Social Indicators and Trends in Vancouver

Finding our communities' reflections in data and indicators

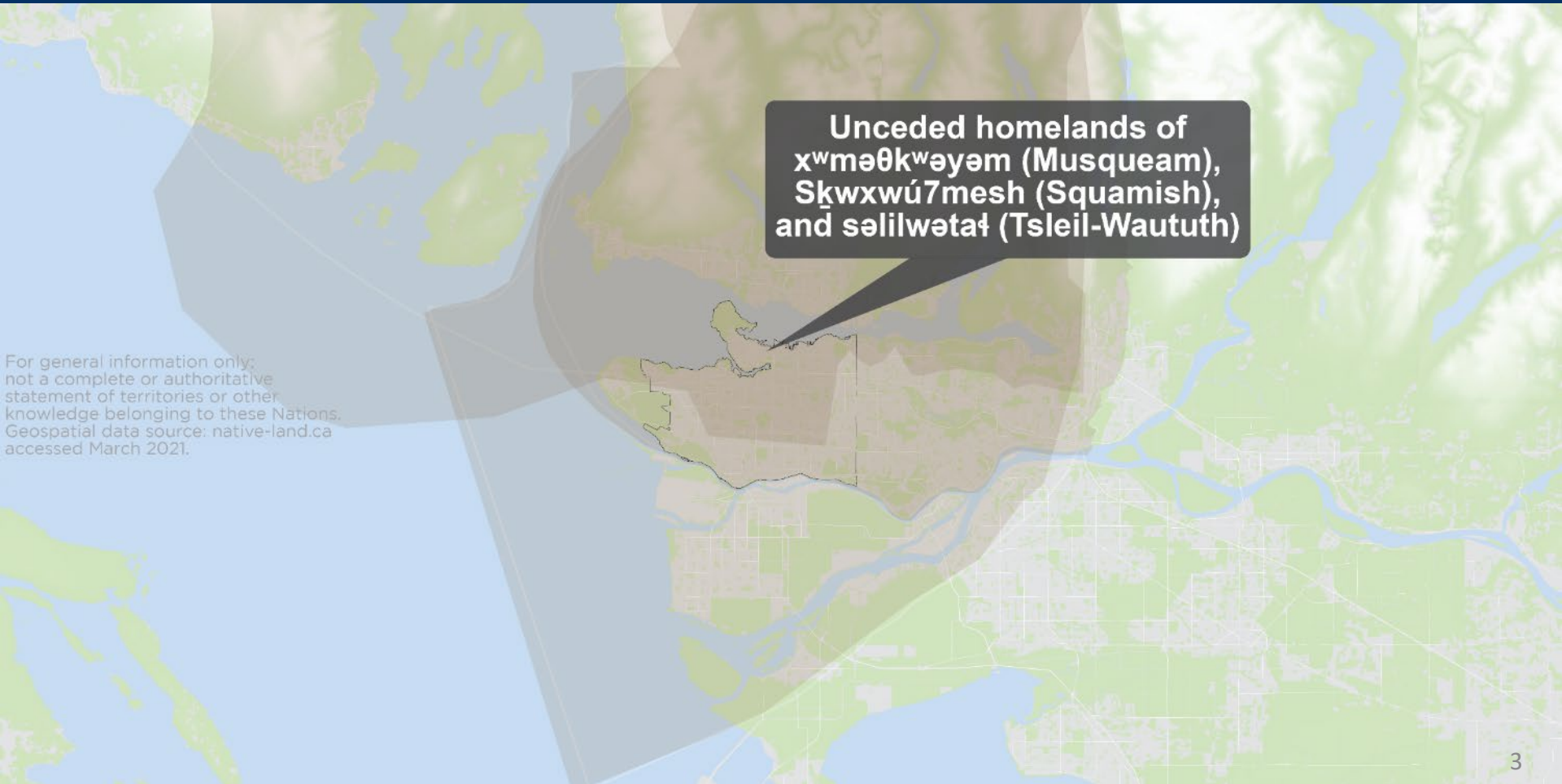
Webinar with non-profit organizations

CITY OF VANCOUVER | Social Policy and Projects

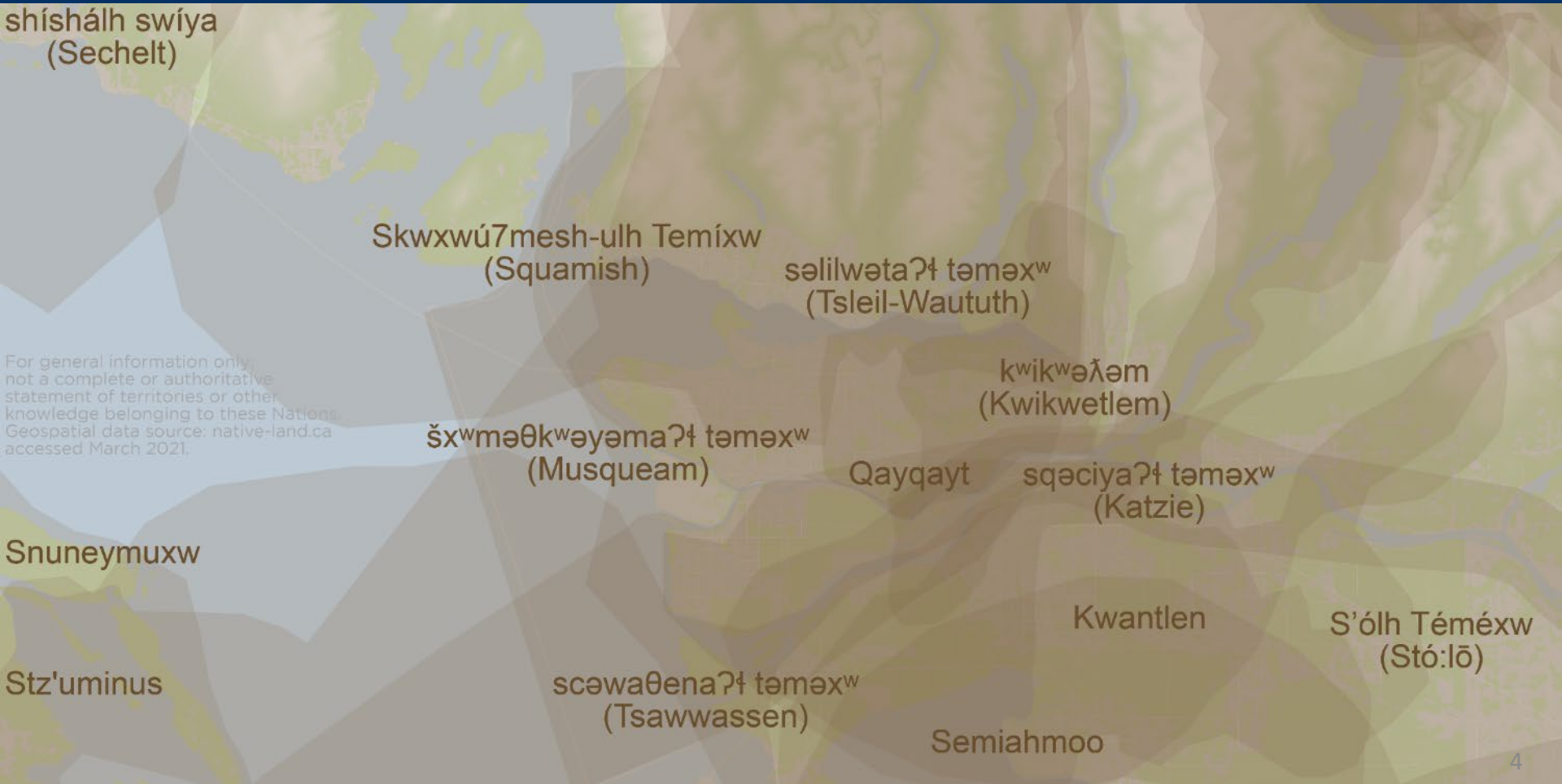
September 28, 2022

Welcome

Land acknowledgement



Land acknowledgement



Webex orientation and accessibility

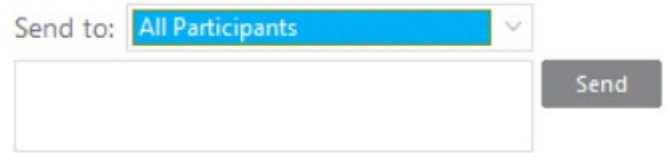
- **Accessibility**
  - We apologize that this webinar is not fully accessible
  - Please contact socialpolicy.research@vancouver.ca and we will make arrangements to share information in different formats and make future events more accessible
- **Audio not working?**
  - Try the call-in option

Q&A

- **Want to share comments, questions, reactions, or thoughts?**
  - Presenters will be monitoring the Q+A

Chat

  - Send a chat message to all participants to introduce yourself or start a public discussion (your name will be visible)



- **Need help?**
  - Send a chat message to panelist Julianna Torjek
- **Privacy and Security**
  - Information shared in Webex is stored and processed outside of Canada

Purpose and agenda

Purpose

- **Share data and analysis** to inform community services grant applications, strategic planning, and service delivery
- **Take a closer look** at preliminary data on the impacts of COVID-19
- **Understand how 2021 Census** data was collected and is being released, including new topics and questions
- **Start and continue conversations** about how we can collectively understand well-being, equity, and change in our communities

Agenda

- Convening and introductions
- City of Vancouver staff presentation: ***Data sources, indicators and trends***
- Statistics Canada presentation: ***2021 Census: results on gender diversity***
- New tools for engagement
- Data governance discussion
- Closing and next steps

Introductions

Data sources, indicators, and trends

City of Vancouver Social Policy Research and Data Team

Is there a new normal?

(Nothing is normal)

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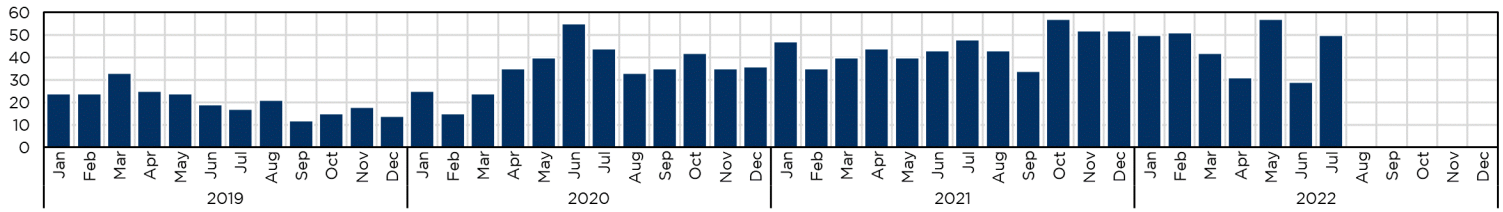
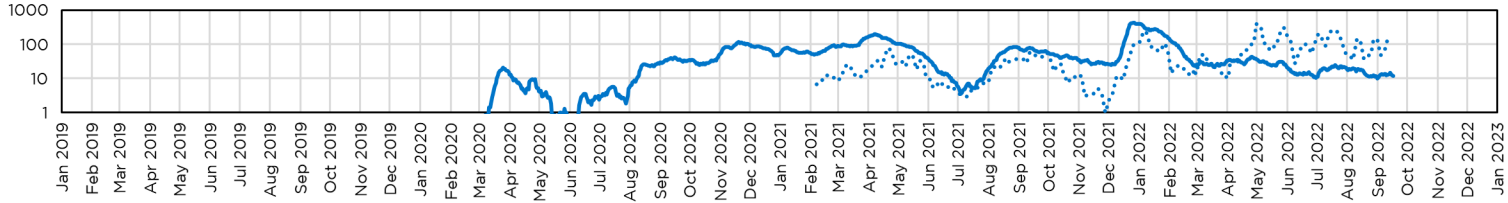
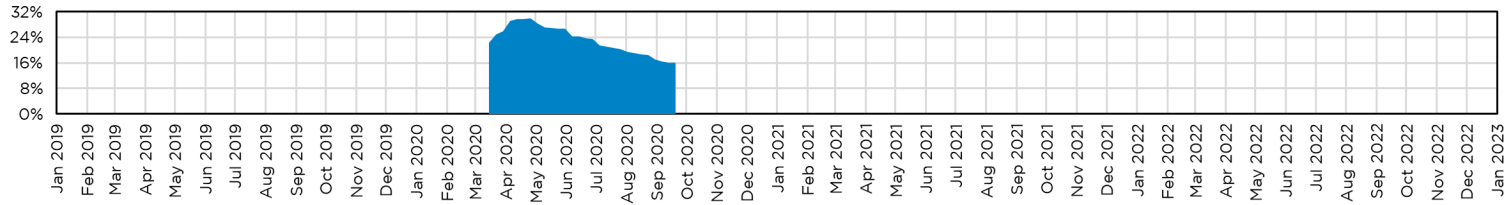
Monthly drug poisoning deaths in Vancouver



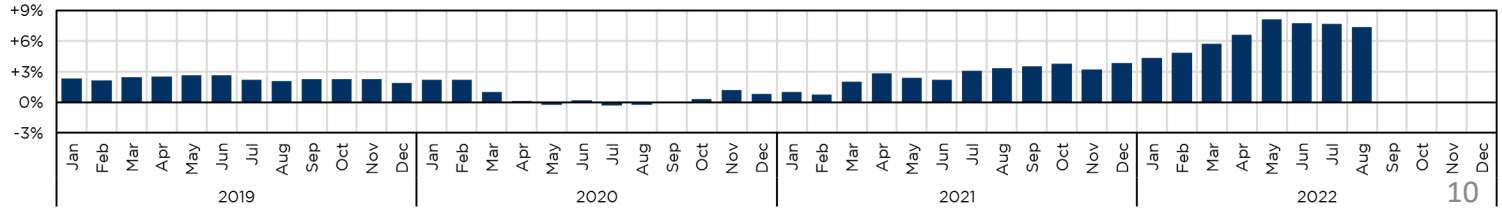
Daily COVID PCR tests/ wastewater [] in Vancouver

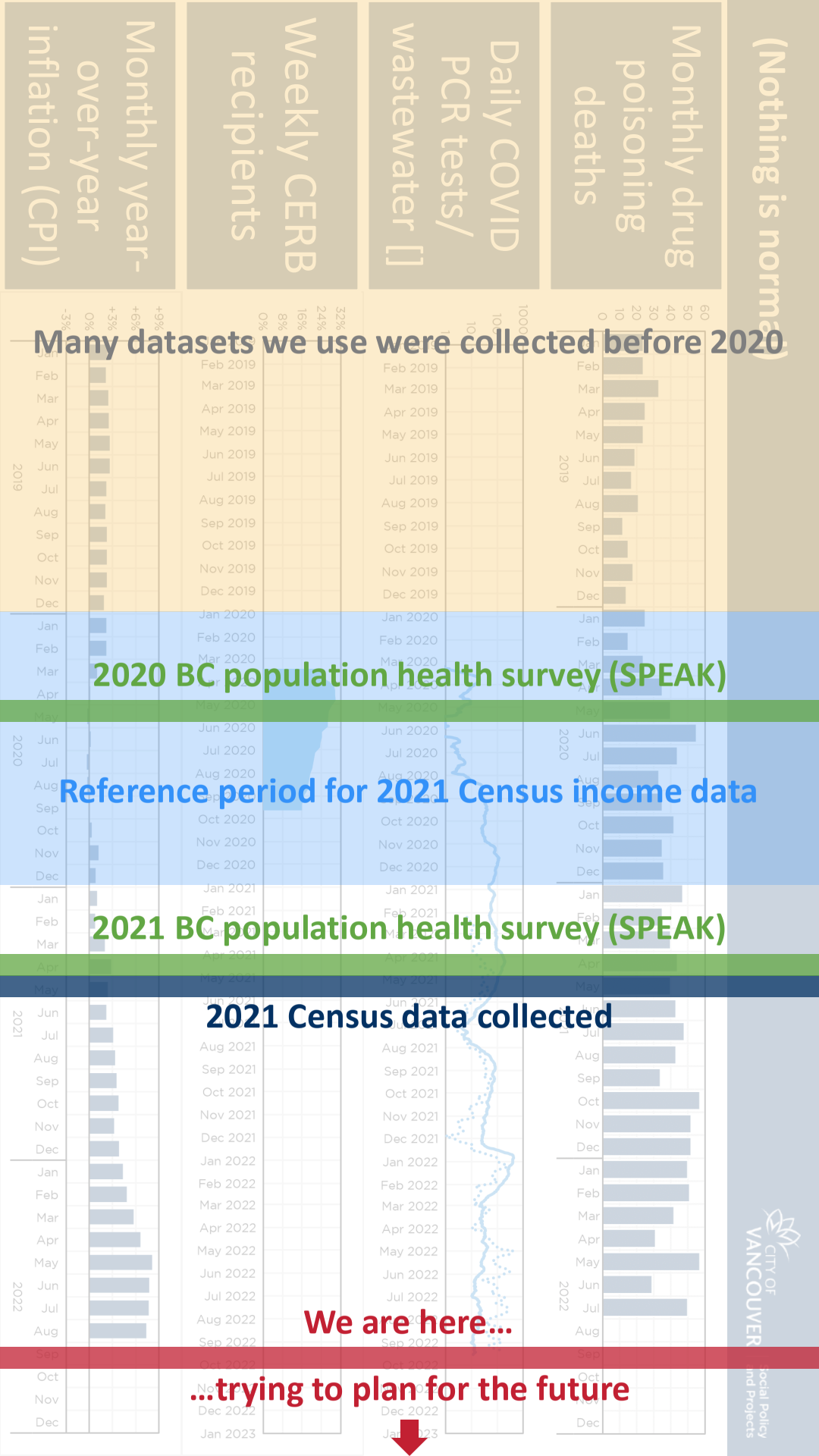


Weekly rate of CERB recipients in Vancouver



Monthly year-over-year change in CPI for Metro




Monthly year-over-year inflation (CPI)
Weekly CERB recipients
Daily COVID PCR tests/ wastewater []
Monthly drug poisoning deaths
(Nothing is normal)
Many datasets we use were collected before 2020
2020 BC population health survey (SPEAK)
Reference period for 2021 Census income data
2021 BC population health survey (SPEAK)
2021 Census data collected
We are here...
...trying to plan for the future
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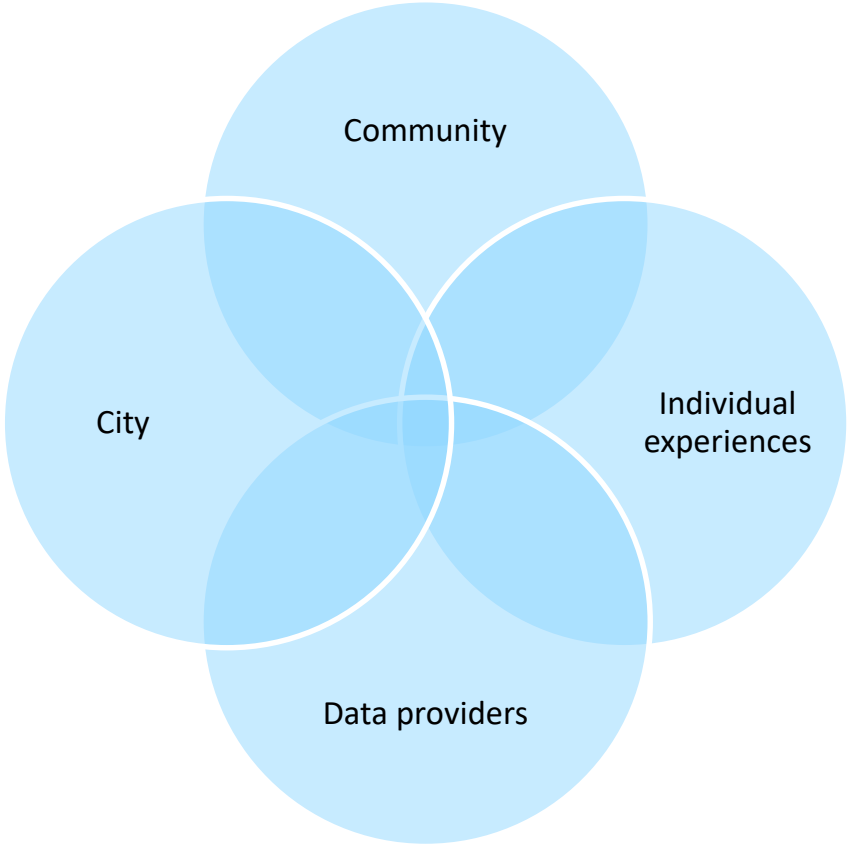
How do we use data to inform our work?

- **The context of data collection always matters**, but especially now
- **Population-level data is a powerful and essential tool**, but it has limits
- **Community knowledge is essential** to fill the gaps
  - What's on the ground is more current than what's in a dataset
  - Though data is being disaggregated into more categories, not all identities are reflected
  - Even the most comprehensive dataset can't capture the unique experience of an individual

Last year we started thinking about an ecosystem…

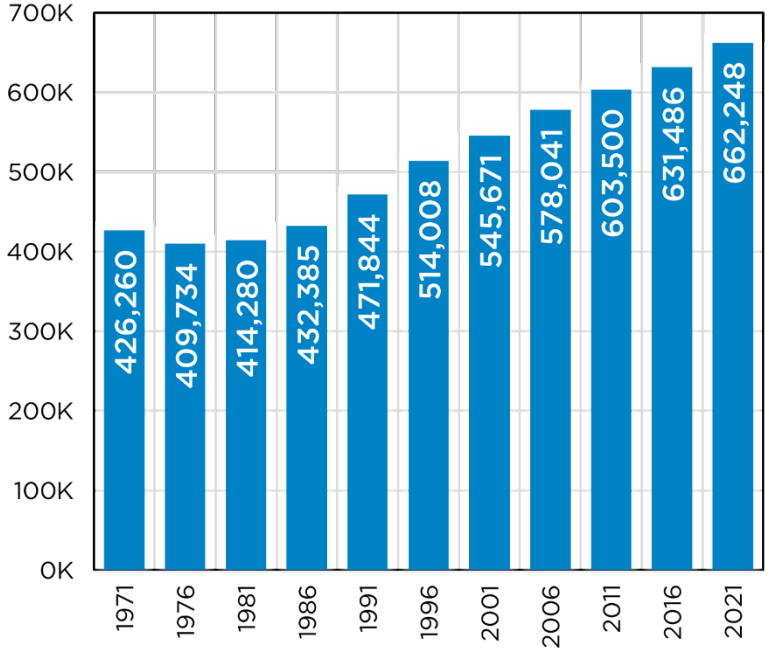
- **Examples of City roles**
  - Leverage and share resources to build capacity
  - Make larger data sources relevant and accessible to communities
  - Collect, curate, and synthesize other sources of knowledge
- **Example of community roles**
  - Amplify voices of those that haven't been included
  - Help enrich and fill gaps in data
  - Contextualize and ground abstract data points in the real world



Some ongoing trends in Vancouver

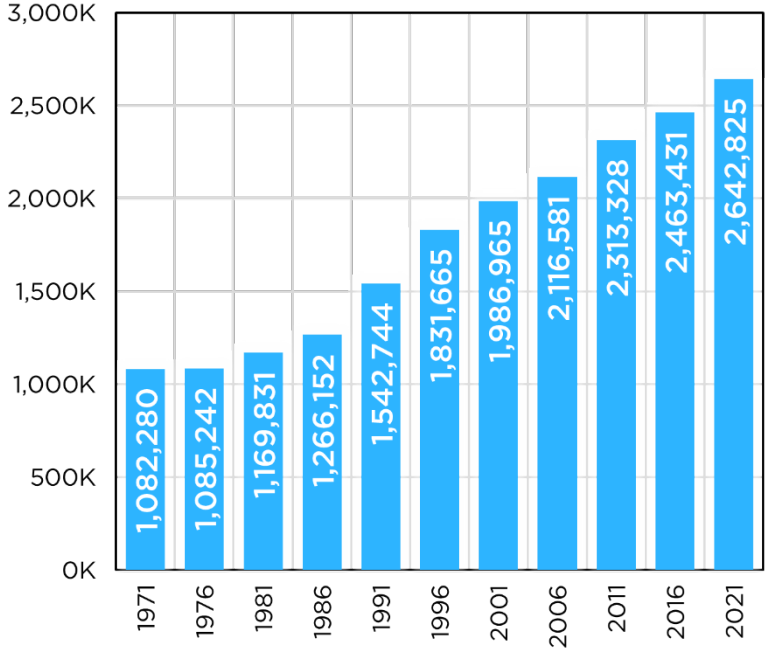
Vancouver's population continues to grow

City of Vancouver: Total Population, 1971-2021



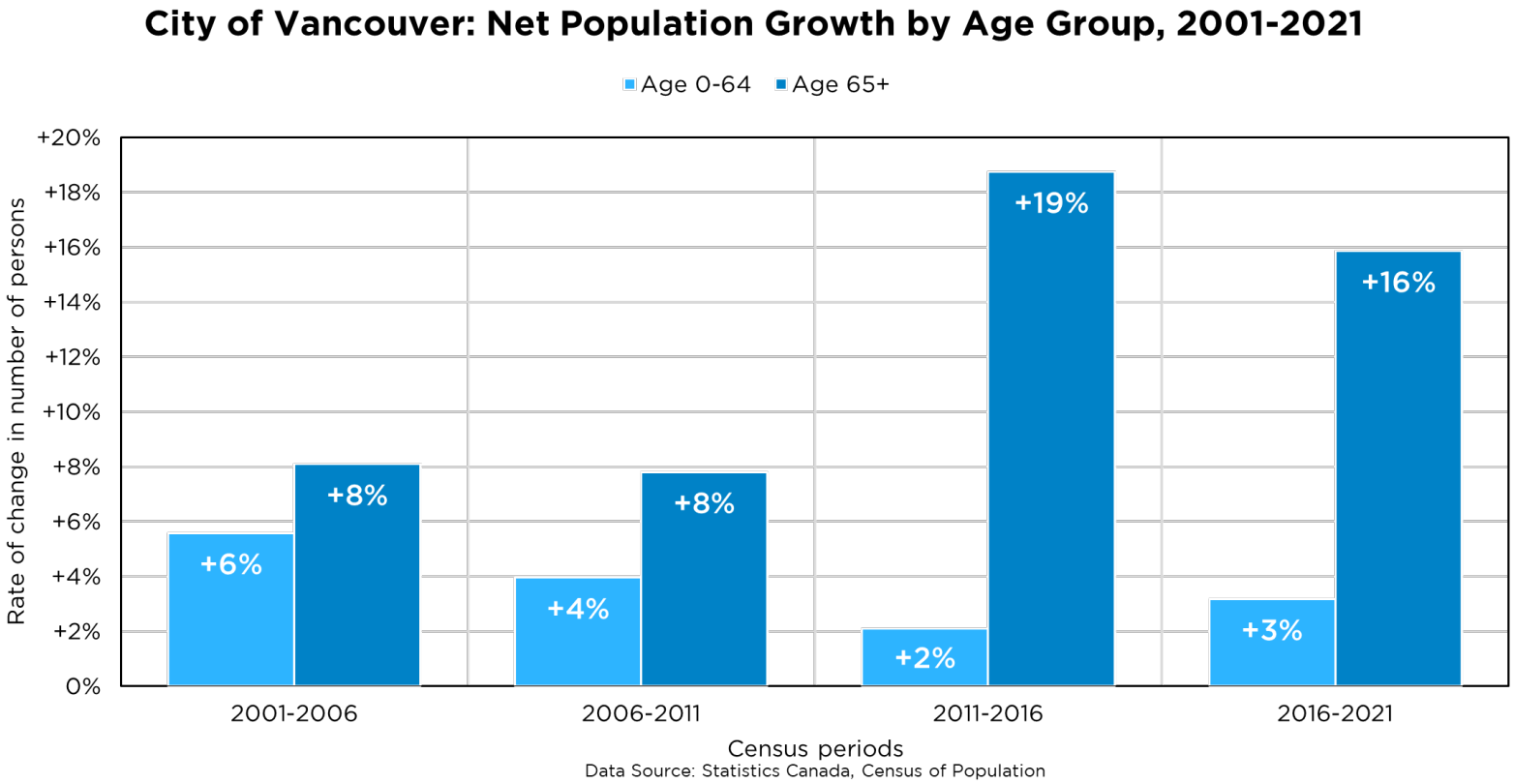
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
Population from 1991 to present does not include Musqueam

Metro Vancouver: Total Population, 1971-2021

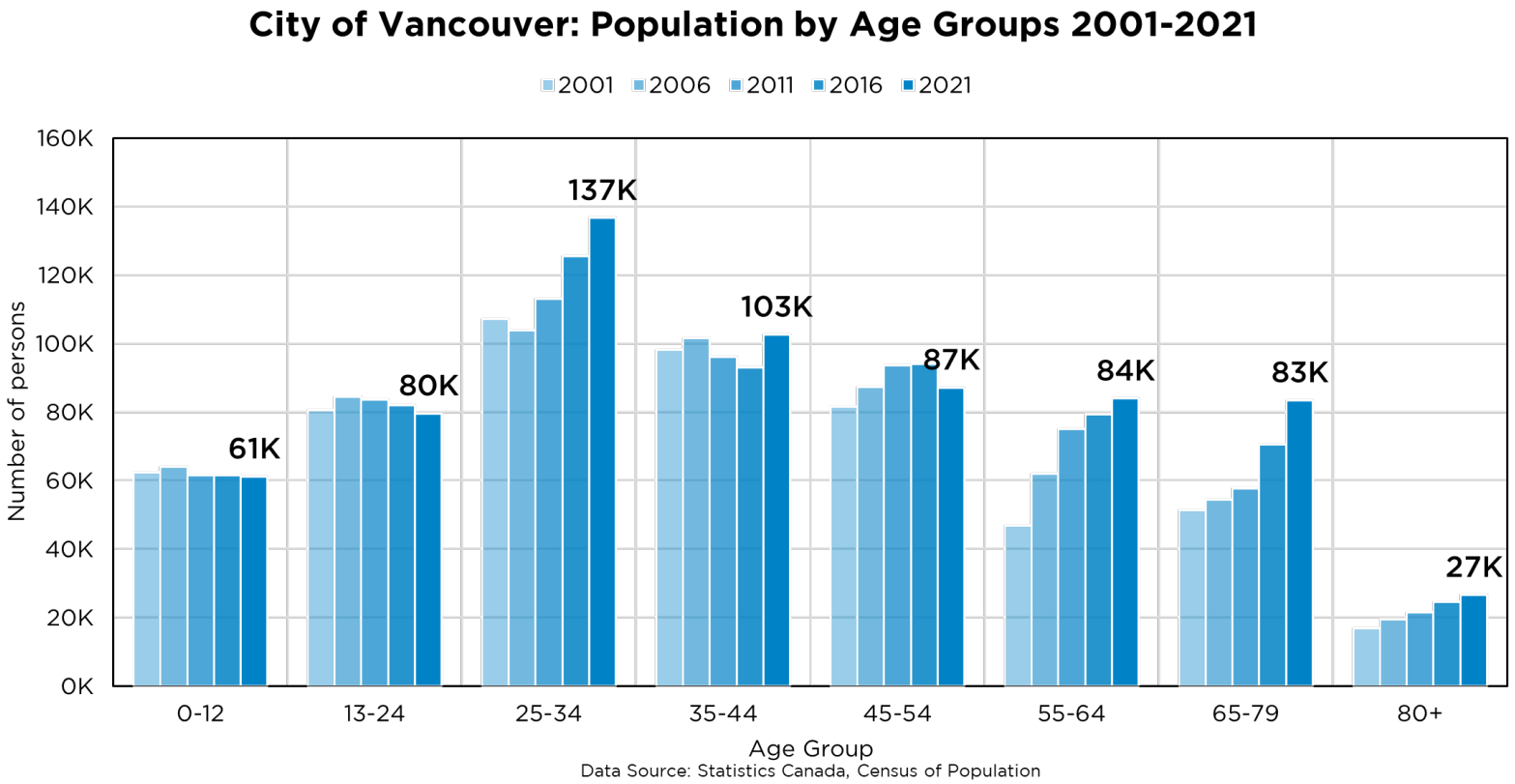


Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population
Population is for regional district boundaries at the time of the census

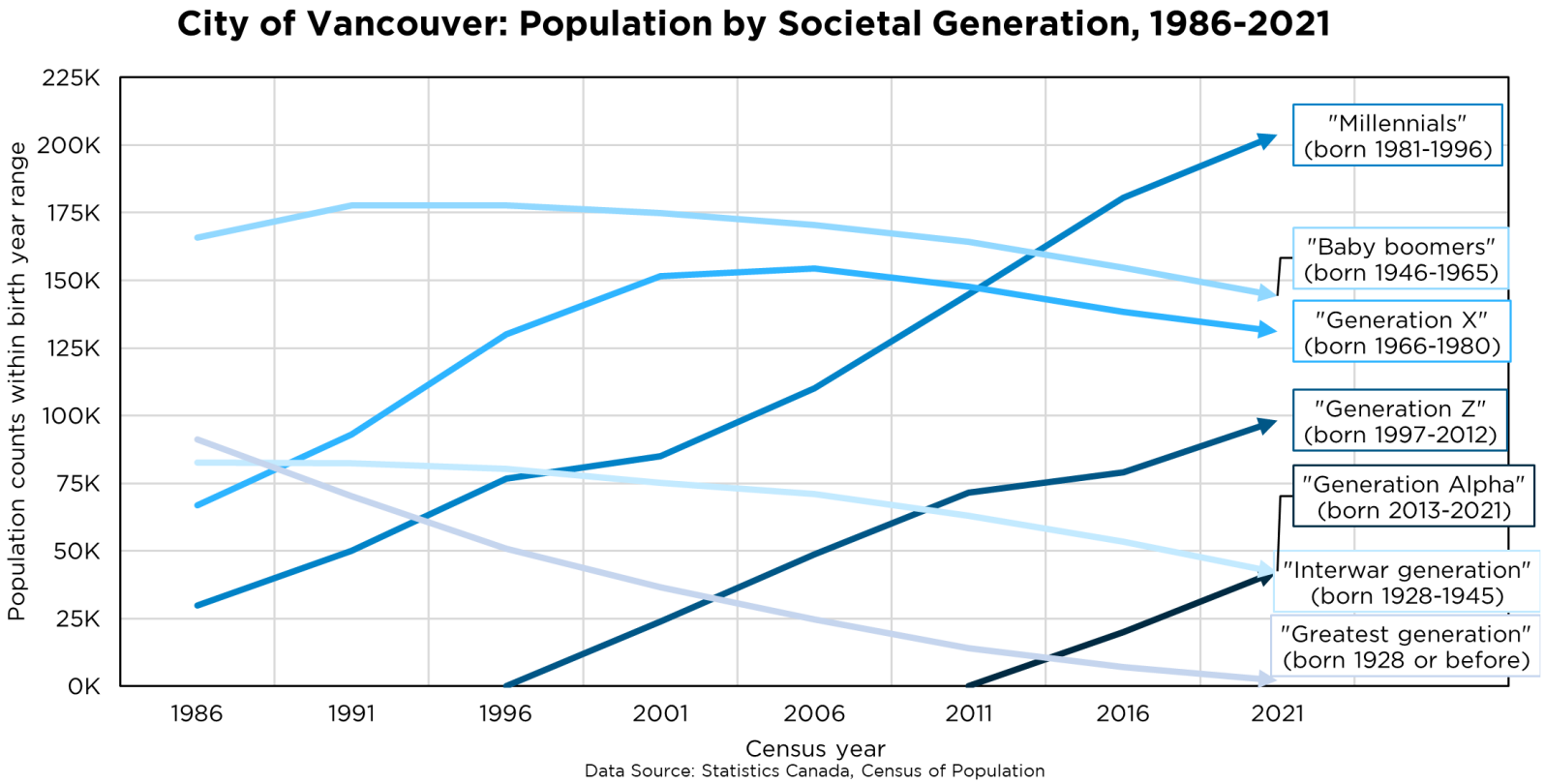
Vancouver's population continues to age



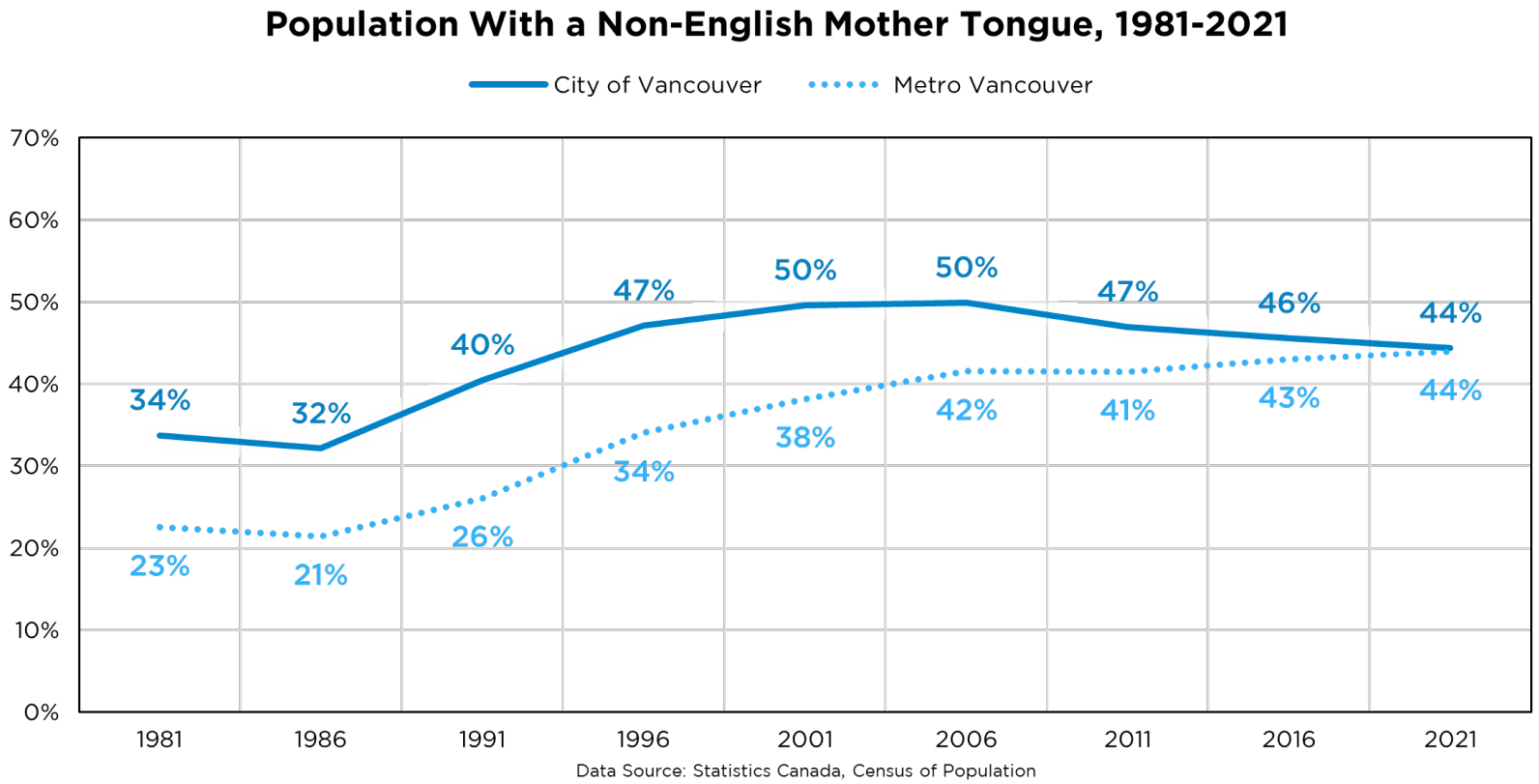
Still fewer children and youth in the city



A continuing generational shift

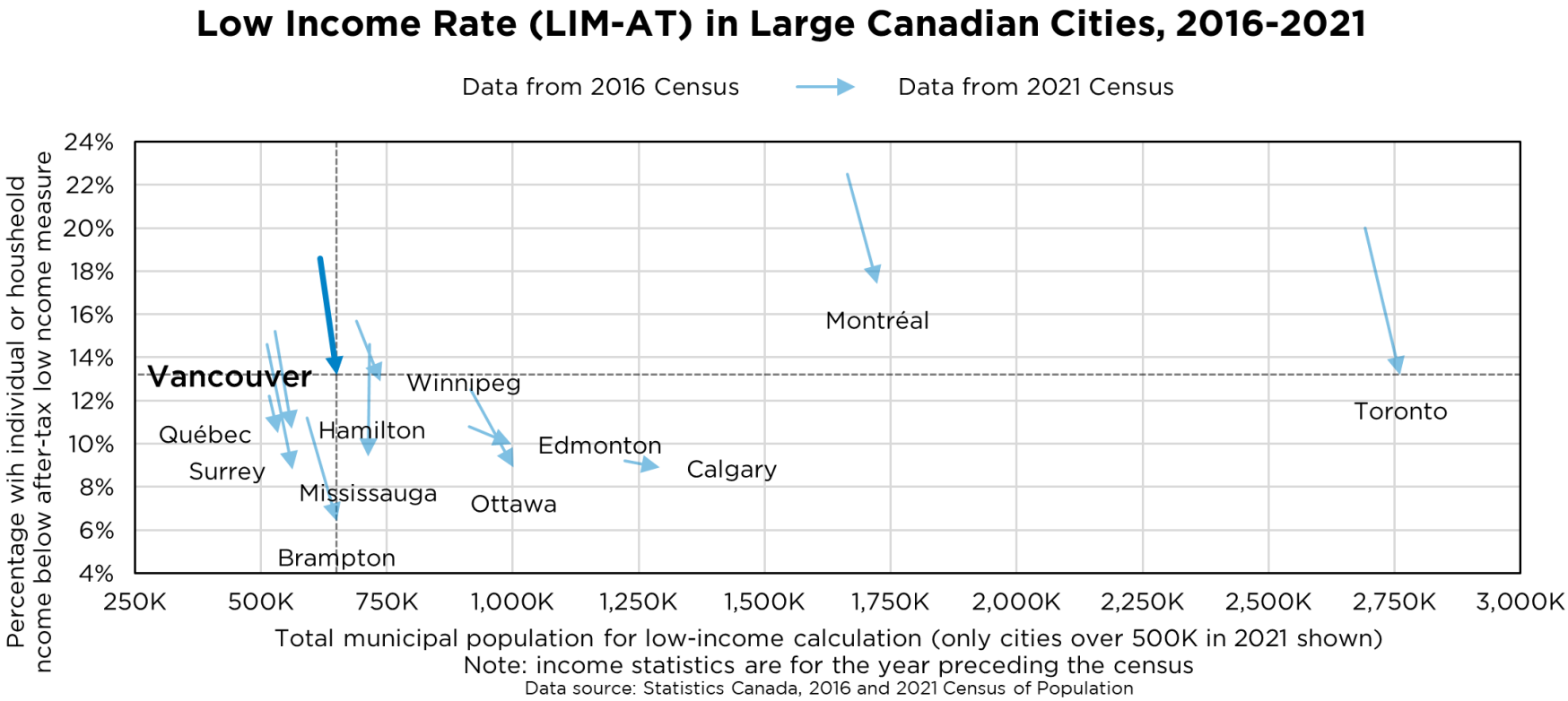


A diverse city, but perhaps less so than the neighbours

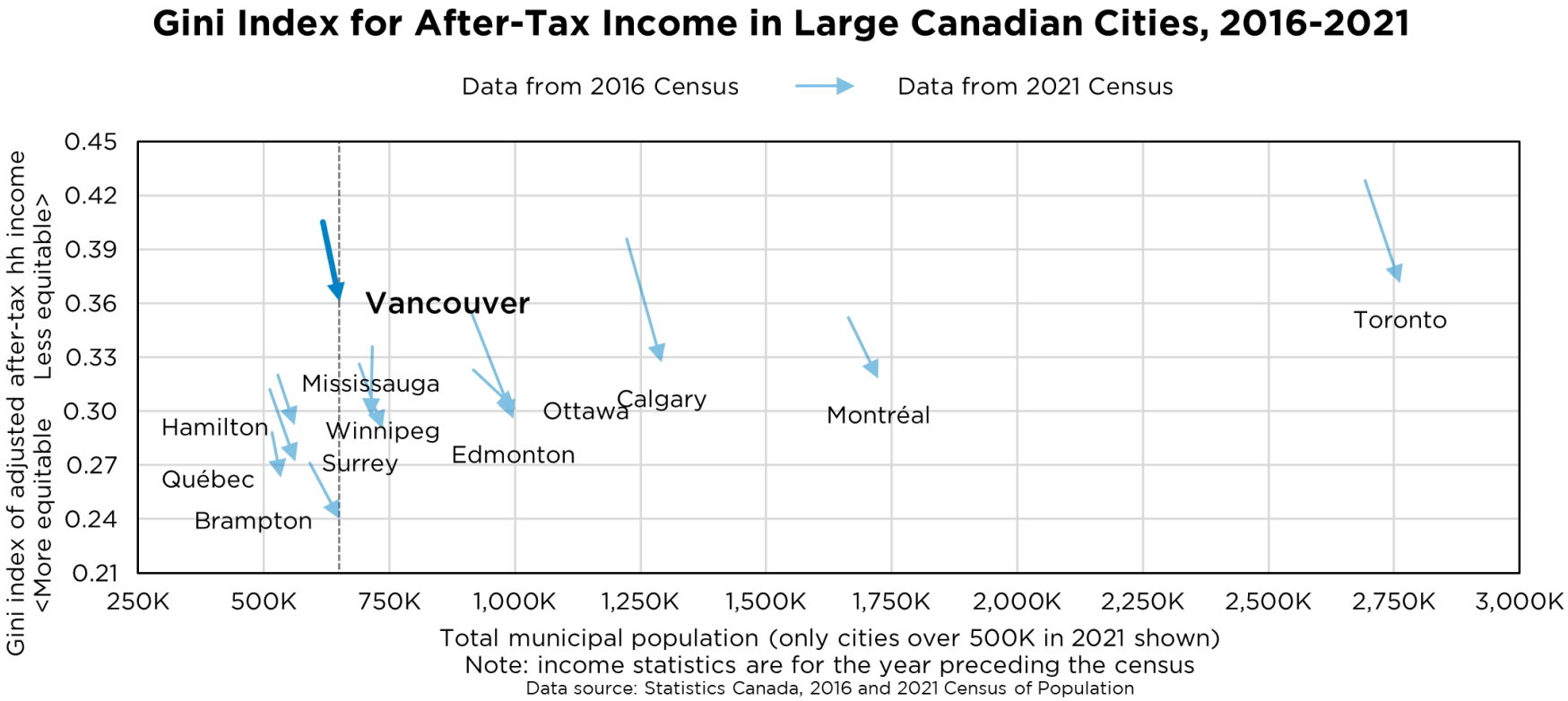


How do we make sense of data collected in the past few years?

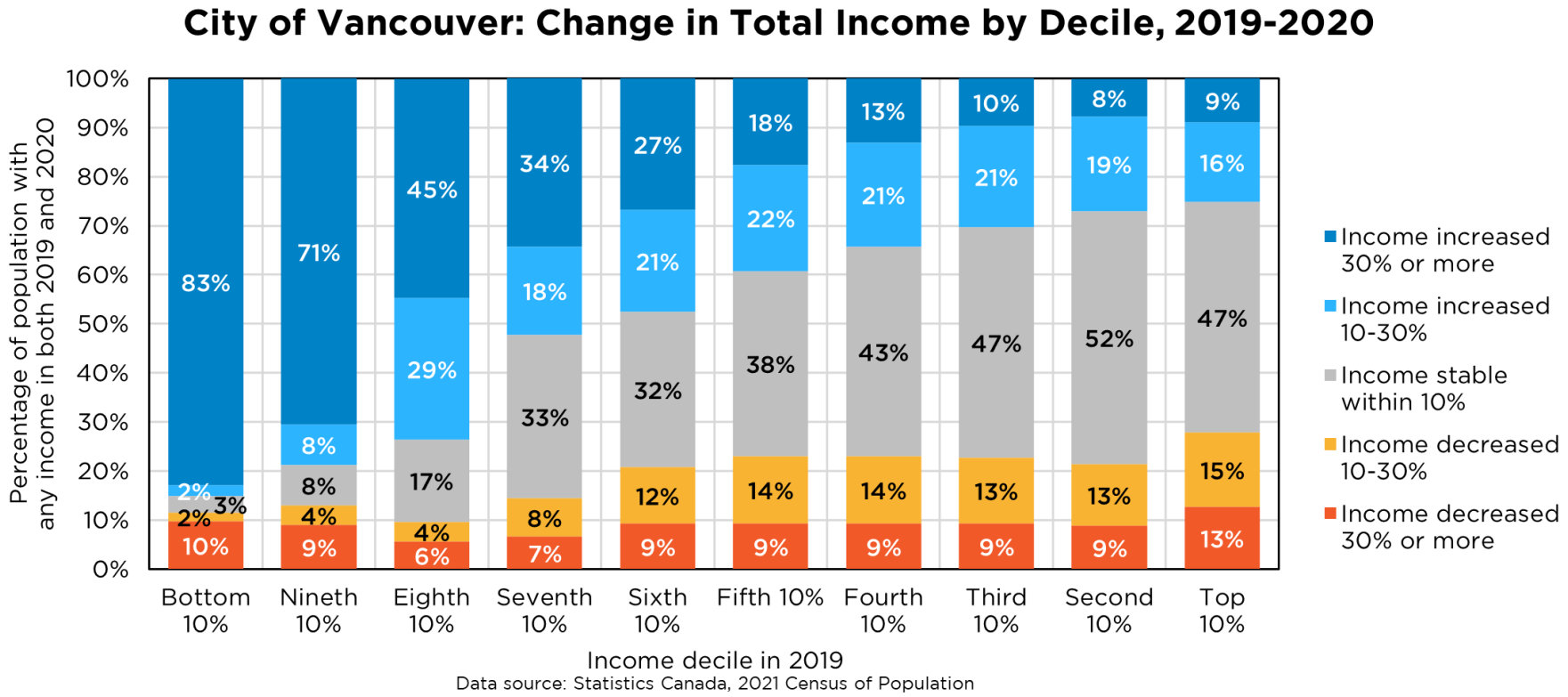
Is a reduced low-income rate a good news story?



Shift toward a more equitable income distribution?



In 2020, incomes did increase for the lowest earners



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Financial stress appears to have decreased as the pandemic went on

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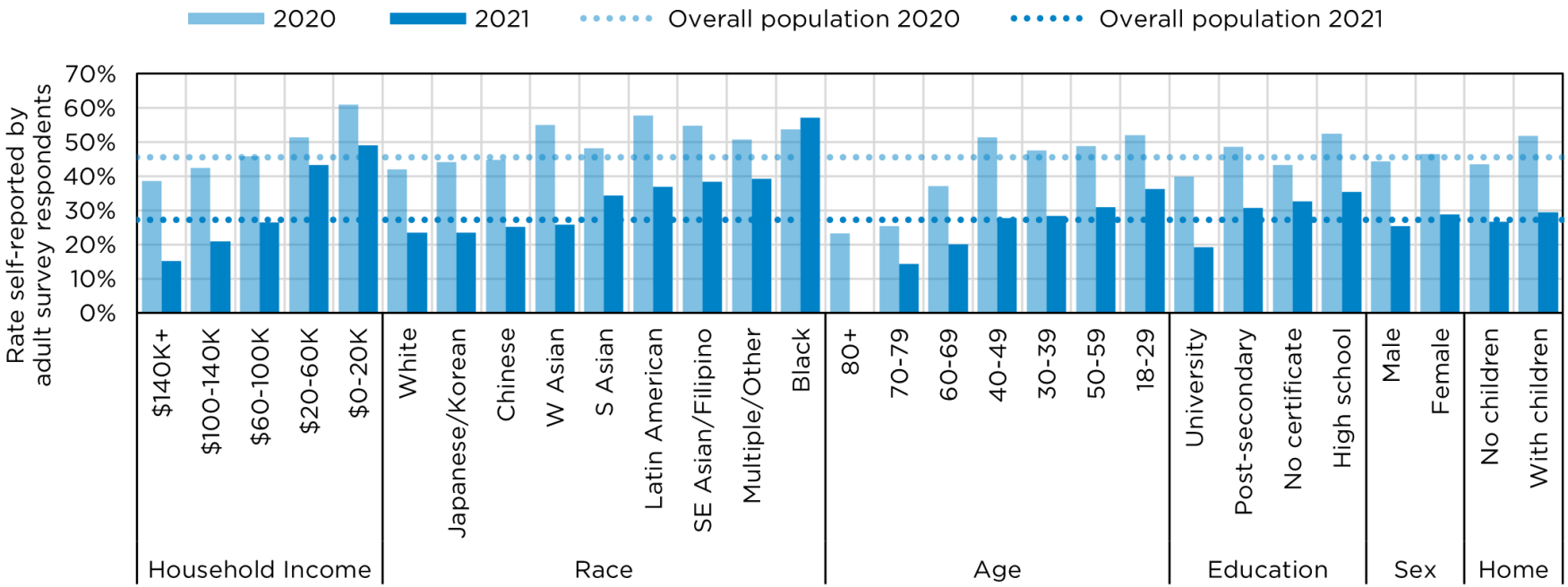
Vancouver Residents Anticipating Future Financial Stress, 2020/2021



Data Source: BC Centre for Disease Control SPEAK (Survey on Population Experiences, Actions and Knowledge), May 2020 and Apr-May 2021
Population categories ordered by variation shown in 2021 results. Data for Indigenous respondents have not been published.

But, incomes increased due to temporary programs

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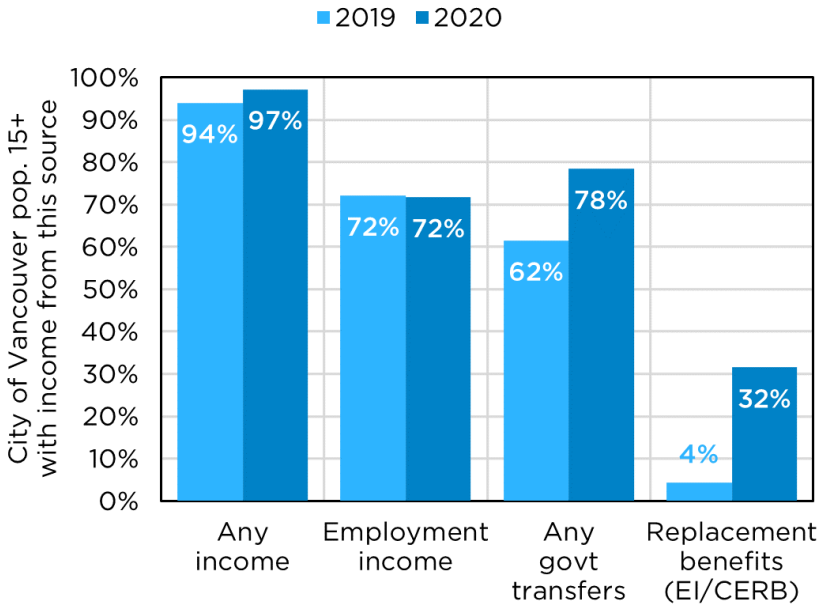
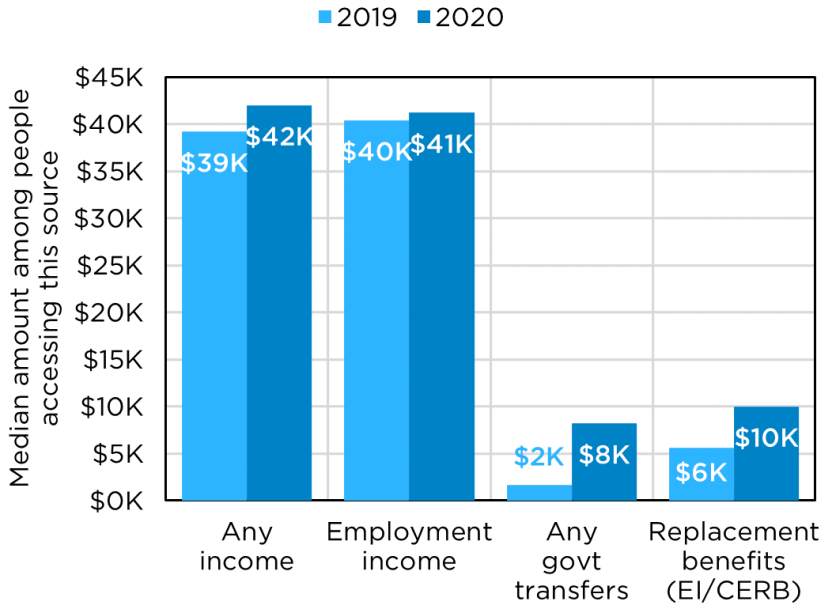
Rate of Access to Income Sources, 2019-2020



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Median Amount from Income Sources, 2019-2020



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Vancouver is still not accessible to people at all income levels

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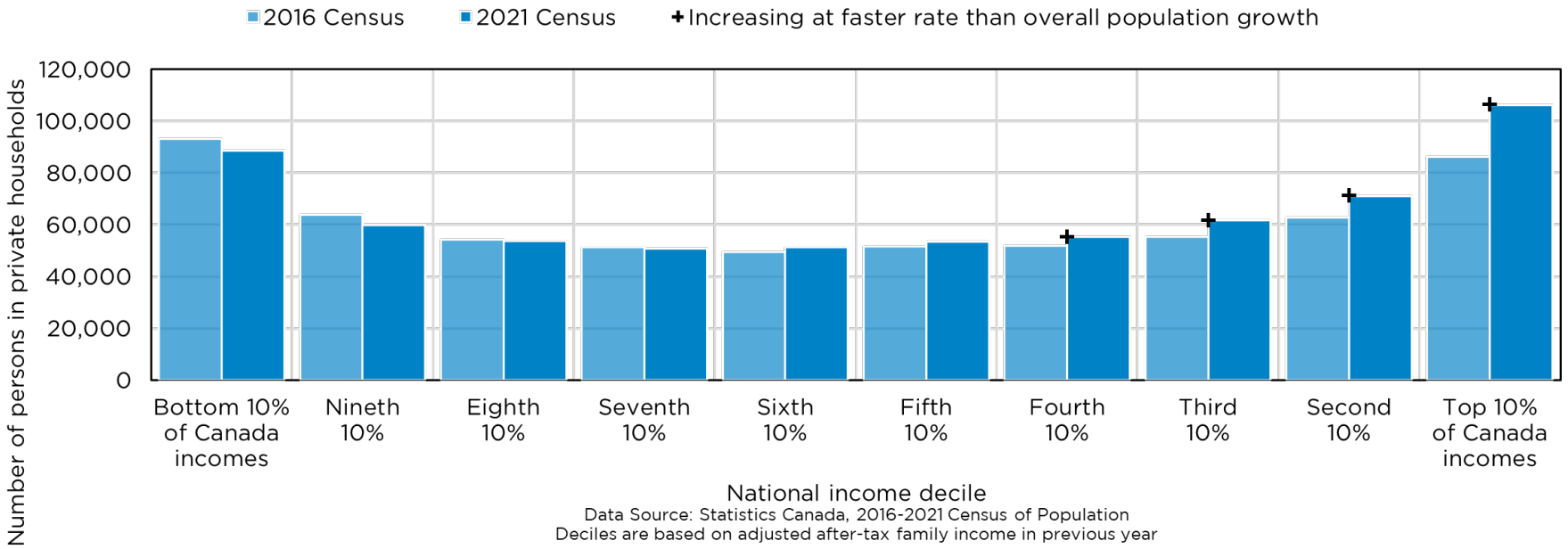
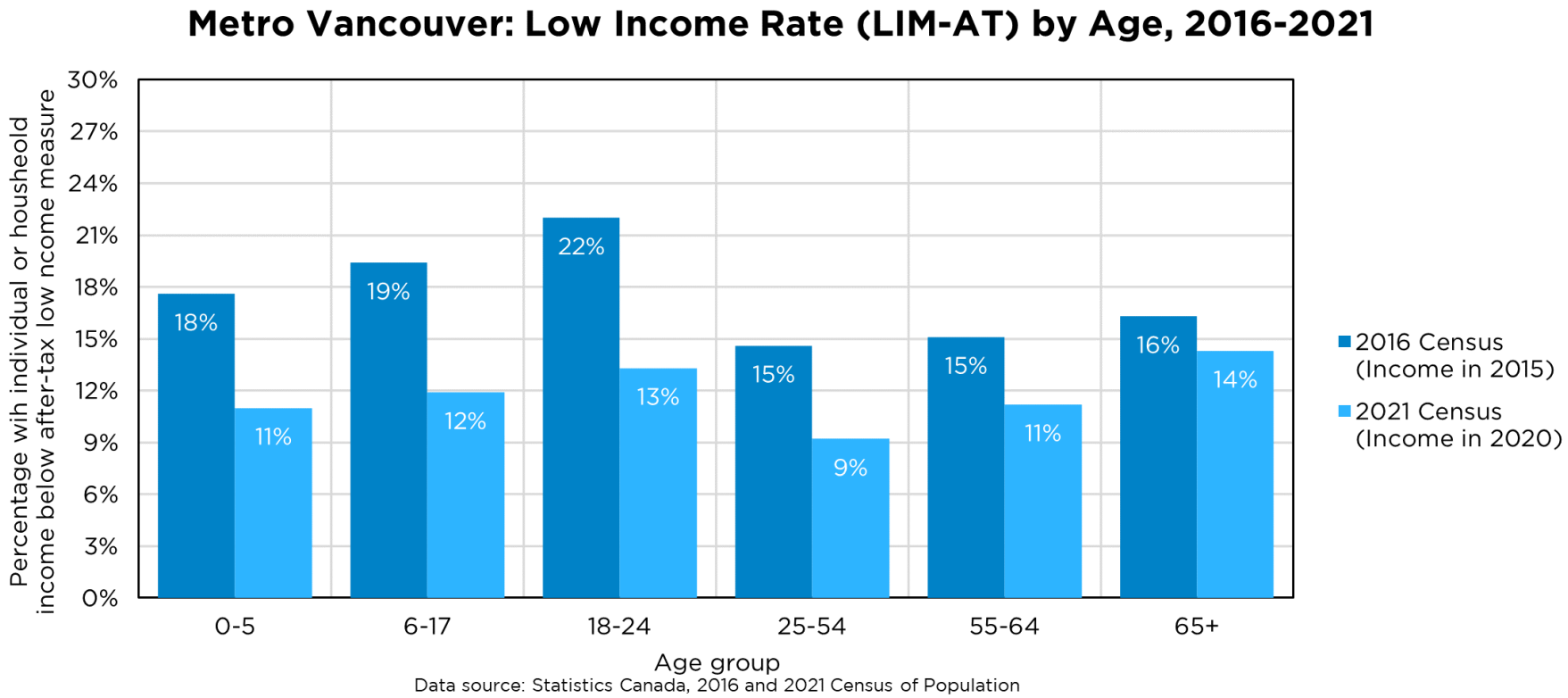
City of Vancouver: Population Estimates by National Income Decile, 2016-2021



Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2016-2021 Census of Population
Deciles are based on adjusted after-tax family income in previous year

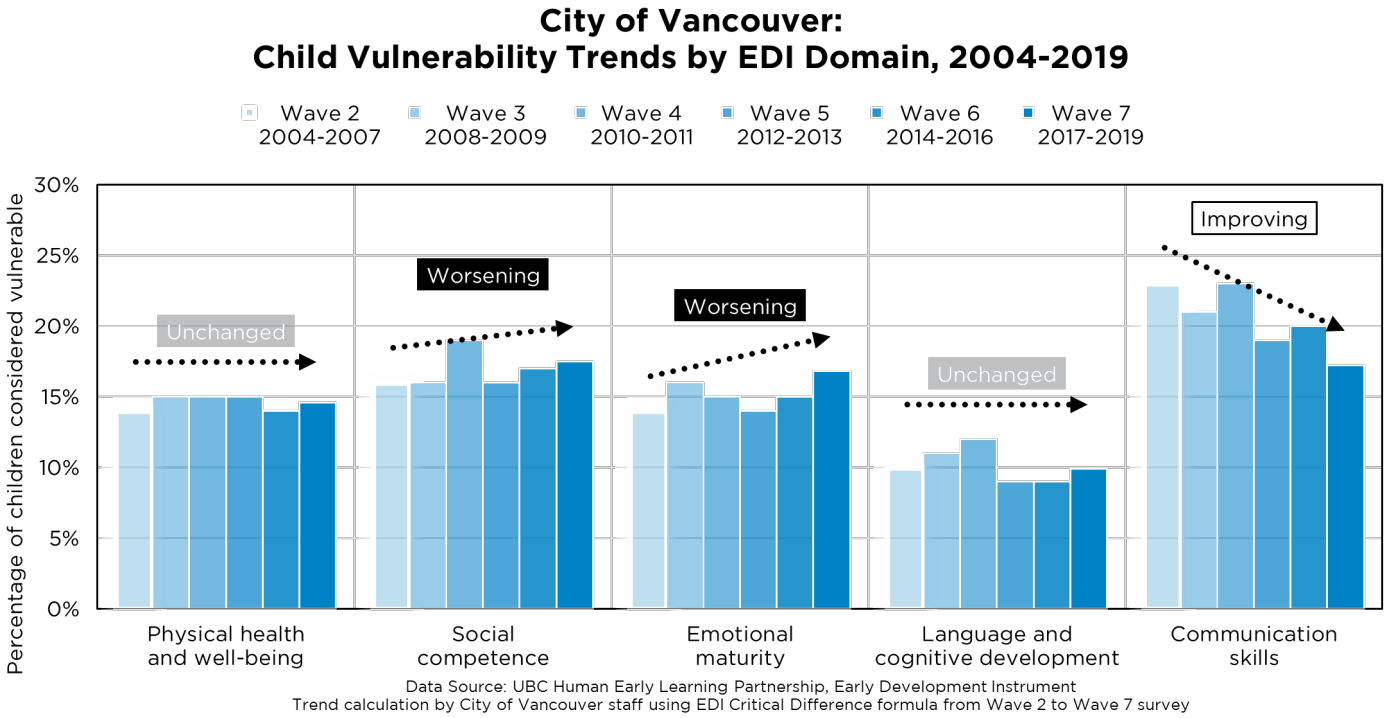
And not all populations saw a reduced low-income rate



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2016 and 2021 Census of Population

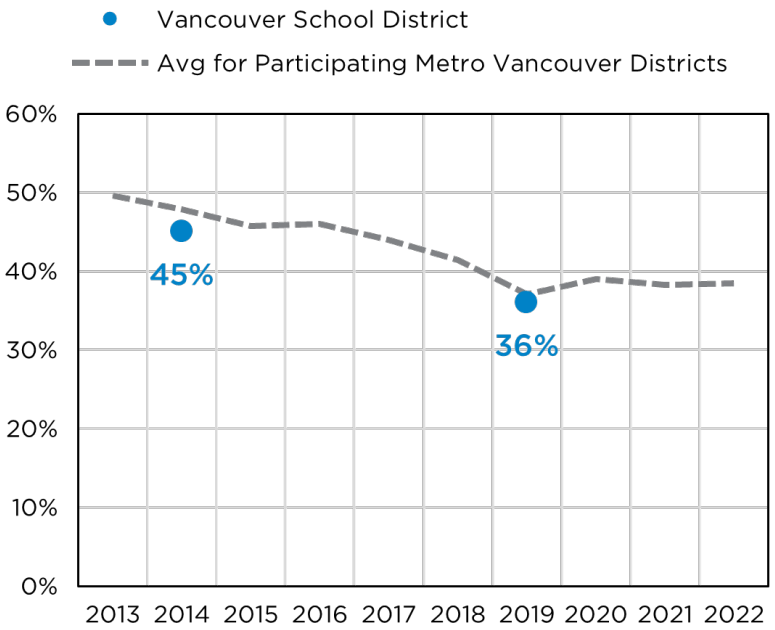
How are we faring through different stages of the pandemic?

In early childhood: pressures prior to COVID



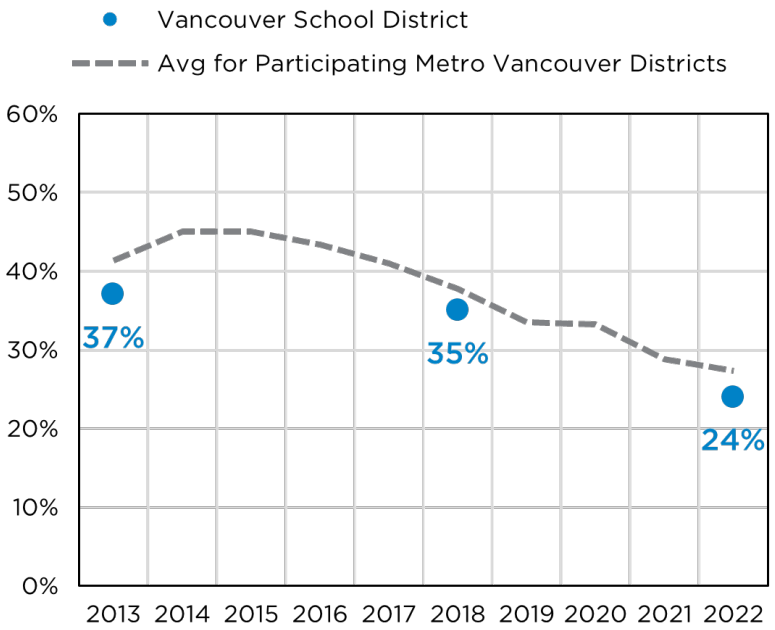
Decline in children and youth assets and impacts on well-being

Grade 4 Children "Thriving" on MDI Well-Being Index, 2013-2022



Data Source: UBC Human Early Learning Partnership, Middle Years Development Instrument
Note that participating districts vary each survey year

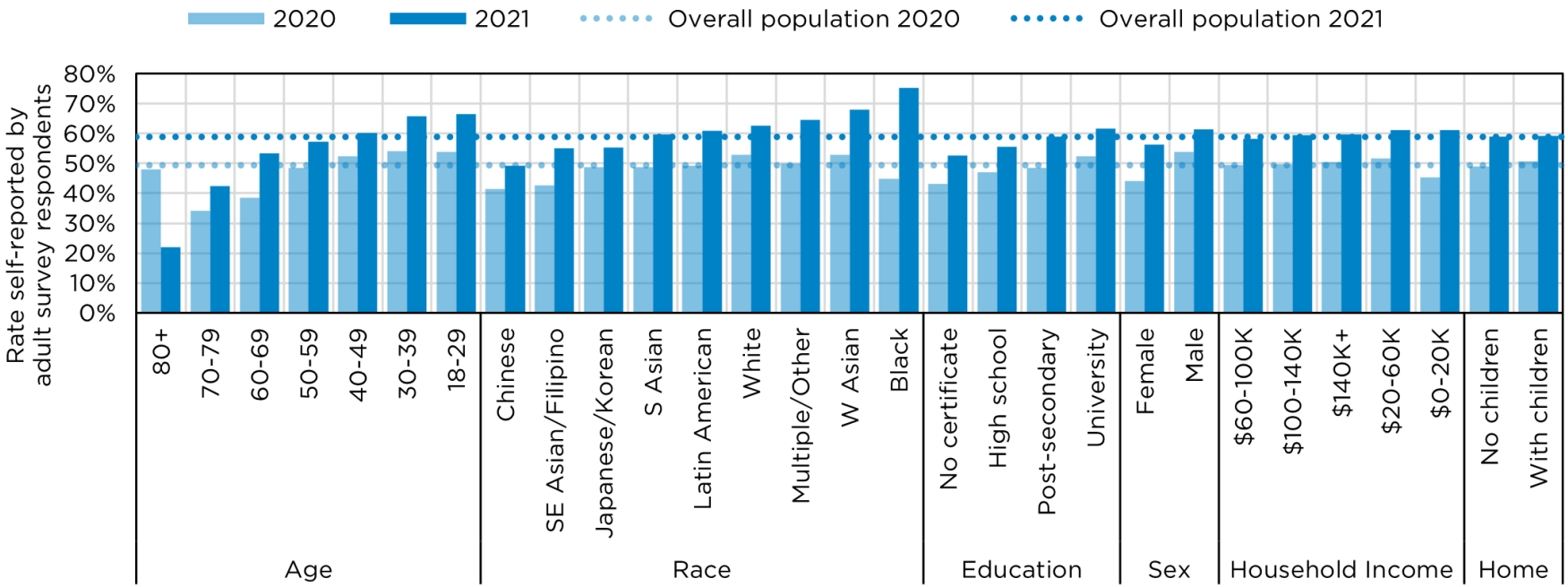
Grade 7 Children "Thriving" on MDI Well-Being Index, 2013-2022



Data Source: UBC Human Early Learning Partnership, Middle Years Development Instrument
Note that participating districts vary each survey year

Impacts on mental health as the pandemic progressed

Vancouver Residents With Worsening Mental Health, 2020/2021



Data Source: BC Centre for Disease Control SPEAK (Survey on Population Experiences, Actions and Knowledge), May 2020 and Apr-May 2021
Population categories ordered by variation shown in 2021 results. Data for Indigenous respondents have not been published.

Increased racism, discrimination and violence

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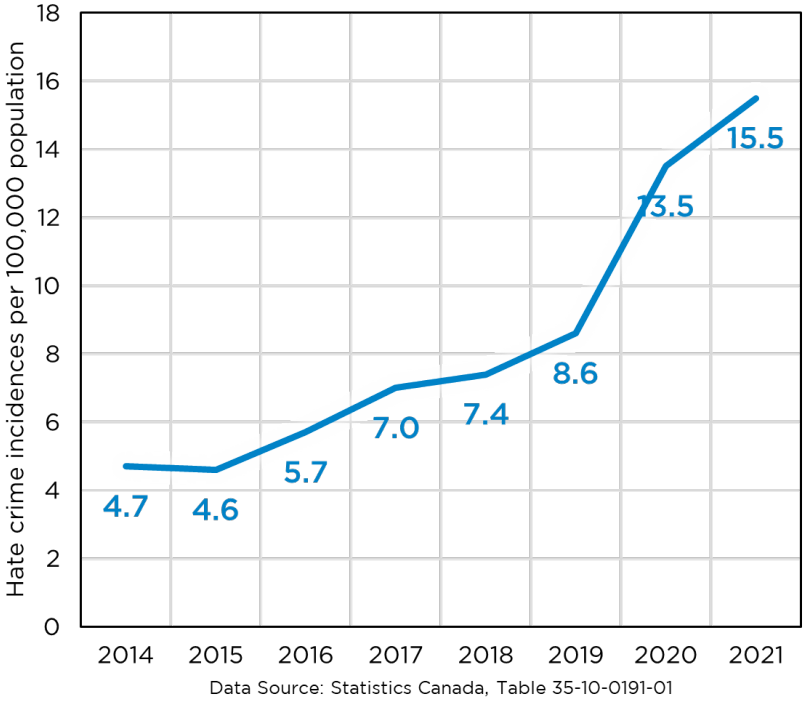
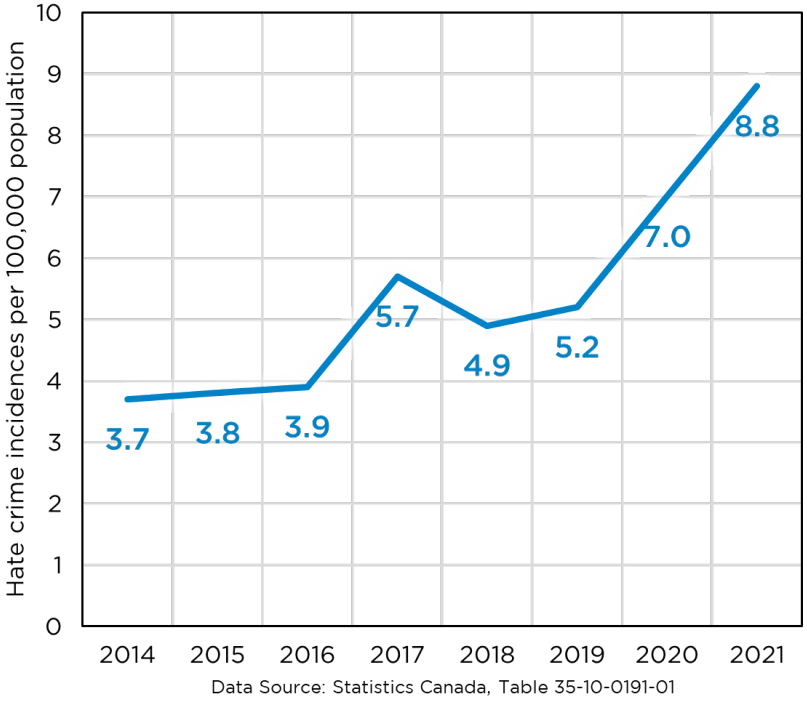
Rate of Police-Reported Hate Crime in Metro Vancouver, 2014-2021



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Table 35-10-0191-01

Rate of Police-Reported Hate Crime in Canada, 2014-2021



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Table 35-10-0191-01

The new normal may be more precarious

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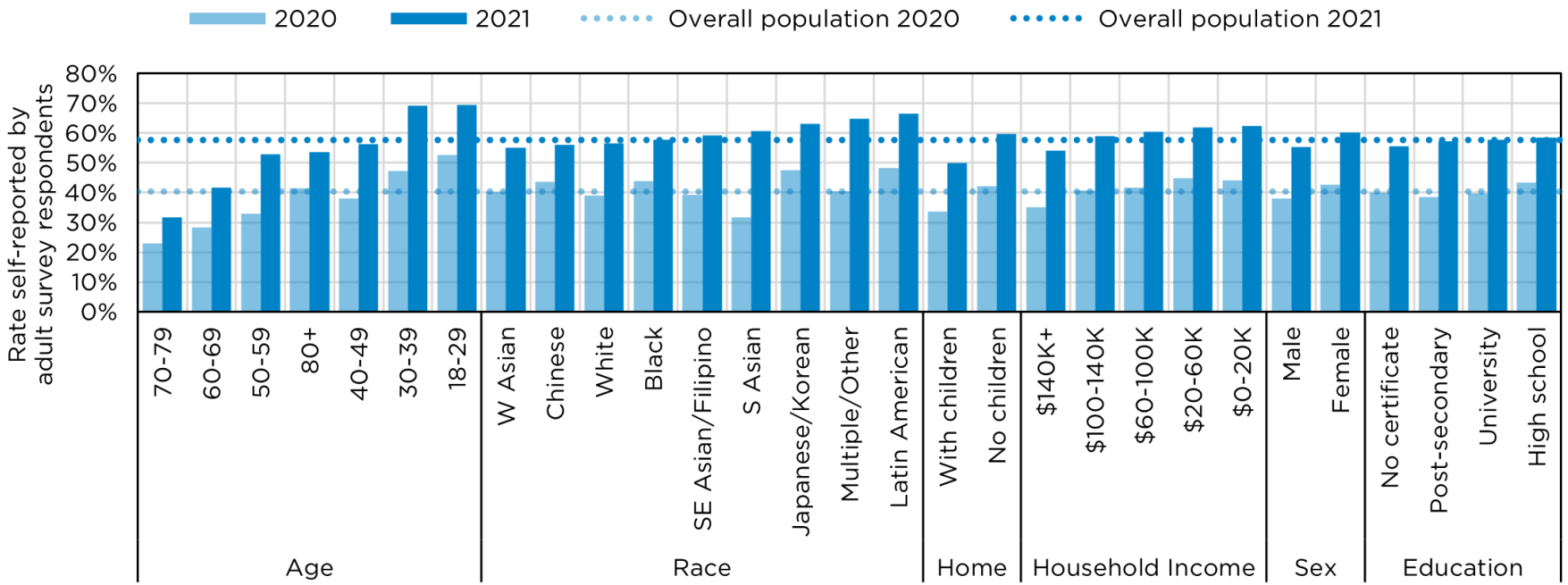
Vancouver Residents With Weak Sense of Belonging, 2020/2021



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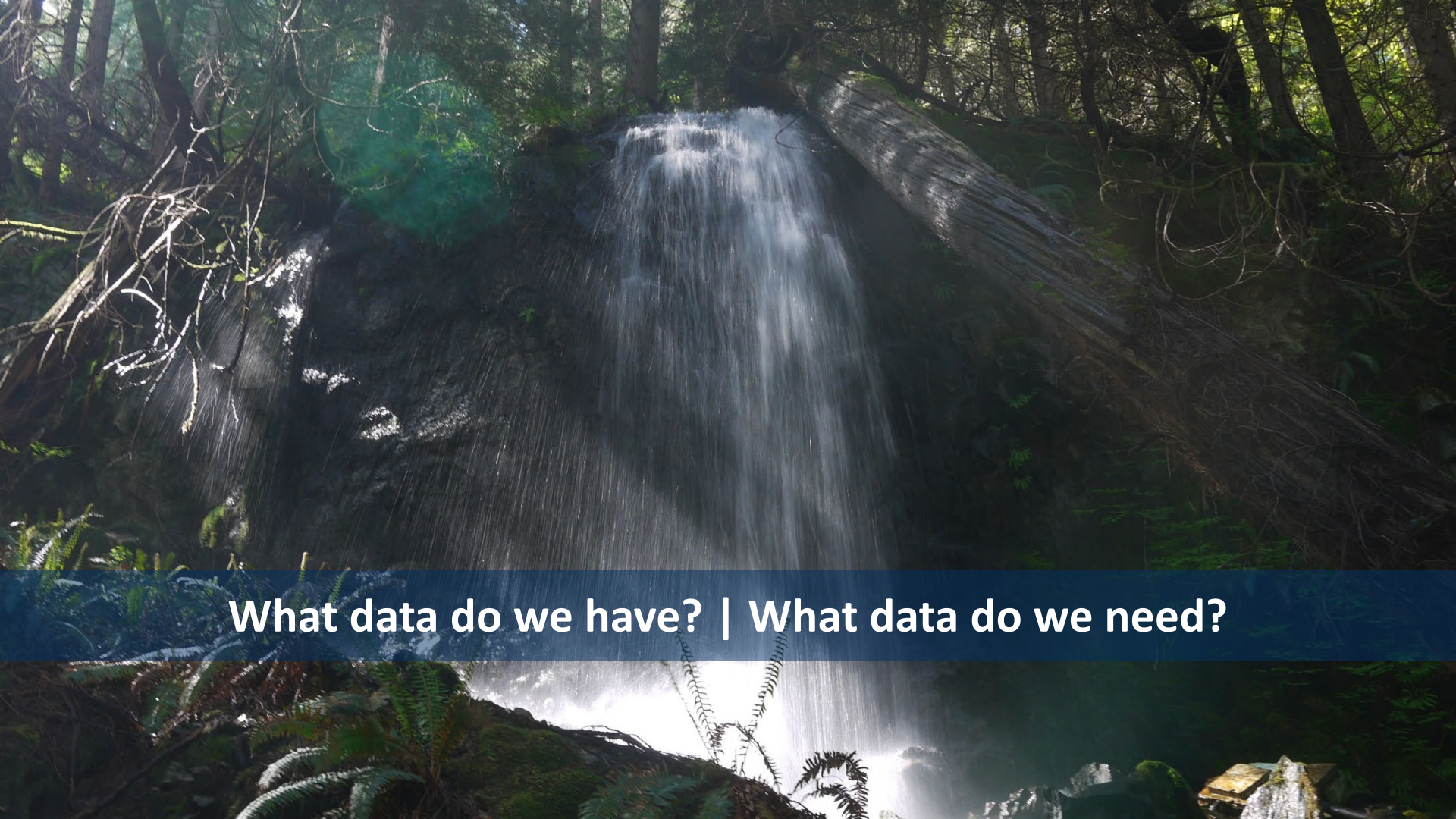
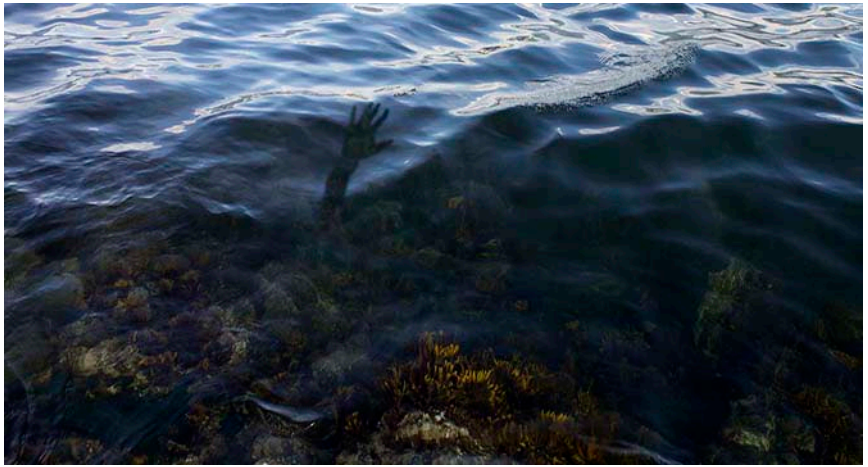


What data do we have? | What data do we need?

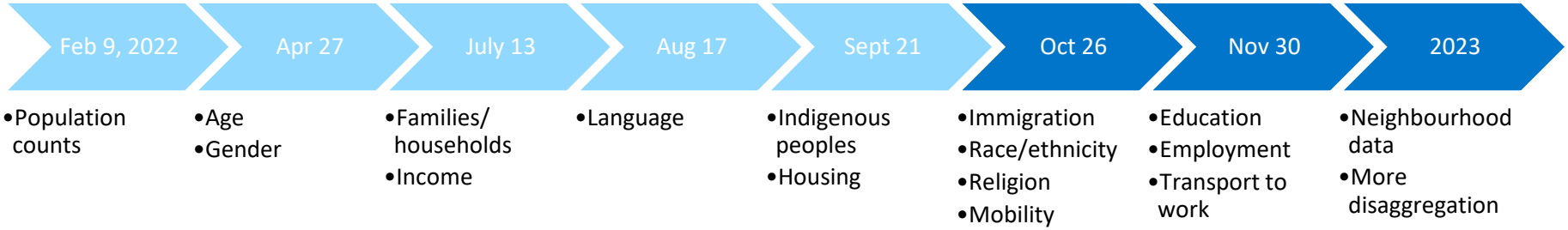
Putting it together

- **What story would you tell about the data we've seen today?**
  - How might it inform your/your organization's work?
- **Is your community's experience reflected in this story?**
  - If not, what data do you have that we can build a more complete story with?
- **What questions do you have that population-level data might be able to answer?**



Romane Bladou, "All That We Cannot Grasp" *Platforms 2022 public art series šxʷƛexən Xwtl'a7shn plaza*

Anticipating 2021 Census releases



- **Many updates** to census concepts, variables and terms in 2021 Census
- **Initial releases** include regional and city-wide data, as well as local data at Statistics Canada geographies like census tracts
- **City will access neighbourhood data and custom tabulations** in 2023 and beyond

2021 Census: Results on Gender Diversity

Statistics Canada

Break

Reconvene in 10 minutes

New tools for engagement

Exploring and expanding the Healthy City Dashboard

How do we share data in a way that's useful to the community?

Some big (long-term goals)

- Share information that's current, relevant and supports work toward a more equitable city
- Develop more interactive, accessible and engaging ways of sharing data
- Use mixed methods, combining numeric indicators with qualitative data, narrative and storytelling
- Enable community-generated and community-governed data
- Turn research into an ongoing conversation that informs City and community work

Healthy City Strategy: framework across determinants of health

- **Holistic and interconnected framework:** basic needs, community connections and engagement, environmental health
- **Upstream, prevention-oriented approach:** both universal and targeted initiatives
- **Collaboration, innovation and systems change** beyond City jurisdiction and action
- **Big and complex** strategy
- **Data has been essential throughout**

An opportunity to try something new (2019-present)

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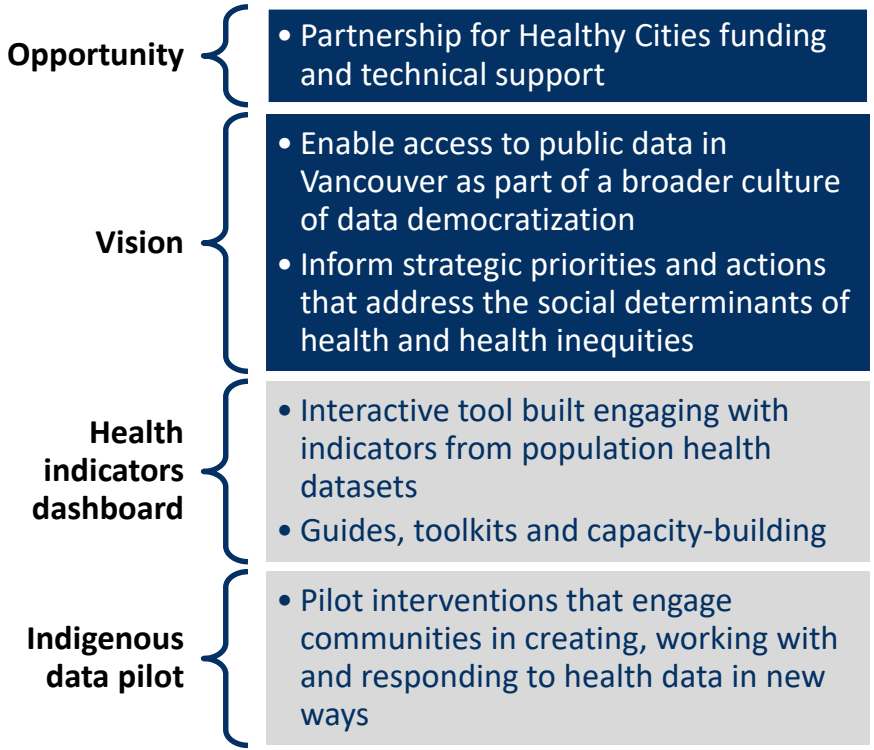
Democratizing data: making health indicators accessible and engaging

- Challenges: paper reports maintained in manual systems; engagement through one-on-one conversations and custom materials

Decolonizing data: enabling more community-created indicators

- Challenges conventional data sources tend to produce deficit-based indicators, not always collected in a safe way



Healthy City Dashboard: initial development 2021-2022

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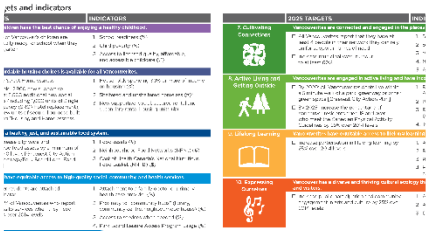
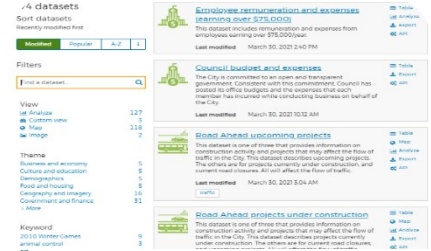


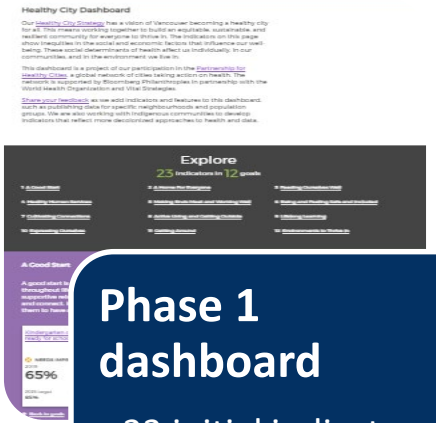
Healthy City Strategy foundation

- Existing targets and indicators approved by council in 2014



IT infrastructure and support

- City metrics repository
- Open data portal
- City services dashboard template

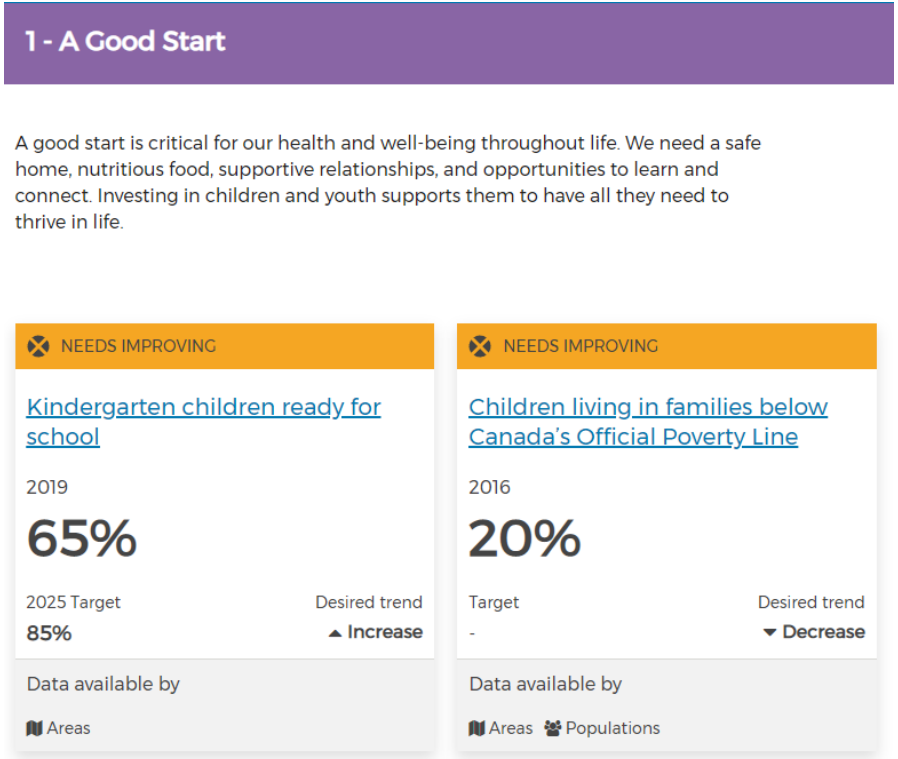


Phase 1 dashboard

- 23 initial indicators prioritized

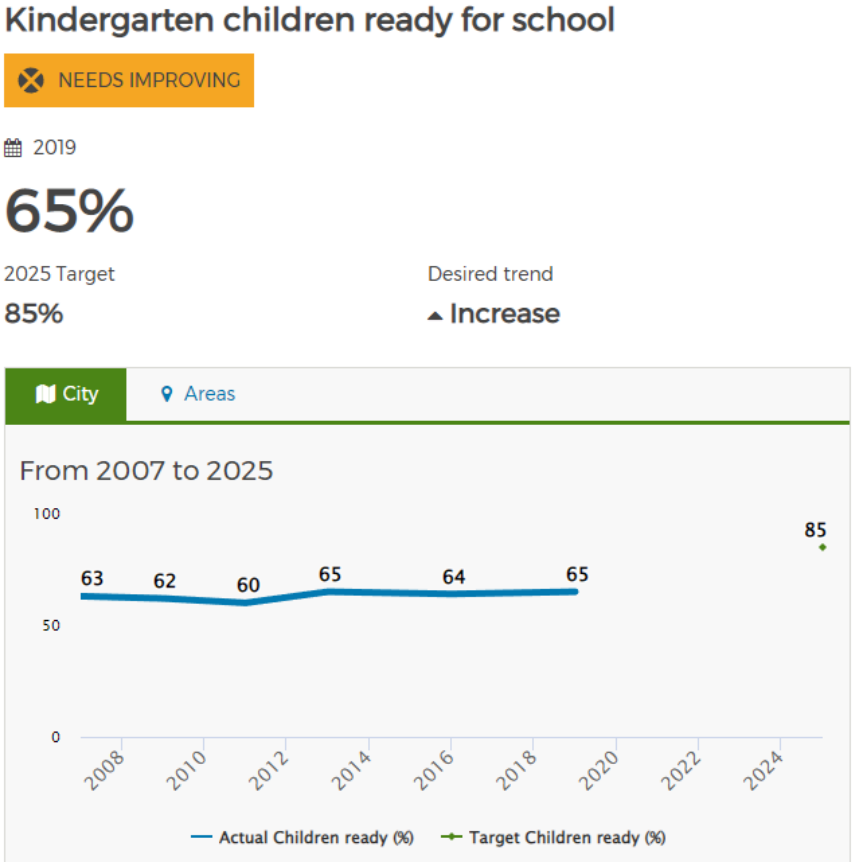
Dashboard features: landing page

- **Landing page:** quick snapshots of key indicators
- *Currently a selection of indicators adopted with the original Healthy City Strategy in 2014, but goal to update, expand and incorporate other strategies under the HCS*



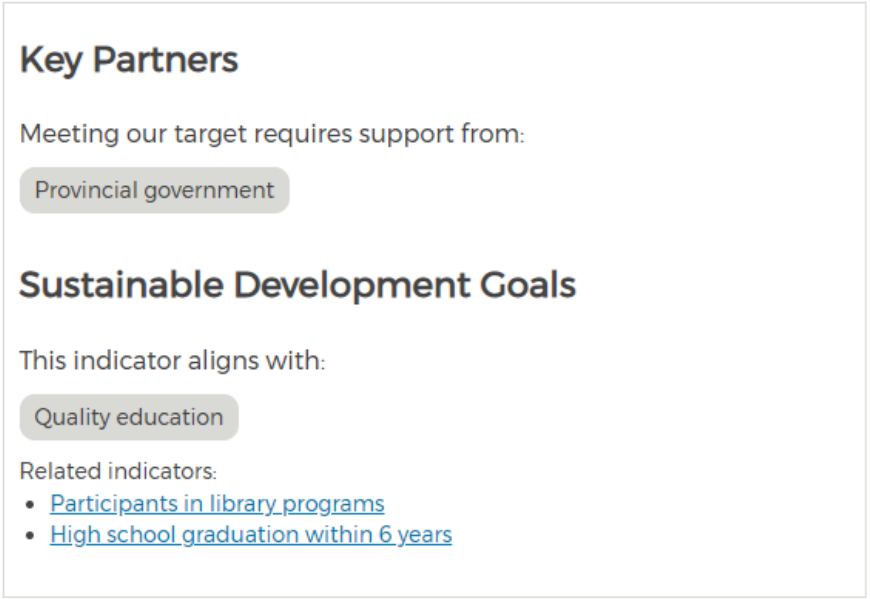
Dashboard features: indicator detail page

- **Indicator page:** time series, trend assessment, rationale, data sources, commentary
- *Currently interpretation and commentary by City staff, but long-term goal to enable community sense-making and storytelling*



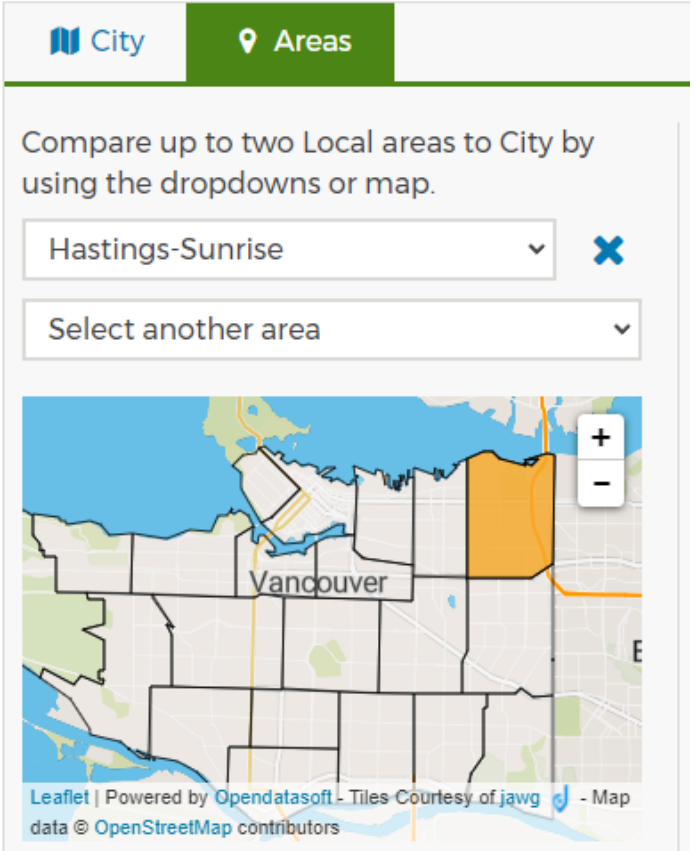
Dashboard features: tags

- **Tags:** data on key partners and alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals, showing related indicators
- *Currently static text, but long-term goal to enable more meaningful alignment and integration with other frameworks and strategies*



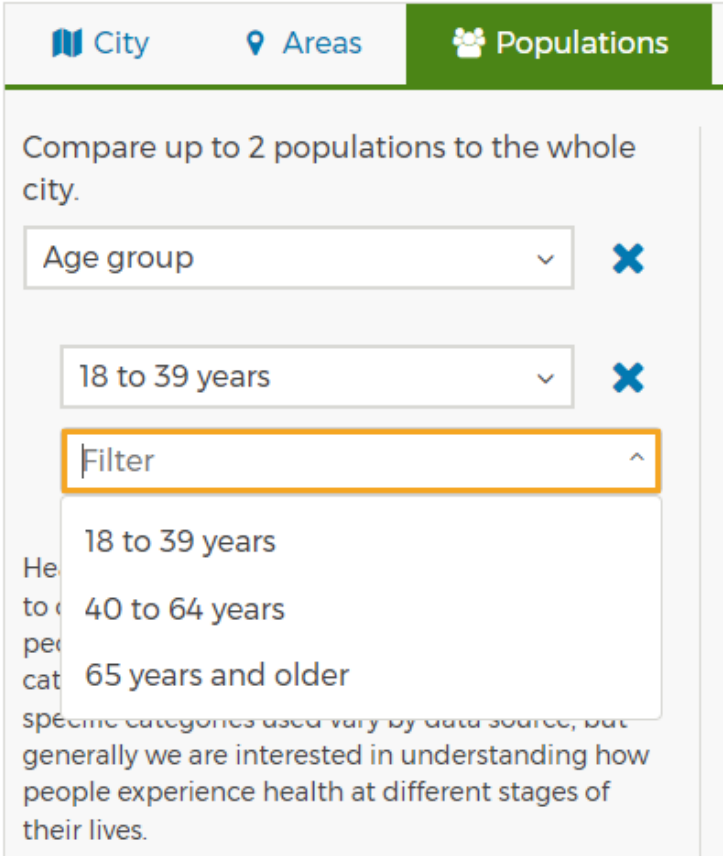
Dashboard features: areas view

- **Areas view:** neighbourhood data over time
- *Intended to inform local service planning, analysis and capacity-building*



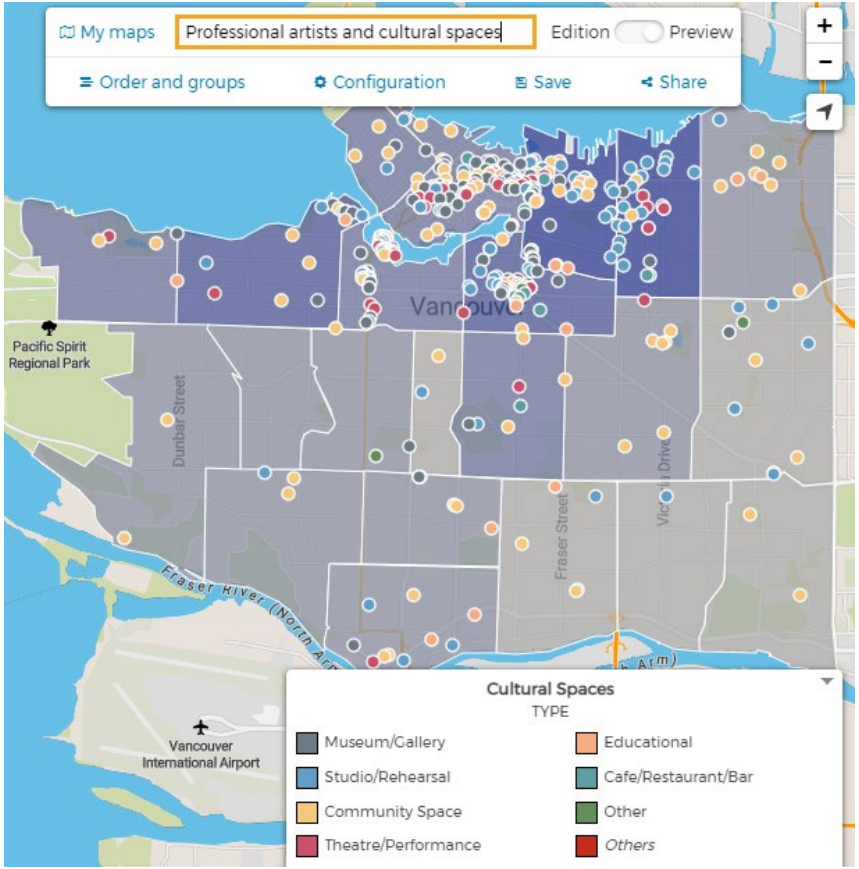
Dashboard features: populations view

- **Populations view:** disaggregated data for specific categories of people
- *Important to provide data in a way that directs attention to systems, not individuals*



Advanced features: beyond the dashboard

- **Datasets, chart builders, map builders:** download data and build your own visualizations combined with other open datasets



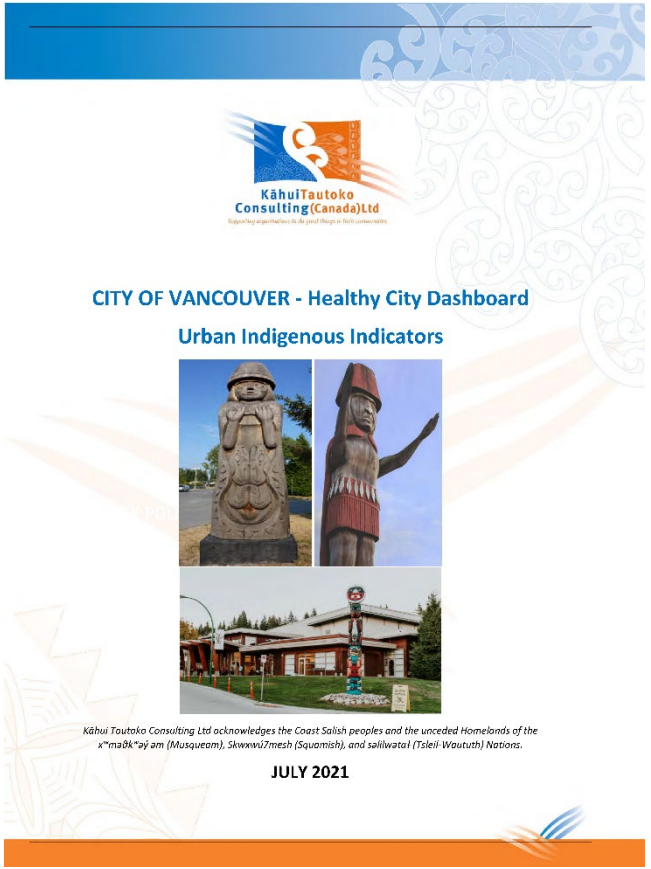
Indigenous data project

Pilot project

- Summer 2021: identified potential community-grounded indicators
- Report at https://vancouver.ca/social-policy-research

Next steps

- Working with community to scope potential data governance models
- Identifying data sources and prioritizing indicators for inclusion in dashboard



Your turn

- **Are there indicators already in the dashboard** that tells an important story about your community or the work you are doing?

- **Are there indicators you would like to explore in more depth** or help make sense of?

- **Are there indicators missing** that we should prioritize adding to the dashboard?

https://opendata.vancouver.ca/pages/healthy-city-dashboard/

Data sovereignty and governance

Representing community

Data Sovereignty & Governance

REPRESENTING COMMUNITY

What is Data Sovereignty?

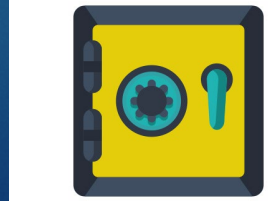
- Data Sovereignty focuses on both the **Individual** and **Collective**. Collective Data Sovereignty is an emerging discussion, focused on communities that are Equity Deserving, and has been driven by Indigenous Communities in discussions about operationalizing decolonization concepts and building more reciprocal nation-to-nation relationships.

- Data Sovereignty enables communities and individuals to have control over their data, meaning that they own and control how this information can be collected stored, interpreted, used, shared, and eventually destroyed.

- Data sovereignty provides the means to prevent unwanted access by, for example, un-vouched contractors and support staff

- This includes the protection of sensitive, private data and ensures it remains under the control of its owner, ie the person and/or community that is sharing the data

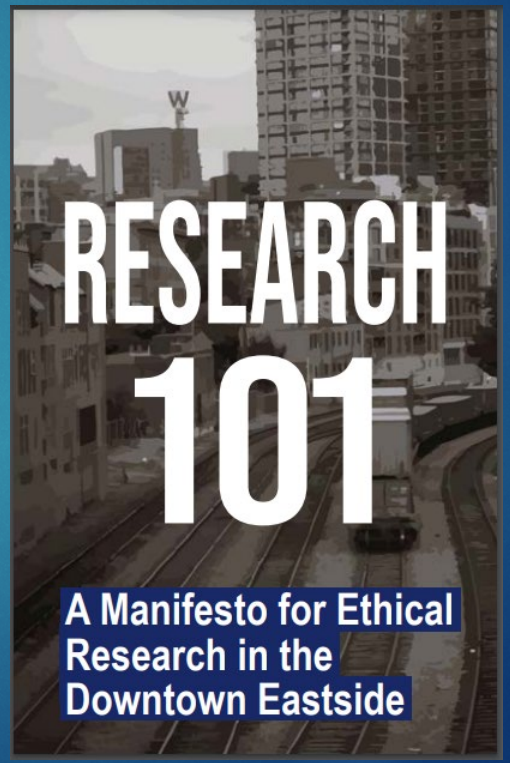
- Data Governance Models and Processes are the **mechanisms** to enable Data Sovereignty



Why does it matter?

- Ultimately we are trying to serve the communities and individuals we are collecting data from, and our processes should reflect this.
- Harm has resulted from people and groups feeling over-researched and under-engaged throughout the full process of narrative development.
- "Nothing about us without us": our work is inherently about working together to address systemic inequities.

Environmental Scan points to need for this emerging discussion



Our Current Projects

- Interdepartmental community of practice for data equity and decolonization
- Community data governance working group
- Urban Indigenous communities

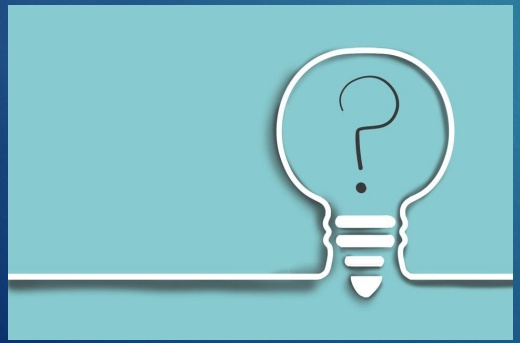
Co Creation for Sharing Power

Outcomes of Data Sovereignty

- Builds trust between partners
- Decreases bias
- Improves research quality and relevance
- Promotes meaningful capacity development and community empowerment to make change
- Reduce community harm (physical, psychological, social harm, economic, legal and relational)

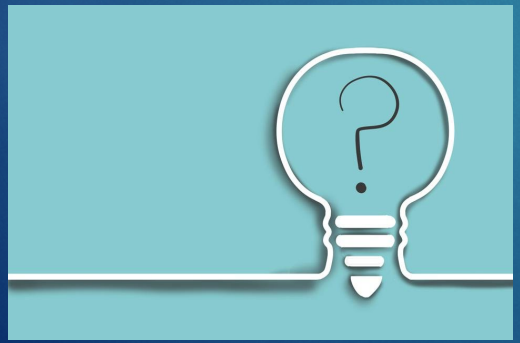
Question #1

How should the City share information garnered from the Grant Applications back to you?



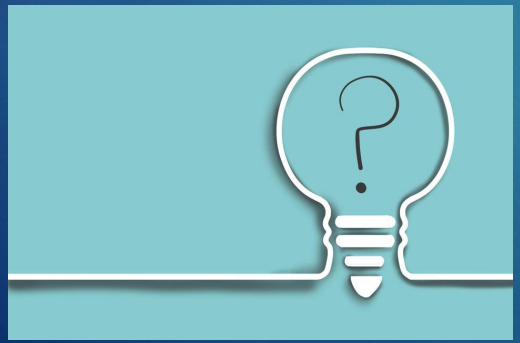
Question #2

What information would you find useful to know about the sector and specifically those who receive grants from the City?



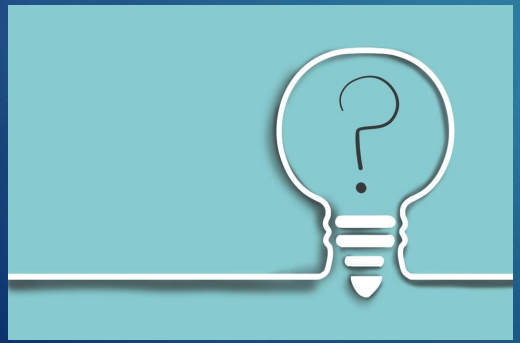
Question #3

Is there other information we should be collecting about equity deserving communities in the City that you would find useful to further you work?



Question #4

Are you or folks in your communities interested in being engaged in an ongoing way about data governance? How?



THANK YOU

Links for Reference

- https://fnigc.ca/
- https://planh.ca/
- https://www.vitalstrategies.org/
- Home (making-space.city)
- https://sfpirg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Research101_Manifesto.pdf
- https://secure.toronto.ca/pa/decisionBody/922.do#:~:text=The%20mandate%20of%20the%20FNIM,collection%20and%20digital%20technology%20initiatives.

Closing

Reflections and next steps

Some meta-goals for our data work

- **Try to understand a rapidly-changing world** at many scales simultaneously
- **Enable action based on many different types of evidence** toward health, equity and sustainability for everyone in the city
- **Do data in a more equitable and decolonized way** that is co-created with the communities affected

Next steps

- **Your feedback and suggestions** are welcome
- **Stay in touch:** https://vancouver.ca/social-policy-research or socialpolicy.research@vancouver.ca
- **Please reach out** if we can help you access data to inform your work
- **Thank you** for attending!