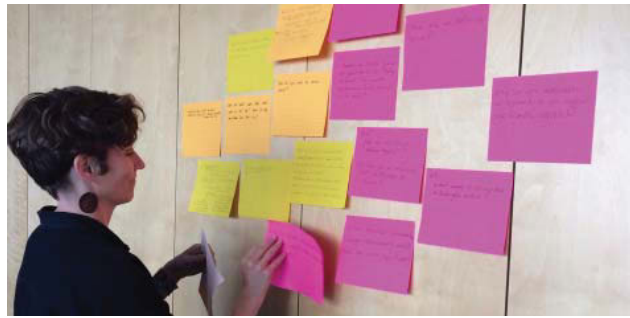


# AGE-FRIENDLY ACTION RESEARCH LAB

## CO-INITIATING WORKSHOP

September 24, 2018 @ Creekside Community Centre



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# AGE-FRIENDLY ACTION RESEARCH LAB CO-INITIATING WORKSHOP AGENDA + PURPOSE

## Agenda

1. Welcome + opening
2. Setting the context
3. Ethnographic warm-up
4. Exploring age-friendly experiences in the city
5. Generating ethnographic research questions
6. Closing

## Purpose

- Build and grow capacities and practices to understand the diverse lived experiences of seniors in Vancouver through research, data collection and analysis to understand root causes of systemic challenges;
- Develop and test possible solutions to improve social determinants of health for seniors;
- Adapt existing policy, strategy, and practice to scale promising solutions; and
- Create ongoing cycles of action research, learning, and evaluation to improve the lives of seniors in Vancouver.

## Purpose of Co-Initiating Workshop

- Create a compelling reason why we each want to commit to this process together;
- Create an experiential process that gives participants a sense of how a lab works, looks, and feels different than other ways of working;

- Build a safe container for surfacing and exploring perspectives, experiences, and tensions while also turning up the pressure and heat to challenge our current assumptions, ways of working, and ways of being together in service of finding new possibilities; and
- Sketch out shared and divergent understandings of the context and key dimensions of the problem statement.

## Outcomes of Co-Initiating Workshop:

- A clear and compelling sense of shared purpose and intent for the lab;
- A shared understanding of the lab question and context; and
- A set of powerful questions and assumptions that can be used to kick-off the ethnographic research work.

## Lab team

**Attended:** Carmel Boerner - Social Policy, CoV; Zahra Esmail - Executive Director, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House; Karen Liebel - Information Services, VPL; Atiya Mahood - Associate Professor of Gerontology, SFU; Peter Marriott - Social Policy, CoV; Donnie Rosa - Director of Recreation, VPB; Daniel Stevens - Emergency Operations Centre, CoV; Katia Tynan - Sustainability Group - Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, CoV; Carol Ann Young - Social Policy, CoV

**Regrets:** Leslie Bonshor, Nadia Carvalho, Katie McPherson, Chuck Stanford, Mary Clare Zak

**Design + Facilitation:** Lindsay Cole

# AGE-FRIENDLY ACTION RESEARCH LAB

## Convening Question

How might we deliver a healthy city for all seniors within the complete Healthy City framework without creating another strategy?

### Why is this important now?

We have the City's social sustainability plan in the Healthy City Strategy along with a number of other strategies that impact senior's and an age-friendly city (e.g., Greenest City). What is most important is that we take an action research approach to experimenting and testing new ways of integrating change into existing policy rather than continuing to produce more strategies.

The convening question in a social innovation lab is designed to be open and thought provoking, while creating a container for the explorations in the lab. It will evolve as the work in the lab



progresses, as the team refines our understanding of the different perspectives on the question through the process, and as possible solutions begin to emerge.

### What's the Solutions Lab?

The Solutions Lab is seeking **breakthrough, transformative solutions** to some of the city's most complex problems. It's a place where City staff, community members and stakeholders **collaborate to deeply understand complex challenges** from the points of view of the people most affected by them, and where we **rapidly prototype and test innovative responses** to see what we can learn through co-creation and some risk taking. It's an exciting place where we dialogue and listen deeply, try new processes and collaboration tools, and learn and have fun together.

### What do we know about seniors in the City?

A slide deck was circulated to participants that provided various demographic factors about seniors in Vancouver (see Appendix 5). The group shared initial assessments of the information provided. We also uncovered our own experiences, as well as some commonly held language, biases and assumptions used to describe seniors in Vancouver and discussed what an age-friendly city would include:

- Empathy + Compassion
- People with heart
- Value and respect
- Seeing people for lived experience
- Accessible physical/social/economic
- Voice = heard
- Age-friendly applies to everyone!
- Grounded solutions

# TOOL: INTEGRAL MAPPING

## Essence:

Integral mapping is one of many tools that can help build our systems thinking capacities. It comes from the field of integral theory and **helps us to pay attention to both the exterior and interior aspects of system or issue**, as well as the **individual and collective aspects**. It encourages us to see our self as part of a system, and reflect on our own personal experiences and how we are responsible for the work we do.

## When to use this tool:

We know that to innovate on complex challenges, it's necessary to find ways to see, understand, and interact with systems: to see more of the whole and parts, to surface the relationships and the dynamics at play, to identify what is driving the problem and what's holding it in place, and to find opportunities for very strategic interventions that might really make a difference. When a team is in the **early days of exploring a complex challenge, and they are trying to identify the points in a system that are stuck** or creating tension, this tool can help to look at a system from different perspectives as a way to open up thinking, understanding, and possibilities.

## How it works:

Map the four quadrants on the floor or walls.  
(See following page.)

Divide into four equal groups, with each one going to one quadrant, and orient each group to the perspective represented in their quadrant.

Each group discusses: What do we need to pay attention to or be aware of in this quadrant? How do I experience this in relation to the challenge/system we're working on? Is this something that we usually pay attention to in our work? What are some of the tensions and catalysts at play in this quadrant?

Groups switch quadrants, moving diagonally with their same group, and discuss the same set of questions from this new orientation.

Large group debriefs the conversation: What usually gets most of our attention in the work that we do? How did it feel to change perspectives, to work in a different quadrant? How do we work skillfully with this expanded awareness of the whole and the parts, and to bring this awareness to key interventions? Were there any leverage points that stood out? How can we hold more than one perspective in doing the work that we do?

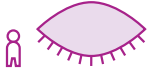
## Resources referenced:

Stacy Barter with SHIFT Collaborative



# INTEGRAL MAPPING REPORT OUT [See Appendix 1 for tool template](#)

## MINDSETS



- Intersectional
- Reflective of participation
- What expectations of the city are there?
- Added later: Being a burden
- Independence: How can city maintain health/sense of worth/independence?
- Asking for help is hard
- Expectations/permissions re: emotions
- Freedom to be self in public spaces
- Fear of public space leading to isolation
- Empower people to go out and be accepted in public spaces / belonging
- Wanting to engage with community/others
- \*Nourishing self-confidence\*
- Centred around experience
- Belonging/tempo homes here – don't see selves as part of community
- Most people don't reveal me-that-we-can't-see
- Forming (services/identity) of communities/connections
- Assumptions (mistreatment) about independence/value

- Ageism Free Language (Helpless, grumpy, slow, demanding, incapable, dependant, nothing to contribute)
- Barriers and Tension
- Actions/Behaviours
- Don't hire seniors – put out to 'pasture'
- Awareness \*
- Impatience
- Talking down (No elderspeak)
- Defining people by chronological age – Seniors vs Elders
- Respect
- Value

## PRACTICES



## CULTURE



- Segregation by age into specific institutions and activities
- Like-minded vs Age-minded
- Socialization of stereotypes at a young age (media, language, literature, exposure, etc.)
- Positions of power – take advantage or take for granted – time and money

- Responsive
- Handy Dart should be better
- Sidewalks (Crossing time, Curb Cuts, Width!)
- Mobility \*
- Norm/default access structure
- Washrooms!
- Resting locations/infrastructure (benches)
- Cultural shift (value of Seniors) – "vulnerability"
- Fund service providers
- Signage
- Public spaces designed for the actual public
- Free yoga classes and other rec classes

## SYSTEMS & STRUCTURES



# GENERATING ETHNOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

- How do we access / impact / shift the inner individual quadrant (the Me You Can't See)?
  - » Very personal – hard to reach and hard to shift
- How to create a strategy that impacts love, value + respect, etc.
- How do you want to access services?
- How do we ensure a safe and inclusive space for people with lived experience (across age and other continua) to be involved in shaping and co-creating this research?
- How do we make sure that ethnographic research doesn't just consume the lives of seniors as an input, but enables a safe, supportive and mutual relationship?
- Why a seniors approach as opposed to all ages/age-friendly approach?
- How do we gather experiential / internal perspectives?
- How are we defining seniors?
- What physical infrastructure changes / improvements would make Vancouver age-friendly?
- What social infrastructure / programs would make Vancouver age friendly?
- Who is missing from this discussion?
- What would enable seniors to thrive?
- What do seniors want their later years to look like? What do they want/need from their city?
- At what age do people want to die? And in what state?
- What do they want to do and where? (Seniors Centre? Park? School? Community Centre)
- How do we avoid a reductive understanding about people's identities while generalizing what we learn to inform policy?
- What keeps you from connecting with people?
- What needs to be in place to keep you active?
- How do we create space or platform for feeling elements (e.g. empathy, compassion, value, respect) in the work?
- How do we change stereotypes?
- How do we reconcile Age-friendly or seniors as the focus?
- Participatory process
  - » How can elders be co-creators of this knowledge research?
- Making explicit the implicit/hidden
- What is a diverse inclusive city? Who belongs? How do we make sure a variety of people belong?
  - » How can older adults be seen / treated / included outside the prescribed parameters of their chronological age / their age subscribed preferred?



# NEXT STEPS + FEEDBACK

## Next Steps:

- Ethnographic Workshop with InWithForward – Oct. 25
- Co-Sensing Workshop

## Feedback:

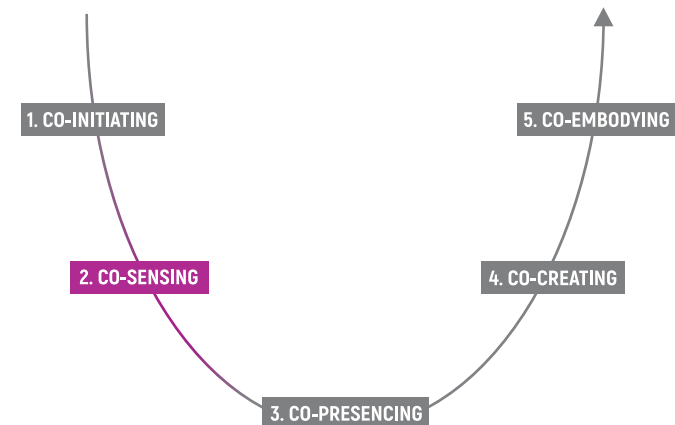
You liked it! The average score for your lab experience was 4.0 on a scale from 0 to 5. (0 = terrible and 5 = amazing).

## What worked well...

- Safe Space
  - » Good questions, kind people, very safe and friendly atmosphere, powerful stories
- Deepening Insights
  - » Exercises were illuminating
  - » Last exercise - useful process to deepen insights
  - » Different perspectives
- Learning theory
  - » Using theoretical orientations to ground the process was interesting
  - » The background research/demographic information about seniors is great.

## What we can change for next time...

- Make sure everyone's questions are written down in advance. I need time to process questions before I can consider them and a visual makes that a faster process.
- Glossary of language: seniors, age-friendly, elders, accessibility so we can make sure we are talking about the same thing.
- Involve seniors in process. More voices from outside City organization - glad this is being addressed
- Maybe some pre-sharing of what will happen during that day, reading ahead on theories
- Nothing. This was a good start. Maybe less paper if possible
- Snacks





# APPENDIX 1

## Integral Mapping

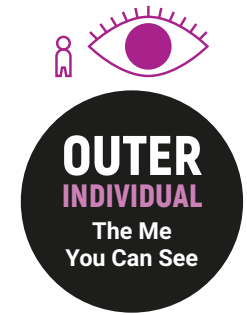


### MINDSETS

- Awareness, thought, feeling
- Attitudes, values, beliefs
- Motivation
- Sense of safety, trust, belonging
- Self-esteem & Confidence
- Identity
- Sense of participation & contribution

### PRACTICES

- Behaviours
- Skills
- Actions
- Habits
- Observable things I do



### CULTURE

- Worldviews
- Relationships & Social Networks
- Social norms
- Shared attitudes, values, beliefs
- Shared vision & goals
- Shared history, customs, stories

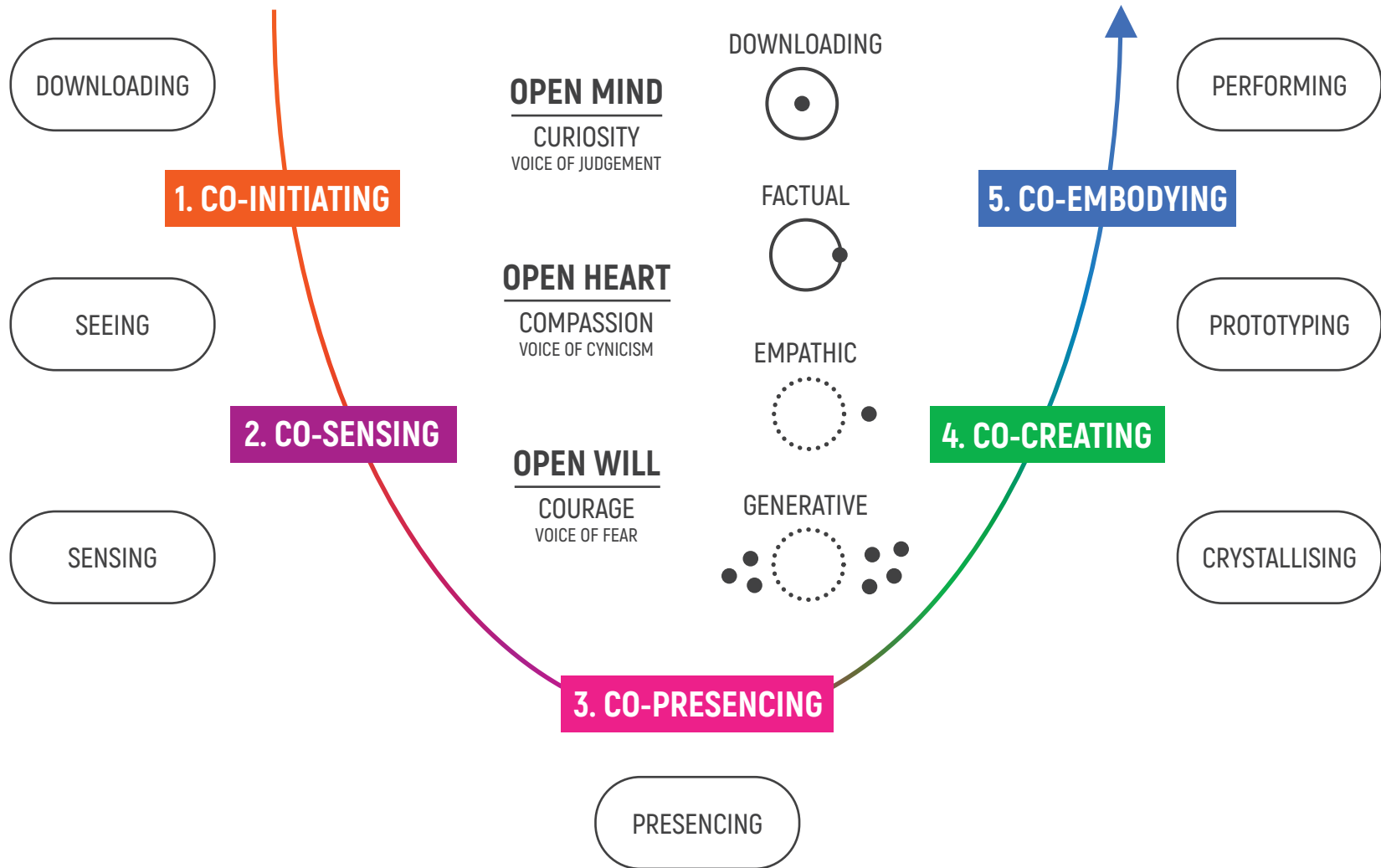
### SYSTEMS & STRUCTURES

- Infrastructure
- Institutions
- Programs and services
- Policies, plans, protocols
- Regulations
- Organizational systems & structures
- Governance systems & structures



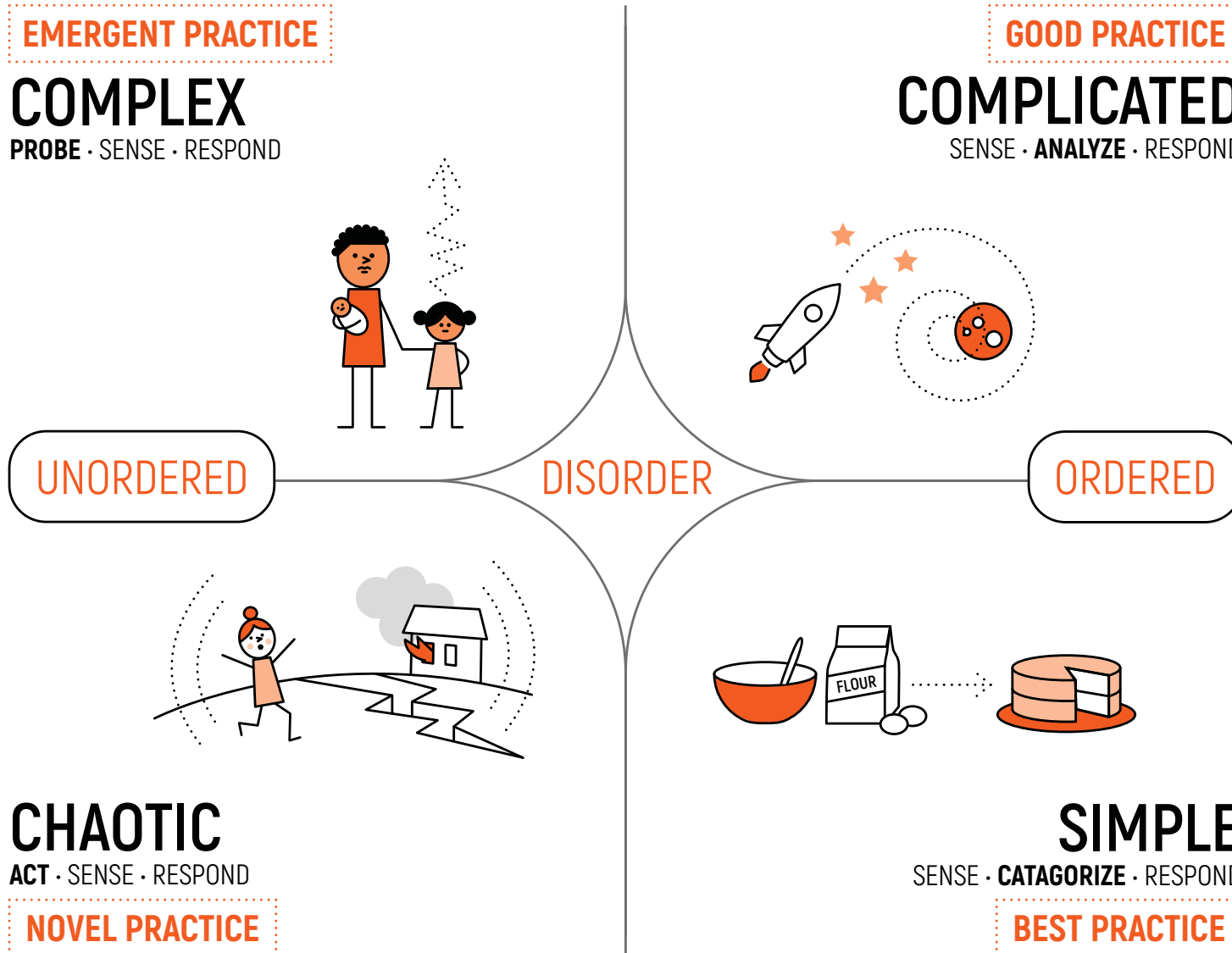
# APPENDIX 2

## Theory U



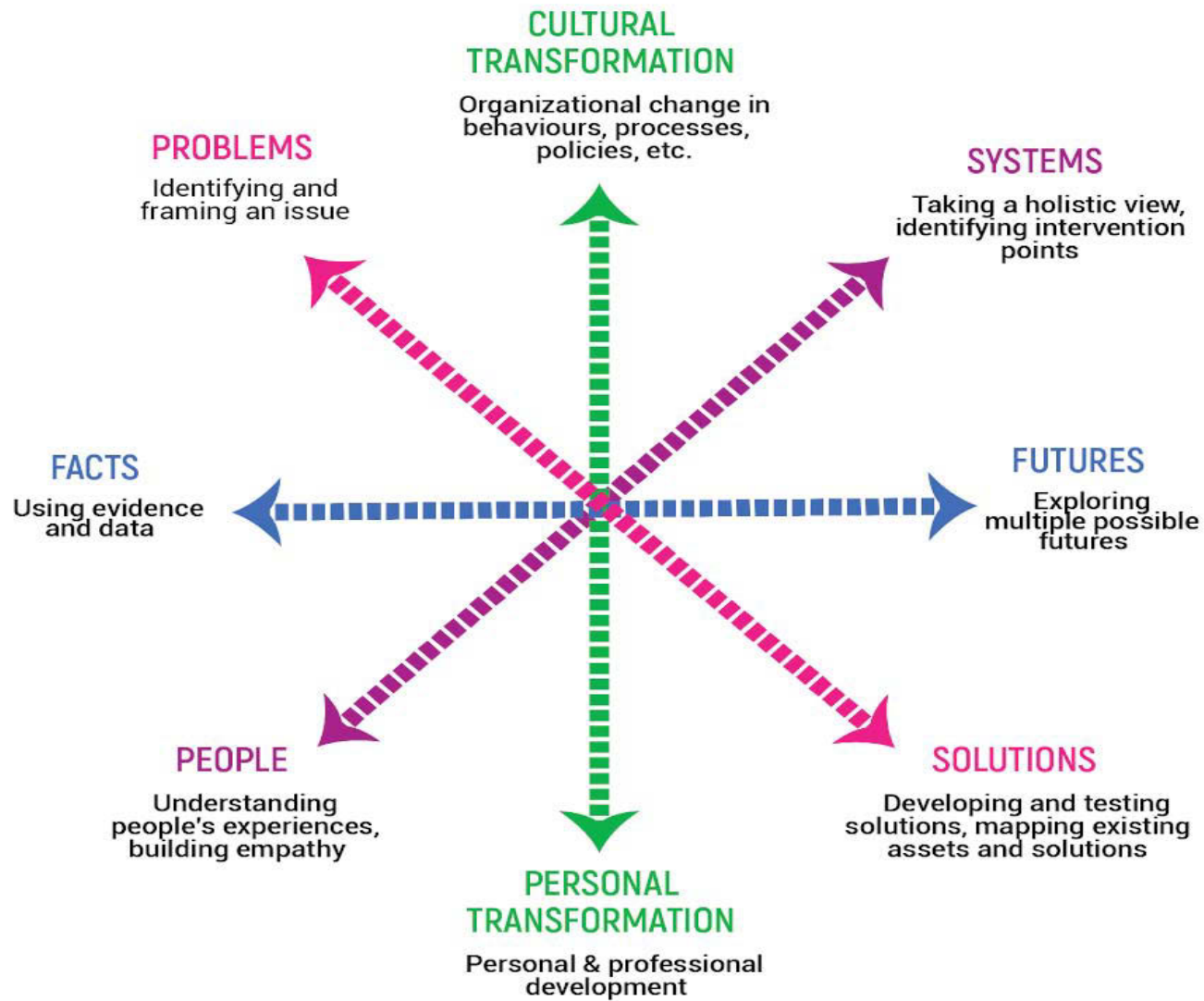
# APPENDIX 3

## Simple, Complicated, Complex Problems



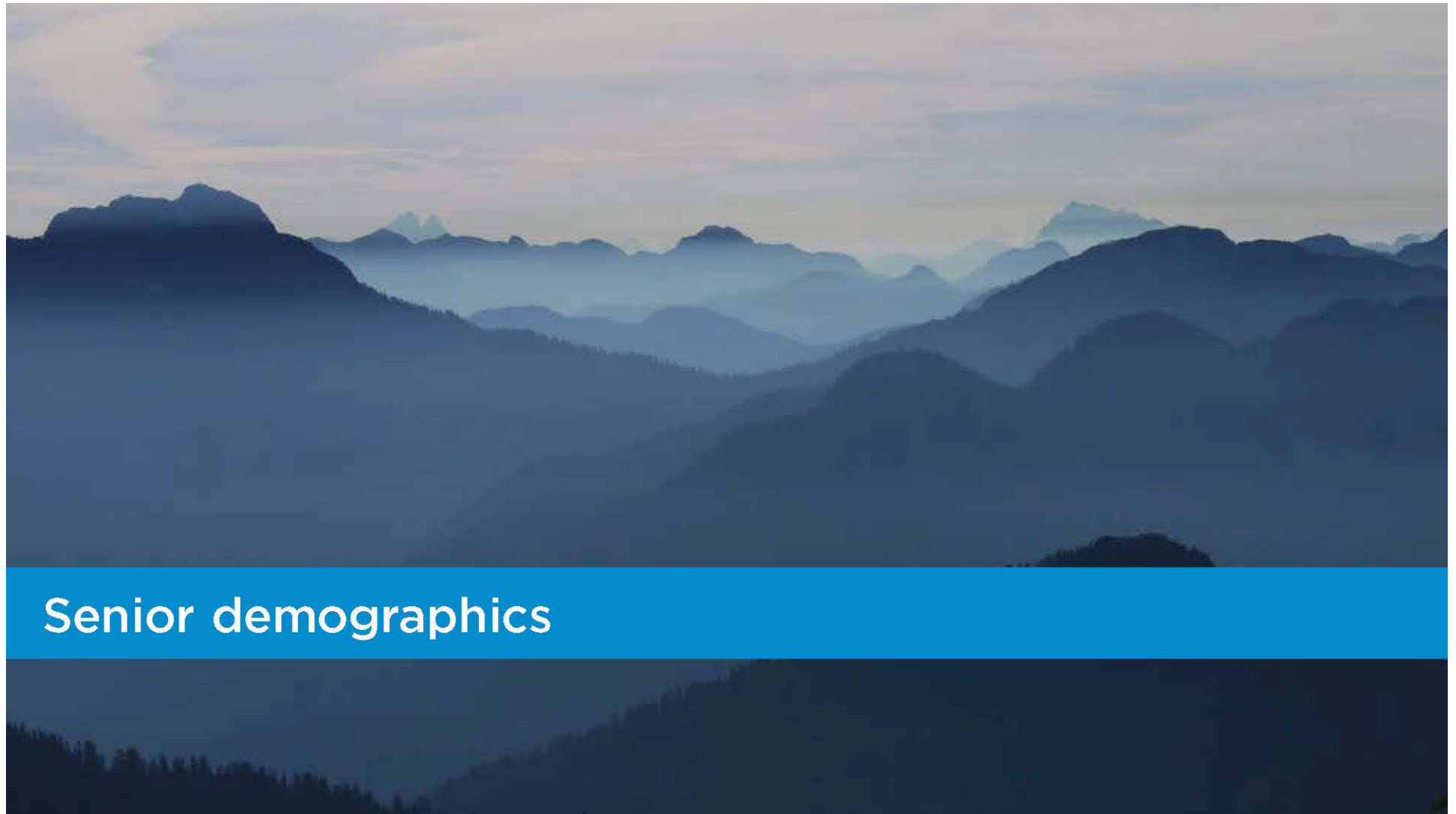
# APPENDIX 4

## Principles of Innovation



# APPENDIX 5

## Seniors Demographics



## Senior demographics

## 2016 Census of Population

- **Restored mandatory long form:**
  - 93.5% response rate in Vancouver vs. 75.5% for voluntary 2011 NHS
- **Census topics:**
  - Population counts
  - Age, gender, dwelling types
  - Families, households, language
  - Income
  - Immigration, cultures, Indigenous peoples, housing
  - Education, labour, journey to work, migration
- **Additional data in progress:**
  - Vancouver local area data: <http://data.vancouver.ca>
  - Additional crosstabular data
  - Population group profiles

## Limitations of census data

### Reductive categories

- e.g. gender

### Topics not covered

- e.g. wealth, ability, health, social connections

### Uneven participation

- e.g. homeless, SROs, secondary suites

### Cultural appropriateness

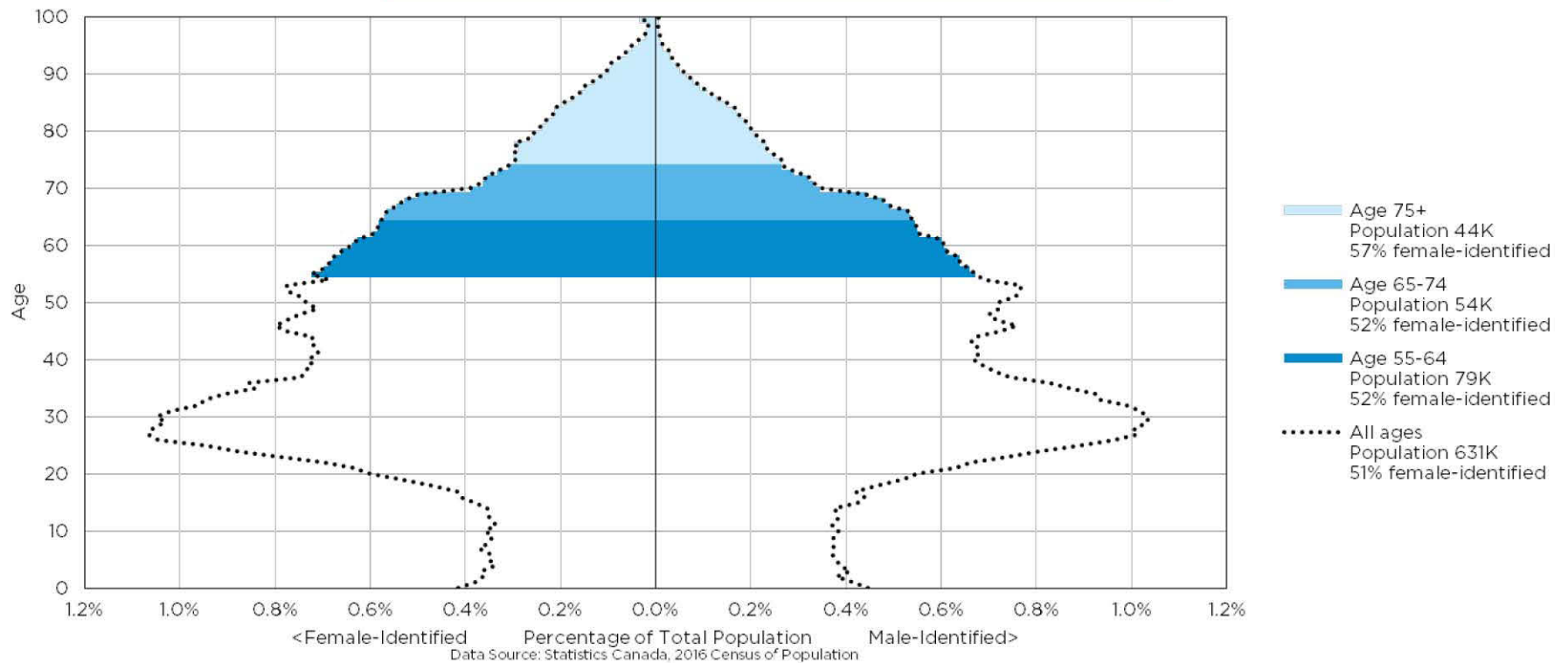
- e.g. Indigenous communities



## Seniors Demographics

Vancouver has nearly 100 thousand seniors, and nearly 80 thousand more approaching retirement age

City of Vancouver Population Distribution 2016

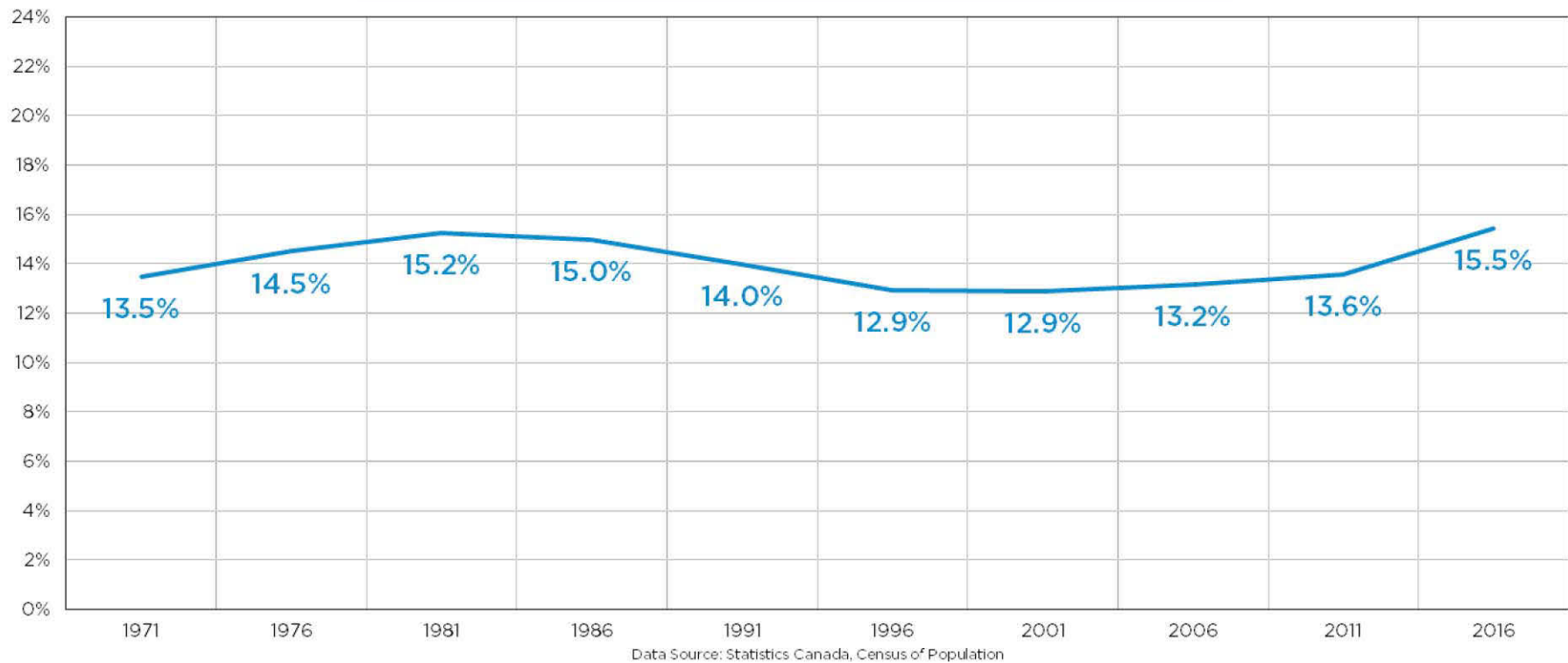




## Seniors Demographics

In 2016, 15.5% of Vancouverites were age 65 or older, the highest share to date

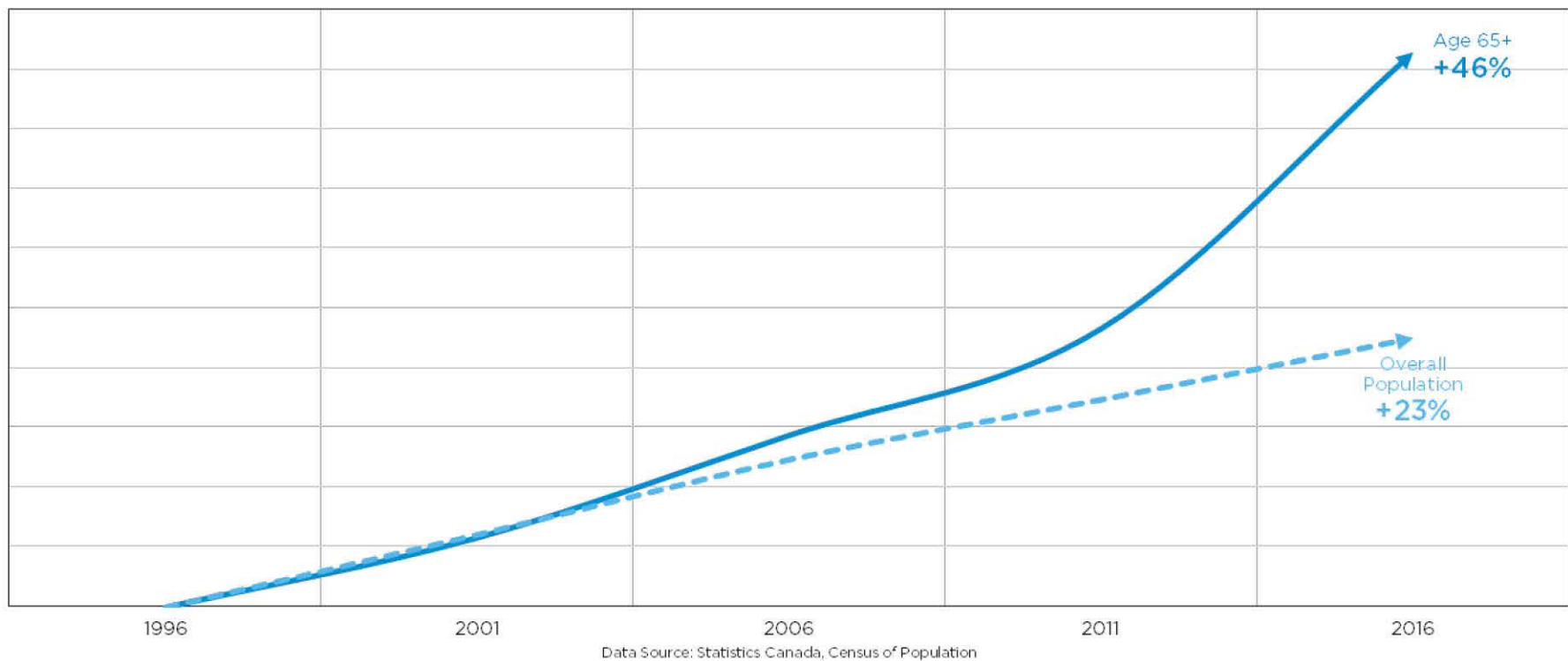
City of Vancouver Proportion of Population Age 65+



## Seniors Demographics

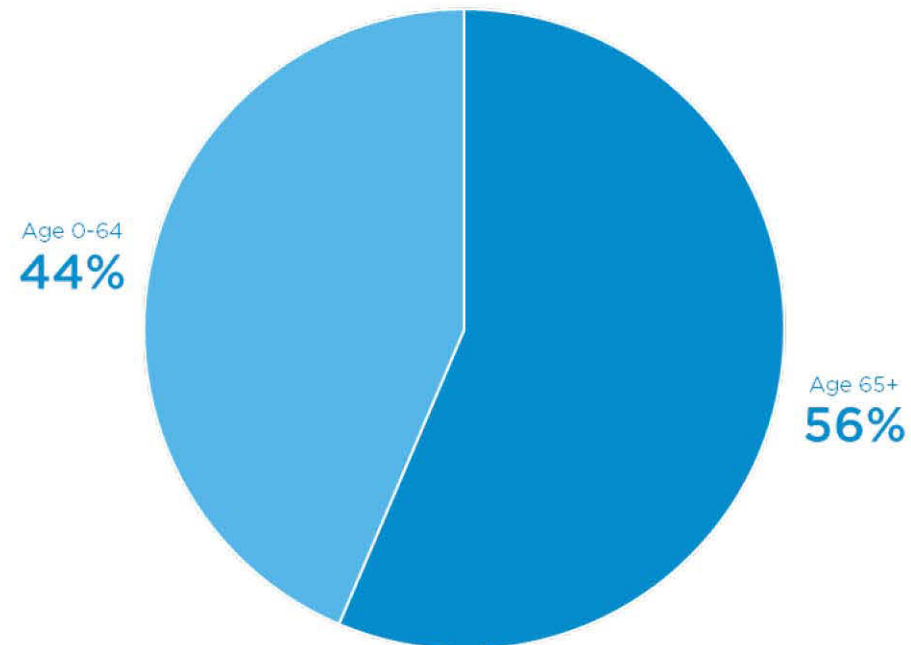
Over twenty years, the rate of growth in the number of seniors has been double the overall population

City of Vancouver Population Growth Rate, 1996 Baseline

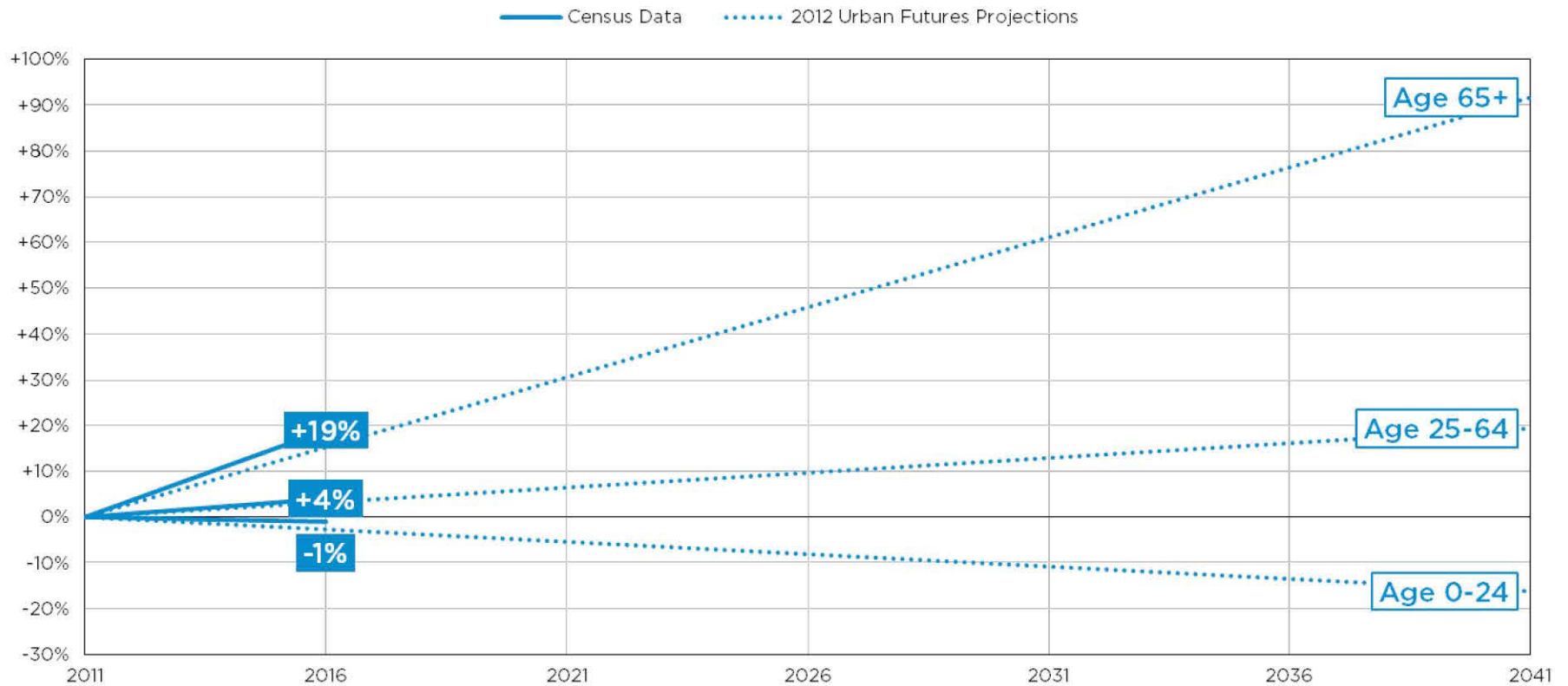


Over five years, the majority of the city's growth was seniors

City of Vancouver: 28,000 Net New Residents 2011-2016



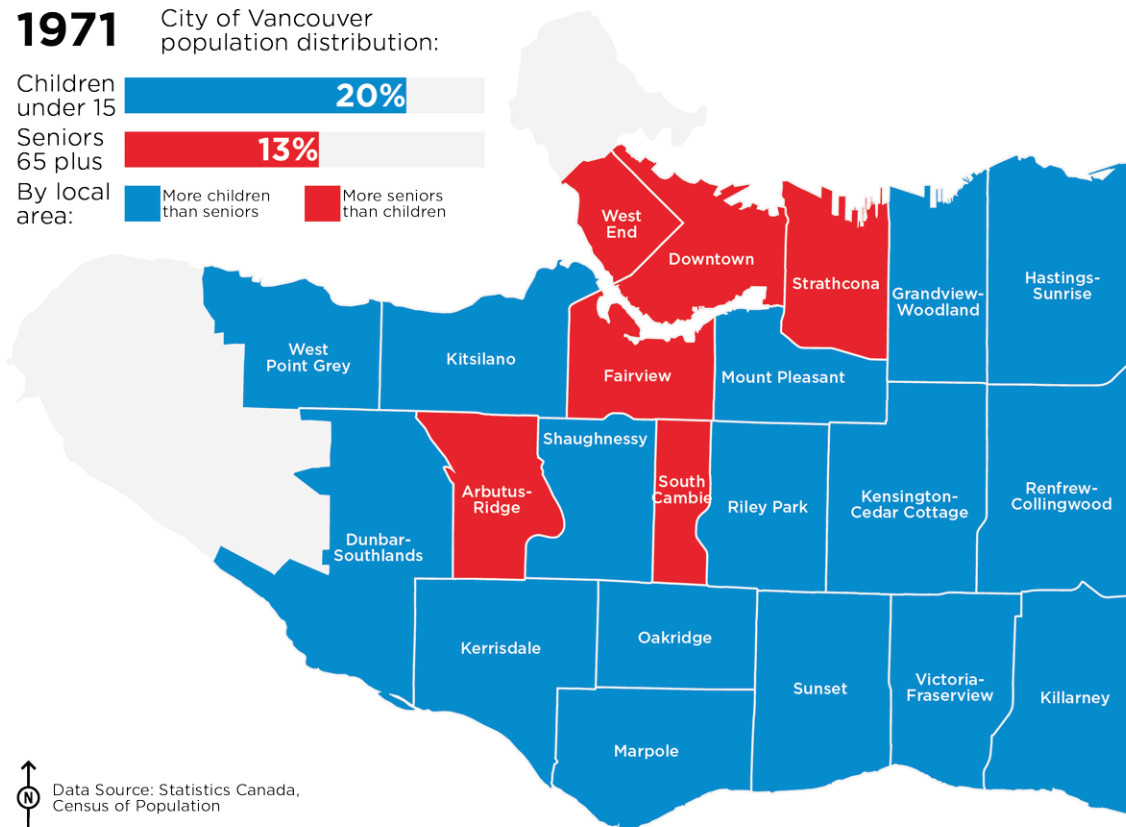
# The city's demographic makeup will change



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population; Urban Futures, May 2012 Population and Housing Projections for City of Vancouver

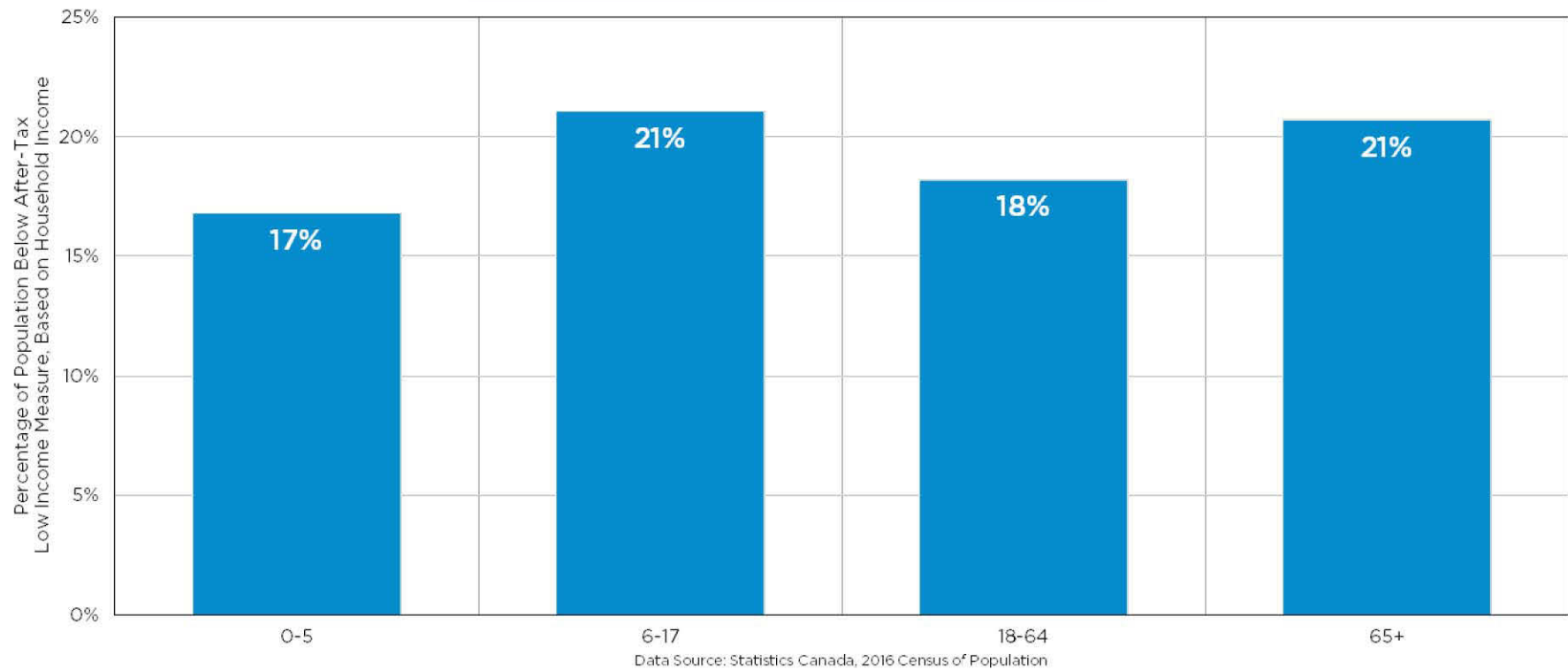
## Seniors Demographics

# Almost all neighbourhoods now have more seniors than children



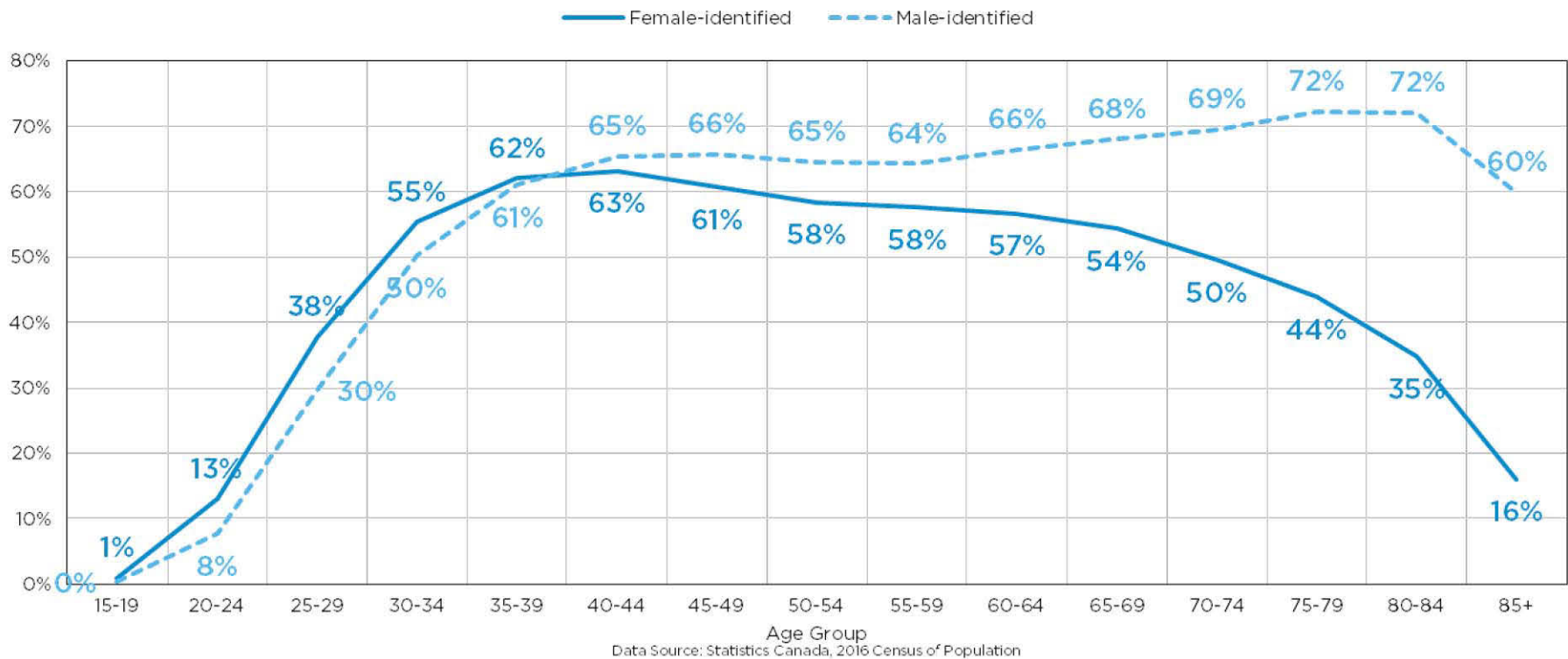
## One in five seniors are low-income

Low Income Rate by Age Group, 2016



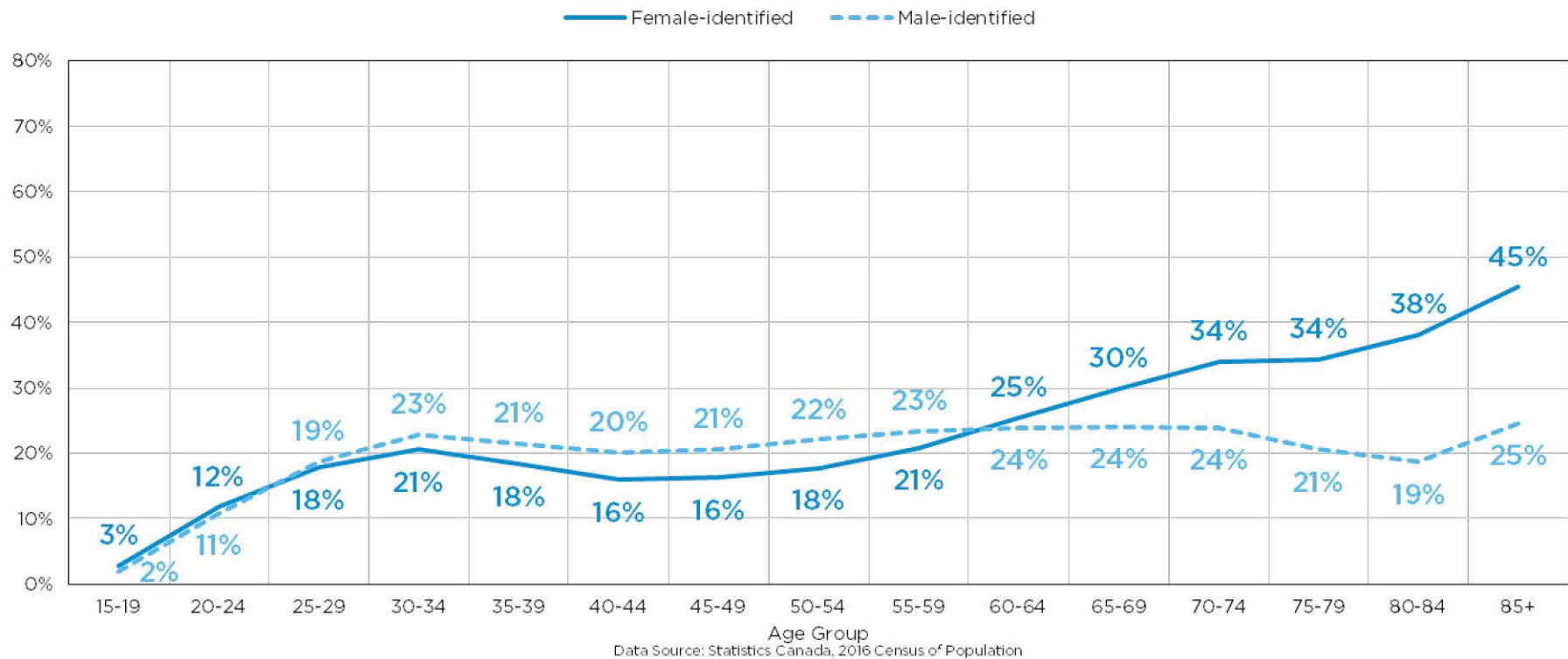
## Senior men are more likely to live with a partner

City of Vancouver Proportion of Population Living with Partner



## Senior women are more likely to live alone

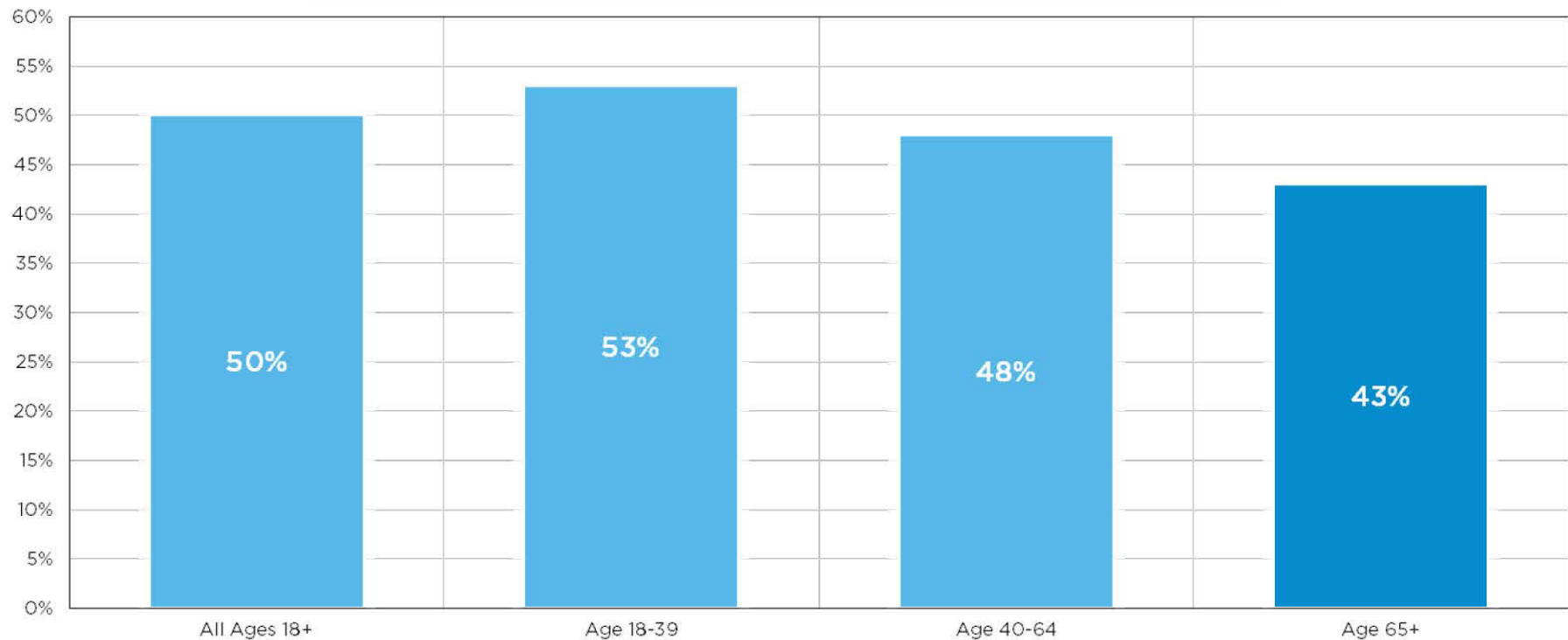
### City of Vancouver Proportion of Population Living Alone





## Seniors are less likely to have people in their support network

### People with Four or More People in Their Support Network

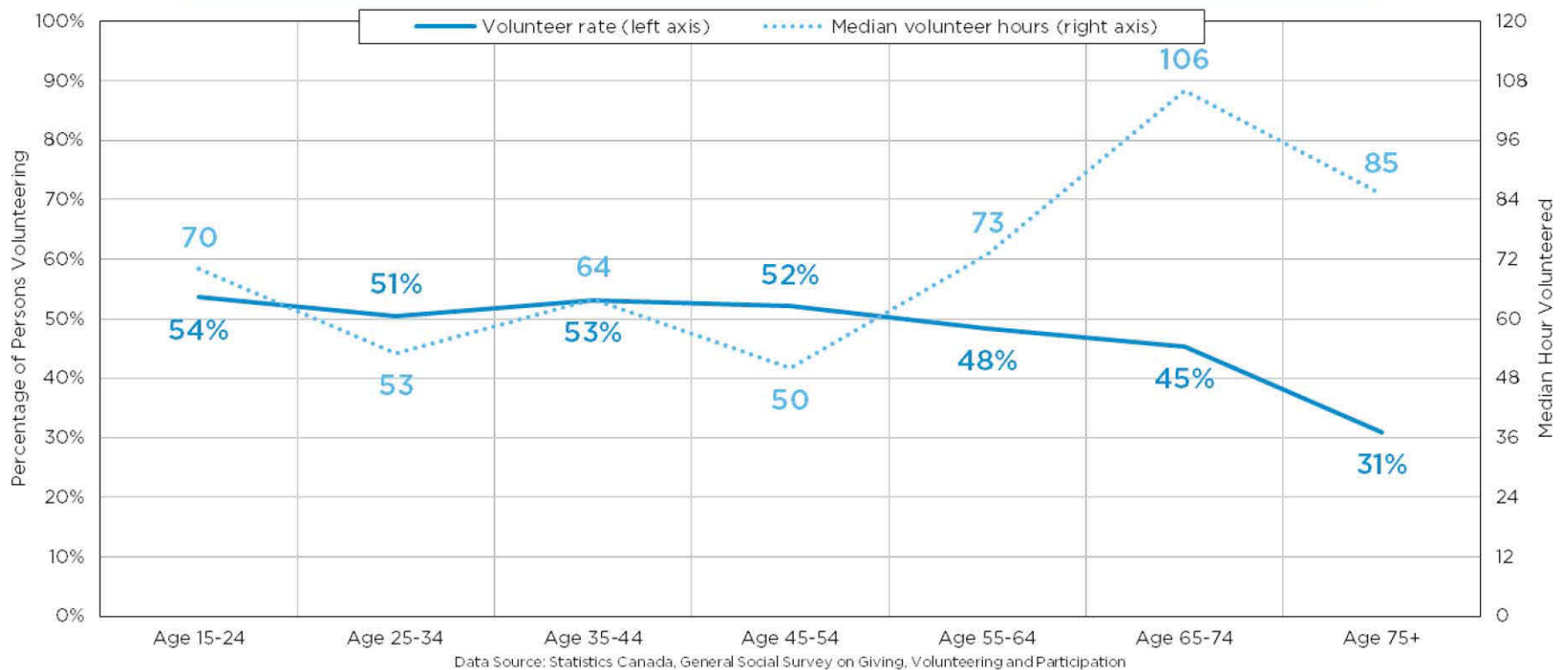


Data Source: Vancouver Coastal Health/Fraser Health, My Health My Community Survey 2013/2014

## Seniors Demographics

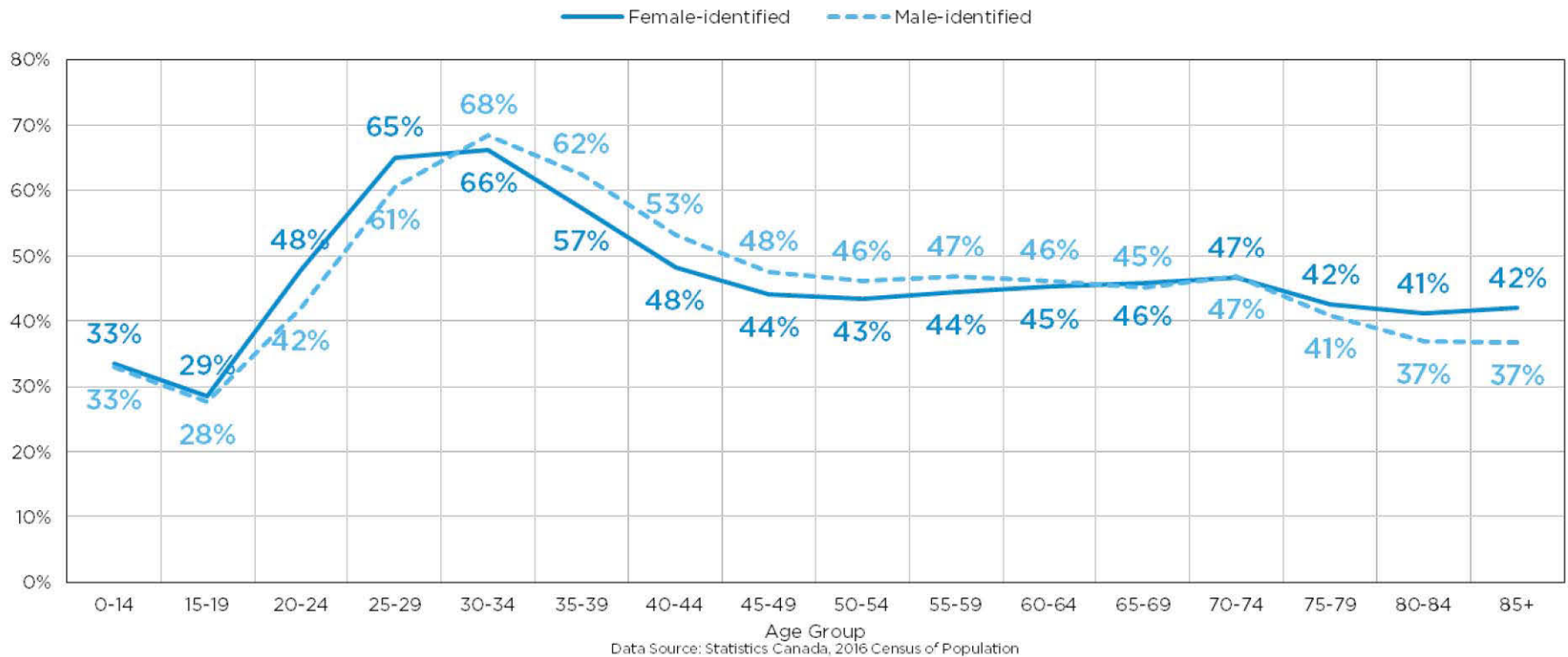
Seniors are not more likely to volunteer in their community, but they volunteer more hours than other age groups

**BC Residents Volunteering Rates and Average Hours Volunteered, 2013**



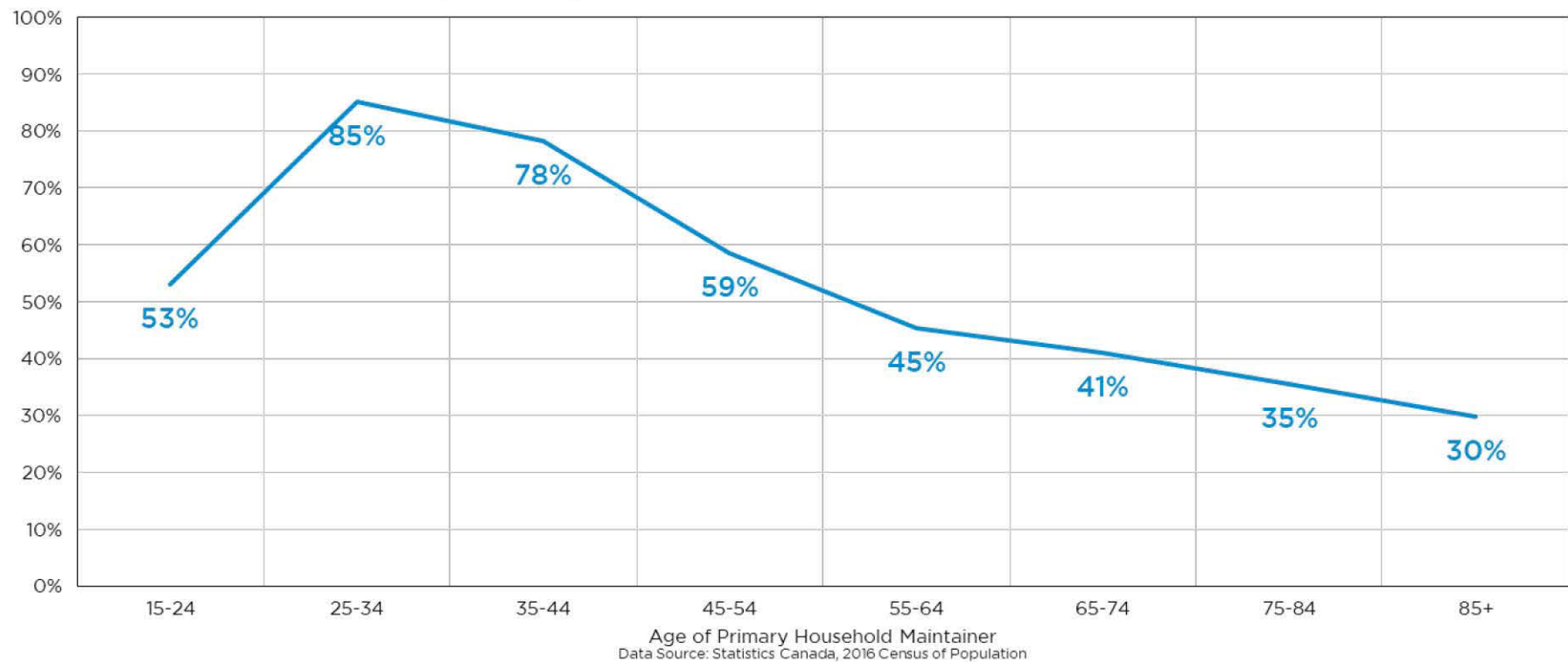
# Two in five seniors live in apartments

City of Vancouver Proportion of Population Living in Apartments



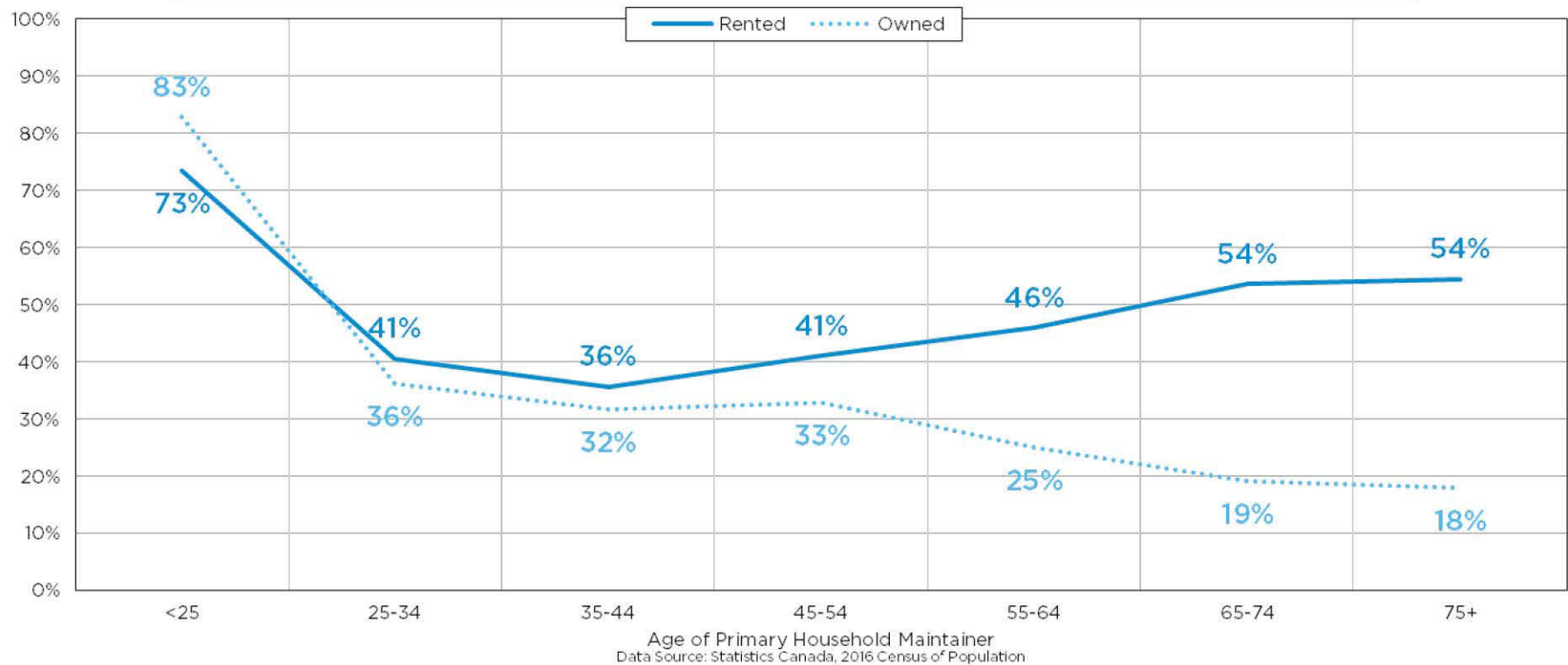
## About a third of senior households are rented

Percentage of City of Vancouver Households that are Rented



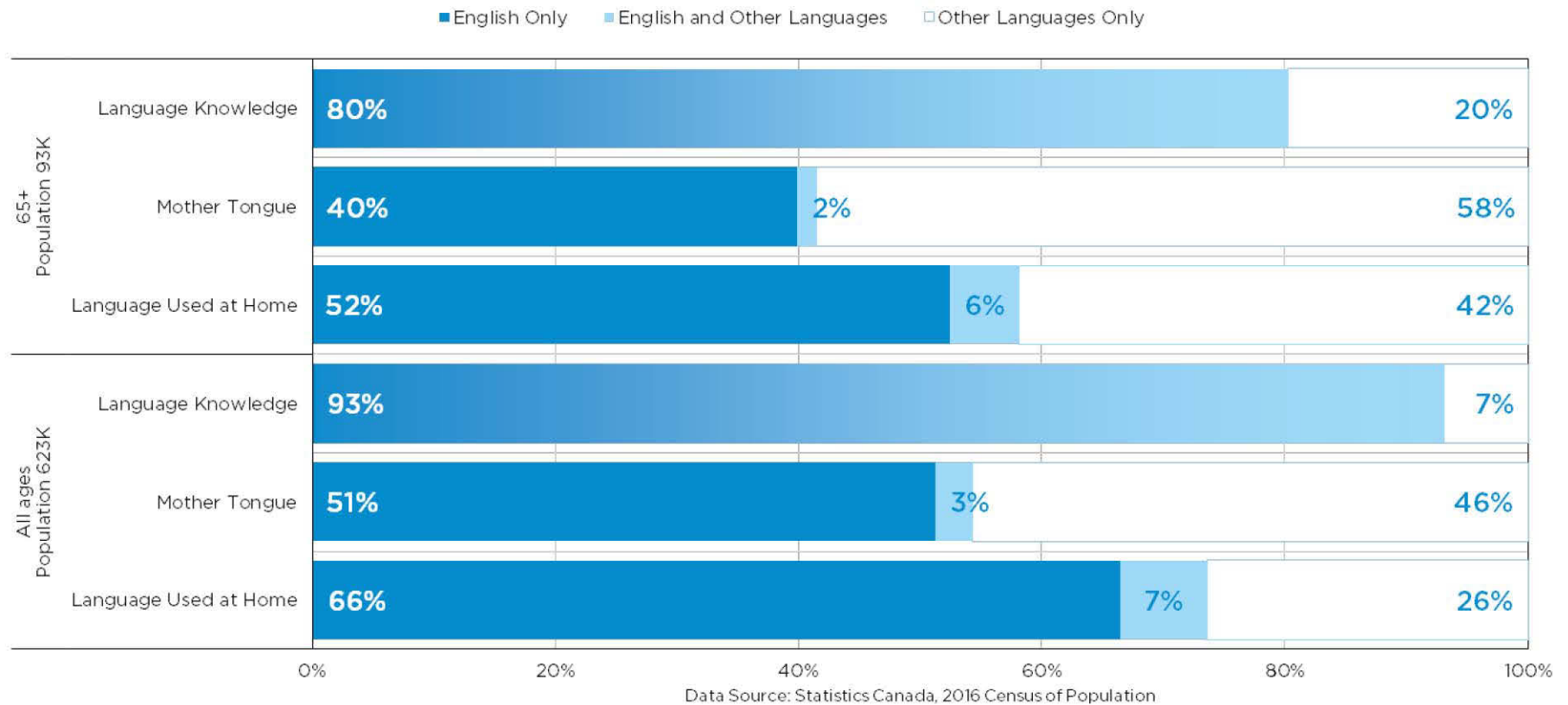
# Seniors who rent are more likely to struggle with affordability challenges

City of Vancouver Households Spending 30%+ of Income on Shelter Costs



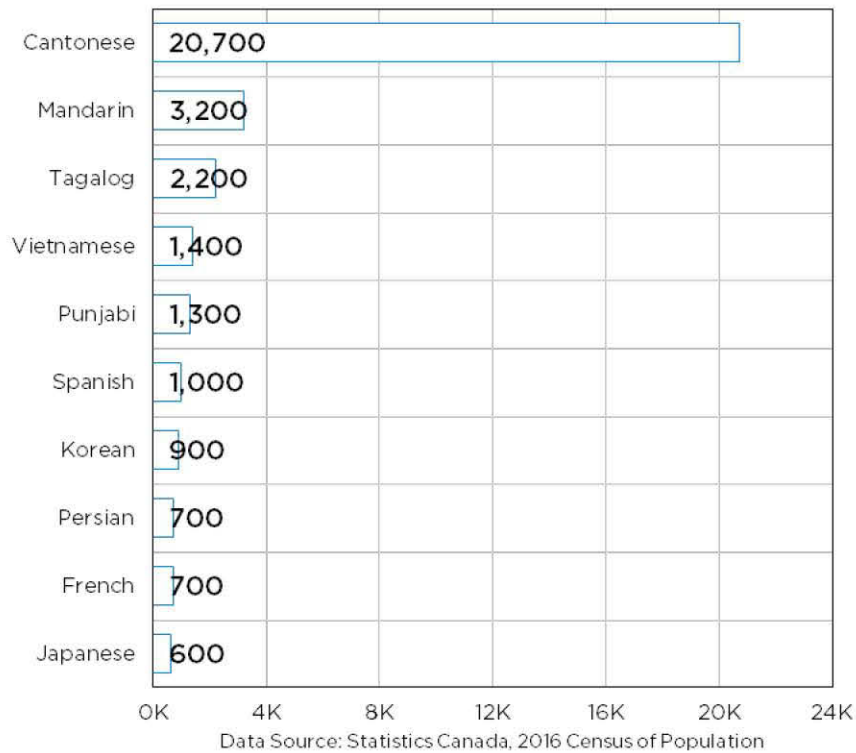
## Seniors Demographics

One in five seniors cannot speak English, and two in five do not use English at home

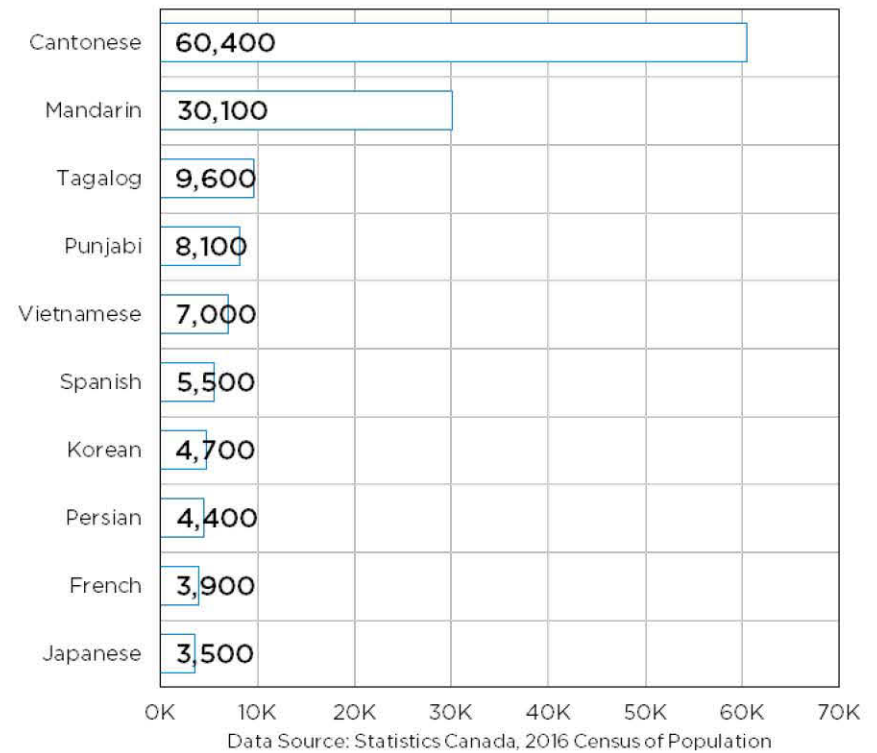


# Top ten non-official languages used at home

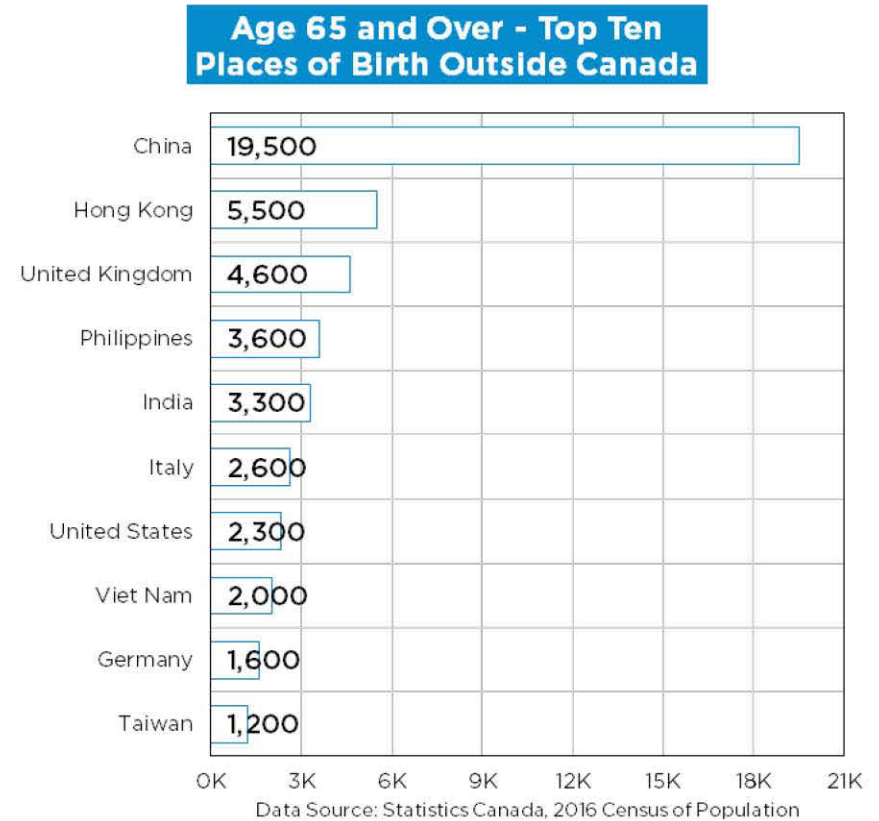
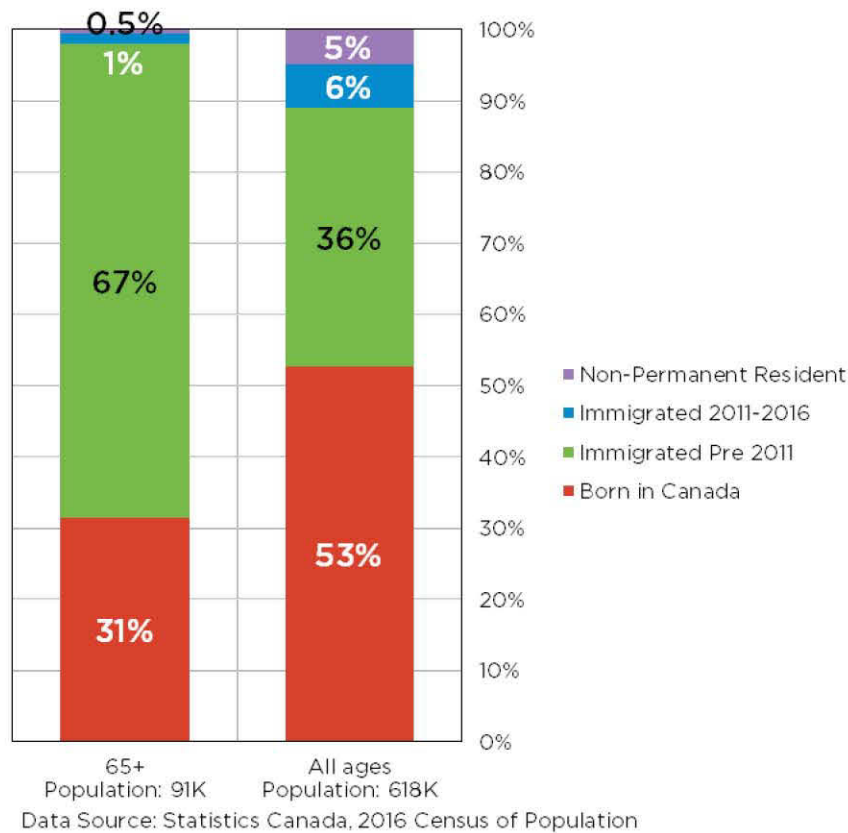
**Age 65 and Over - Population 93K**



**All Ages - Population 624K**



## Two-thirds of Vancouver seniors are immigrants





## Seniors Demographics



## Seniors - neighbourhood mapping



# Where seniors live in the city


## Senior population density

Total population of City of Vancouver:

**631,486** all ages

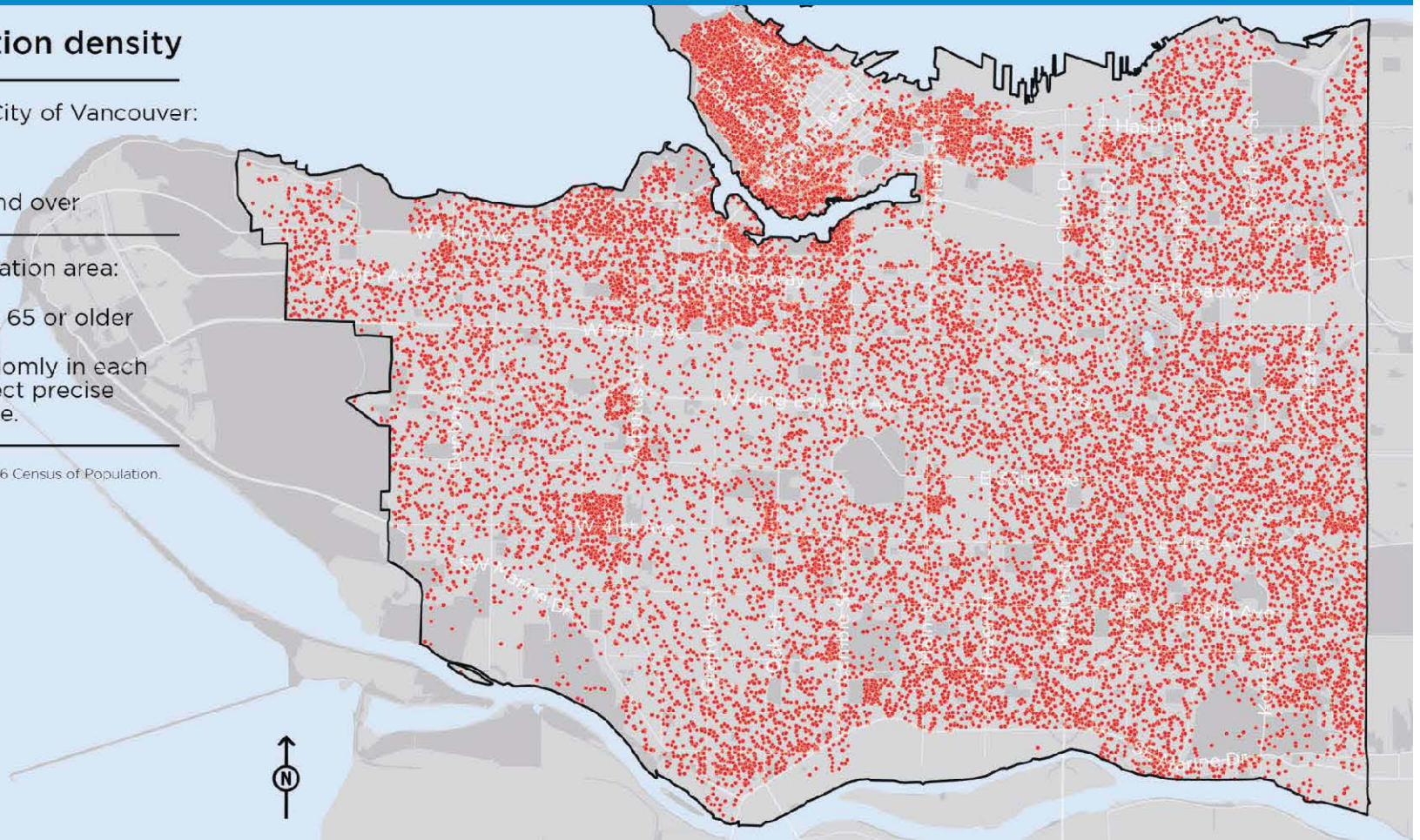
**97,565** persons 65 and over

Mapped by dissemination area:

 = 5 persons age 65 or older

Dots are placed randomly in each area and do not reflect precise locations of residence.

Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population.



## Mapping risk factors

- Task: to overlay demographic variables to identify “hot spot” neighbourhoods for ethnographic research
- Methodology:
  - Fixed definition of seniors as age 65+
  - Data available only for seniors in private households
  - Census tract geographical level
  - Analysis based on normalized index score of rate for each variable
  - Composite index calculated as numeric average of index scores
- Many issues and limitations with this approach
- One possible model among many

## Seniors Demographics

# Gender

### Senior women

Population identified as female:

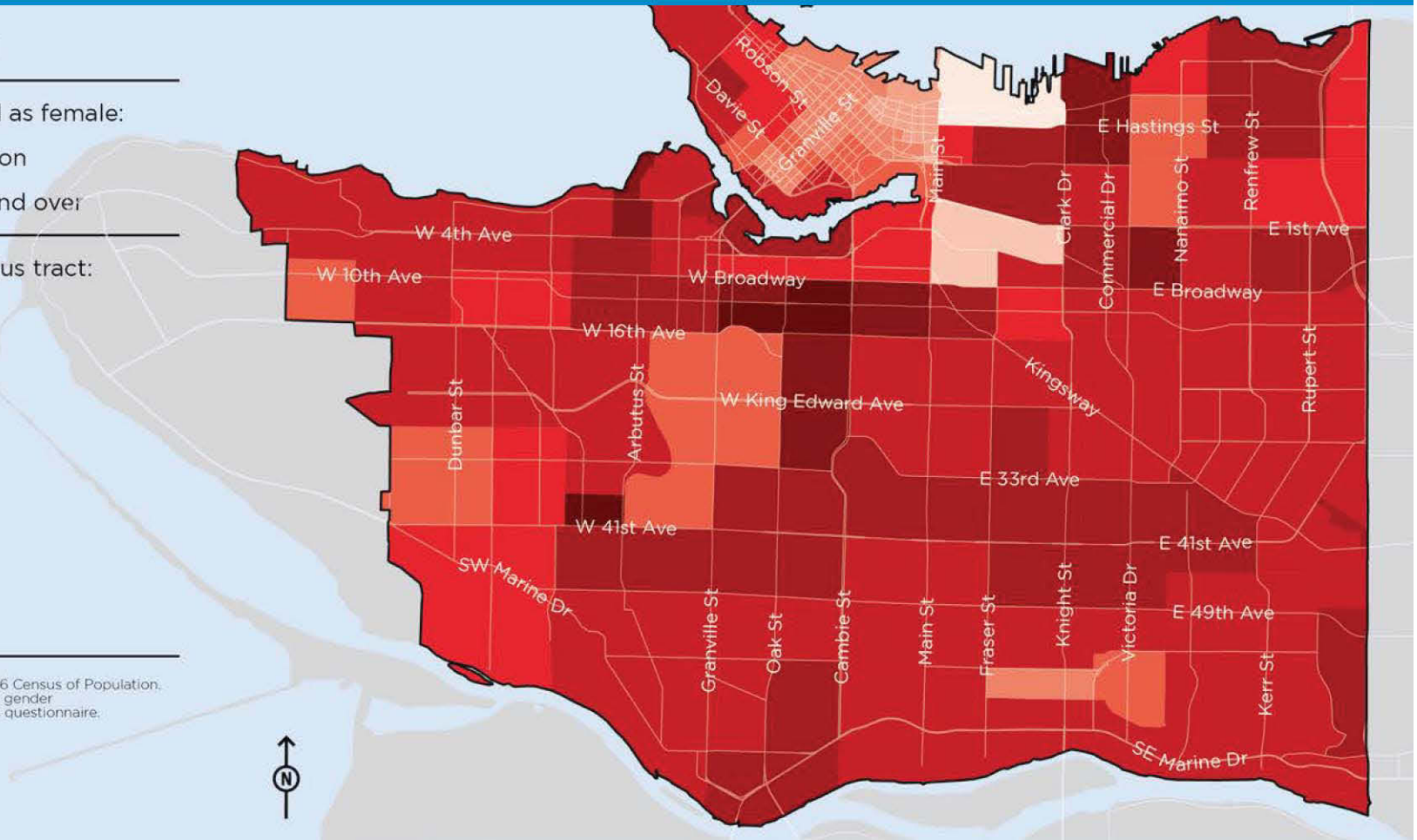
**51%** of total population

**54%** of persons 65 and over

Indexed rate by census tract:



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population. Note that only "male" and "female" gender options are included on the census questionnaire.



# Indigenous identity

## Indigenous seniors

Population with Indigenous identity:

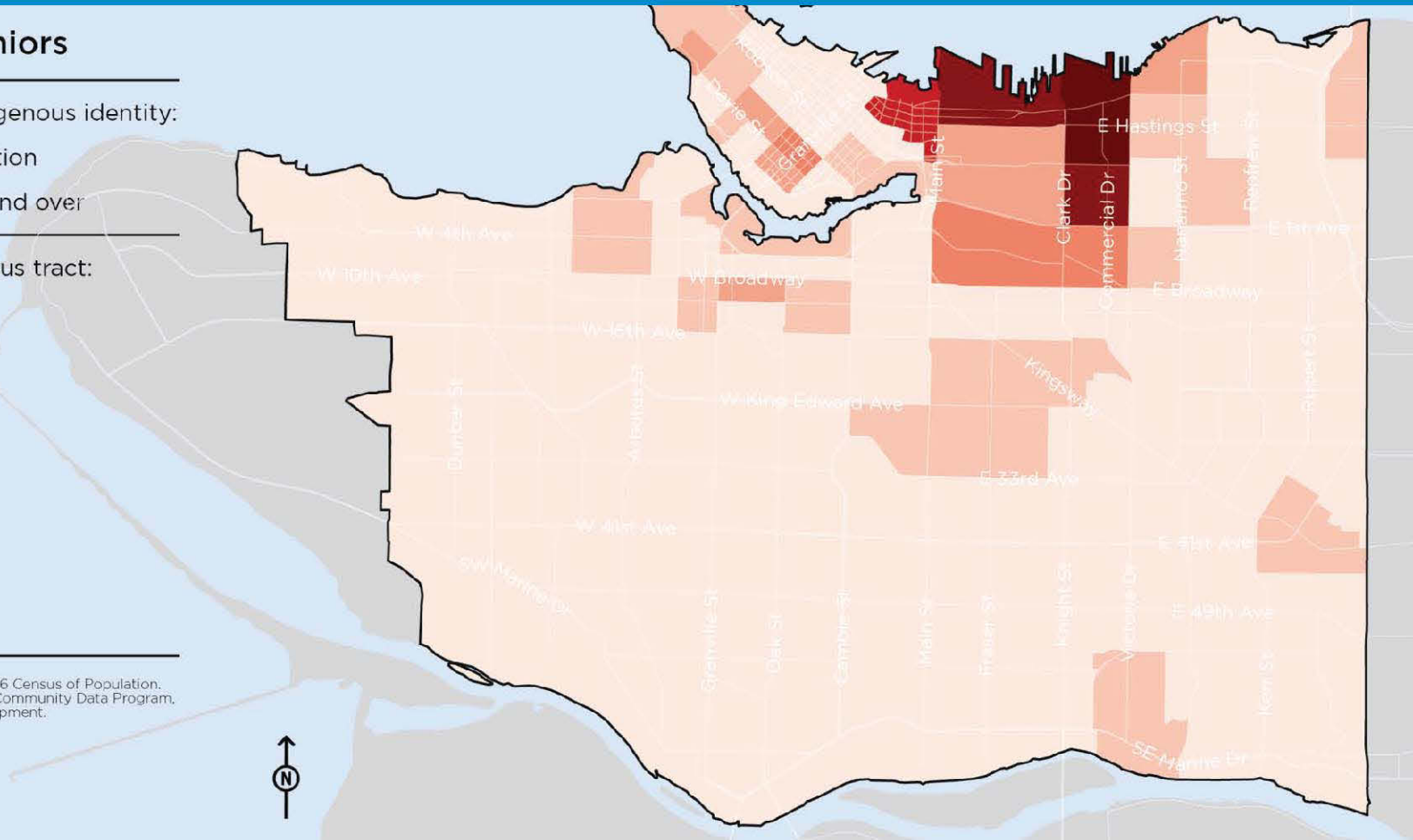
2.2% of total population

1.0% of persons 65 and over

Indexed rate by census tract:



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population. Custom profile accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development.



# Visible minority

## Visible minority seniors

Population in a visible minority group:

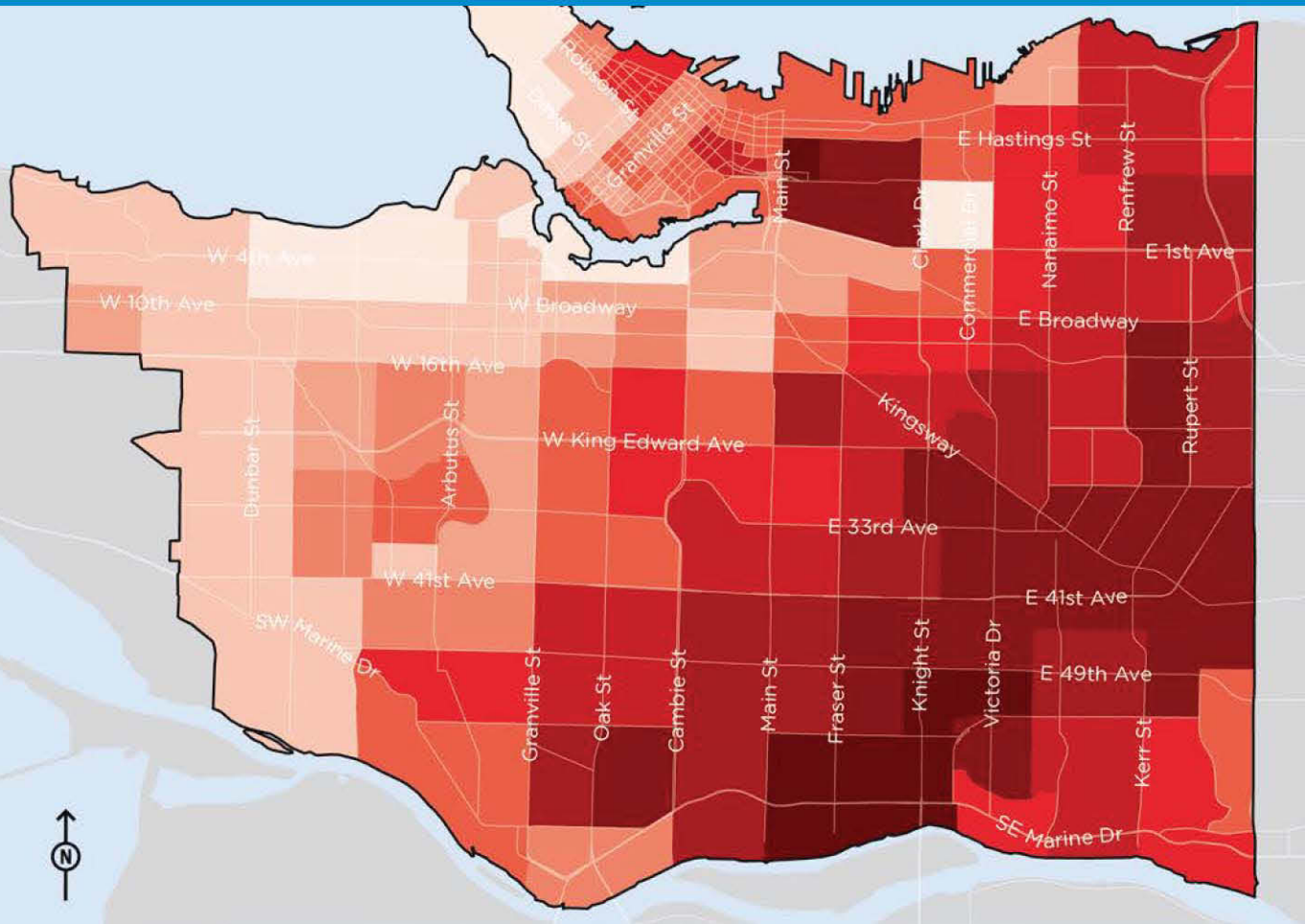
**52%** of total population

**48%** of persons 65 and over

Indexed rate by census tract:



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population. Custom profile accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development. "Visible minority" refers to people who are neither white nor Indigenous, based on self-identification.



# Language barriers

## Non-English speaking seniors

Population without conversational knowledge of English:

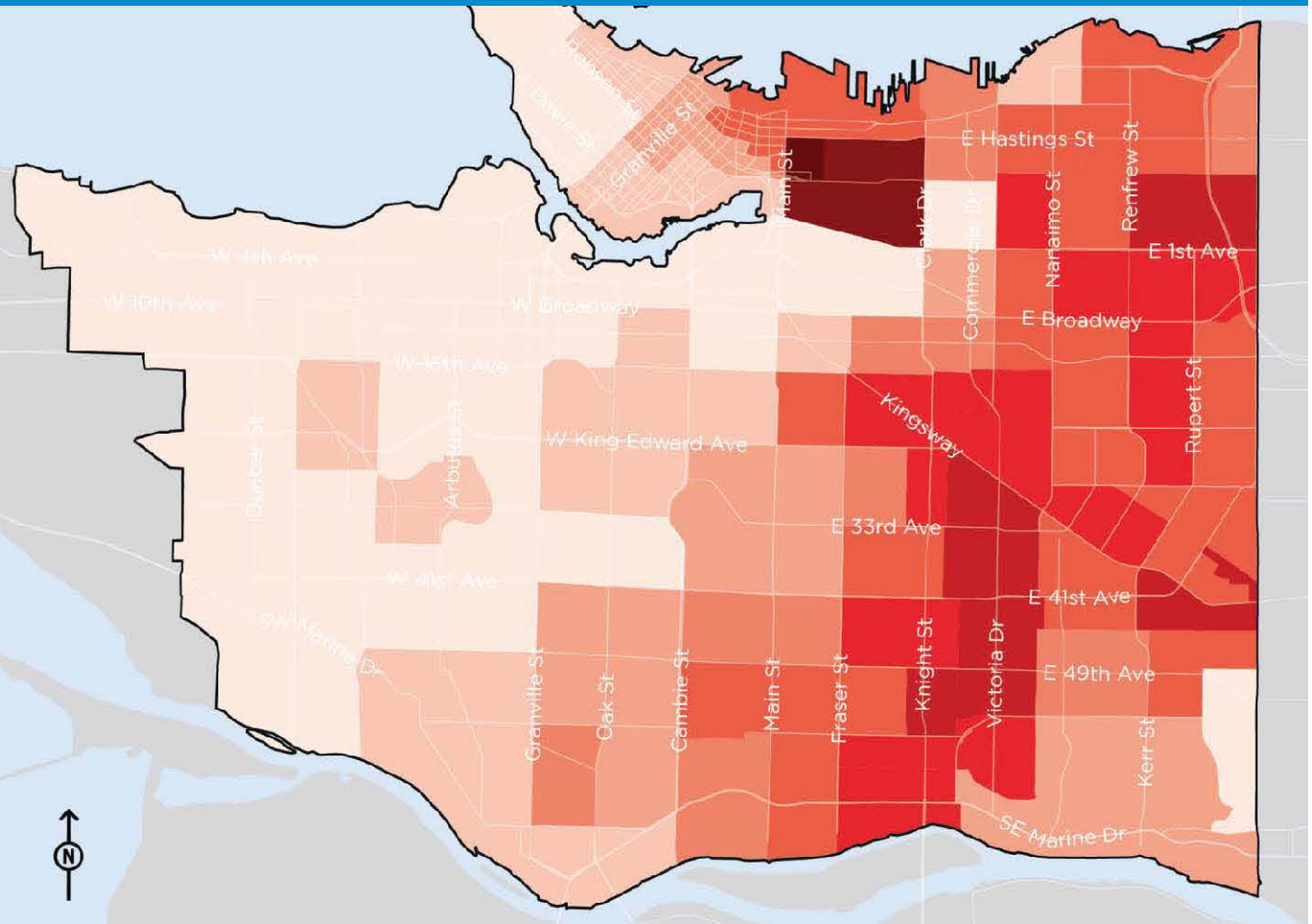
7% of total population

20% of persons 65 and over

Indexed rate by census tract:



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population. Custom profile accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development.



## Seniors Demographics

# Level of education

### Seniors without post-secondary

Population whose highest level of education is high school or lower:

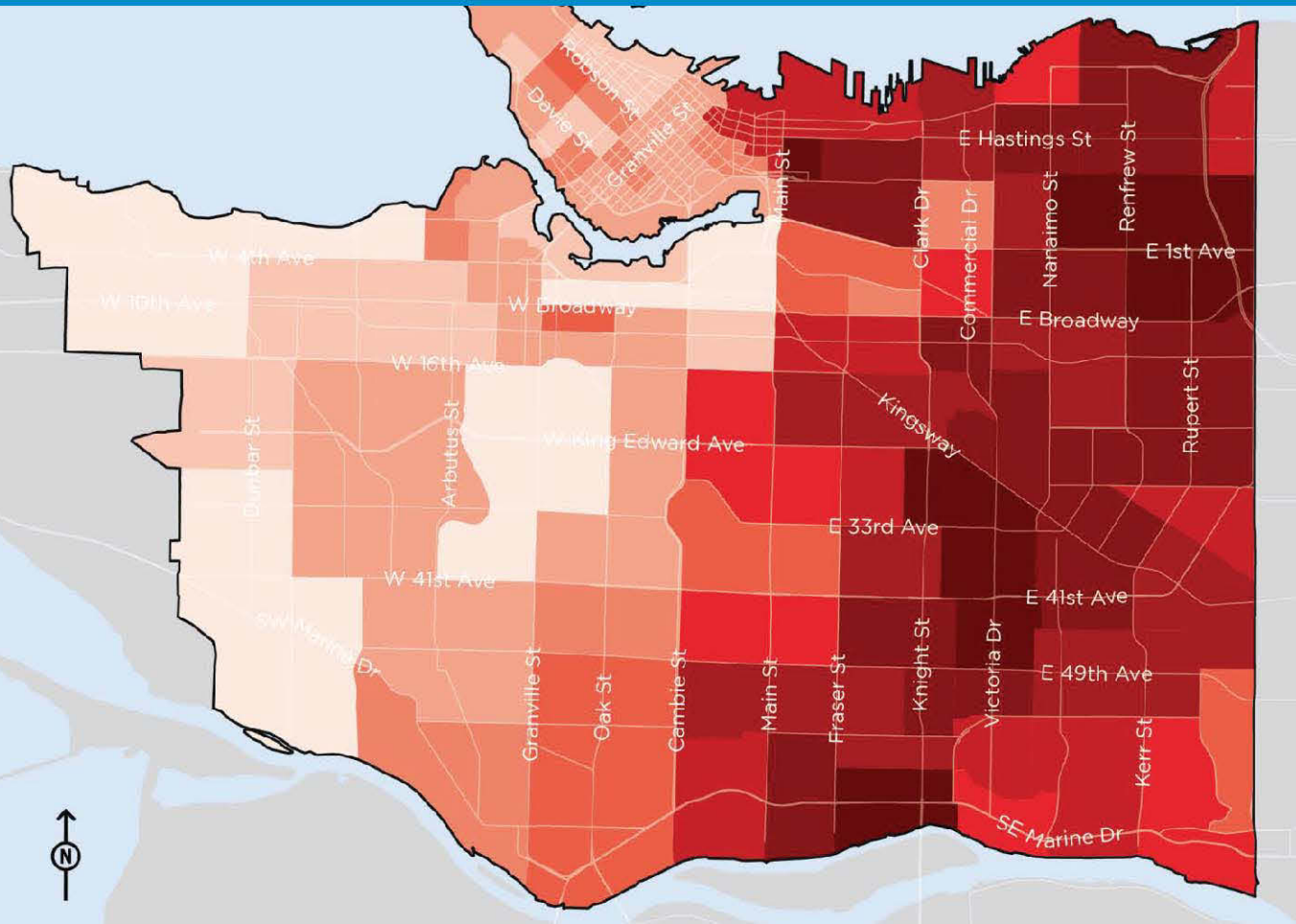
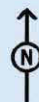
**37%** of total population 15+

**51%** of persons 65 and over

Indexed rate by census tract:



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Custom profile accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development.





# Income poverty

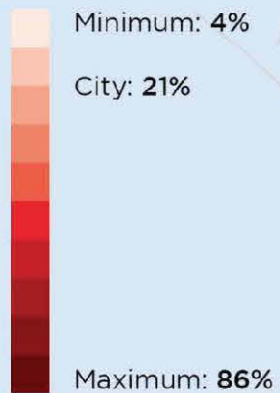
## Low-income seniors

Population with household income below after-tax low income measure:

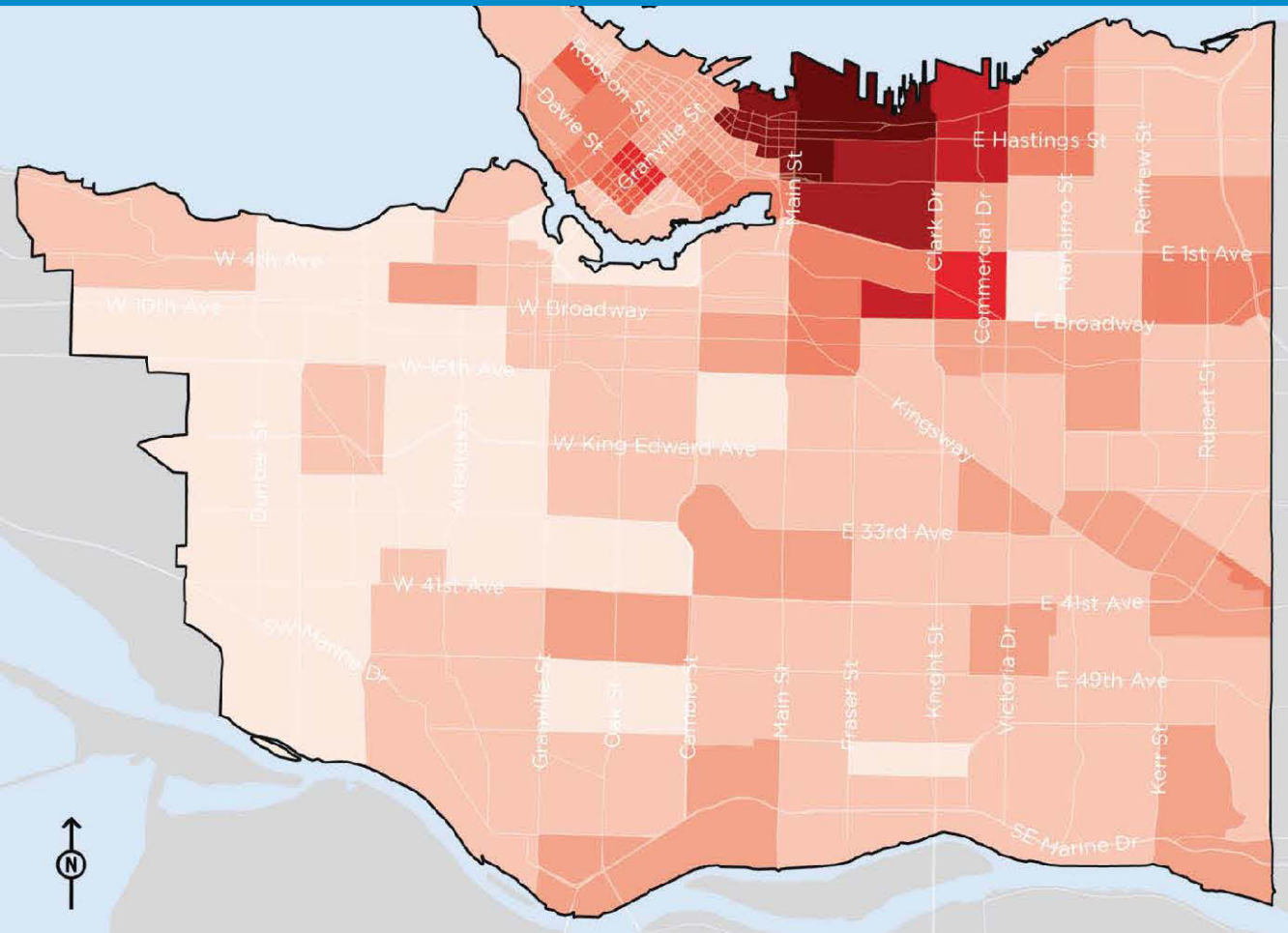
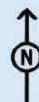
**19%** of total population

**21%** of persons 65 and over

Indexed rate by census tract:



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population. Custom profile accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development.



# Neighbourhood connection

## Recently moved seniors

Population who moved to current residence in previous five years:

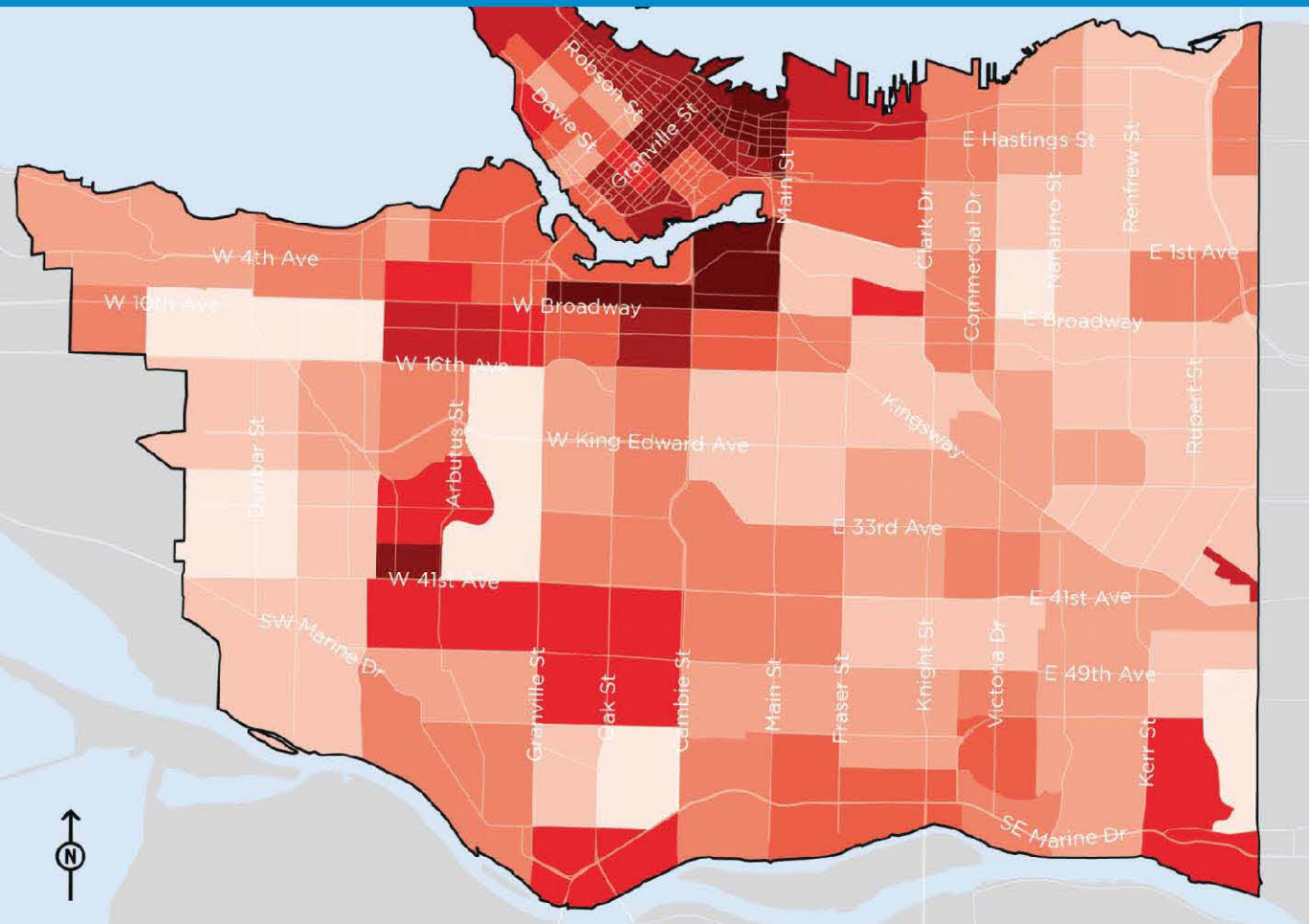
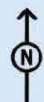
**47%** of total population 5+

**18%** of persons 65 and over

Indexed rate by census tract:



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population. Custom profile accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development.



# Living arrangement

## Seniors living alone

Population living alone:

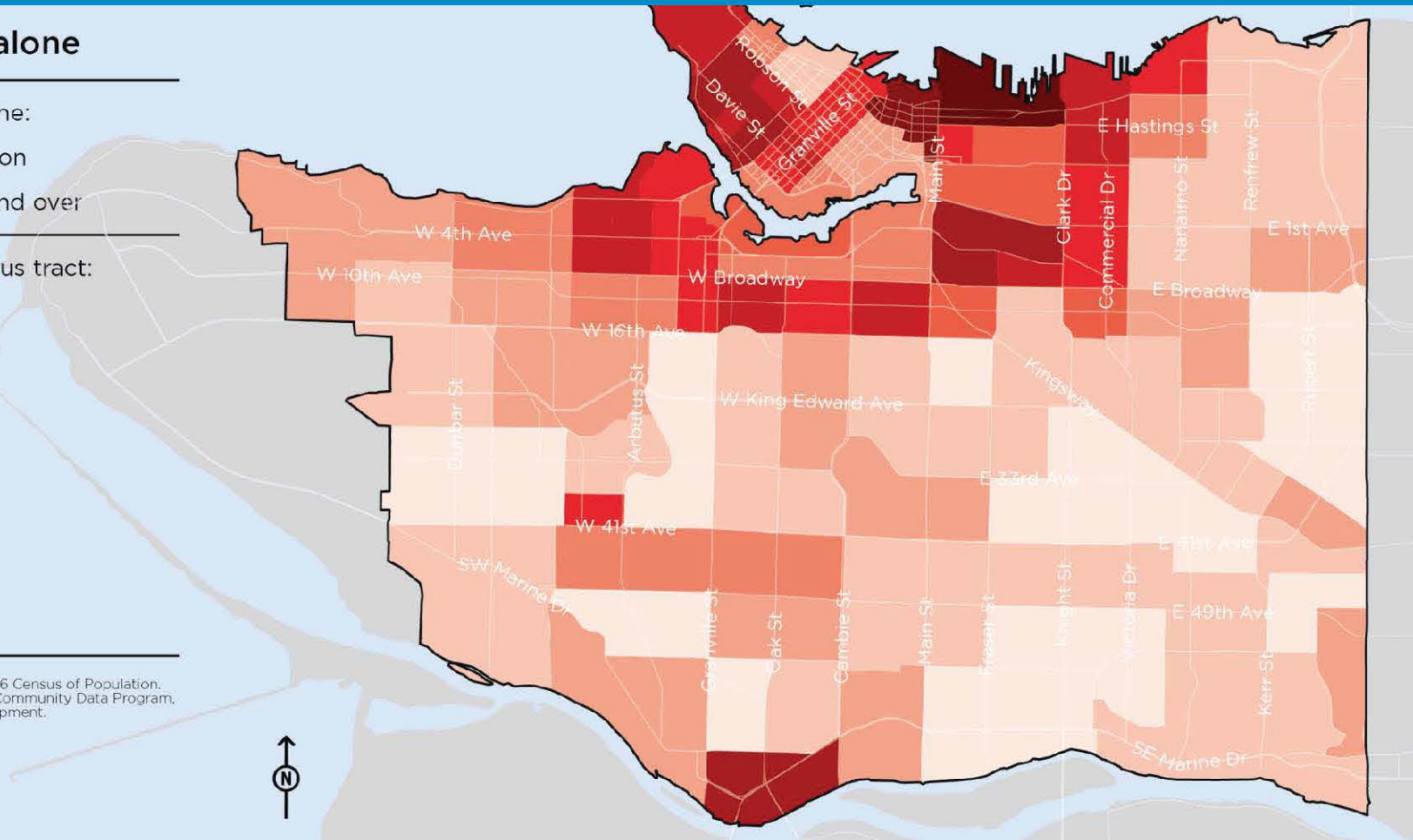
**18%** of total population

**29%** of persons 65 and over

Indexed rate by census tract:



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population. Custom profile accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development.



# Ability and mobility

## Seniors with limitations on daily activities

Population reporting experiencing limitations on their daily activities:

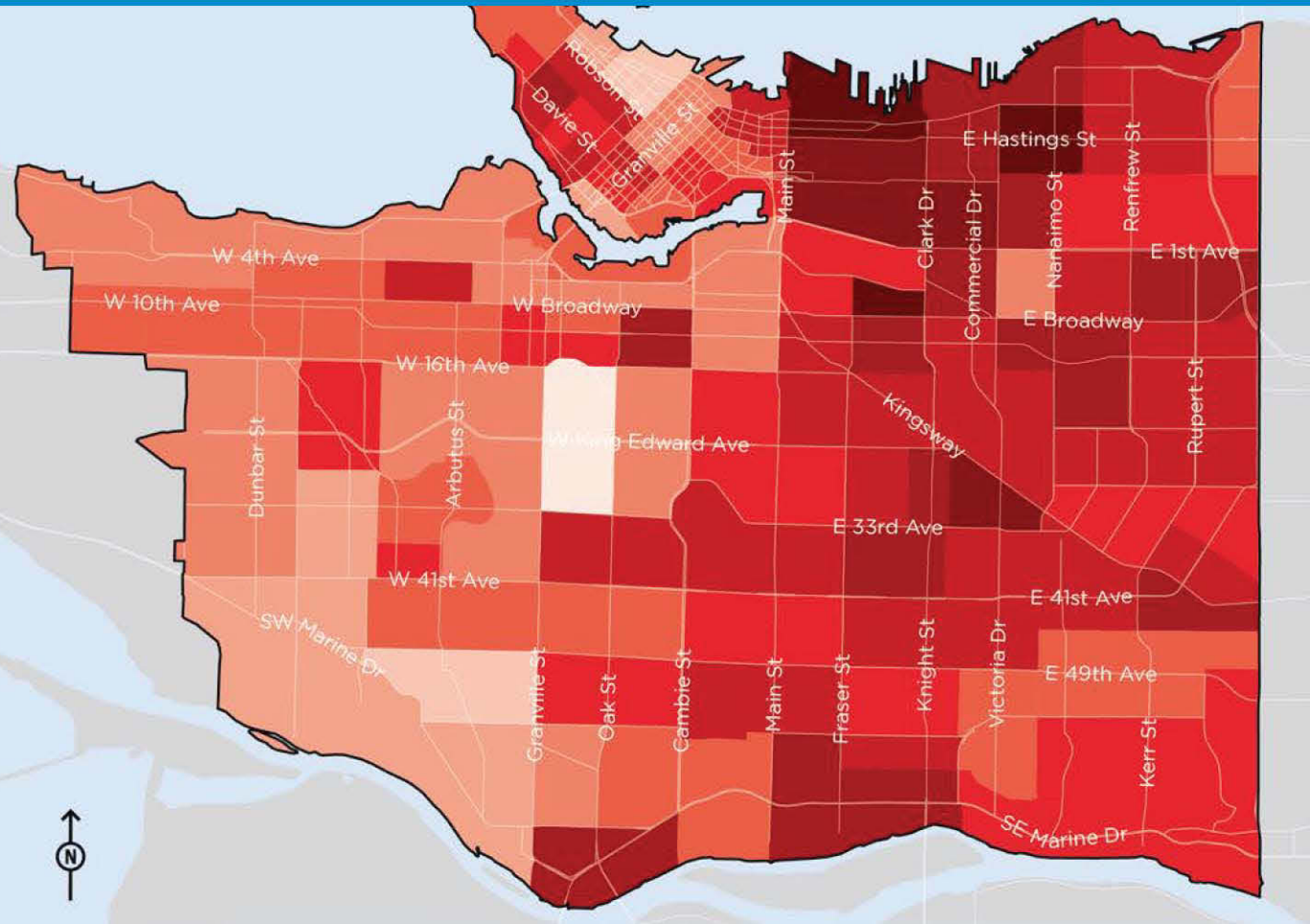
**31%** of total population

**58%** of persons 65 and over

Indexed rate by census tract:



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Custom profile accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development. Activity limitations data are not verified or certified by Statistics Canada and should be used with caution.

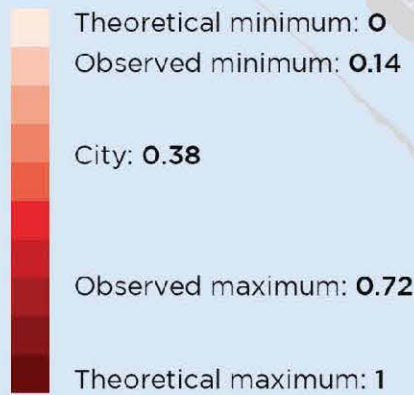


# Mapping conditions that could create vulnerability

**Composite index of factors that may indicate conditions of vulnerability for seniors**

Average index score (0 to 1) on nine selected census variables, relative to range observed in Vancouver census tracts.

Indexed rate by census tract:



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population. Custom profile accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development.

