1,379 (99%) were supported by Homelessness Services Outreach staff. Overall, 958 (69%) of visitors preferred services provided in Cantonese and 318 (23%) opted for Mandarin. The main services being sought include access to housing, other community resources and Service Canada matters.

Responding to Unsheltered Homelessness and Encampments

The City, in partnership with the Province through BC Housing and non-profit housing and service providers have supported individuals previously staying in encampments by providing people with better, although limited indoor alternatives. Experience has shown that encampments are unsafe, particularly for people sheltering there, due to extreme fire risks, high levels of crime, and unhygienic conditions.

The issue of encampments is not unique to Vancouver and to better support people who may be residing in encampments, the Province, through BC Housing, launched *HEART (Homeless Encampment Action Response Team)* and *HEARTH (Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing)* as part of “*Belonging in BC*”, the Province’s plan to prevent and reduce homelessness. In addition to Vancouver, the Province has established HEART and /or HEARTH partnerships with fifteen local governments including Abbotsford, Campbell River, Chilliwack and Cheam First Nation, Duncan, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George, Victoria, Cranbrook, New Westminster, Powell River, Smithers and Squamish.

City Homelessness Services Outreach staff are members of the Vancouver HEART Network, a city-wide, collaborative initiative facilitated by BC Housing aimed at strengthening coordination and building sector relationships to improve outcomes and experiences for individuals experiencing homelessness. The network brings service providers together to address homelessness both through structured responses to encampments and the fixed access points where outreach services are delivered.

Through HEARTH, the City and BC Housing partnered to provide almost 90 spaces with 24/7 support services at 1525 and 1535 Western St. Residents and 2142 Ash St. in 2023. BC Housing also continues to fund shelters which serve as an important gateway to housing for many.

Shelter Response

Shelters play an important role in the homelessness services system and serve as a gateway to housing and supports that help break the cycle of homelessness. The City has a long-standing partnership with the Province, through BC Housing to activate shelter spaces. The City has provided land and City-owned buildings, and the Province has supported through capital and operating funding.

There are currently over 1,400 year-round shelter beds provided in the City of Vancouver. Additional shelter spaces are deployed between November to March to expand shelter capacity to ensure all residents have a safe, warm, place to come inside during the cold and wet winter months. The City also funds and activates Warming Centres when temperatures reach -4 degrees Celsius to ensure people can access indoor spaces for their life safety. This winter there were an additional 445 spaces to ensure people can access a safe, warm place to come inside. For an overview of shelters and our winter response, see: [Shelters and winter response strategy | City of Vancouver](#)

Direct Service Provision

The City funds and supports organizations through grants and service contracts to deliver essential programs and supports in community. These contracts ensure service delivery addressing unique needs within the community while leveraging community expertise. Examples include:

- **DTES Community Corner Market:** A safe, legal and peer-run space for street vendors, providing income opportunities and low-barrier employment.
- **320 Alexander Street / 390 Main Street:** City-owned spaces, with provincially funded services delivery by Watari and Aboriginal Front Door Society. Supports include drop-in space, secure storage, cultural programming, food and water, and showers for people experiencing homelessness. These sites serve 400+ weekly drop-ins, meeting basic daily needs.

The City also operates Social-serving community centres, including:

- **Evelyn Saller Centre:** Provides daily hot meals, showers, laundry, drop-in space and other programming.
- **Carnegie Community Centre:** Offers free and accessible programming for all ages, low-cost meals, library services, internet access and a range of community and cultural activities. It serves as a vital hub for connection and support.
- **Gathering Place:** Provides accessible programs and services with a focus on food and nutrition, health, education, recreation, arts and culture, and community development.

Grants to Support Delivery of Services and Supports

ACCS provides grants to support a variety of non-profit organizations in delivery community services and supports and to leverage additional funding and partnerships. Within Homelessness Services specifically, there are two annual grant programs. Homelessness Services grants provide funding for short-term and one-time events and projects that support people experiencing homelessness. Renter Services Grants funding supports renter-serving non-profit organizations to provide critical programs and services to Vancouver renters.

SRO Replacement and Longer-Term Housing Options

Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Revitalization Framework

SROs consist of small 10 x 10 square feet rooms with shared kitchen and bathroom. They are widely recognized as an outdated housing typology and housing of last resort before homelessness for many. In November 2025, Council approved the SRO Revitalization Framework which outlines government roles, actions underway and proposed next steps to advance the dual goals of longer-term SRO replacement while ensuring the stock is safe, affordable and liveable in the interim and until buildings can be replaced. Council also directed staff to pursue partnerships with, and funding from the Provincial and federal governments to implement the framework. Staff continue to advance this work as directed by Council, including working with BC Housing to identify five sites to replace approximately 280 SRO rooms in the Granville Entertainment District with self-contained social housing.

Social and Supportive Housing

The provision of safe, secure and affordable housing is a critical component to responding to homelessness. The City has a long history of partnerships with both the Provincial and Federal government to deliver much needed supportive housing in Vancouver. Initiatives have included an MOU to deliver "12 sites" for social and supportive housing (2007), the Temporary Modular Housing MOU (2017) and most recently, the Permanent Modular/Supportive Housing MOU (2020) and the Federal Rapid Housing Initiative (2021 and 2022).

There are roughly 130 supportive housing buildings with approximately 8,100 units/rooms currently operating in Vancouver³ consisting of purpose-built housing, as well existing SROs, and hotels that were acquired by non-profits or government and now operate as supportive housing.

³ Staff estimate that roughly 87 buildings (or approximately 5,800 rooms) operate as low-barrier supportive housing for individuals experiencing or at risk of homeless with mental health and substance use issues.

In order to maximize use of the limited supportive housing stock and to continue to support those most in need, the Supporting Tenants, Enabling Pathways (STEP) program was launched in 2017 as a partnership between the City, BCH Housing, Vancouver Coastal Health and Street to Home Foundation to support people who are ready to move from supportive housing into more independent housing. In 2025, the Homelessness Services Outreach staff supported 21 unique individuals to transition into affordable housing. In turn, the vacancies created in the limited supportive housing stock, provided an opportunity for people experiencing homelessness to have a home and access support services. Another initiative to maximize the use of the supportive housing stock included Council approval of amendments on December 4, 2025 to the Zoning and Development By-law to extend Temporary Modular Housing permits from 10 to 20 years to maximize the use of sites pending redevelopment.⁴

The City will continue to work with senior government, community and non-profit partners to advance the creation of housing and support services to meet the needs of individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness

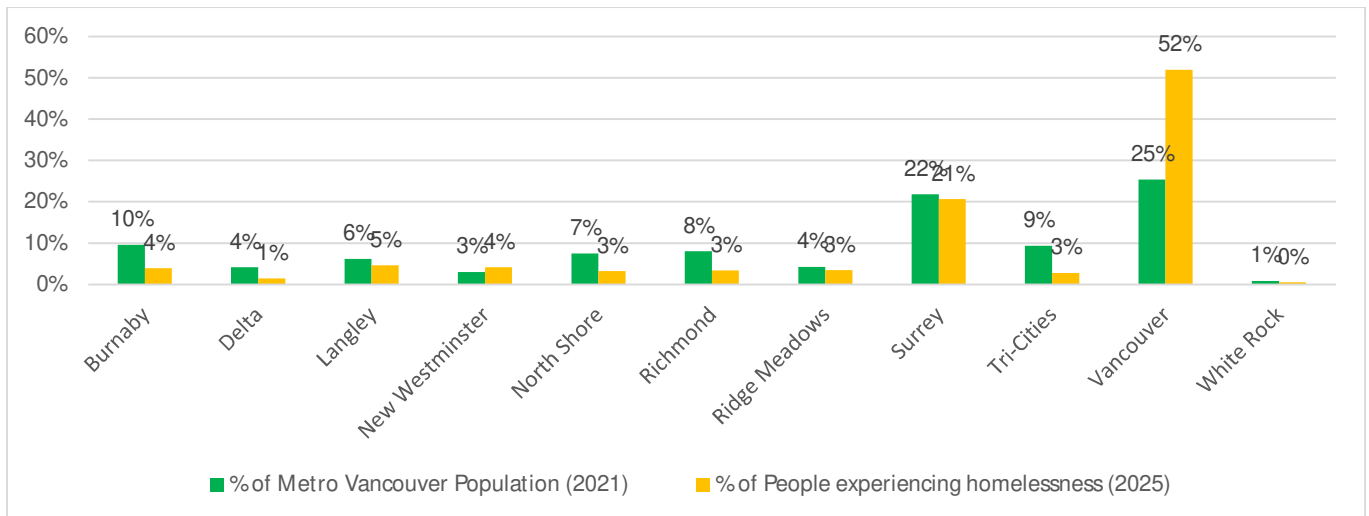
⁴ <https://council.vancouver.ca/20251204/documents/phea3sr.pdf>

APPENDIX C

REGIONAL SHARE OF SOCIAL, SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND SHELTER BEDS

The 2025 Homeless Count shows that 22% of survey respondents first became homeless outside of Vancouver where there are fewer housing and homelessness services to support them.

Graph 1: Percentage of People Experiencing Homelessness and Percentage of Regional Population



While home to roughly a quarter of the Metro region's population, [Metro Vancouver's 2025 Housing Data Book](#) shows that Vancouver continues to provide the majority of shelters, supportive and social housing units as shown in Table 1 and 2 below.

Graph 2: Percentage of Social and Supportive Housing and Shelter Beds by Municipality.

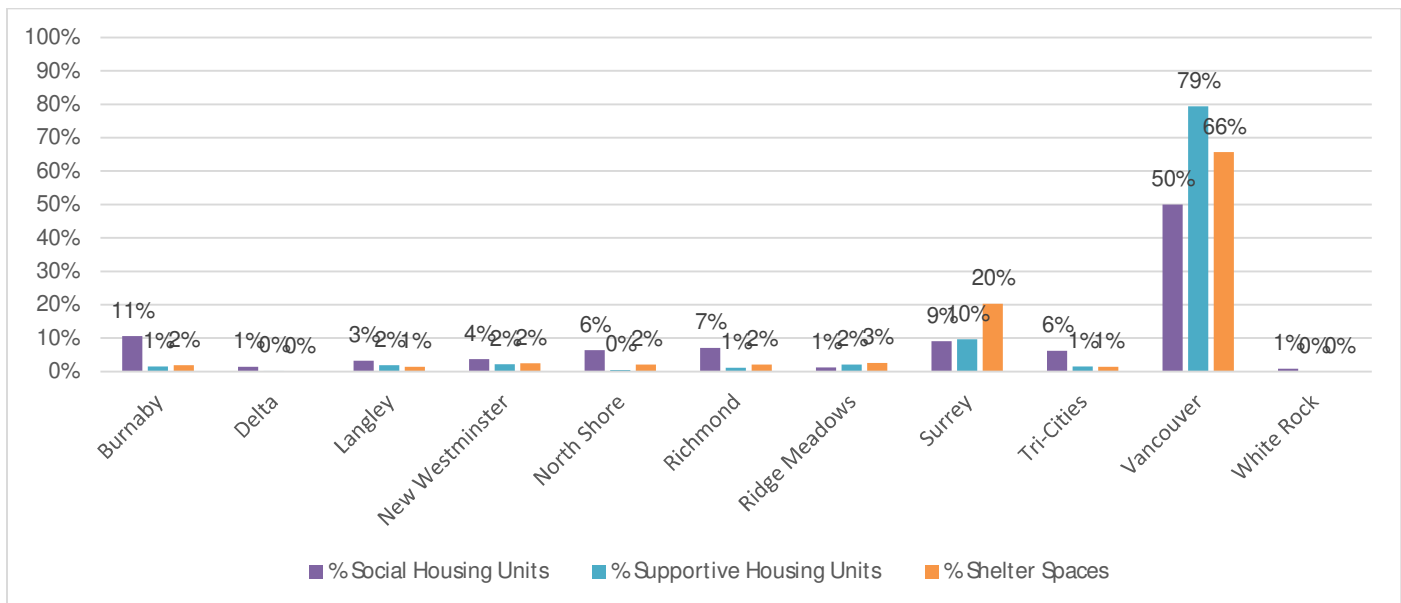


Table 1: Shelter Space, Social Housing Unit and Supportive Housing Unit Distribution

	Shelter Space		Social Housing Units		Supportive Housing Units	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Burnaby	40	2%	3,771	11%	143	1%
Delta	0	0%	511	1%	14	0%
Langley	30	1%	1161	3%	186	2%
New Westminster	53	2%	1,333	4%	208	2%
North Shore	45	2%	2,258	6%	47	0%
Richmond	45	2%	2,520	7%	105	1%
Ridge Meadows	55	3%	437	1%	204	2%
Surrey	433	20%	3215	9%	924	10%
Tri-Cities	30	1%	2215	6%	143	1%
Vancouver	1,400	66%	17,686	50%	7,609	79%
White Rock	0	0%	292	1%	0	0%

Notes:

Langley includes both the City and Township, North Shore includes City and District of North Vancouver and City of West Vancouver, Ridge Meadows includes Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, and Tri-Cities includes Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody.