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Fraser Valley Regional District

**POINT-IN-TIME (PiT) HOMELESS
COUNT AND SURVEY REGIONAL REPORT**



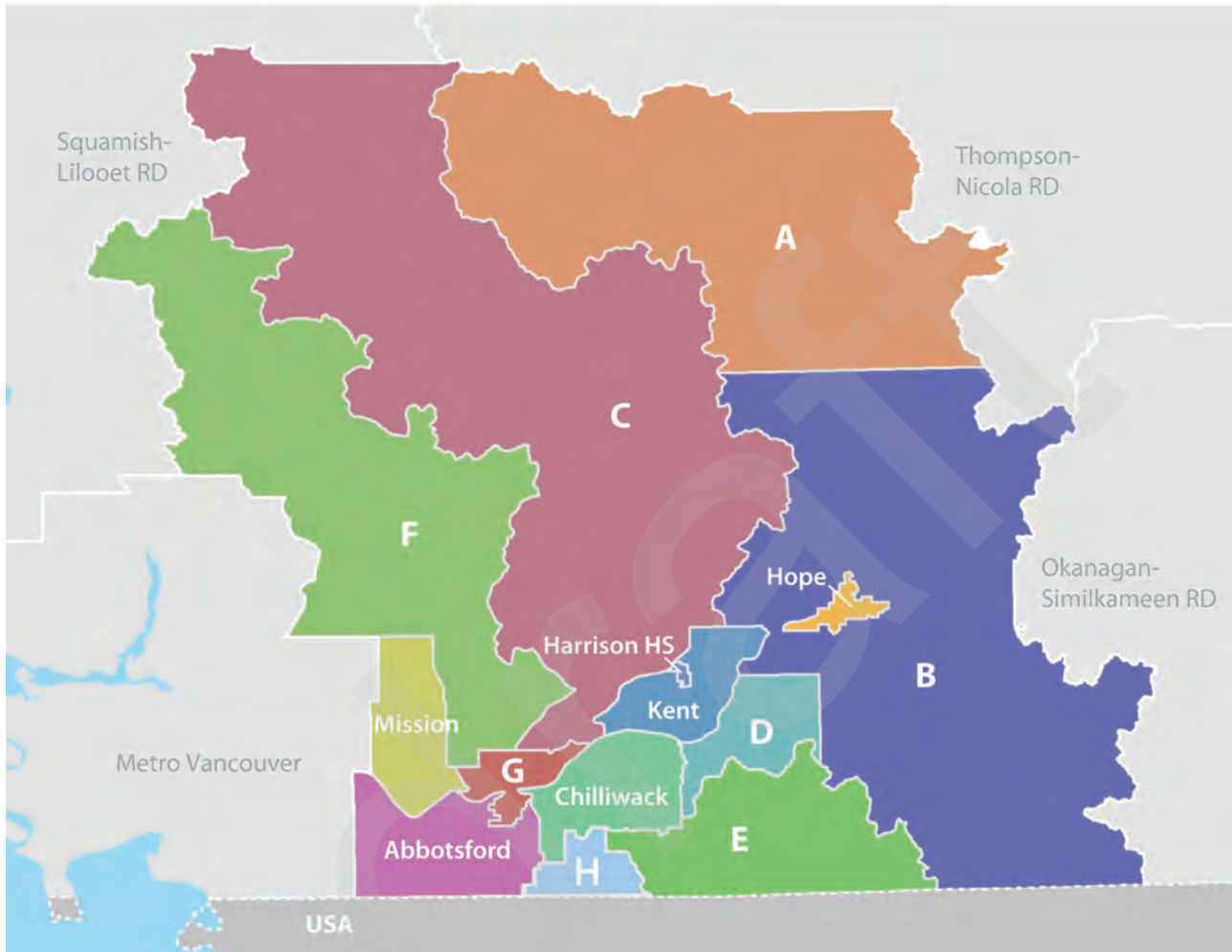
The 2023 FVRD Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey was conducted within the ancestral and unceded territories of the **Stó:lō, Sts'ailes, Nlaka'pamux, and St'at'imc Peoples.**

We share this acknowledgment in recognition of this truth, and to reaffirm the FVRD's commitment to playing a role in advancing reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples who have stewarded this land since time immemorial.



FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) is made up of six municipalities and eight unincorporated electoral areas which are located within the traditional territories of more than 30 First Nations.



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Fraser Valley Regional District would like to thank the survey respondents who generously shared their personal and often difficult stories, which are the basis of this project and the contents of this report.

The 2023 Point-in-Time Count and Survey could not have been possible without the many organizations, community partners, numerous staff members, and volunteers who provided invaluable support and input throughout the process.

Thank you to the service provider staff from each community who stepped forward to conduct the interviews. Your contributions and dedication to the project are the reason for its continued success. Thank you for your continued compassion and commitment to improving the lives of those experiencing some of life's greatest challenges.

Thank you to the many colleagues at various community organizations throughout the Fraser Valley, as well as community residents, officials, and elected leaders, for their interest in and support for this important work.

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ABBOTSFORD

City of Abbotsford
Abbotsford Police Department
Archway Community Services
BC Housing
Connective Support Society
Cyrus Centre
Elizabeth Fry Society
Fraser Health
Fraser Valley Metis Association
Ground Zero Ministries
Lookout Housing and Health Society
Matsqui-Abbotsford Impact Society
Mennonite Central Committee
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Pacific Community Resources Society
Phoenix Society
Raven's Moon Resources Society
Salvation Army
SARA for Women
Sparrow Community Care Society
The 5 & 2 Ministries
Union Gospel Mission

HOPE

Hope & Area Transition Society

AGASSIZ-HARRISON

District of Kent
Village of Harrison Hot Springs
Agassiz-Harrison Community Services
Central Community Church (Agassiz)
Fraser Health
Olive Branch Meal Program

CHILLIWACK

City of Chilliwack
Ann Davis Transition Society
Chilliwack Community Services
Cyrus Centre
Fraser Health
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Ministry of Children and Family Development
Mountainside Harm Reduction
Pacific Community Resources Society
Pearl Life Renewal Society
RainCity Housing and Support Society
RCMP (Chilliwack)
Ruth and Naomi's Mission Society
Salvation Army
School District #33
Stó:lō Service Agency
Wilma's Transition House
Xwchíyò:m (Cheam) First Nation

MISSION

City of Mission
Fraser Health
Fraser House Society
IHEART team
Impact Society
Mission Community Services
Mission Division of Family Practice
Mission Hope Central
Mission Friendship Centre
Pacific Community Resource Society
RCMP (Mission)
SARA for Women
Union Gospel Mission
School District #75

FVRD 2023 Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count & Survey

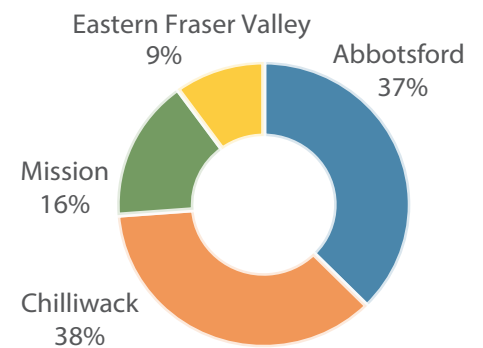
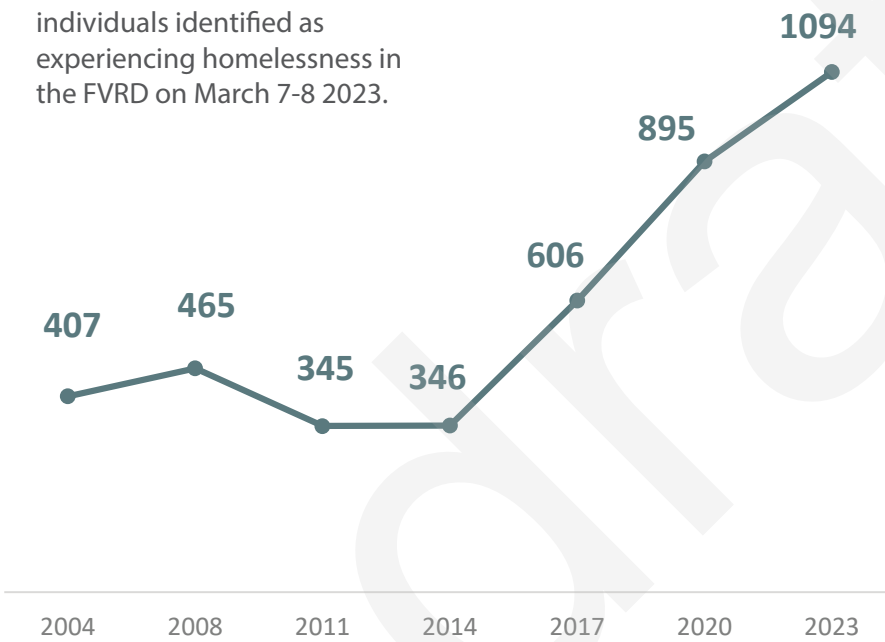
Since 2004, communities in the FVRD have worked together to conduct a tri-annual Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Survey of individuals experiencing homelessness within the region. The results provide critical information about the scope and nature of homelessness which is used to improve supports and services, as well as monitor homelessness prevention strategies.

ENUMERATION

1,094

individuals identified as experiencing homelessness in the FVRD on March 7-8 2023.

- 199 additional people or an increase of 22% since 2020.
- 748 additional people or an increase of 216% since 2014.



OVERNIGHT LOCATIONS

The increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the FVRD continues to outpace the increase in emergency shelter beds.



52%
Shelter



25%
Outside



9%
Couch-surfed



8%
Vehicle



5%
Hospital

WHO IS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?

The region saw an increase in older populations and fewer children and youth experiencing homelessness.



4%

are aged 19 and younger, a decrease from 7% in 2020



48%

of those experiencing homelessness are aged 30-49.



15%

aged 60 or older, an increase from 12% in 2020.

38%

identified as **Indigenous**, compared to 7.6% of the general population.

31%

had been in **government care** as a child or youth.



Women make up a significant proportion of those experiencing hidden homelessness. Thus, under represented in PiT Count data.



68%

Male



31%

Female



1%

Transgender, two-spirit, non-binary, other.

HEALTH CHALLENGES

65% reported experiencing at least 1 health challenge.



58%

Addiction

41%

Medical Condition

44%

Mental Health Issue

35%

Physical Disability

24%

Acquired Brain Injury

22%

Learning Disability

Of those experiencing addiction:

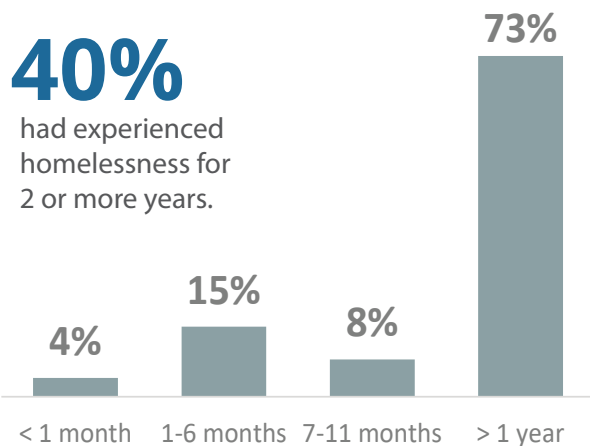
- 13% reported receiving treatment and 29% reported seeking treatment
- 54% also identified as having a mental health issue.



DURATION AND CAUSE

40%

had experienced homelessness for 2 or more years.



34%

Health Issues including physical, mental, and addiction or substance use.



31%

Housing and financial issues largely related to cost and income

30%

Interpersonal and family issues, largely with spouse or partner

Nearly **1/2** of respondents listed multiple reasons for their most recent housing loss.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More people experiencing homelessness throughout the region.

Since 2014, the number of persons experiencing homelessness in the FVRD has been on an upward trend, growing by 216% in less than a decade.

The number of persons experiencing homelessness in the FVRD is 1,094 compared to 895 people in 2020, which is an increase in 199 persons or 22% in three years.

Compared to 2020, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and the Eastern Fraser Valley have seen an increase in persons experiencing homelessness, while Mission remained the same.

Only 1/2 stayed in a shelter on the night of the count.

Of the 1,094 persons enumerated as experiencing homelessness, 567 or 52% had stayed in an emergency shelter, while the remaining 527 or 48% were experiencing forms of unsheltered homelessness.

The increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness continues to outpace the increase in emergency shelter beds in the region. However, not all shelter beds were occupied on the night of the count.

More people had slept in a vehicle.

Compared to 2020, there were 31 more individuals staying in a vehicle (car, van, and camper) and 32 more individuals in the hospital on the night of the count, with 48 fewer individuals staying outside.

Housing costs, supply and low income drive homelessness, but is not the only factor.

The reasons for experiencing homelessness provided by respondents tend to center around:

- High cost of housing
- Unavailability of supportive housing
- Family and interpersonal relational breakdown
- Health issues including mental health issues, substance use issues (addiction), serious injury, disability, brain injury, etc.

Income from employment (part-time or full-time) was reported by 4.3% of respondents, which is the lowest rate of employment income since the first PiT Count and Survey in 2004.

Disability Allowance as a source of income increased to 30%, from 20% in 2020 and 15% in 2017, surpassing (for the first time) Income Assistance (26%) as the most common source of income reported by individuals experiencing homelessness.

People are without a home for longer periods.

The duration of homelessness continues to increase, with 73% experiencing homelessness for longer than one year and 40% for more than 2 years.

The rate of those experiencing chronic homelessness, which is associated with increased difficulties in returning to permanent housing has increased to 81% from 67% in 2020.

Chronic Homelessness refers to the experience of individuals, often with disabling conditions (e.g. chronic physical or mental illness, substance use), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year.

Barriers to housing are big and difficult to overcome.

Reported barriers to accessing housing, as reported by individuals experiencing homelessness, relate mostly and not surprisingly to the unavailability of affordable housing, a lack of supportive housing, and a lack of income.

Additional barriers to becoming housed included experiencing stigma and prejudice, bad credit, lack of references, and having a criminal record.

Increase in older populations experiencing homelessness.

Persons of all ages and stages of life experience homelessness in the region; however, nearly half of those experiencing homelessness are between 30 and 49 years of age.

Since 2017, the proportion of those 19 and younger has declined while the proportion of those 60 and older has increased; however, both age categories are somewhat underrepresented in comparison to the age distribution of the region's general population.

Youth homelessness is often more hidden which contributes the under-representation of young people within PiT Counts.

Overrepresentation of those who identify as Indigenous.

The overrepresentation of Indigenous people among homeless populations is rooted in Canada's long history of colonization and exploitation of Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous people make-up 7.6% of the region's population, but account for 38% of individuals experiencing homelessness in the FVRD.

More than 232 or 21.2% of individuals experiencing homelessness had attended or had a parent or grandparent attend Residential School.

Health challenges are common, increasing, and complex.

Rates of physical and mental health challenges continue to increase among survey respondents within the region. In 2023, 65% of survey respondents reported at least one health challenge.

Of all survey respondents, 44% reported experiencing mental health issues, 41% a medical condition, 35% a physical disability, 24% an acquired brain injury, and 22% a learning disability.

They are our neighbours and long-time residents.

Most individuals experiencing homelessness had lived in their community for more than one year, with 46.3% having resided in their community for ten or more years. This challenges the idea that individuals experiencing homelessness are from other communities.

Of those who had lived in the FVRD (in one or more communities) for under one year, the most common reasons for relocating to the region were:

- Proximity to family member(s)
- Relocated with significant other
- Proximity to friends
- Employment opportunity or job loss
- Access treatment or recovery services
- Shelter services being available
- Released from prison or out on parole or probation

Increased addiction and substance use, but treatment desired.

In 2023, 58% of survey respondents identified as currently experiencing addiction, of which 41% were either seeking or receiving treatment.

Of those who were experiencing addiction, 54% also identified as having a mental health issue (concurrent disorder), which further compounds the complexity of care, supports, and housing solutions required. Using a combination of substances was most common, followed by crystal meth, opiates, and alcohol.

Rural and remote homelessness requires a different approach.

Homelessness within the rural and remote locations of the FVRD is believed to have increased in recent years. However, it remains extremely difficult to measure and address homelessness within the FVRD's unincorporated electoral areas and less-urban areas within municipalities using traditional methods such as PiT count.

A variety of services accessed, but not without barriers.

Various services are being accessed by those experiencing homelessness, with the most commonly accessed services, being:

- Emergency shelter
- Meal program or soup kitchen
- Harm reduction
- Hospital or emergency room
- Outreach

A significant number of individuals experiencing homelessness reported experiencing barriers in accessing services, with transportation or mobility being the most common, followed by a lack of identification, not knowing what supports are available or how to access them, substance use, and mental health challenges.

More men represented in PiT count data and survey findings

Men continue to make up approximately two-thirds of all individuals experiencing homelessness; a third identify as women, and approximately 1% identify as non-binary, two-spirit, etc.

Women make up a more significant proportion of those experiencing hidden homelessness, and are therefore undercounted in Point-in-Time counts and surveys.

Overrepresentation of 2SLGBTQIA+

More than 90% of individuals experiencing homelessness identify as heterosexual or straight; however, the percentage of individuals whose sexual orientation is not heterosexual is twice that of the general population, suggesting an overrepresentation of LGBTQ+ populations among those experiencing homelessness.

Many were in government care as a child or youth.

Nearly one-third of individuals experiencing homelessness had previously been in the care of the government as a child or youth (foster care, youth group homes, and youth or independent living agreements).

Comparatively, children and youth in care made up 5.5% of B.C.'s population aged 0-18 years.

This suggests an overrepresentation of adults previously in government care within populations experiencing homelessness.

Improved and increased services are needed, more so than new services.

Individuals experiencing homelessness were asked to identify what additional services were needed. The largest proportion of responses related to affordable housing, including supportive housing, rent support, etc.

Many of the responses including services already offered in communities, which might reflect a lack of awareness of services or the need to increase, improve, expand, or reduce barriers for existing services.

Respondents provided listed the following services or service improvements as being potentially helpful or meaningful to them:

- Affordable housing options including supportive housing, rent support, etc.
- Counselling including trauma counselling
- Improved health care including mental health support and dental care
- Addiction treatment options, including shorter wait times, easier access, addiction support/counseling, detox facility, etc.
- More outreach workers
- Therapy including group therapy
- Drop-in centers for support and activities including games, creative sessions, etc.
- Improved transportation
- Schooling, education, training
- Employment support and part-time jobs

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The 2023 Homeless Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Survey took place on March 7-8, 2023 within Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Chilliwack River Valley, Mission, Kent, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope and Boston Bar.

The first Point-in-Time Count and Survey in the region was conducted in 2004, with subsequent undertakings in 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2020 (pre-Covid19 pandemic figures).

Although Point-in-Time counts and surveys are not able to, or intended to, enumerate or capture every person experiencing homelessness in the region, the consistent application of Point-in-Time Count and Survey methodology helps to uncover trends related to the extent of homelessness within a given area.

The resulting point-in-time data and survey findings help to inform and improve the efforts needed to adequately support individuals who are experiencing homelessness, identify unmet housing needs, determine potential gaps in related health services, and support funding applications for local housing and homelessness initiatives.

1.2 PROJECT PARTNERS

Staff from the FVRD, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission worked in collaboration with local service agencies and other partners to plan, prepare for, and administer the 24-hour point-in-time count and survey of individuals experiencing homelessness across the region.

As with past Point-in-Time homelessness counts and surveys, the 2023 project would not have been possible without the generous in-kind contributions of staffing resources, expertise, and other supports provided by:

- Abbotsford Police Department
- Ann Davis Transition Society
- Archway Community Services
- Agassiz-Harrison Community Services
- BC Housing
- Boston Bar/North Bend Enhancement Society
- Central Community Church, Agassiz
- Chilliwack Community Services
- Connective Support Society
- Cyrus Centre (Abbotsford & Chilliwack)
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Fraser Health Authority
- Fraser House Society
- Fraser Valley Metis Society
- Ground Zero Ministries
- Hope and Area Transition Society
- IHEART Team
- Impact Society
- Lookout Housing and Health Society
- Matsqui-Abbotsford Impact Society
- Mennonite Central Committee of BC
- Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Mission Community Services
- Mission Division of Family Practice
- Mission Friendship Centre
- Mission Hope Central
- Mountainside Harm Reduction
- Olive Branch Meal Program, Agassiz
- Pacific Community Resources Society
- Pearl Life Renewal Society
- Phoenix Society
- RainCity Housing and Support Society
- Raven's Moon Resources Society
- RCMP
- Ruth and Naomi's Mission Society
- Salvation Army
- SARA for Women
- School District #33
- School District #75
- Sparrow Community Care Society
- Stó:lō Service Agency
- The 5 & 2 Ministries
- Union Gospel Mission
- Wilma's Transition House
- Xwchíyò:m (Cheam) First Nation

1.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the 2023 tri-annual Point-in-Time Count and Survey are to:

- Provide data and identify trends related to the extent of homelessness within communities and the region.
- Contribute to local, regional, provincial, and national understanding of homelessness and housing needs.
- Facilitate regional collaboration, information sharing, and advocacy related to addressing homelessness and unmet housing needs.
- Support and inform advocacy work related to the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Inform public policy development and funding priorities needed to improve the spectrum of care and services.

1.4 DEFINING HOMELESSNESS

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness defines homelessness as “the situation of an individual, family or community without stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it.

It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household’s financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination. Most people do not choose to be homeless, and the experience is generally negative, unpleasant, unhealthy, unsafe, stressful, and distressing.

Homelessness encompasses a range of physical living situations, organized here in a typology that includes:

1. **Unsheltered**, or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation;
2. **Emergency sheltered**, including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence;
3. **Provisionally accommodated**, referring to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks the security of tenure;
4. **At risk of homelessness**, refers to people who are not homeless, but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.¹

The FVRD 2023 PiT Count and Survey’s definition of “homelessness” reflects the above definition, and is consistent with the survey methodology used in previous FVRD PiT Count and Surveys and similar undertakings in Metro Vancouver and across the Province.

The FVRD 2023 Point-in-Time Count and Survey attempts to enumerate and survey:

- Individuals staying in an emergency shelter, safe house, or transition house;
- Those living outside in temporary make-shift camps or some form of shelter or tents;
- Individuals sleeping or spending time during the day on street sidewalks, bus shelters, under bridges;
- Those sleeping in vehicles, campers, motorhomes, and recreational vehicles;
- Individuals who temporarily “couch surf” at a friend, family member, or client’s place.

¹ Canadian Definition Of Homelessness, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press, 2017
www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/COH-Canadian%20Definition%20of%20Homelessness.pdf

In the context of the 2023 survey, individuals experiencing homelessness are defined as persons with no fixed address, with no regular and/or adequate nighttime residence of their own where they pay rent or which they own and where they can expect to stay for more than 30 days.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

A Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Survey is commonly used to enumerate (count) as accurately as possible the number of individuals experiencing homeless within a given area during a 24-hour period, as well as collect critical information about individuals experiencing homelessness (survey).

The FVRD's PiT Count and Survey took place on March 7 and 8, 2023, which coincided with a PiT Count and Survey conducted in Metro Vancouver and in other communities across BC. As done in previous years, survey design and implementation was done in coordination with municipalities, service providers, and other partners.

Consistency in the definition of homelessness, project methodology and scope, survey design, and implementation allows comparison to Point-in-Time Count and Survey results from previous years and in other jurisdictions, uncovering important gaps, needs, and trends useful to improving the prevention and response to homelessness in the region. There were a few new questions add to the 2023 survey and some minor wording changes made to improve clarity and to ensure respectful and trauma-informed language is used².

The survey was carried out by nearly one hundred interview volunteers, of which 94% were service provider staff or outreach workers, who had existing relationships with individuals experiencing homelessness within communities and who were well equipped to administer the survey using a trauma-informed approach. All volunteers were required to attend one of the eleven training sessions that took place throughout the region.

Point-in-Time Count and Survey methodology uses two survey components, which helps to prevent double counting within the enumeration process.

Sheltered SURVEY



- Evening component
- Conducted on March 7, 2023
- Survey of Individuals staying in an emergency shelters, extreme weather shelters, youth shelters, violence against women shelters (transition houses).

Unsheltered SURVEY



- Daytime component
- Conducted on March 8, 2023
- Survey of individuals in outdoor locations, at known encampments, places where meals are served, at warming centres, and at magnet events.

The PiT Count (enumeration) is calculated based on the total number of occupied shelter beds provided by shelter operators, plus the number of surveys completed within the 24-hour period (minus the number of surveys completed during the day by those who had stayed in a shelter the night before (as they were included in the occupied shelter bed totals).

² Examples of the surveys used in the 2023 Point-in-Time Count are included in Appendix E of this report.

1.6 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Respecting the interviewee's choice to participate or not participate in the survey and answering or not answering questions is paramount to the integrity of this work.

In keeping with the principles of the Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS): Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, this project recognizes that "the end does not justify the means." In other words, carrying out the survey should not harm any of the people involved (both interviewers and interviewees) physically, emotionally, or financially. The survey should in no way compromise the dignity of the persons surveyed or jeopardize their ability to receive services.

Volunteer training emphasized appropriate conduct pertaining to respect, consent, fairness, equity, privacy, and confidentiality and was conducted in accordance with accepted ethical guidelines by applying the following:

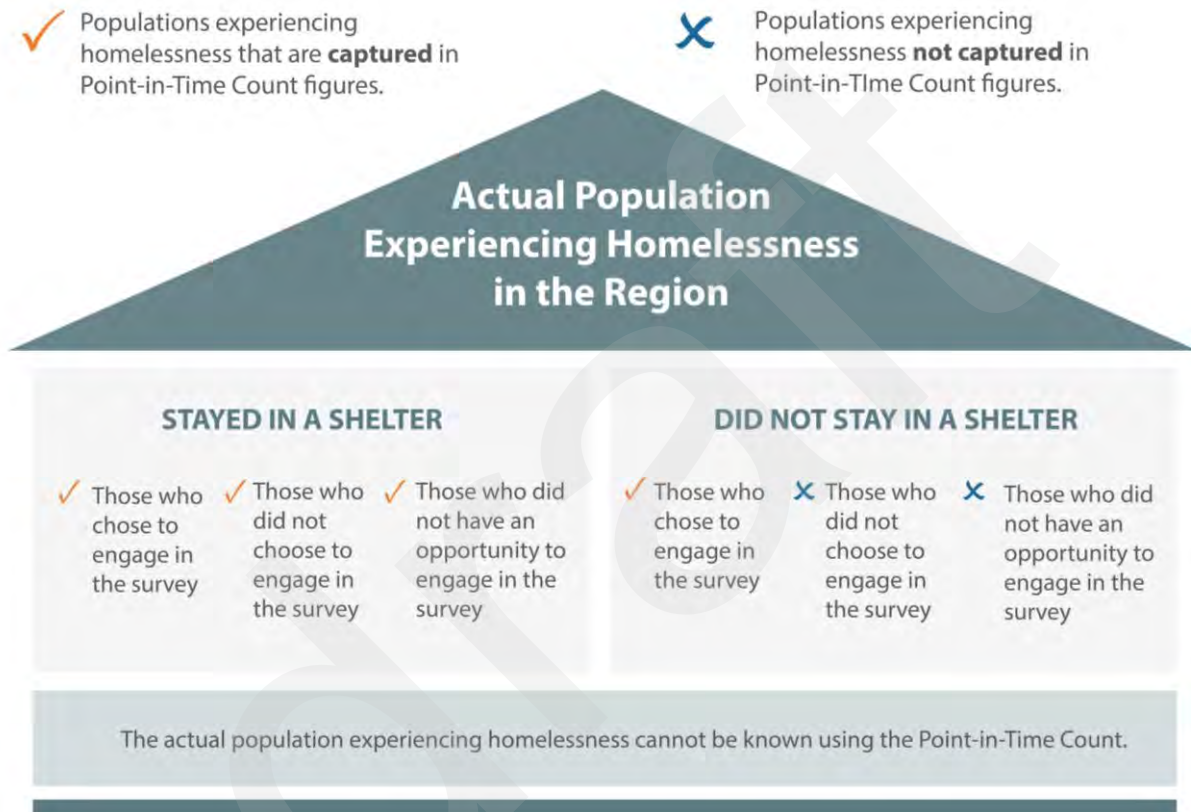
- All interviewers attended a mandatory training session prior to the survey.
- Interviewers had to agree to keep shared information confidential, assure anonymity of interviewees, and only interview persons if they freely complied, based on informed voluntary consent;
- Interviewees were informed about the nature of the project and were not deceived in order to elicit a response; and
- Interviewers were from the staff of community-based service agencies who have experience with individuals experiencing homelessness, an awareness of the realities contributing to homelessness, empathy for persons in this situation, and ease in relating to people who experience homelessness.

The Point in Time Count can only provide an undercount of the population actually experiencing homelessness, due to the challenges of enumerating individuals who did not stay in a shelter on the night of the count. This is largely due to the voluntary nature of the survey, factors related to hidden homelessness, and additional challenges of administering the survey within rural or remote areas, and across a geographically large region.

1.7 METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES

The figure below outlines which populations experiencing homelessness are captured and not captured in a PiT Count and survey, highlighting methodological limitations of PiT Count and Surveys and the wider challenges of identifying regional needs related to homelessness. That being said, The PiT Count is generally regarded as an acceptable method of gathering and measuring data associated with individuals experiencing homelessness within a defined area.

FIGURE 1: POPULATION EXPERIENCING HOMELESNESS CAPTURED IN POINT-IN-TIME COUNT



Although the number of respondents enumerated is an undercount of the number of people experiencing homelessness in the FVRD, it does provide an overview of the current extent of homelessness, the context in which individuals are experience homelessness, which contributes to longitudinal data gathering and analysis.

The data included in this report are based on voluntary responses, which can be influenced by a respondent's:

- Interpretation or understanding of the question;
- Physical, psychological, cognitive, and emotional state at the time of the interview;
- Level of comfort with the physical setting during the interview; and
- Willingness to share personal information with the interviewer.

1.8 HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS

It is important to note the added difficulties in including persons experiencing more “hidden” forms of homelessness within Point-in-Time Counts and Surveys. The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness estimates that individuals experiencing more hidden forms of homelessness account for 80% of the actual population experiencing homelessness³. While this survey includes these situations in its definition of homelessness, those experiencing more hidden living situations are significantly under-counted by means of a point-in-time count.

Populations most likely to be experiencing hidden forms of homelessness are women (with or without children) finding sanctuary or fleeing abuse or violence, those experiencing homelessness in more rural or remote areas including the FVRD’s Electoral Areas, persons who tend to couch surf, and those who may trade services or favours e.g. sexual gratification or sex, for temporary shelter.

1.9 RURAL AND REMOTE HOMELESSNESS

A 2021 report on rural and remote homelessness in Canada notes that there is “clear and mounting evidence that homelessness is equal to or more prevalent in rural communities than in urban centres⁴.” However, the issue of homelessness is more difficult to measure as well as address in rural and remote areas.

Measuring Rural and Remote Homelessness

A growing number of individuals living in encampments, tents, or vehicles in more rural and remote areas of the region have been observed in recent years, largely within the FVRD’s eight unincorporated electoral areas. However, since 2004, FVRD PiT Count and Surveys have been limited to more urban parts of the region, largely within municipal urban cores.

The 2023 PiT Count and Survey included some additional locations within rural and remote areas of the region, with the objective of improving the understanding of populations experiencing homelessness in less urban environments with reduced access to services and supports. This was possible due to increased outreach efforts occurring in rural and remote locations by outreach workers based out of FVRD municipalities.

“The PiT methodology for measuring homelessness in a community doesn’t translate easily to rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. Rural communities across Canada are limited in the resources they can access.

Urban centres can allocate more resources to recruitment and have access to a larger pool of volunteers to walk the streets and conduct physical counts of individuals experiencing homelessness across the city.

This gap in resources poses a major challenge to the ability of rural communities to collect adequate information about their local homelessness situation, which affects their ability to advocate and obtain the proper resources required to support this local population⁵.”

Rural Development Network, 2022

³ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Homeless Hub (website), “Understanding Hidden Homelessness,” 2018, <https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/understanding-hidden-homelessness>

⁴ National Alliance to End Rural and Remote Homelessness, Rural and Remote Homelessness, 2021, www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/432/HUMA/Brief/BR11103191/br-external/NationalAllianceToEndRuralAndRemoteHomelessness-e.pdf

⁵ Rural Development Network, Step-by-Step Guide to Estimating Rural Homelessness, Second Edition, 2022, www.homelessnesslearninghub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/New-Step-by-Step-Guide-to-Estimating-Rural-Homelessness-2.0-.pdf

Addressing Rural and Remote Homelessness

Electoral areas are less equipped to address homelessness compared to their municipal counterparts due to the minimal tax base generated by smaller populations, as well as a general lack of existing health, social and policing services.

There are logistical challenges associated with preventing and addressing homelessness within the electoral areas, as much of the land in which rural and remote homelessness occurs on, is Crown land (owned by the provincial government), which local governments have no jurisdiction over.

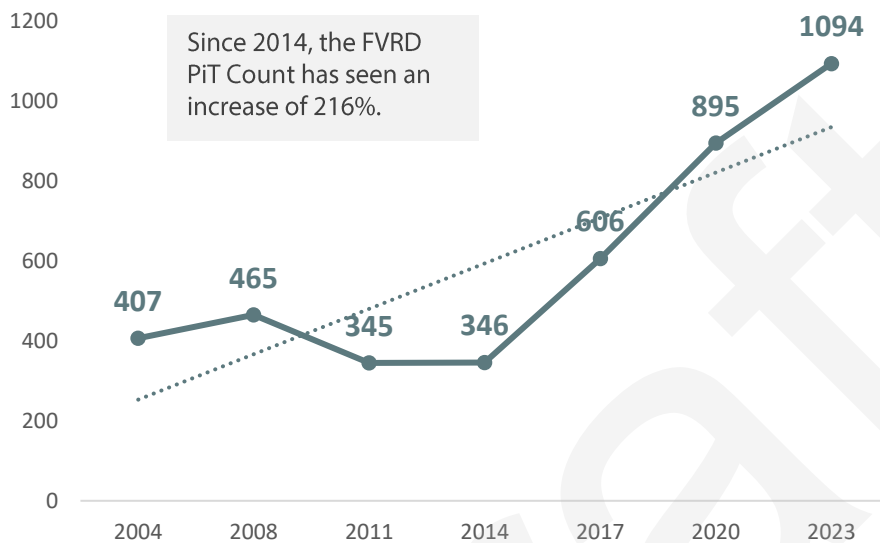
In 2019, the FVRD submitted a UBCM resolution, which highlighted the need for a provincial strategy for addressing homelessness on Crown Land and continues to lobby the provincial government about the various complexities of homelessness in rural and remote areas, including the environmental impacts of prolonged human activity in natural and environmentally sensitive areas.

draft

POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) COUNT AND SURVEY RESULTS

2.1 NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

FIGURE 2. TOTAL INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2004-2023)

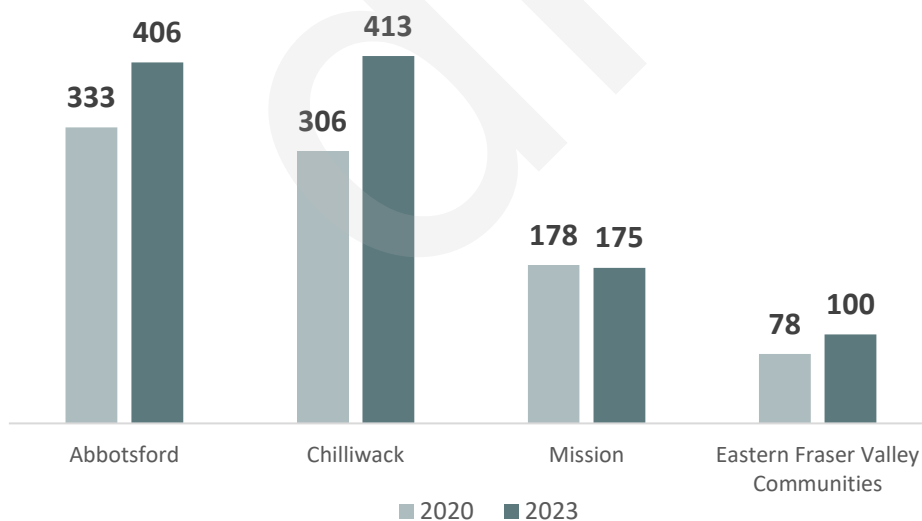


The total number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the FVRD as enumerated during the 24-hour period was 1,094¹.

This is an increase of 199 people or 22% compared to the previous count in 2020.

PiT count figures suggest that since 2014, there has been an upward trend in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in FVRD.

FIGURE 3. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY COMMUNITY (2020 AND 2023)



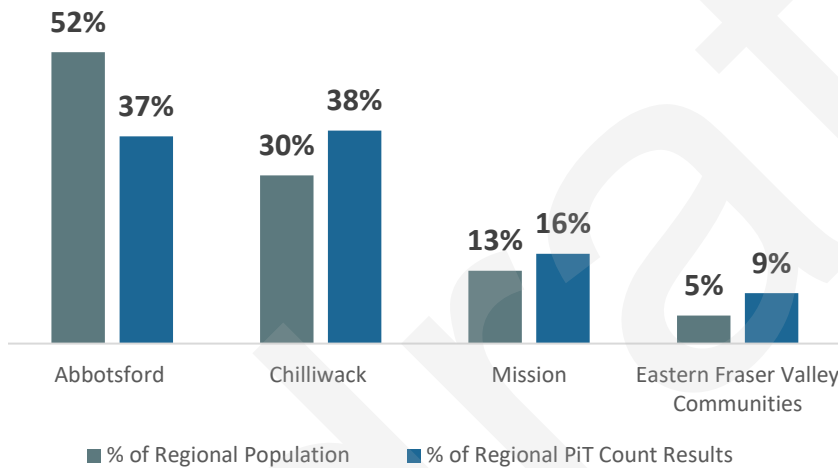
In comparison to 2020, the communities of Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and the Eastern Fraser Valley experienced an increase in individuals experiencing homelessness, while Mission remained constant.

¹ This number consist of individuals experiencing homelessness who agreed to be interviewed (1,022) plus individuals experiencing homelessness who were present in emergency shelters, extreme weather shelters, transition houses, hospitals and jails but did not agree to be interviewed or could not be interviewed (72). Municipal staff and/or shelter operators provided the shelter-based figures. For more information on the methodology used, see Section 1 of this report.

TABLE 1: CHANGE IN NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY COMMUNITY (2004-2023)

Community	2004-2008		2008-2011		2011-2014		2014-2017		2017-2020		2020-2023		2004-2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Abbotsford	9	4%	-118	-50%	34	29%	123	81%	59	22%	73	22%	180	80%
Chilliwack	11	13%	13	13%	-38	-34%	148	203%	85	38%	107	35%	326	375%
Mission	25	33%	-46	-46%	21	39%	-12	-16%	115	183%	-3	-2%	100	133%
Eastern FV ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	-	22	28%	100	-
Total	58	14%	-120	-26%	1	0%	260	75%	289	48%	199	22%	687	169%

FIGURE 4. PROPORTION OF REGIONAL POPULATION³ COMPARED TO PROPORTION OF REGIONAL PiT COUNT TOTALS BY COMMUNITY (2023)



The distribution of populations experiencing homelessness in the FVRD is largely comparative to the distribution of population across the region.

That being said, Chilliwack, Mission, and the Eastern Fraser Valley Communities had higher proportions of the region's homeless population relative to the proportion of the region's total population.

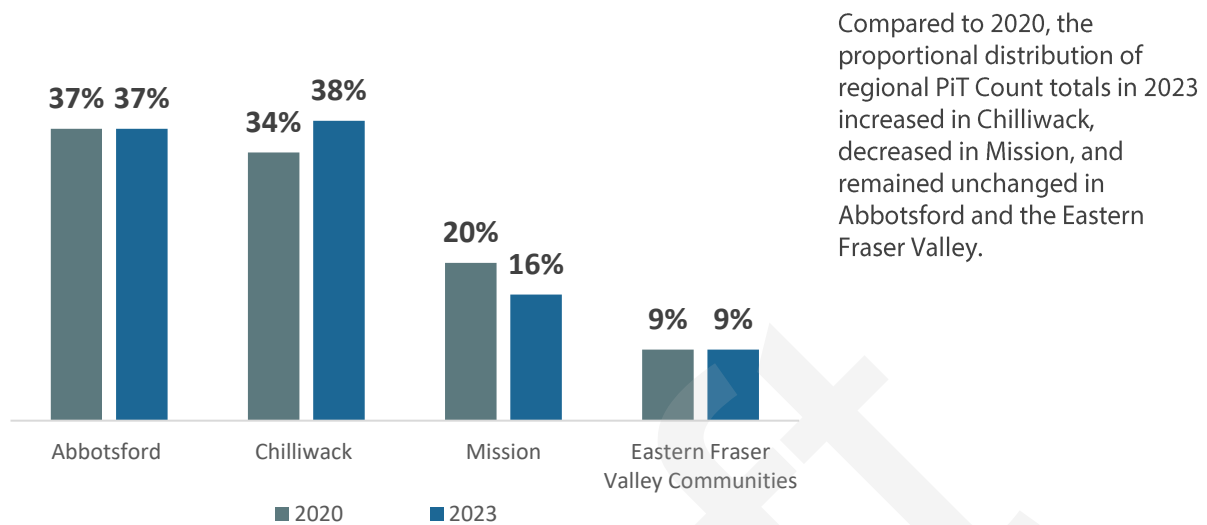
TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL POPULATION COMPARED TO PiT COUNT TOTALS BY COMMUNITY (2020 AND 2023)

	2020				2023			
	PiT Count		Population		PiT Count		Population	
	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD
Abbotsford	333	37%	152,267	51%	406	37%	172,488	52%
Chilliwack	306	34%	91,797	31%	413	38%	100,943	30%
Mission	178	20%	39,873	13%	175	16%	42,472	13%
Eastern FV	78	9%	15,635	5%	100	9%	15,635	5%
Total	895	100%	299,572	100%	1094	100%	331,538	100%

² The first PiT Count and Survey in Eastern Fraser Valley communities was in 2020.

³ Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population, <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

FIGURE 5. PROPORTION OF REGIONAL PIT COUNT TOTALS BY COMMUNITY (2020 AND 2023)



2.2 REASONS FOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked to identify the reason(s) for their most resent loss of housing which are reflected in the categories below.

1. **Housing and financial issues:** Not enough income; rental support expired; unfit/unsafe housing; building sold or renovated; owner moved in; landlord/tenant conflict; guest policy; complaint; place not physically accessible; left the community/relocated
2. **Interpersonal and family issues:** Conflict with spouse/partner; conflict with parent/guardian; conflict with other; abuse by partner/spouse; abuse by parent/guardian/caregiver; abuse by child/dependent; abuse by other; death or departure of family member; discrimination.
3. **Health Issues:** Physical health; mental health; addiction/substance use; hospitalization or treatment program; covid-19 pandemic.
4. **Incarceration:** Release from correctional facility, jail, or parole
5. **Other issues:** Unique personal circumstances or events that do not fall into the above categories.

For nearly fifty percent of respondents, their most recent loss of housing was due to issues or events that fall into at least two of the above categories, which aligns with the understanding that homelessness is typically due to the accumulation of impacts caused by a combination of factors, not a single issue or event⁴.

The response categories with the most significant number of responses were health issues (34.4%), housing and financial issues (31.4%), and interpersonal and family issues (29.7%). while, an analysis of individual responses identified the most commonly reported reason for housing loss was addiction or substance use (13.6%), a lack of income (12.6%), spousal conflict or abuse⁵ (11.4%), mental health issues (9.1%), and physical health issues (7.5%).

⁴ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, *Homeless Hub* (website), Causes Of Homelessness <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/causes-homelessness>

⁵ Analysis combines responses from "Conflict with spouse/partner" and "Experienced abuse by spouse/partner".

TABLE 3. DETAILED LIST OF REASONS FOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2023)⁶

Reasons for Experiencing Homelessness	2023	
	N of Responses	% of Responses
Housing and Financial Issues (total)	683	31.4%
Not enough income	274	12.6%
Rental support stopped	5	0.2%
Unfit/Unsafe housing	113	5.2%
Building sold/renovated	48	2.2%
Owner moved in	8	0.4%
Landlord/tenant conflict	131	6.0%
Guest policy	19	0.9%
Complaint	21	1.0%
Place not physically accessible	10	0.5%
Left the community/relocated	54	2.5%
Interpersonal and family issues (total)	646	29.7%
Conflict with spouse/partner	177	8.1%
Conflict with parent/guardian	107	4.9%
Conflict with other	66	3.0%
Experienced abuse by spouse/partner⁷	71	3.3%
Experienced abuse by parent/guardian/caregiver	42	1.9%
Experienced abuse by child/dependent	12	0.6%
Experienced abuse by other	23	1.1%
Death or Departure of family member	81	3.7%
Experienced discrimination	67	3.1%
Health issues (total)	748	34.4%
Physical health issue	164	7.5%
Mental health issue	197	9.1%
Addiction/Substance use issue	297	13.6%
Hospitalization or treatment program	57	2.6%
Covid-19 Pandemic ⁸	33	1.5%
Incarceration (total)	43	2.0%
Release from Incarceration (jail or prison) ⁹	43	2.0%
Other (total)	54	2.5%
Other personal circumstance/events	48	2.2%
Don't know why	6	0.3%
Total Responses	2,174	100%

⁶ Numbers and percentages reflect responses and not respondents. In addition, respondents may also have provided multiple responses from a single category.

⁷ The analysis of individual responses combines the number of response associated with “Conflict with spouse/partner” and “Experienced abuse by spouse/partner.”

⁸ Four out of thirty-three respondents indicated Covid-19 Pandemic as the only (single) reason for having lost housing.

⁹ Three out of forty-three respondents indicated incarceration as the only (single) reason for having lost housing.

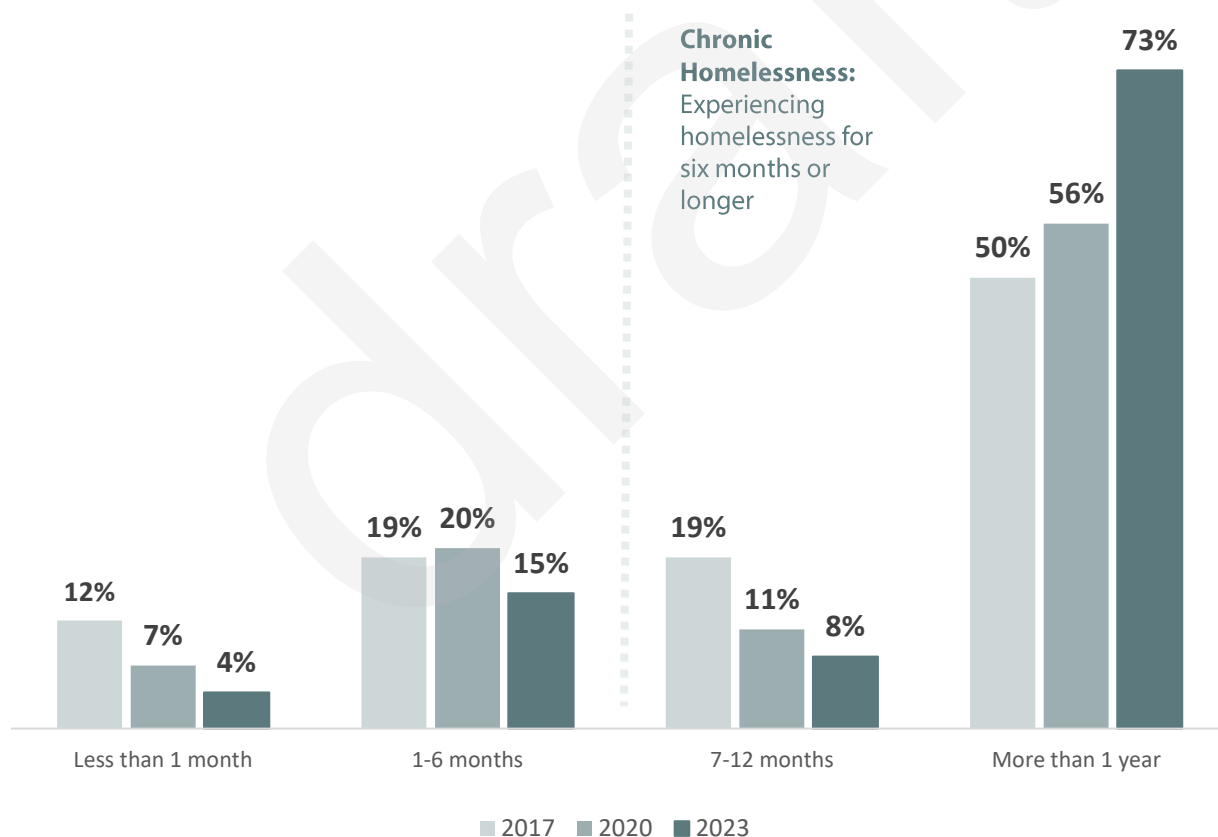
Chronic Homelessness refers to the experience of individuals, often with disabling conditions (e.g. chronic physical or mental illness, substance use), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year.¹⁰

“People experiencing chronic homelessness are particularly vulnerable because they disproportionately live in unsheltered locations and have one or more disabilities. Once they become homeless — regardless of what immediately caused them to lose their housing — it is difficult for them to get back into housing and they can face long or repeated episodes of homelessness.”¹¹

2.3 DURATION OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Of those surveyed, 81% had experienced chronic homelessness, which is a significant increase compared to under 70% in 2020 and 2017. Nearly three-quarters of respondents had reported experiencing homeless for more than 1 year, a significant increase from about half of all respondents in 2020 and 2017, and perhaps most alarming, is that over 40% of respondents reported experiencing homelessness for more than 2 years¹².

FIGURE 6. LENGTH OF TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2017- 2023)



¹⁰ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, *Homeless Hub* (website), Addressing Chronic Homelessness, <https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/prevention/addressing-chronic-homelessness>

¹¹ National Alliance to End Homelessness, End Homelessness (website), Chronically Homeless, <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/who-experiences-homelessness/chronically-homeless/>

¹² Data on individuals experiencing homelessness for more than two years was not captured in previous PiT Counts, thus comparable data is not available.

2.4 HEALTH CHALLENGES

Survey respondents were invited to share information about personal health challenges, including medical conditions, physical disabilities, mental health issues, substance use issues (addiction), acquired brain injuries, and learning disabilities.

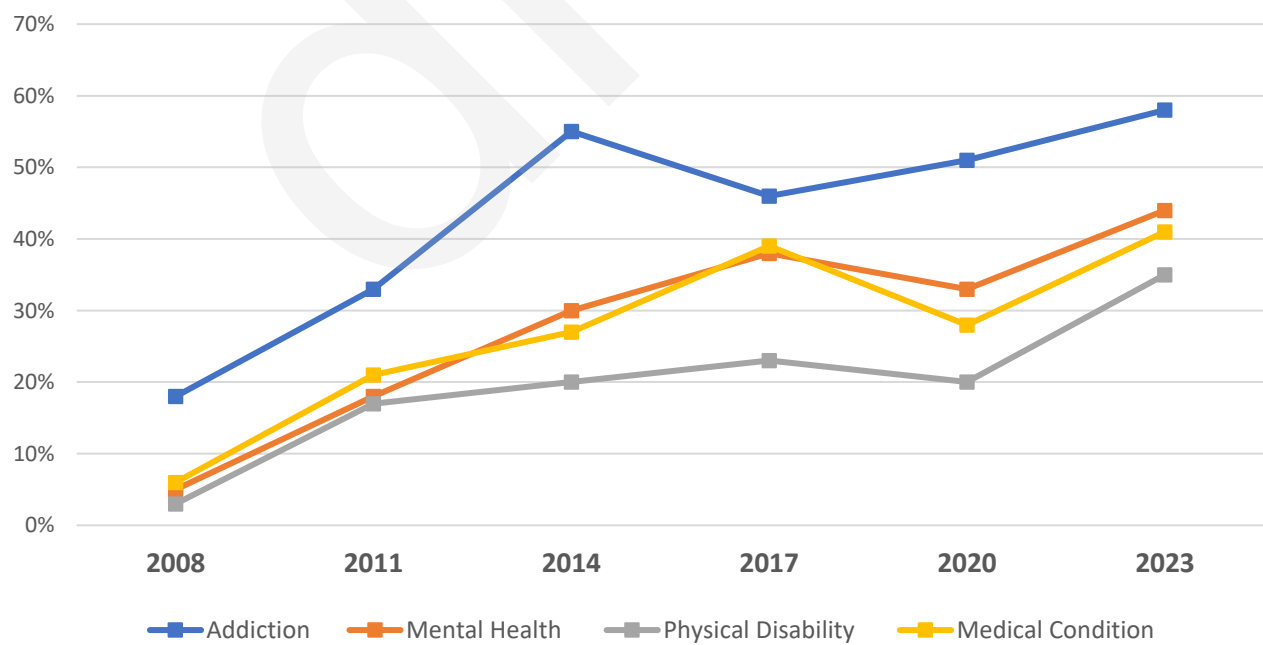
In 2023, 668 or 65.4% of survey respondents reported at least one health challenge with 79 reporting three or more health challenges. Trends in historical data shows an increase in all categories of self-reported health challenges, with the largest rate of increase being physical disabilities. In 2023, 44% of respondents identified as having a mental health issues, 41% a medical condition, 35% a physical disability, 24% an acquired brain injury, and 22% a learning disability.

In 2023, 590 or 58% of survey respondents responded “yes” to the question, “Do you identify as having an addiction at this time?”

TABLE 4. SELF-REPORTED HEALTH ISSUES, FVRD (2017-2023)¹³

Health Issue	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Addiction	333	46.0%	440	51.0%	590	58.0%
Mental Health Issue	232	38.0%	287	33.0%	454	44.0%
Physical Disability	142	23.0%	170	20.0%	358	35.0%
Medical Condition	239	39.0%	245	28.0%	424	41.0%
Acquired Brain Injury	-	-	112	13.0%	242	24.0%
Learning Disability	-	-	-	-	230	22.0%

FIGURE 7. PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WITH SELF-REPORTED HEALTH ISSUES, FVRD (2008-2023)



¹³ Acquired brain Injury not asked prior 2020. Learning disability not asked prior to 2017.

FIGURE 8. PERCENTAGE OF SELF-REPORTED HEALTH ISSUES, BY COMMUNITY (2023)

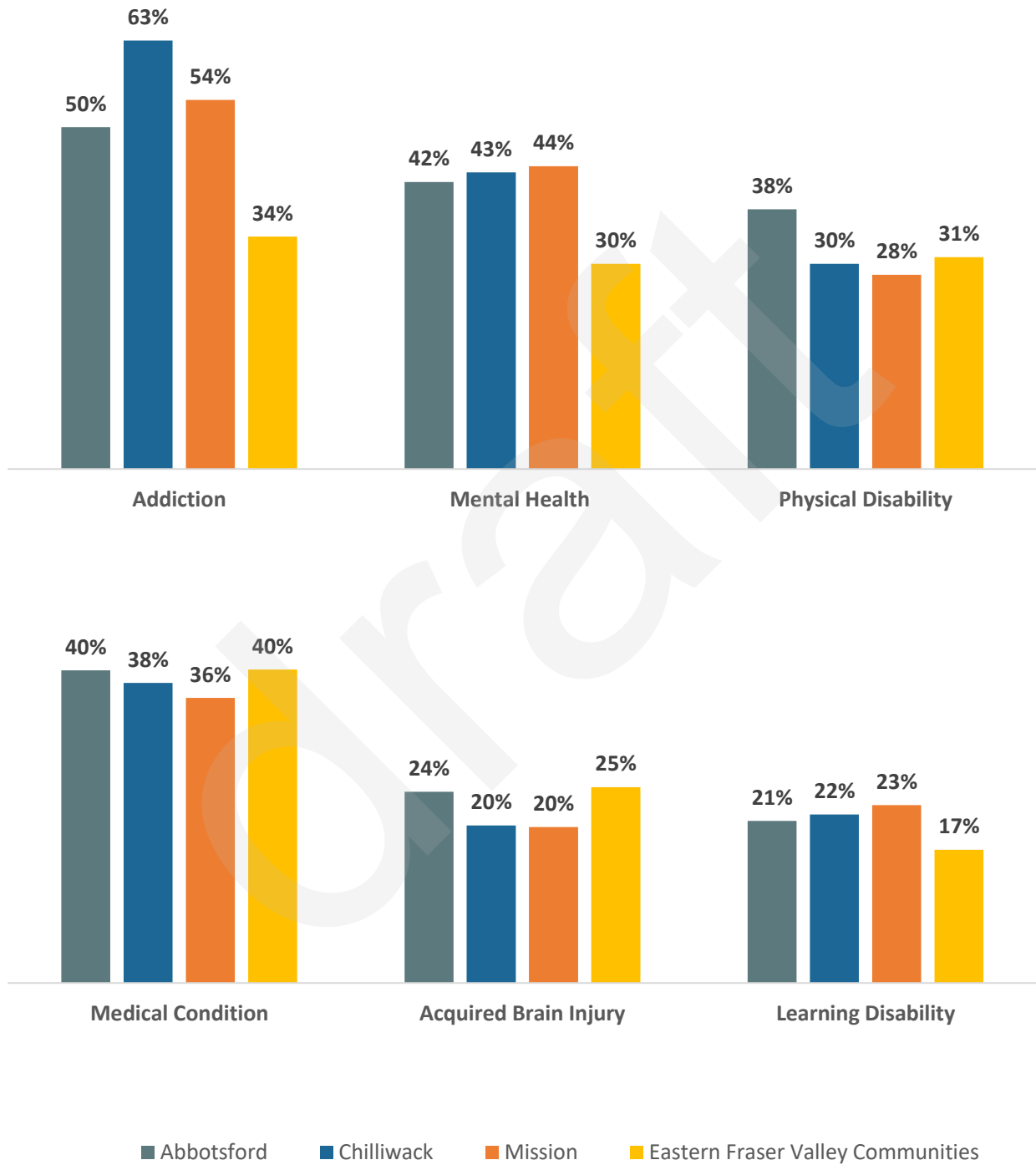
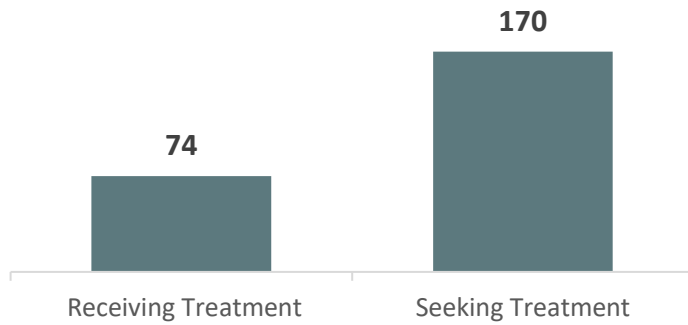
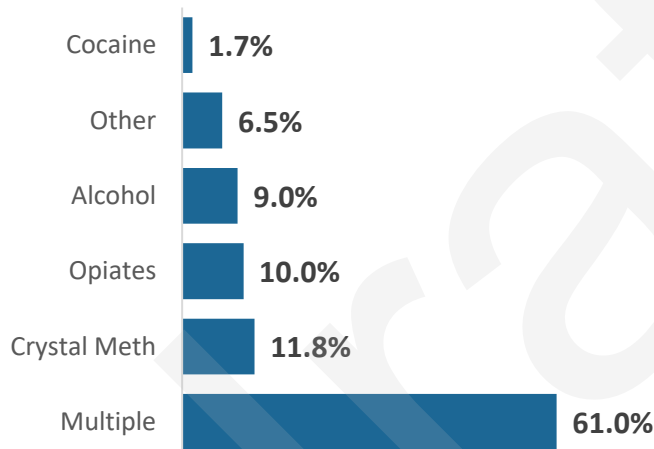


FIGURE 9. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SEEKING ADDICTION TREATMENT, FVRD (2023)



Of the 590 respondents who reported having an addiction, 74 or 12.5% indicated they were receiving treatment and 170 or 28.8% indicated that they were seeking treatment.

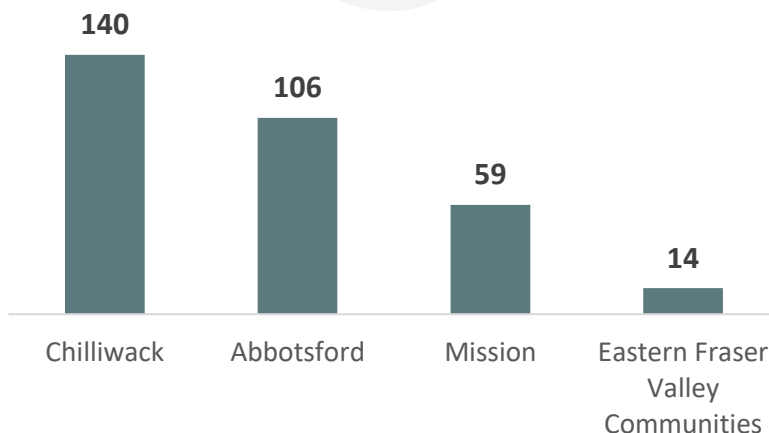
FIGURE 10: PERCENTAGE OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES USED, FVRD (2023)



Of the 590 respondents who reported having an addiction were asked to identify what substance(s) they used.

Using a combination of substances was most commonly reported (61.0%), followed by crystal meth (11.8%), opiates (10.0%) and alcohol (9.0%).

FIGURE 11. MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND SUBSTANCE USE (ADDICTION) ISSUES, OR CONCURRENT DISORDER, BY COMMUNITY (2023)



Of the 590 respondents who reported substance use issues, 319 respondents or 54% also reported mental health challenges. This is referred to as a concurrent disorder, which further compounds the complexity of care, supports, and housing solutions required.

2.5 “SHELTERED” AND “UNSHELTERED” HOMELESSNESS

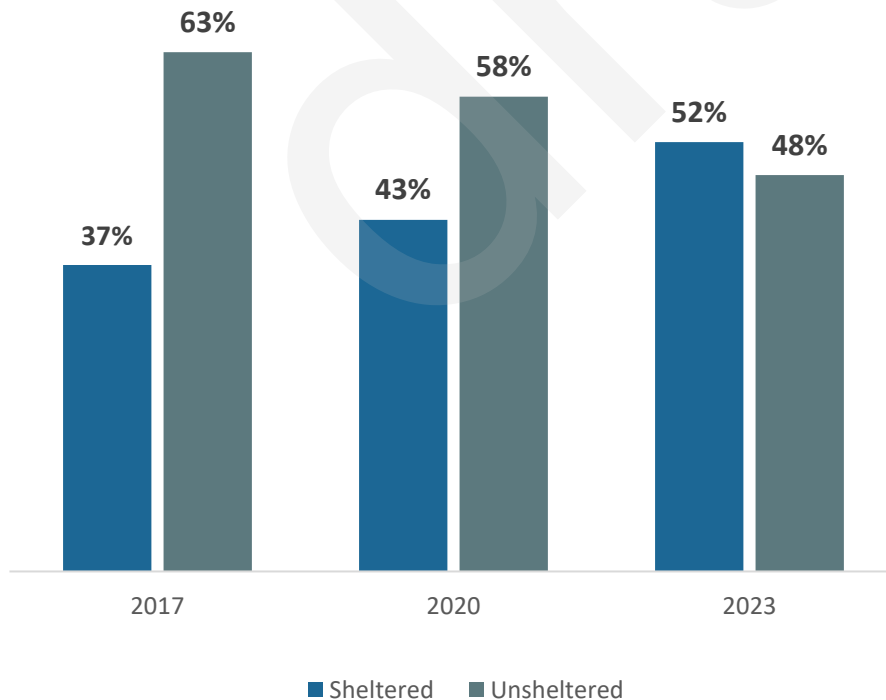
The number of persons experiencing homelessness who stayed in an emergency shelter, was 567, or 52% of all individuals included in the Point-in-Time Count, which is an increase compared to 381 or 43% in 2020. The remaining 527 or 48% of individuals were considered unsheltered the night of the count.

Of those who were considered unsheltered on the night of the count, 277 or 25% had stayed outside, 91, or 8% in their vehicles, 59 or 6% in the hospital, 98 or 9% had couch surfed, and 2 individuals or 0.1% had spent the night in jail. Compared to 2020, there was an increase in individuals experiencing homelessness staying in a vehicle (car, van, and camper) or in the hospital on the night of the count, with a decrease in those staying outside.

TABLE 5. ACCOMMODATION ON THE NIGHT OF THE SURVEY, FVRD (2020-2023)

Place Stayed	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
Shelter	381	43%	567	51.8%
Jail	1	0.1%	2	0.1%
Hospital	27	3%	59	5.4%
Outside	325	36%	277	25.3%
Car, van, or camper	60	7%	91	8.3%
Someone else's place	101	11%	98	9.0%
Total	895	100%	1094	100%

FIGURE 12. RATIO OF “SHELTERED” AND “UNSHELTERED” INDIVIDUALS, FVRD (2017-2023)

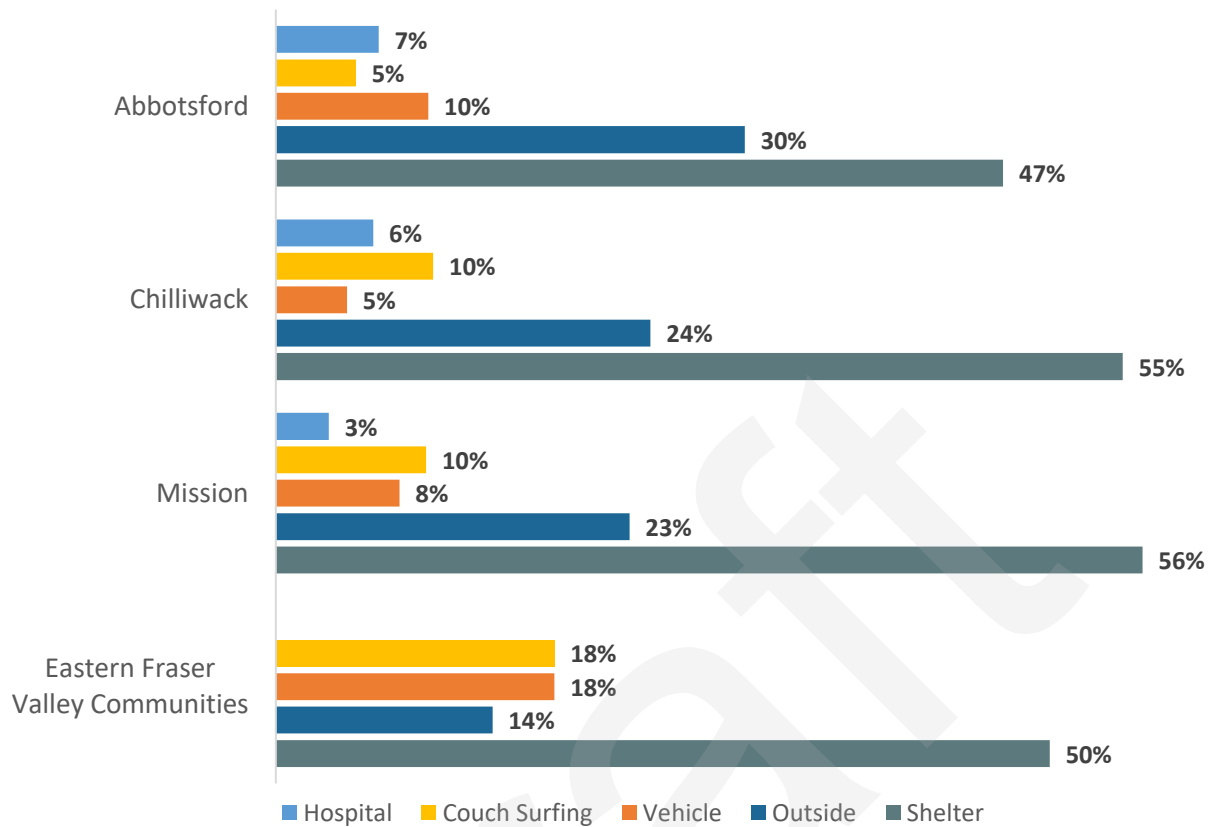


Despite the increase in the number of individuals included in the regional PiT Count, the proportion of “sheltered” individuals has increased.

This reflects the increase in the number of shelter beds available within communities.

The percentage of “sheltered” individuals experiencing homelessness per sub-communities ranges from 48% to 56%.

FIGURE 13. “SHELTERED” AND “UNSHELTERED” INDIVIDUALS, BY COMMUNITY (2023)



The availability of shelter spaces affects the rate at which individuals experiencing homelessness within a community are “sheltered” or “unsheltered” on the night of the count. Communities with fewer shelter beds may have higher rates of individuals experiencing homelessness who are “unsheltered.”

The majority of shelter spaces are located within the FVRD’s most populated municipalities of Abbotsford and Chilliwack. In 2023, more spaces were available in Chilliwack than Abbotsford, which historically had the largest percentage of shelter spaces in the region.

TABLE 6. DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS, BY COMMUNITY (2017-2023)

Community	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Abbotsford	230	58%	166	34%	213	35%
Mission	45	11%	87	18%	98	16%
Chilliwack	109	28%	203	41%	243	40%
Agassiz-Harrison*	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
Hope-Boston Bar*	12	3%	36	7%	48	9%
Total	396	100%	492	100%	602	100%

*Sub-Community of Eastern Fraser Valley

2.6 EMERGENCY SHELTER CAPACITY

FIGURE 14. SHELTER BEDS AVAILABLE COMPARED TO NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2017-2023)

Based on data obtained from shelter staff and or municipal staff after the 2023 count, 567 individuals stayed in a shelter on the night of the count, with a total 602 beds available, equaling 94% utilization.

There are an additional 110 shelter beds available in the region since 2020, a 22% increase in total beds available since the last PiT Count, and a 52% increase since 2017.

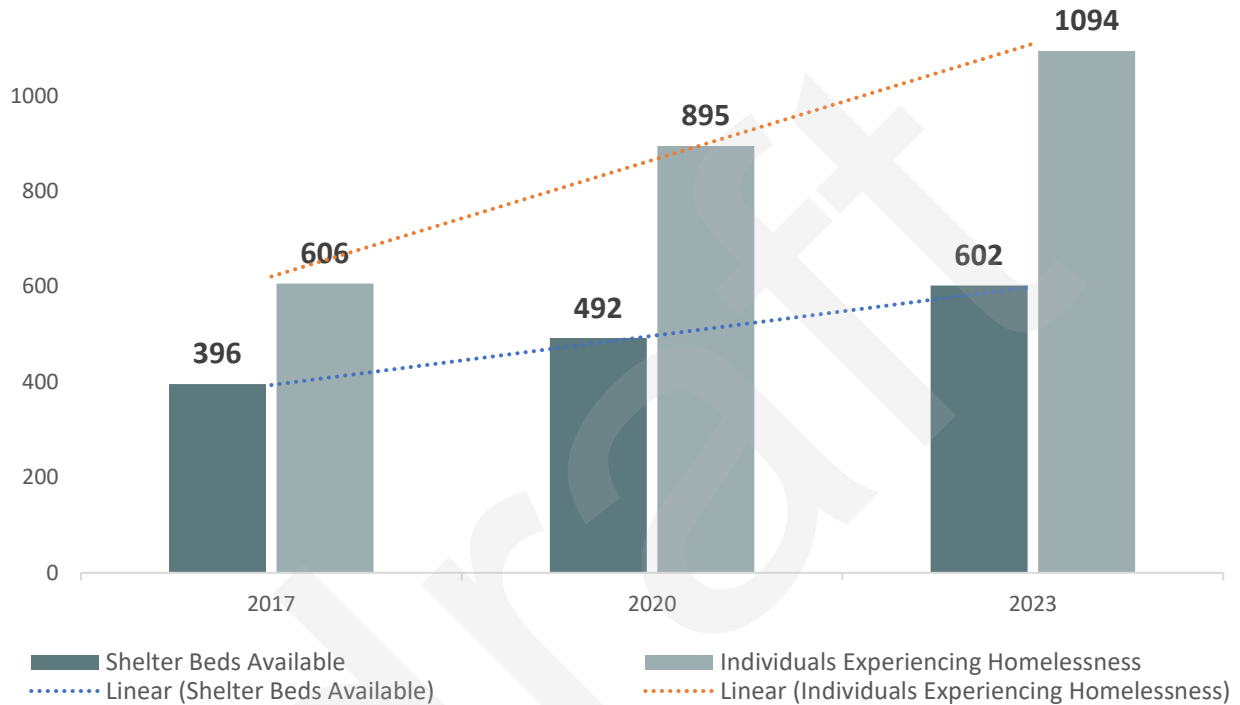


TABLE 7. SHELTER BEDS AVAILABLE COMPARED TO NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY COMMUNITY (2020-2023)

Community	2020			2023		
	PiT Count	Shelter Beds	Provision of Temporary Shelter (%)	PiT Count	Shelter Beds	Provision of Temporary Shelter (%)
Abbotsford	333	166	50%	406	213	52%
Chilliwack	306	203	66%	413	243	59%
Mission	178	87	49%	175	98	56%
Eastern FV	78	36	46%	100	48	48%
Total	895	492	55%	1094	602	55%

The current inventory of emergency shelter beds can only provide temporary emergency shelter to 55% of those identified as experiencing homelessness in the region. Despite a growth in shelter spaces in 2023, the potential provision of shelter to populations identified in the PiT Count remains the same as 2020.

2.7 RURAL AND REMOTE HOMELESSNESS

The 2023 PiT Count and Survey included additional rural and remote locations within electoral areas, municipalities, and some First Nations within the region.

The PiT Count and Survey is not administered on First Nations Reserves. However, in 2023, some surveys were completed on select First Nations Reserves by volunteers employed by First Nation's service providers and outreach teams. Thus, administered with the appropriate permissions and approvals.

A total of 90 respondents within 16 rural and remote locations were included in the sub-communities of Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and the Eastern Fraser Valley. Individuals experiencing rural and remote homelessness have limited or no access to services and supports compared to populations experiencing homelessness in more urban areas.

As noted in section 1 of this report, PiT count and survey methodology can only provide an undercount of actual populations experiencing homelessness and is even more difficult to carry out in rural and remote areas.

Historically, the FVRD's PiT Count and Survey is contained to more urban areas in the region where individuals experiencing homelessness are more visible and often known to service providers and outreach workers. In 2023, increased outreach within less urban locations of the region provided the opportunity to include select rural and remote locations to the regional PiT Count and Survey.

Individuals living within these locations often live in groupings of tents, recreational vehicles (working and non-working) and temporary structures, which are known as encampments. Some encampments are quite visible while other encampments remain largely hidden. A report on encampments in Canada by the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate "encampments have become more numerous, more densely populated, and more visible across the country since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic."¹⁴

Encampments within rural and remote parts of the region are largely located on Crown land; thus outside the jurisdiction of local governments. In the FRVD, many of these locations are adjacent to major highways, or situated on transportation infrastructure, such as park and rides or rest stops. While other encampments are located in natural areas and in parks, often near waterways of ecological, environmental, and cultural significance.

¹⁴ The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate, Overview of Encampments Across Canada: A Right to Housing Approach, 2022, www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Overview%20of%20Encampments%20Across%20Canada_EN_1.pdf

The figures in Table 8 reflect a sample of non-urban locations within the FVRD where volunteers attempted to administer the PiT Count and Survey and the number of people who agreed to be interviewed. The limited sample size prevents the separate analysis of survey data collected in rural and remote locations.

TABLE 8. RURAL AND REMOTE SURVEY LOCATIONS INCLUDED IN 2023 PiT COUNT AND SURVEY, FVRD (2023)

Rural and Remote Interview Locations	2023
	N of Respondents
Sub-Community: Abbotsford (total)	47
Lonzo Park, Abbotsford	16
King Road/Hwy 1 Park and Ride, Abbotsford	3
Whatcom Road/Hwy 1 Park and Ride, Abbotsford	9
Cole Road/Hwy 1 Rest Area, Abbotsford	13
Bradner Road/Hwy 1 Rest Area, Abbotsford	6
Sub-Community: Chilliwack (total)	22
Adjacent to Island 22 Regional Park, Chilliwack	10
Chilliwack River/Chilliwack Lake Rd - Electoral Area E	9
Skwah First Nation	1
Skawkale First Nation	2
Sub-Community: Eastern Fraser Valley (total)	21
Tram Area along Coquihalla River – Electoral Area B	4
Silver Skagit Valley – Electoral Area B	9
Cheam First Nation	6
Hwy 9 Corridor, District of Kent	1
Othello Tunnels, District of Hope	1
FVRD (Total)	90

Important: The table above is a small sample of people experiencing homelessness in rural or remote locations of the FVRD. It does not represent a full account of rural or remote locations where individuals are experiencing homelessness or where encampments are located. Seasonal variations may also influence the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in rural and remote locations, with perhaps larger populations in the summer months due to favorable weather and living conditions.

A research approach tailored to measuring rural and remote homelessness is required to better understand the needs and experiences of populations experiencing homelessness in less urban parts of the FVRD.

2.8 GENDER IDENTITY

Individuals who identify as male consistently account for roughly two-thirds of all individuals who experience homelessness in the region as per Point-in-Time counts.

As previously noted, PiT Count methodology does not capture all persons experiencing homelessness, especially those in hidden forms of homelessness. Women make up a more significant proportion of those experiencing hidden homelessness, and are therefore undercounted in Point-in-Time counts and surveys¹.

TABLE 9. GENDER OF SURVEYED INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2017-2023)

Gender	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	352	64.1%	533	67.6%	657	67.9%
Female	193	35.2%	253	32.1%	304	31.4%
Transgender	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Two-Spirit	0	0%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Non-binary	0	0%	4	0.5%	4	0.4%
Other	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%

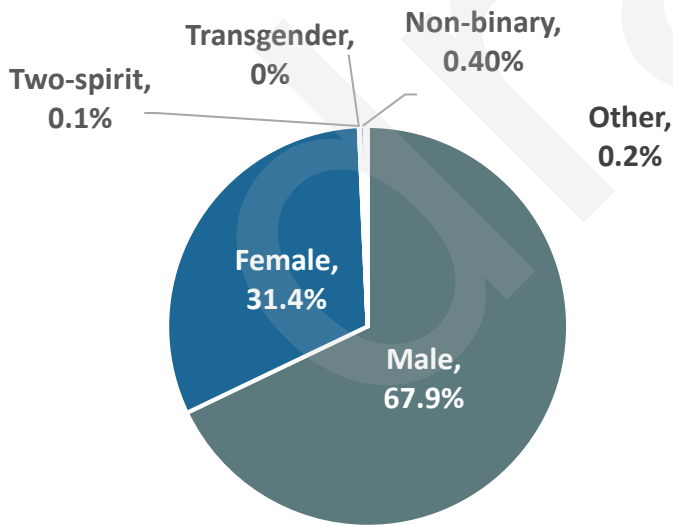


FIGURE 15. GENDER IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2023)

Individuals who identified as males made up the largest proportion (67.9%) of those experiencing homelessness in the FVRD.

Those who identified as female made up close to one-third (31.4%) of those included in the count.

Four individuals (less than 0.5%) identified as non-binary, one person (0.1%) identified as two-spirit, two individuals (0.2%) selected “not listed” category, and no respondents identified as transgender.

¹ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “The Pan-Canadian Women’s Housing & Homelessness Survey.” Homeless Hub. 2021. <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/EN-Pan-Canadian-Womens-Housing-Homelessness-Survey-FINAL-28-Sept-2021.pdf>

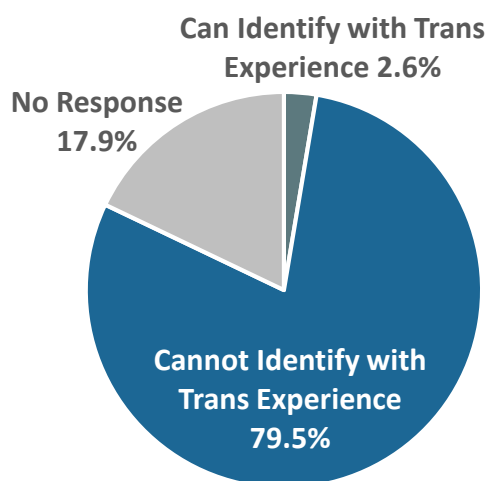


FIGURE 16. TRANS EXPERIENCE, FVRD (2023)

Survey respondents were asked, “Do you identify as someone with a trans-experience? (your gender is different than what was assigned at birth)” A total of 27 or 2.6% of respondents responded yes to this question.

In Comparison, the 2021 Census of Population reports that 0.19% of Canada’s population aged 15 and older identify as transgender².

This suggest an over-representation of individuals that identify as transgender within populations experiencing homelessness, which mirrors research findings, which note more significant rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ populations³.

2.9 AGE

Similar to 2020, the largest age category in 2023 is 30-39 years of age, constituting almost a quarter (24.1%) of individuals experiencing homelessness, followed by individuals within the age range of 40-49 (23.5%). When combined, individuals aged 30-49 account for nearly half of the population experiencing homelessness identified by the 2023 PiT Count.

TABLE 10. AGE OF SURVEYED RESPONDENTS COMPARED TO FVRD POPULATION (2023)

Age	FVRD Population (2021 Census)		2023 PiT Count		% Difference
	N	%	N	%	%
Younger than 15	56,890	18.0%	2	0.2%	-17.8%
15-19	18,915	6.0%	36	3.8%	-2.2%
20-29	38,250	12.0%	140	14.6%	2.6%
30-39	43,965	14.0%	230	24.1%	10.1%
40-49	39,735	12.0%	225	23.5%	11.5%
50-59	41,555	13.0%	178	18.6%	5.6%
60 or older	84,705	26.0%	145	15.2%	-10.8%
Total	324,015	100.0%	956	100.0%	0.0%

² Statistics Canada “Canada is the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people” April 27, 2022. Census of Population 2021. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/220427/dq220427b-eng.pdf?st=JB7Vb5sN>

³ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming and Safe PiT Counts” Homeless Hub. 2019. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf

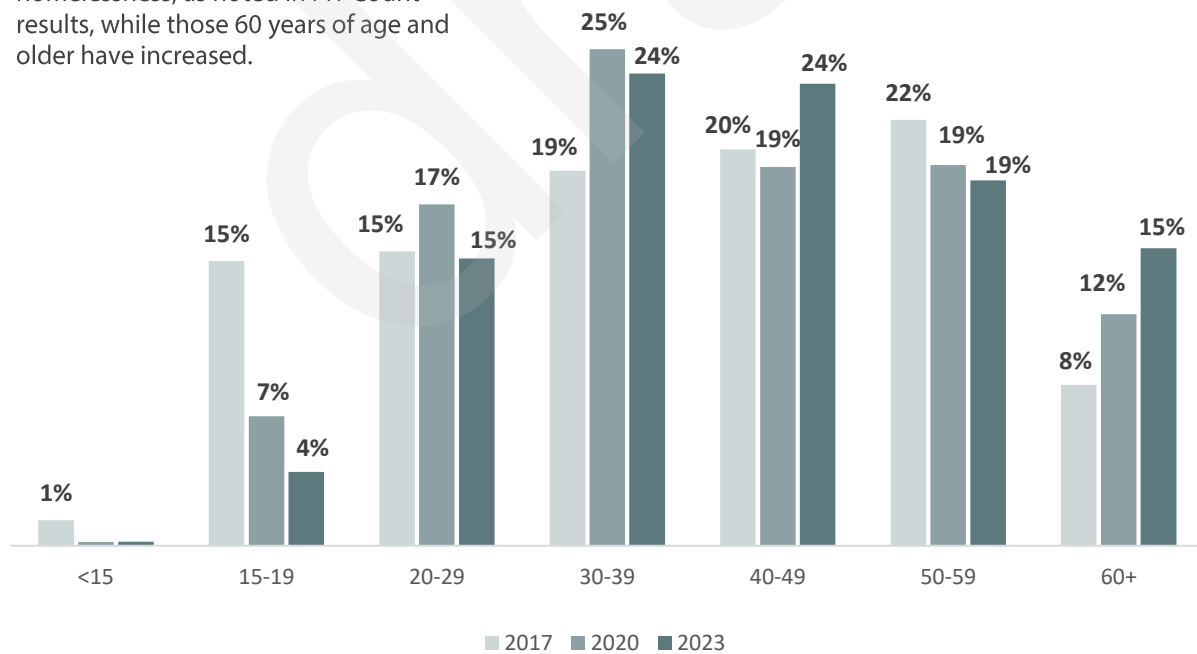
Compared to the general population of the region, youth (ages 0-19) were less represented among individuals experiencing homelessness as identified in the PiT Count, while adults, especially those 30-49 were more heavily represented among PiT Count respondent population. It should be noted that youth homelessness is often more hidden, which is known to result in an under-representation of young people within PiT Counts⁴.

TABLE 11. AGE OF SURVEYED RESPONDENTS, FVRD (2017-2023)

Age	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Younger than 15	7	1.3%	1	0.2%	2	0.2%
15-19	78	14.5%	52	6.6%	36	3.8%
20-29	81	15.0%	136	17.4%	140	14.6%
30-39	103	19.1%	197	25.3%	230	24.1%
40-49	109	20.2%	150	19.3%	225	23.5%
50-59	117	21.7%	151	19.4%	178	18.6%
60 or older	44	8.2%	92	11.8%	145	15.2%

FIGURE 17. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2017-2023)

Over the years, fewer youth (both under 15 and 15-19 years of age) are reflected in populations experiencing homelessness, as noted in PiT Count results, while those 60 years of age and older have increased.



⁴ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. "Point-in-Time Count Toolkit." 2018. Homeless Hub. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/download-chapter/PiT%20Count%20Toolkit%202020%20Final.pdf

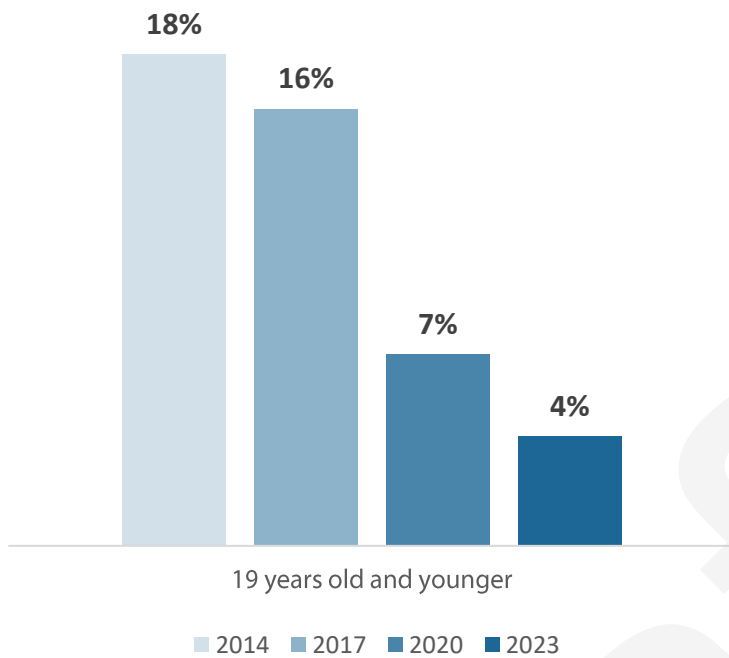


FIGURE 18. PROPORTION OF YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2014-2023)

Based on PiT counts and surveys the proportion of youth experiencing homelessness (19 years old and younger) continues to decrease in the region.

The percentage of individuals 19 years of age and younger decreased by 14% between 2014 and 2023.

Youth are more likely to experience hidden forms of homelessness, resulting in an under-representation of younger people experiencing homelessness within PiT Counts⁵.

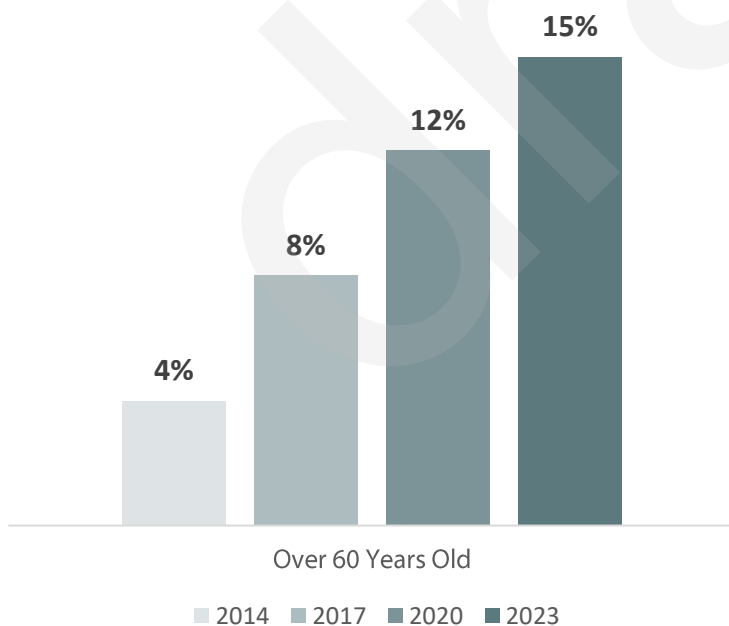


FIGURE 19. PROPORTION OF SENIORS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2014-2023)

Based on PiT Counts and Surveys the proportion of seniors experiencing homelessness (60 years old and above) continues to rise.

The percentage of individuals 60 years of age and older increased by 11% between 2014 and 2023.

⁵ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. "Point-in-Time Count Toolkit." 2018. Homeless Hub. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/download-chapter/PiT%20Count%20Toolkit%202020%20Final.pdf

2.10 SEXUAL ORIENTATION

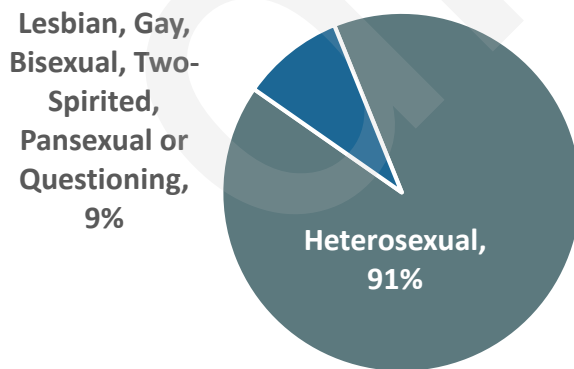
The proportion of PiT count and survey respondents who identify as heterosexual or straight has consistently accounted for approximately 90% of all respondents in 2017 (89.9%), 2020 (92.4%), and 2023 (90.8%). However, the proportion of respondents who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ has increased from 7.6% in 2020 to 9.2% in 2023.⁶

In comparison, individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ account for only 4% of Canada’s total population aged 15 and older⁷, which suggests an over-representation of individuals who do not identify as heterosexual or straight within the FVRD’s homeless populations as noted in PiT Count data. This is consistent with research findings, which note higher rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ populations⁸.

TABLE 12. SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2017-2023)

Sexual Orientation	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Heterosexual/Straight	410	89.9%	545	92.1%	771	90.8%
Bisexual	30	6.6%	21	3.5%	45	5.3%
Two-Spirited	5	1.1%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Gay	4	0.9%	6	1.0%	6	0.7%
Other	4	0.9%	4	0.7%	12	1.4%
Questioning	2	0.4%	1	0.2%	1	0.1%
Don't know	0	0%	11	1.9%	0	0.0%
Pansexual	0	0%	2	0.3%	7	0.8%
Lesbian	1	0.2%	2	0.3%	4	0.5%
Total	456	100.0%	592	100.00%	849	100.0%

FIGURE 20. SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2023)



In 2023, the majority of survey respondents identified as heterosexual or straight.

While 78 or 9.2% of respondents did not report their sexual orientation to be heterosexual, which is more than twice Canada’s general population (4%)⁹.

⁶ This figure includes respondents who answered “other” to “How would you describe your sexual orientation?”

⁷ Statistics Canada. “A statistical portrait of Canada’s diverse LGBTQ2+ communities” June 15, 2021. 2018 Canadian Community Health Survey. [www.150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/210615/dq210615a-eng.pdf?st=72rw-AmE](http://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/210615/dq210615a-eng.pdf?st=72rw-AmE)

⁸ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming and Safe PiT Counts” Homeless Hub. 2019. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf

⁹ Statistics Canada. “Canada at a Glance, LGBTQ2+ people” 2022. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-581-x/2022001/sec6-eng.htm>

“Increased levels of homelessness among Indigenous populations is a consequence of Canada’s history and enduring impacts of colonization, the exploitation of Indigenous land and populations, and strategies to assimilate or eliminate Indigenous Peoples.

Many of the issues (including familial dysfunction, substance use, addictions, health issues, and community violence) faced by Indigenous Peoples that contribute to the experience of homelessness are linked to various types of historical trauma.¹⁰”

Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

2.11 INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

FIGURE 21. INDIGENOUS IDENTITY, FVRD (2023)

In the FVRD and across Canada, Indigenous Peoples are overrepresented among populations who are experiencing homelessness.

In 2023, 37.8% of respondents identified as Indigenous (including First Nations, Metis, Inuit, or other Indigenous ancestry) compared to 33% in 2020 and 35% in 2017.

Based on 2021 Census data, there is an overrepresentation of Indigenous populations within populations experiencing homelessness in the FVRD and each sub-community. In 2023, 37.8% of respondents identified as Indigenous, compared to 7.6% of the region’s general population¹¹.

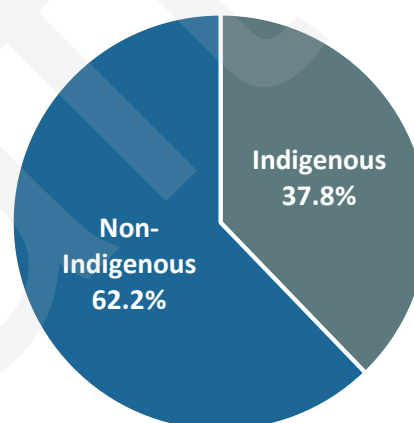


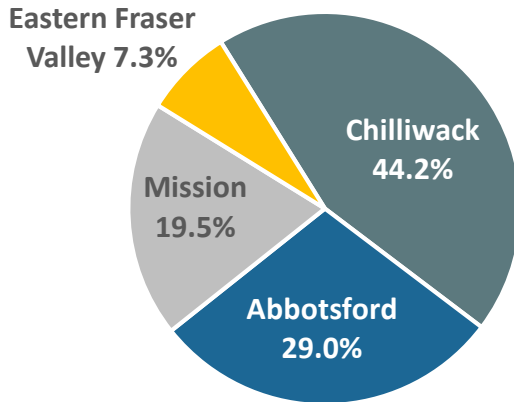
TABLE 13. INDIGENOUS IDENTITY COMPARED TO POPULATION, FVRD (2023)

Community	2021 Census		2023 PiT Count		Difference
	N	%	N	%	%
Abbotsford	6,850	4.5%	88	31.8%	27.3%
Chilliwack	7,250	7.9%	134	41.5%	33.6%
Mission	3,380	8.3%	59	43.7%	35.4%
Eastern Fraser Valley	1,425	10.0%	22	32.8%	22.8%
FVRD	24,010	7.6%	303	37.8%	30.2%

¹⁰ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “Indigenous Peoples” Homeless Hub. 2023. <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/indigenous-peoples>

¹¹ Statistics Canada. Indigenous Population Profile, 2021 Census of Population. www.12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/ipp-ppa/index.cfm?Lang=E

FIGURE 22. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS WITH INDIGENOUS IDENTITY, FVRD (2023)



Of all respondents who identified as Indigenous in the region, 44.2% or 134 were in Chilliwack, followed by 29.0% or 88 in Abbotsford, 19.5% or 59 were in Mission, and 7.3% or 22 were in Eastern Fraser Valley Communities.

TABLE 14. INDIGENOUS IDENTITY BY RESPONSES, FVRD (2017-2023)

Indigenous Identity	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
First Nations	118	23.7%	163	27.0%	211	25.7%
Indigenous/Aboriginal Ancestry	17	3.4%	8	1.3%	25	3.0%
Metis	37	7.5%	28	4.5%	57	6.9%
Inuit	2	0.4%	1	0.2%	3	0.4%
Not listed (other) ¹²	-	-	0	0.0%	7	0.9%
Does Not Identify as Indigenous	323	65.0%	406	67.0%	519	63.1%
Total	497	100.0%	606	100.0%	822	100.0%

2.12 LENGTH OF TIME IN CURRENT COMMUNITY

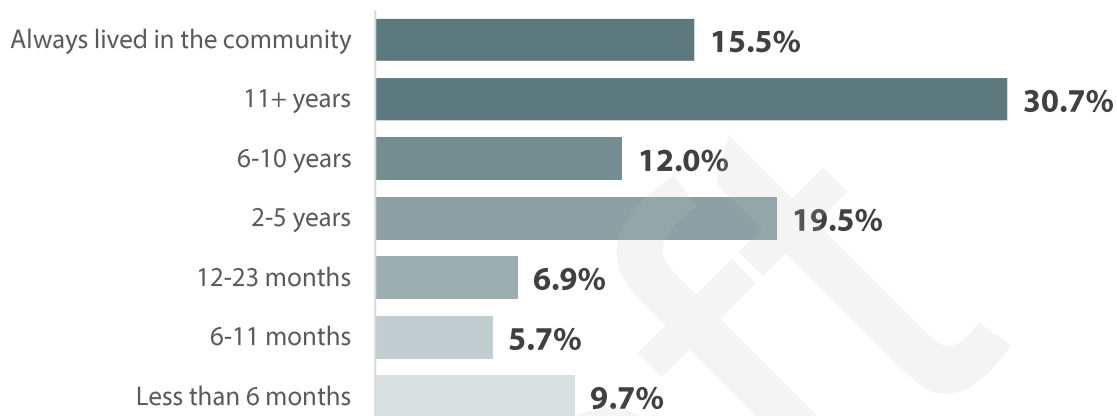
TABLE 15. LENGTH OF TIME IN CURRENT COMMUNITY (2023)

Time Living in Community	2023	
	N	%
Less than 6 months	76	9.7%
6-11 months	45	5.7%
12-23 months	54	6.9%
2-5 years	153	19.5%
6-10 years	94	12.0%
11+ years	240	30.7%
Always lived in the community	121	15.5%
Total	79	100.0%

¹² The response category "not listed" was not included in 2017 survey.

A total of 662 or 84.6% of survey respondents said they had lived in their current community for one or more years, while 361 or 46.3% had lived in their community for more than 10 years. These figures challenge the misconception that people experiencing homelessness have come from other communities.

FIGURE 23. LENGTH OF TIME IN CURRENT COMMUNITY (2023)



2.13 COMMUNITY LIVED IN PREVIOUSLY

Survey respondents were asked what community they lived in prior to living in the FVRD¹³. 25.5% of respondents had previously lived in the FVRD, 33.7% within Metro Vancouver, 20.0% elsewhere in B.C., 18.0% elsewhere in Canada, and 2.8% outside of Canada. Of those who previously lived in a community outside of the FVRD, 80% had lived in the FVRD for more than 1 year.

TABLE 16. COMMUNITY LIVED IN PRIOR, FVRD (2023)

Previous Community	2014		2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
FVRD	67	32.7	109	33.1%	119	30.9%	162	25.5%
Metro Vancouver	56	27.3	43	13.0%	94	24.6%	214	33.7%
Elsewhere in BC	38	18.5	115	34.8%	76	19.8%	127	20.0%
Elsewhere in Canada	39	19.1	46	13.9%	80	20.8%	114	18.0%
Outside of Canada	5	2.4	17	5.2%	15	3.9%	18	2.8%
Total	346	100.0%	330	100.0%	384	100.0%	635	100.0%

¹³ Respondents who had lived in Abbotsford all their lives are not included in the table.

2.14 SOURCE OF INCOME

Most respondents indicated a single source of income. However, 130 respondents indicated two sources of income, which in most cases are income assistance or disability allowance and informal, casual, or part time employment. Additionally, 30 respondents reported that they have three or more sources of income. The additional sources of income in most cases are GST/HST refund, child and family tax benefits or money from families or friends.

Similar to 2017 and 2020 PiT Count and Survey results, income assistance (both standard income assistance and disability allowance) was the most commonly reported source of income. However, in 2023 income from disability allowance reached nearly 30%, surpassing income assistance as the most commonly reported source of income. This was true for all sub-communities of the region but Mission.

Fewer respondents reported income from employment in 2023, while income from employment insurance increased from 0.6% in 2020 to 7.6% in 2023.

TABLE 17. SOURCES OF INCOME, FVRD (2017-2023)¹⁴

Source of Income	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Income Assistance	199	23.8%	257	25.9%	331	26.3%
Disability Allowance	128	15.3%	197	19.8%	372	29.5%
Binning/Bottles ¹⁵	105	12.6%	123	12.4%	34	2.7%
No Income	74	8.9%	32	3.2%	56	4.5%
Other ¹⁶	54	6.5%	83	8.4%	90	7.2%
Panhandling	51	6.1%	66	6.6%	0	0.0%
Family/Friends	50	6.0%	41	4.1%	23	1.8%
Part-time Job	43	5.1%	65	6.5%	44	3.5%
Vending (sex-work)	28	3.4%	35	3.5%	80	6.4%
Disability (CPP)	24	2.9%	25	2.5%	16	1.3%
Canadian Pension Plan	18	2.2%	27	2.7%	70	5.6%
Honoraria/Stipend	17	2.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.3%
Youth Agreement	15	1.8%	0	0.0%	3	0.2%
Other types of pension	11	1.3%	7	0.7%	6	0.5%
Old Age Security	10	1.2%	19	1.9%	24	1.9%
Full-time Job	5	0.6%	10	1.0%	10	0.8%
Employment insurance	3	0.4%	6	0.6%	95	7.6%
Total	835	100.0%	993	100.0%	1258	100.0%

¹⁴ Respondents could select more than one sources of income that apply to them, therefore, the number in the "N" column accounts for multiple responses, and provides the number of unique individuals.

¹⁵ In 2023, option was informal employment and was captured as "binning".

¹⁶ Includes GST/HST refund and Child/Family Tax benefit.

FIGURE 24. INCOME ASSISTANCE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCE AS SOURCE OF INCOME (2017-2023)

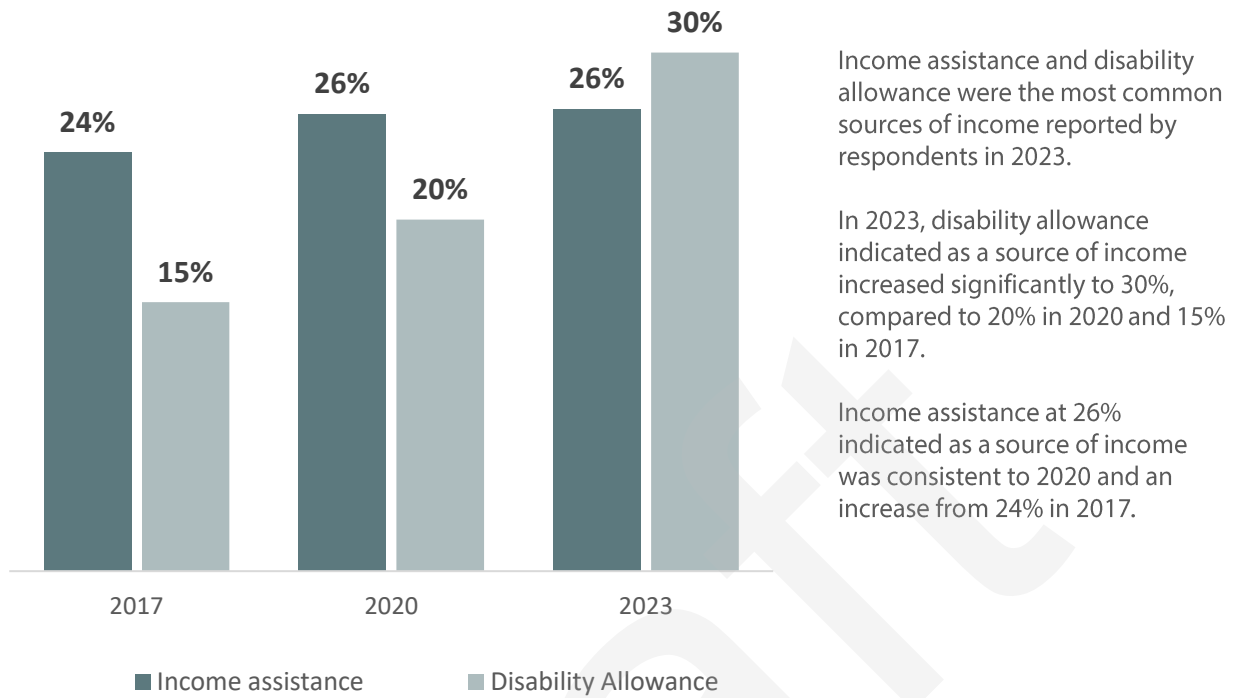
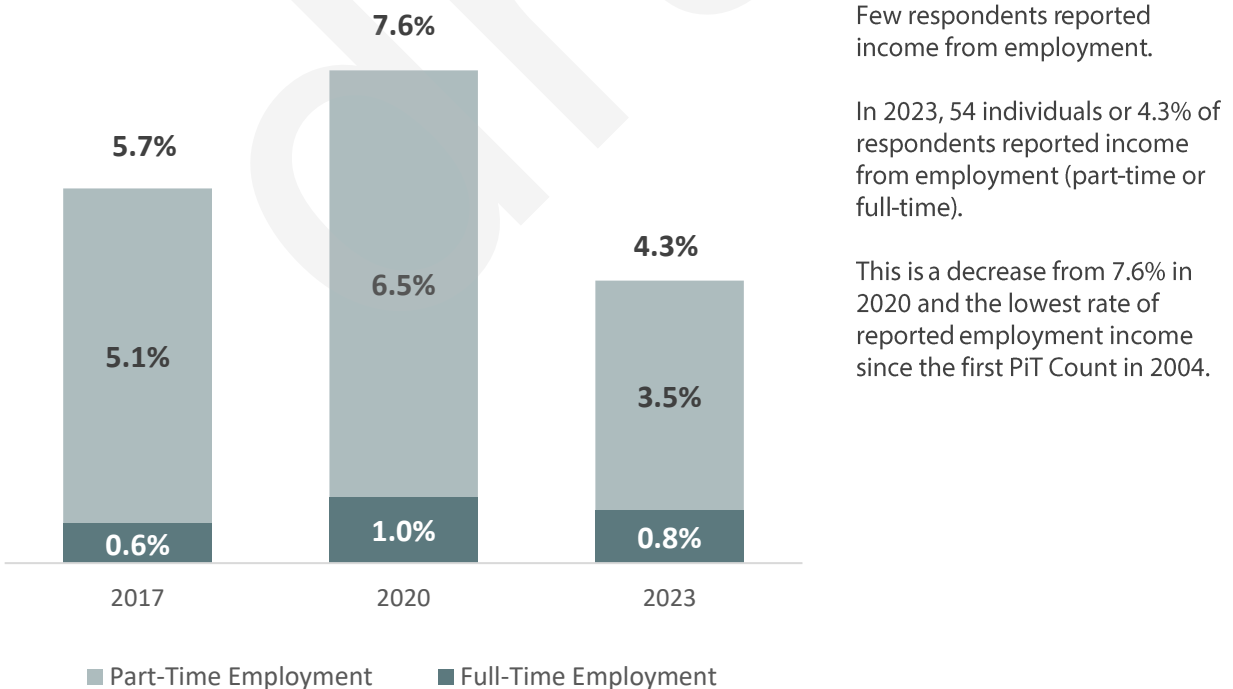


FIGURE 25. EMPLOYMENT AS A SOURCE OF INCOME (2017-2023)



2.15 SERVICE USAGE

Survey respondents used a variety of services. The top five categories of services accessed in 2023 are:

1. Emergency Shelter
2. Meal Program/Soup Kitchen
3. Harm Reduction
4. Emergency Room (Hospital)
5. Outreach Services

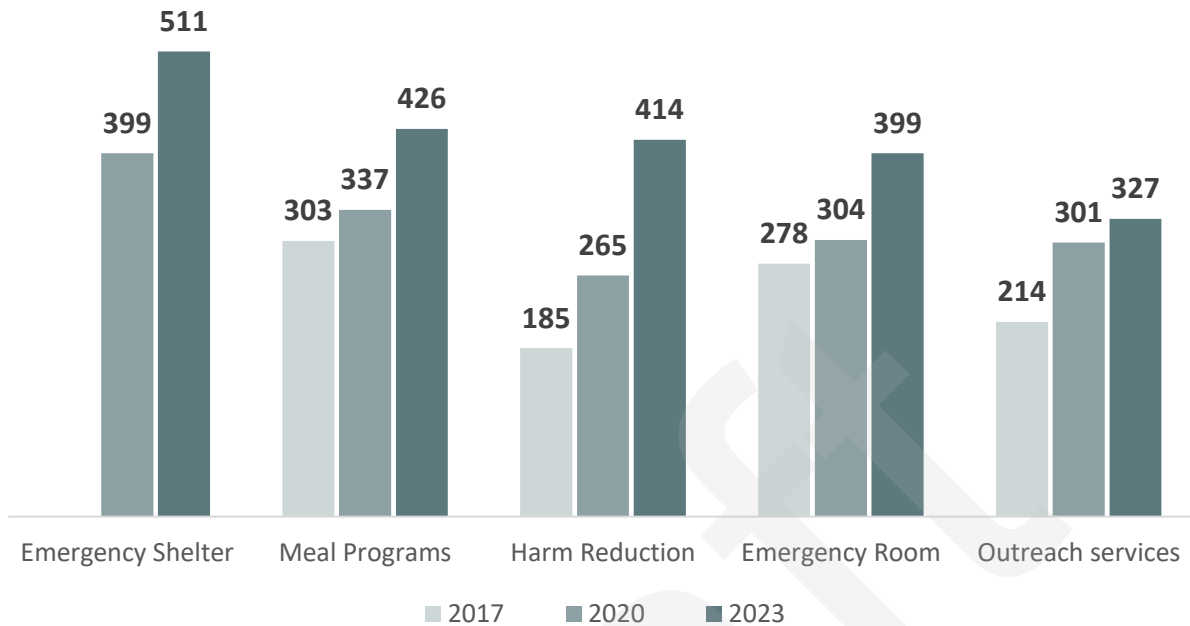
TABLE 18: SERVICES USED, FVRD (2017-2023)¹

Service Used	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Ambulance	177	7.00%	198	5.60%	267	6.30%
Cultural Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	45	1.10%
Dental Services	77	3.00%	71	2.00%	71	1.70%
Emergency Room/Hospital	278	10.80%	304	8.70%	399	9.30%
Emergency Shelter²	N/A	N/A	399	11.40%	511	12.00%
Employment Services	106	4.10%	95	2.70%	83	1.90%
Extreme Weather Shelter	255	9.90%	312	8.90%	320	7.50%
Financial Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	81	1.80%
Food Bank	256	10.00%	255	7.30%	287	6.70%
Harm Reduction	185	7.20%	265	7.50%	414	9.70%
Health Clinic	N/A	N/A	217	6.20%	154	3.60%
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	144	5.60%	181	5.20%	137	3.20%
Housing Assistance	65	2.50%	56	1.60%	52	1.20%
Meal Program/Soup Kitchen	303	11.80%	337	9.50%	426	10.00%
Mental Health Services	119	4.60%	135	3.80%	188	4.40%
Newcomer Services	3	0.10%	5	0.10%	3	0.10%
None	10	0.40%	62	1.80%	14	0.30%
Other	37	1.40%	38	1.10%	41	1.00%
Other Addiction Services	160	6.20%	118	3.40%	63	1.50%
Outreach	214	8.30%	301	8.60%	327	7.70%
Overdose Prevention Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	231	5.40%
Probation/Parole	126	5.00%	104	3.00%	100	2.30%
Transitional Housing	53	2.10%	57	1.60%	57	1.30%
Total	2568	100%	3510	100%	4271	100%

¹ Respondents could check off all that applied, hence the number column represents all respondents and not individual respondents.

² In 2017 extreme weather shelter usage was included in emergency shelter usage.

FIGURE 25. COMPARISON OF TOP FIVE SERVICE USAGE CATEGORIES, FVRD (2017-2023)³



2.16 BARRIERS TO SERVICES

A total of 378 or 37% of respondents indicated that they experience barriers, which prevent access to available services. The majority of those who responded that they experience a barrier or barriers mentioned one barrier while 17.7% (67) respondents mentioned two barriers and 1.3% (5) respondents mentioned three barriers to accessing services.

Transportation as a barrier stands out across all FVRD communities and as such, it has registered the biggest proportion of responses. Mobility challenges, lack of ID, lack of knowledge/information about services, substance use issues, and health, including mental health issues, were also commonly reported barriers.

TABLE 19: BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES, FVRD (2023)

Barriers to Accessing Services	2023	
	N	%
Transportation issues	84	22.2%
Mobility issues (difficulty walking or access using a wheelchair)	18	4.8%
Not having required identification	20	5.3%
Not having knowledge or information about services	23	6.1%
Substance use issues	20	5.3%
Health and Mental health issues	40	10.6%
Other ⁴	173	45.7%
Total	378	100.0%

³ Emergency shelter usage was combined with extreme weather shelter usage in 2017, thus cannot be compared.

⁴ A variety of reported barriers that do not fall into the above categories or belong in a category of their own.

2.17 ADDITIONAL SERVICES

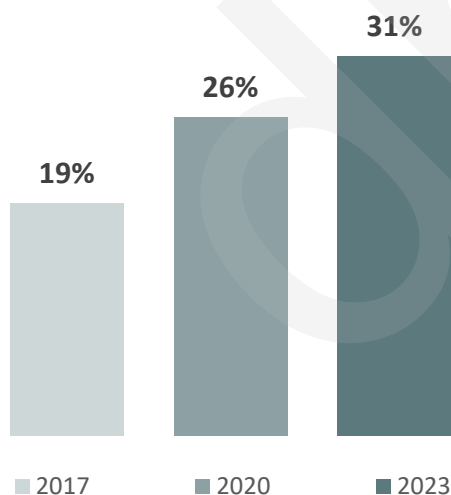
Respondents were asked to identify what additional services, if any, might be meaningful or helpful to them. The largest proportion of responses related to affordable housing, including supportive housing, rent support, etc. Responses also noted services already offered in communities, which could reflect a lack of awareness for services or the need to increase, improve, expand, or reduce barriers for existing services.

Responses to the question, “What additional services might be meaningful or helpful to you?” include, but are not limited to the following services or service improvements:

- Affordable housing options including supportive housing, rent support, etc.
- Counselling including trauma counselling
- Improved health care including mental health support and dental care
- Addiction treatment options, including shorter wait times, easier access, addiction support/counseling, detox facility, etc.
- More outreach workers
- Therapy including group therapy
- Drop-in centers for support and activities including games, creative sessions, etc.
- Improved transportation
- Schooling, education, training
- Employment support, including part-time jobs

2.18 GOVERNMENT CARE

FIGURE 26. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WHO REPORTED HAVING BEEN IN GOVERNMENT CARE, FVRD (2017-2023)



A total of 312 or 31% of respondents had previously been in government care, which is an increase from 26% in 2020, and 19% in 2017⁵.

Research shows that a high percentage of youth experiencing homelessness were previously in the care of child protection services.⁶

Although no comparable figures on the percentage of the adult population that has experience in government care,⁷ children and youth in care made up 5.5% of B.C.'s population aged 0-18 years,⁸ which suggests an overrepresentation of adults previously in government care within populations experiencing homelessness.

⁵ In 2017 and 2020, the examples of government care included “residential school”.

⁶ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “Youth,” Homeless Hub (website), <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/youth>

⁷ Statistics Canada does not collect data or have standard products based on surveys or estimates on the number of adults which were previously in government care as children or youth.

⁸ Government of British Columbia, Ministry of Children and Families [web] Children in Care <https://mcf.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/child-protection/permanency-for-children-and-youth/performance-indicators/children-in-care>

Of respondents who reported previously being in government care, 64.1% had lived in foster care, 21.2% in youth group homes, and the remaining 14.7% had youth or independent living agreements.

TABLE 20. TYPES OF GOVERNMENT CARE, FVRD (2023)

Type of Government Care	2023	
	N	%
Foster Care	200	64.1%
Youth Group Care	66	21.2%
Independent Living Agreement	26	8.3%
Youth Agreement	20	6.4%
Total	312	100.0%

2.19 RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

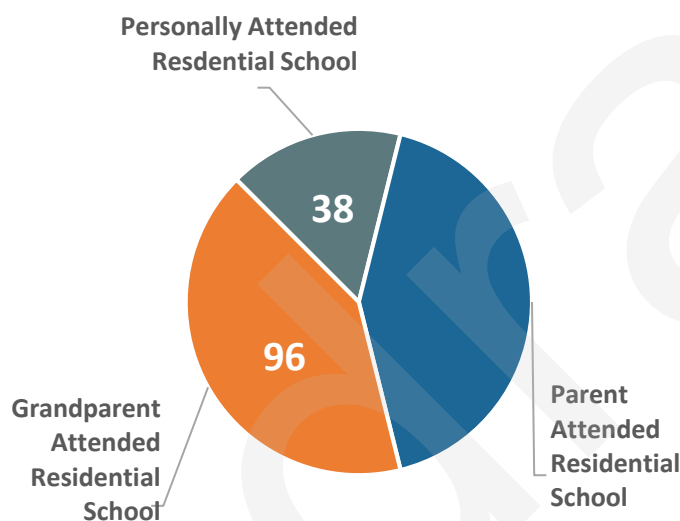


FIGURE 27. RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE, FVRD (2023)⁹

A total of 232 or 21.2%% of individuals experiencing homelessness, responded “yes” to the question “Were you, your parents, or grandparents ever in a residential school?”

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) has determined residential schools as “a systematic, government-sponsored attempt to destroy Aboriginal cultures and languages and to assimilate Aboriginal peoples so that they no longer existed as distinct peoples¹⁰.”

Of those who identified having a personal connection to residential school, 38 had personally attended residential school, had a parent attend residential school, and 98 or had a grandparent attend residential school.

⁹ Interviewers were instructed to ask the question with sensitivity and to request consent prior to asking the question.

¹⁰ National Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, (website) Residential School History, <https://nctr.ca/education/teaching-resources/residential-school-history/>

2.20 ACCOMPANIMENT OF FAMILY MEMBERS AND PETS

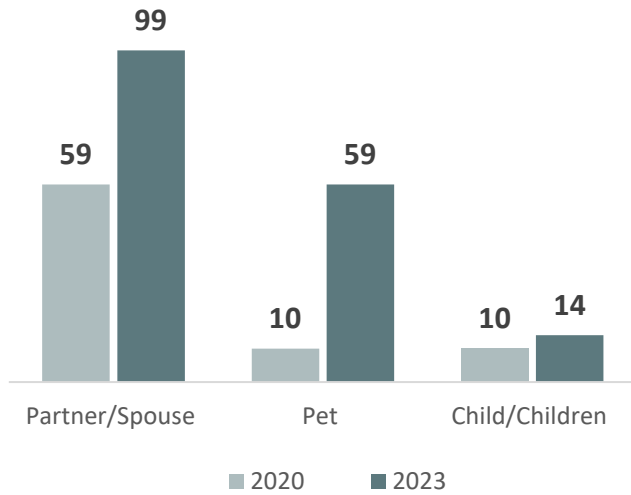


FIGURE 28. ACCOMPANIMENT OF FAMILY MEMBERS AND PETS, FVRD (2020-2023)

Compared to 2020, there was an increase in the number and percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness accompanied by a loved one, family member, or pet.

A total of 99 or 9.0% of individuals were accompanied by their partner or spouse, 14 or 1.3% were with their child or children, and 59 or 5.4% were accompanied by a pet.

2.21 RACE

TABLE 21. RACIAL GROUP IDENTIFICATION, FVRD (2023)¹¹

Most respondents identified as White/Caucasian/European (73.7%) or Indigenous (17.6%), with the remaining 8.7% of respondents identifying with a range of other racial categories.

Racial Identity	2023	
	N	%
White	481	73.7%
Indigenous	115	17.6%
Multi-racial	13	1.9%
Black	11	1.6%
Metis	9	1.4%
South Asian	4	0.6%
Metis/white	3	0.5%
Middle Eastern	3	0.5%
Hispanic	3	0.5%
East Indian	2	0.3%
Eurasian	2	0.3%
Jewish	2	0.3%
Mexican	1	0.2%
Latino/white	1	0.2%
Asian	1	0.2%
West Indian	1	0.2%
Total	652	100%

¹¹ Total and percentage is based on number of respondents to this question, not the total number of enumerated individuals experiencing homelessness.

2.22 BARRIERS TO HOUSING

A total of 661 or 64.7% of respondents (individuals surveyed) indicated experiencing at least one barrier in attempting to find housing. The most common barrier stated was a lack of affordable housing, followed by insufficient income, stigma and prejudice¹², bad credit, lack of references, and having a criminal record.

TABLE 22 BARRIERS TO HOUSING, FVRD (2023)

Barriers to Housing	2023	
	N	%
Lack of affordable housing	362	54.8%
Insufficient income in relation to cost of living	109	16.5%
Stigma or prejudice	87	13.2%
Lack of references	28	4.2%
Criminal record	27	4.1%
Poor credit score	30	4.5%
Other	18	2.7%
Total	661	100.0%

2.23 AREAS FREQUENTED

Respondents were asked to identify where they spent most of their time. For privacy reasons, detailed responses are not identified in this report. However, a large portion of respondents reported spending their time in the downtown areas of Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission and Hope in indoor and outdoor public spaces, such as parks, natural areas and retail malls, as well as shelters and outreach centres were common types of places that people reported frequenting.

The results to this question indicate that individuals experiencing homelessness frequent all types of locations, throughout cities, suburban areas, and within rural communities. The promotion and provision of services, which reflects the locations and types of places individuals experiencing homelessness are known to frequent, may help to improve awareness and access to services.

2.24 REASONS FOR COMING TO LIVE IN CURRENT COMMUNITY

Respondents were asked to identify the reason they moved to the community where they were interviewed (Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, and Agassiz-Harrison, Hope, Boston Bar-North Bend). Of those experiencing homelessness, most of the 738 respondents to this particular question provided a single reason.

The following are the most common reasons provided for moving to the community they lived:

- Family reasons and wanting to be close to family (152 respondents)
- Wanting to be close to or stay with significant other (45 respondents)
- Employment or work (45 respondents)
- Needed treatment or recovery related to addiction (33 respondents)
- Wanting to be close to friends (26 respondents)
- Needed to get a new community to make new start (23 respondents)

¹² Stigma or prejudice is specifically experienced or perceived by persons who are Indigenous, of a racial group other than white, or the person who declares welfare as a source of income or prejudice because of the person’s appearance.

- Needed shelter or services (23 respondents)
- Housing was available (17 respondents)
- Personal safety reasons, fleeing abuse or violence (17 respondents)
- Released on parole/probation, or from incarceration (11 respondents)

2.25 “DIRECTED/INSTRUCTED” TO FVRD COMMUNITY

A new question was included in the 2023 FVRD PiT Homelessness Count and Survey for the purpose of adding clarity surrounding long-standing rumors that individuals experiencing homelessness are being “sent” from other jurisdictions to communities within the Fraser Valley, which from time to time, reports in the media have also alluded to.

Respondents were asked: “Did a worker, counselor, officer, official, etc. of an organization send or direct you to come to an FVRD community”? In total, 80 out of 841 respondents, or 9.5%, indicated they had been directed or instructed to relocate to a community located in the FVRD.

CONCLUSION

System-level changes needed.

Homelessness is a complex issue that requires system-level changes and increased supports tailored to the needs of those currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Housing cost is central to the problem and the solution.

Regardless of how complex a person's situation or health is, the high cost of housing is central to why individuals experience homelessness and what prevents them from accessing and maintaining permanent and suitable housing.

The discrepancy between the income levels of those currently, or at-risk of, experiencing homelessness and the increasing costs associated with market housing presents significant challenges that are difficult or impossible to overcome without considerable financial support, especially for more vulnerable populations and those with complex health challenges, or addiction issues.

Re-think systems and consider outside the box solutions.

The increasing prevalence of individuals with mental health issues and, or substance use issues, coupled with additional health issues presents a daunting challenge.

As stated in 2020 and in prior PiT Count and Survey reports, the lack of suitable long-term housing with support and care requires a paradigm shift.

To this end, BC Housing, Fraser Health, municipal governments, and community-based service agencies need to rethink the current care and service delivery model to create suitable long-term housing with supports and care designed to meet the specific needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Serious consideration should be given to innovative and outside of the box approaches to providing housing with care, followed by ongoing efforts toward addiction treatment, harm reduction, and curtailment of drug supply, including the supply of toxic drugs.

Health needs are housing needs, especially when complex.

Although affordable housing remains an important issue for all individuals and families with lower incomes, traditional affordable housing solutions often lack the ongoing support and care required for those with mental health issues, physical disabilities, substance use issues, and for seniors with serious health issues or increased risks.

The Province's complex-care housing model currently piloted in select cities across the province is great example of the types of housing that are needed to meet the complex and unique needs of individuals.

Supportive housing for seniors experiencing homelessness or those with considerable health issues may also relieve pressure and reliance on hospital emergency rooms and walk-in clinics.

Collaboration needed to increase affordable housing supply.

Shelters, although an important aspect of supports to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, are not the answer – long-term housing is.

To prevent further increases to homelessness, communities need to continue to work collaboratively with the provincial and federal government, non-profits, and housing providers to increase the supply of affordable, suitable, and supportive housing needed to provide lower-income individuals and families a place to call home.

More conversations needed to find better solutions.

Whether the current service and care model is able to address the situation remains a question. Obtaining further and continuous input from individuals experiencing homelessness, service providers, and other frontline workers is imperative to making improvements to service delivery.

This could include an inventory of services currently available, and an analysis of how, and where service information is made available, and the identification of service gaps or duplicated efforts. Focus groups or group interviews could be useful tools for acquiring this information.

Further discussions about the complexities of housing challenges and solutions in combination with substance use, mental health, service and care models, etc. is needed.

A regional summit, which brings together decision makers, thought leaders, frontline workers, and those with lived experience, could be a useful next step with the objective of identifying collaborative, innovative, and holistic solutions aimed at helping people get housed and healthy.

More efforts are needed to include First Nations as partners in identifying solutions and considering ways to ensure care and service delivery models are respectful and inclusive of Indigenous Peoples, especially considering the overrepresentation of Indigenous people among populations experiencing homelessness.

Research rural and remote needs in the region.

There are distinct rural obstacles in measuring and addressing homelessness within the FVRD due to the complexities of the region's considerable land mass, political and jurisdictional boundaries, and a lack of resources and services within less populated communities, especially unincorporated electoral areas.

The FVRD can lobby the Province to carry out research and estimates of populations experiencing homelessness within rural and remote areas of B.C., by implementing alternative approaches and methods designed specifically for rural and remote communities and geographies.

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APPENDIX A:

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION
Affordable Housing	Housing is considered to be affordable when a household spends less than 30% of its pre-tax income on adequate shelter. Affordable housing can refer to any part of the housing continuum from temporary emergency shelters to transition housing, supportive housing, subsidized housing, market rental housing, or market homeownership.
At-Risk of Homelessness	Refers to a person or populations not currently experiencing homelessness, but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards ¹ . The federal government describes populations at imminent risk of homelessness as individuals or families whose current housing situation will end in the near future (for example, within 2 months) and for whom no subsequent residence has been established ² .
Chronic Homelessness	The federal government describes chronic homelessness in reference to individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness and who meet at least one of the following criteria: they have been homeless for at least 6 months (180 days) over the past 3 years with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months (546 days). ³ In this report, the term is used to describe those who had experienced homelessness for more than 180 days (six months) in the past year.
Crown Land	Land that is owned by the provincial government and is of the jurisdictional responsibility of various provincial ministries such as the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the BC Ministry of Forests.
Concurrent Disorder	A term used to describes the co-occurrence of mental health and substance use disorders, which is increasingly prevalent among populations experiencing homelessness, which further compounds the complexity of care, supports, and housing solutions required. Improving access to the services and supports these individuals need requires inter-jurisdictional collaboration ⁴ .
Homelessness	The experience of being without a permanent and secure place to live. This includes emergency shelters, extreme weather shelters, youth safe houses, youth emergency or extreme weather shelters, violence against women shelters (also called transition houses), outside (unsheltered) or living temporarily with others without having own permanent housing (e.g. couch surfing). Most individuals do not choose to be homeless, and the experience is generally negative, unpleasant, unhealthy, unsafe, stressful, and distressing ⁵ .

¹ Canadian Definition Of Homelessness, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press, 2017

www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/COH-Canadian%20Definition%20of%20Homelessness.pdf

² Reaching Home. (2022). <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/directives-eng.html>

³ Reaching Home. (2022). <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/directives-eng.html>

⁴ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. "Concurrent Disorders" Homeless Hub. 2023. <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/mental-health/concurrent-disorders>

⁵ Canadian Definition Of Homelessness, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press, 2017

Hidden Homelessness	People who live temporarily with others but without guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing which includes couch surfing. This population is considered to be "hidden" because they usually do not access homeless support and services even though they are improperly or inadequately housed.
Housing First	A recovery-oriented approach to ending homelessness that centers on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent and permanent housing and then providing additional support and services as needed.
Encampment	Informal settlements on rural or urban sites, where individuals live within visible and temporary structures such as tents, shanties, huts, or shacks on public property or privately owned land. These informal settlements result from a lack of accessible affordable housing ⁶ .
Indigenous Identity	Individuals who identify with the Indigenous peoples of Canada. This includes those who identify as First Nation, Métis and/or Inuk (Inuit), and/or those who report being Registered or Treaty Indians (that is, registered under the <i>Indian Act of Canada</i>), and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band.
Provisionally Accommodated	Describes situations in which people, who are technically experiencing homelessness and without permanent shelter, access accommodation that offers no prospect of permanence. Temporary housing may be provided by the government or the non-profit sector, or independently arranged.
Rural & Remote Homelessness	Homelessness that occurs in less populated areas. Rural and remote homelessness often goes unnoticed because it is largely "hidden", unlike the more visible and broadly researched street homelessness in urban centres. ⁷ Traditional point-in-time counting methods are less used in urban locations do not work in rural ones contributing to the hidden nature of homelessness in rural areas. ⁸
Transitional Housing	Housing with no prospect of permanence for individuals and families who have experienced homelessness or who exited from a government system (CFS, justice, health, or mental health facility) and would otherwise be homeless.
Sheltered Homelessness	The experience of homelessness occurs within an emergency homeless shelter (youth, adult, or family), emergency housing for new immigrants or refugees, or shelter for individuals and families impacted by family violence.
Unsheltered Homelessness	The experience of homelessness occurs outside or in a place unfit for human habitation in a public or private place. This includes a vehicle, a tent or makeshift shelter, a bus shelter, or a private business like a coffee shop.
2SLGBTQIA+	Individuals who identify as two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual, or questioning.

⁶ The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate, Overview of Encampments Across Canada: A Right to Housing Approach, 2022, www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Overview%20of%20Encampments%20Across%20Canada_EN_1.pdf

⁷ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, (2018). How is Rural Homelessness Different from Urban Homelessness? Retrieved from Homeless Hub: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/how-rural-homelessness-different-urban-homelessness>

⁸ The Rural Development Network, Step-by-Step Guide to Estimating Rural Homelessness, Second Edition, 2022, <https://homelessnesslearninghub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/New-Step-by-Step-Guide-to-Estimating-Rural-Homelessness-2.0-.pdf>

APPENDIX B:

SUB-COMMUNITY RESULTS: ABBOTSFORD

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The 2023 FVRD Homelessness Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Survey took place on March 7-8, 2023 within Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Chilliwack River Valley, Mission, Kent, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope, and Boston Bar. The first PiT Count and Survey for the region was in 2004, with subsequent undertakings in 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2020 (prior to the Covid-19 pandemic).

Although Point-in-Time counts and surveys are not able to, or intended to, enumerate every person experiencing homelessness, the consistent application of Point-in-Time Count and Survey methodology helps to uncover trends related to the extent of homelessness within a given area¹. Similar undertakings routinely occur in Metro Vancouver and across the Province.

The resulting data and survey findings help inform and improve supports for individuals experiencing homelessness, identify unmet housing needs, determine potential gaps in related health services, and support funding applications for local housing and homelessness initiatives.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Municipal and regional staff worked in collaboration with local service agencies and other partners to plan, prepare for, and administer the 24-hour point-in-time count and survey of individuals experiencing homelessness across the region.

As with past Point-in-Time homelessness counts and surveys, the 2023 project would not have been possible without the generous in-kind contributions of staffing resources, expertise, and other supports provided by a number of local service agencies and other partners across the region.

The following service providers, government agencies, and organizations contributed immensely to the undertaking of a 2023 Point-in-Time homelessness counts and survey within Abbotsford.

- City of Abbotsford
- Abbotsford Police Department
- Archway Community Services
- BC Housing
- Connective Support Society
- Cyrus Centre
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Fraser Health
- Fraser Valley Metis Association
- Ground Zero Ministries
- Lookout Housing and Health Society
- Matsqui-Abbotsford Impact Society
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
- Pacific Community Resource Society
- Phoenix Society
- Raven's Moon Resources Society
- Salvation Army
- SARA for Women
- Sparrow Community Care Society
- The 5 & 2 Ministries
- Union Gospel Mission

¹ For more information about project methodology, limitations, and ethical considerations associated with PiT Counts and Surveys, refer to the Introduction of the regional report.

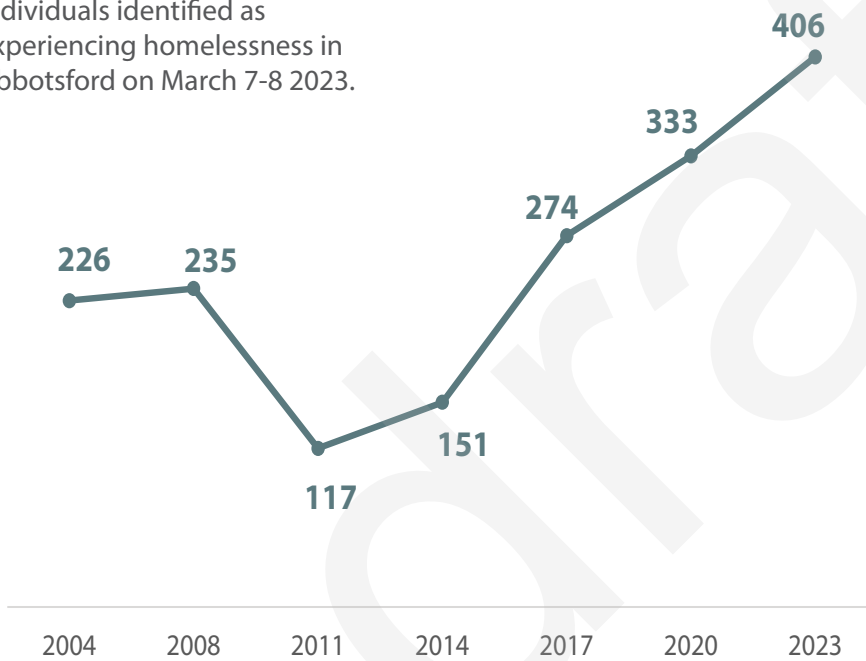
FVRD 2023 Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count & Survey

Since 2004, communities in the FVRD have worked together to conduct a tri-annual Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Survey of individuals experiencing homelessness within the region. The results provide critical information about the scope and nature of homelessness which is used to improve supports and services, as well as monitor homelessness prevention strategies.

ENUMERATION

406

individuals identified as experiencing homelessness in Abbotsford on March 7-8 2023.



- 73 additional people or an increase of 22% since 2020.
- Twice as many people experiencing homelessness than shelter beds available
- Increased rates of physical and mental health challenges reported.
- 42% had lived in Abbotsford for more than 10 years.



OVERNIGHT LOCATIONS

The increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Abbotsford continues to outpace the increase in emergency shelter beds.



47%
Shelter



31%
Outside



5%
Couch-surfed



10%
Vehicle



7%
Hospital

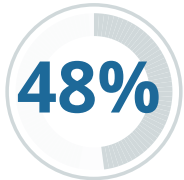
WHO IS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?

Abbotsford saw an increase in older populations and fewer children and youth experiencing homelessness.



3%

are aged 19 or younger, a decrease from 7% in 2020.



48%

of those experiencing homelessness are between the ages of 30-49.



16%

aged 60 or older, an increase from 9% in 2020.

32%

identified as **Indigenous** compared to 4.5% of the general population.

27%

had been in **government care** as a child or youth.



Women are underrepresented in PiT Count data as they are more likely to experience hidden forms of homelessness.



70%

Male



29%

Female



1%

Transgender, two-spirit, non-binary, other.

HEALTH CHALLENGES

59% reported experiencing at least one health challenge.



50%

Addiction or Substance Use

40%

Medical Condition

42%

Mental Health Issue

38%

Physical Disability

24%

Acquired Brain Injury

21%

Learning Disability

Of those experiencing addiction:

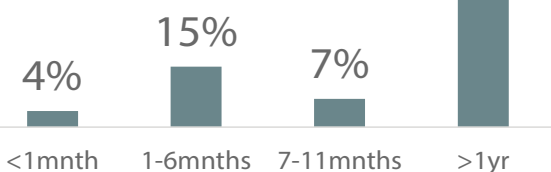
- 11% reported receiving treatment and 36% reported seeking treatment.
- 52% also identified as having a mental health issue.



DURATION AND CAUSE

57%

had experienced homelessness for 2 or more years.



30%

Housing and financial issues largely related to cost and income.



35%

Health Issues including physical, mental, and addiction or substance use.

31%

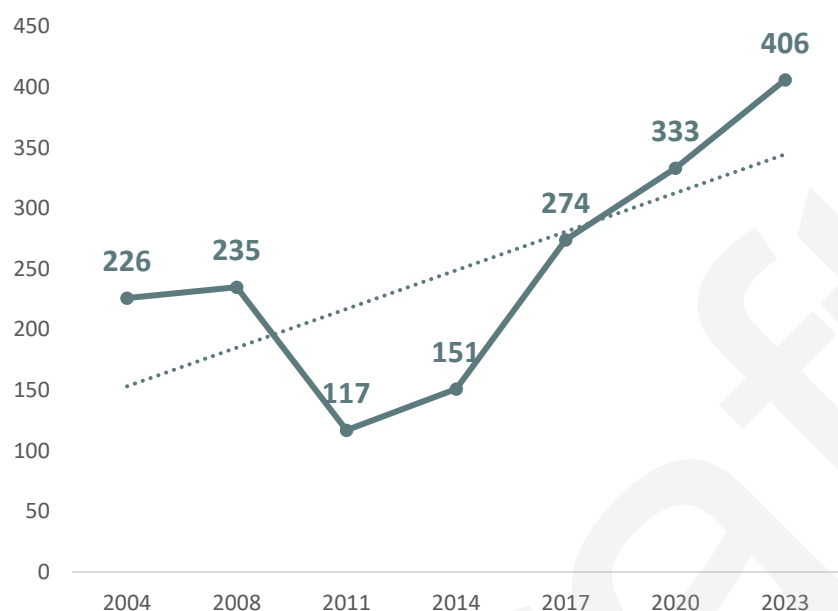
Interpersonal and family issues, largely with spouse or partner.

54% of respondents listed two or more reasons for their most recent housing loss.

POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) COUNT AND SURVEY RESULTS

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

FIGURE 1. TOTAL INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, ABBOTSFORD (2004-2023)



There has been an upward trend in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Abbotsford since 2014.

The total number of individuals experiencing homelessness enumerated in Abbotsford during the 24-hour period on March 7 and 8, 2023 in Abbotsford was 406.²

Compared to 2020, there were an additional 73 individuals experiencing homelessness, which is an increase of 22%, the same rate of increase experienced by the region.

Since 2011, there are an additional 289 people experiencing homelessness in Abbotsford, which is a 247% increase in 12 years. Although considerable, other FVRD municipalities and the region as a whole, has experienced growth in populations experiencing homelessness, which are even more considerable.

TABLE 1: CHANGE IN NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2004-2023)

Community	2004-2008		2008-2011		2011-2014		2014-2017		2017-2020		2020-2023		2004-2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Abbotsford	9	4%	-118	-50%	34	29%	123	81%	59	22%	73	22%	180	80%
Chilliwack	11	13%	13	13%	-38	-34%	148	203%	85	38%	107	35%	326	375%
Mission	25	33%	-46	-46%	21	39%	-12	-16%	115	183%	-3	-2%	100	133%
Eastern FV ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	-	22	28%	100	-
Total	58	14%	-120	-26%	1	0%	260	75%	289	48%	199	22%	687	169%

² For more information on the methodology used, see Section 1 of this report.

³ The first PiT Count and Survey in Eastern Fraser Valley communities was in 2020.

The distribution of populations experiencing homelessness in the FVRD is largely reflective of the distribution of population within the region. That being said, Abbotsford is the only sub-community, to make up a smaller portion of the region's PiT Count and Survey totals (37%), than portion of the region's total population (52%).

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL POPULATION COMPARED TO PIT COUNT TOTALS, FVRD⁴ (2020-2023)

	2020				2023			
	PiT Count		Population		PiT Count		Population	
	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD
Abbotsford	333	37%	152,267	51%	406	37%	172,488	52%
Chilliwack	306	34%	91,797	31%	413	38%	100,943	30%
Mission	178	20%	39,873	13%	175	16%	42,472	13%
Eastern FV	78	9%	15,635	5%	100	9%	15,635	5%
Total	895	100%	299,572	100%	1094	100%	331,538	100%

REASONS FOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked to identify the reason(s) for their most recent loss of housing. A total of 164 or 54% of those who responded to the question said their most recent loss of housing was due to reasons from two or more of the categories (listed in Table 3). This aligns with the understanding that homelessness is typically due to the accumulation of impacts caused by a combination of factors, not a single issue or event⁵.

The response categories with the most significant number of responses were Health Issues (34.8%), Interpersonal and family issues (31%), Housing and Financial Issues (30%). An analysis of individual responses identified the most commonly reported reason for housing loss was addiction or substance use (14.4%), a lack of income (12.5%), spousal conflict or abuse⁶ (13%), mental health issues (8.3%), and physical health issues (8.2%).

TABLE 3. DETAILED LIST OF REASONS FOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS⁷, ABBOTSFORD (2023)

Reasons for Experiencing Homelessness	2023	
	N of Responses	% of Responses
Housing and Financial Issues (total)	257	30.0%
Not enough income	107	12.5%
Rental support stopped	3	0.4%
Unfit/Unsafe housing	35	4.1%
Building sold/renovated	19	2.2%
Owner moved in	2	0.2%
Landlord/tenant conflict	47	5.5%
Guest policy	10	1.2%

⁴ Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population, <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

⁵ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Homeless Hub (website), Causes Of Homelessness <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/causes-homelessness>

⁶ Analysis combines responses from "Conflict with spouse/partner" and "Experienced abuse by spouse/partner".

⁷ Respondents could check off or listed as many reasons as what apply to them having lost their housing. Therefore, numbers and percentages reflect all responses and not the total of respondents. In addition, respondents may also have provided multiple responses from a single category.

Complaint	7	0.8%
Place not physically accessible	4	0.5%
Left the community/relocated	23	2.6%
Interpersonal and family issues (total)	265	31.0%
Conflict with spouse/partner	71	8.3%
Conflict with parent/guardian	41	4.7%
Conflict with other	27	3.2%
Experienced abuse by spouse/partner ⁸	25	2.9%
Experienced abuse by parent/guardian/caregiver	15	1.8%
Experienced abuse by child/dependent	5	0.6%
Experienced abuse by other	12	1.4%
Death or Departure of family member	39	4.6%
Experienced discrimination	30	3.5%
Health issues (total)	299	34.8%
Physical health issue	70	8.2%
Mental health issue	71	8.3%
Addiction/Substance use issue	124	14.4%
Hospitalization or treatment program	26	3.0%
Covid-19 Pandemic	8	0.9%
Incarceration (total)	20	2.3%
Release from Incarceration (jail or prison)	20	2.3%
Other (total)	16	1.9%
Other personal circumstance/events	13	1.5%
Don't know why	3	0.4%
Total Responses (all categories)	857	100.0%

DURATION OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Of those surveyed, 81% are experiencing chronic homelessness as defined by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness,⁹ which is a significant increase compared to under 65% in 2020 and 73% in 2017.

Chronic Homelessness refers to the experience of individuals, often with disabling conditions (e.g. chronic physical or mental illness, substance use), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year and is associated with increased difficulty in getting back into housing and is often associated with long or repeated episodes of homelessness¹⁰.

⁸ The analysis of individual responses combines the number of response associated with "Conflict with spouse/partner" and "Experienced abuse by spouse/partner."

⁹Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Homeless Hub (website), Addressing Chronic Homelessness, <https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/prevention/addressing-chronic-homelessness>

¹⁰ National Alliance to End Homelessness, End Homelessness (website), Chronically Homeless, <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/who-experiences-homelessness/chronically-homeless/>

In 2023, 234 or 74% of respondents reported experiencing homeless for more than one year, a significant increase compared to 52% of respondents in 2020. However, perhaps most alarming, is that 180 or 57% reported experiencing homelessness for more than 2 years¹¹.

TABLE 4. LENGTH OF TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, ABBOTSFORD (2017- 2023)

Length of Time	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 1 month	20	9%	14	6%	13	4%
1-6 months	44	19%	51	22%	46	15%
7-11 months	45	20%	31	13%	22	7%
More than 1 year	122	53%	121	52%	234	74%
Total	231	100%	233	100%	315	100%

HEALTH CHALLENGES

Survey respondents were invited to share information about personal health challenges, including medical conditions, physical disabilities, mental health issues, addiction, acquired brain injuries, and learning disabilities.

In 2023, 236 or 59% of survey respondents reported at least 1 health challenge and 89 or 22% reporting three or more health challenges. Trends in historical data shows an increase in all categories of self-reported health challenges, with the largest rate of increase being physical disabilities. In 2023, 42% of respondents identified as having a medical condition, 38% a physical disability, 24% an acquired brain injury, and 21% a learning disability.

202 or 50% of survey respondents in Abbotsford responded “yes” to the question, “Do you identify as having an addiction at this time?” Of those who identified as having an addiction, 106 or 52% also reported experiencing mental health challenges. This is referred to as a concurrent disorder, which further compounds the complexity of care, supports, and housing solutions required.

Of the 202 respondents who identified as currently experiencing addiction, 23 or 11% indicated they were receiving treatment and 72 or 36% indicated they were seeking treatment. Of those who reported experiencing addiction, using a combination of substances was most common (64%), followed by crystal meth (13%), opiates (11%), other (7%), alcohol (4%), and cocaine (2%).

TABLE 5. SELF-REPORTED HEALTH ISSUES, ABBOTSFORD (2017-2023) ¹²

Health Issue	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Addiction	183	67%	164	49%	202	50%
Mental Health Issue	126	46%	119	36%	169	42%
Physical Disability	82	30%	62	19%	153	38%
Medical Condition	136	50%	97	29%	162	40%
Acquired Brain Injury	-	-	50	15%	99	24%
Learning Disability	-	-	-	-	84	21%

¹¹ Data on individuals experiencing homelessness for more than two years was not captured in previous PIT Counts, thus comparable data is not available.

¹² Acquired brain Injury was not asked in 2017 and learning disability was not asked in 2017 and 2020.

“SHELTERED” AND “UNSHELTERED” HOMELESSNESS

The number of individuals experiencing homelessness who stayed at emergency shelter in Abbotsford was 190, or 47% of all individuals included in the Point-in-Time Count, which is an increase compared to 124 or 37% in 2020. The remaining 216 or 53% of individuals were considered unsheltered the night of the count.

TABLE 6. RATIO OF “SHELTERED” AND “UNSHELTERED” INDIVIDUALS, ABBOTSFORD (2017-2023)

Sheltered and Unsheltered	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sheltered	112	41%	124	37%	190	47%
Unsheltered	162	59%	209	63%	216	53%
Total	274	100%	333	100%	406	100%

Of those who were considered unsheltered on the night of the count, 31% had stayed outside, 5% had couch surfed, 7% were in the hospital, 9% stayed in a vehicle, and 0.5% had been in jail.

Compared to 2020, there was an increase in the number of individuals who had stayed in a shelter, vehicle, or the hospital on the night of the count, and a decrease in those who had couch surfed and stayed outside.

TABLE 7. ACCOMMODATION ON THE NIGHT OF THE SURVEY, ABBOTSFORD (2020-2023)

Place Stayed	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
Shelter	124	37%	190	46.8%
Jail	1	0%	2	0.5%
Hospital	13	4%	27	6.7%
Outside	138	41%	126	31.0%
Car, van, or camper	18	6%	40	9.8%
Someone else's place	39	12%	21	5.2%
Total	333	100%	406	100%

SHELTER BEDS

TABLE 8. DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS, FVRD (2017-2023)

Community	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Abbotsford	230	58%	166	34%	213	35%
Mission	45	11%	87	18%	98	16%
Chilliwack	109	28%	203	41%	243	40%
Agassiz-Harrison*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Hope-Boston Bar*	12	3%	36	7%	48	8%
Total	396	100%	492	100%	602	100%

*Sub-Communities of Eastern Fraser Valley

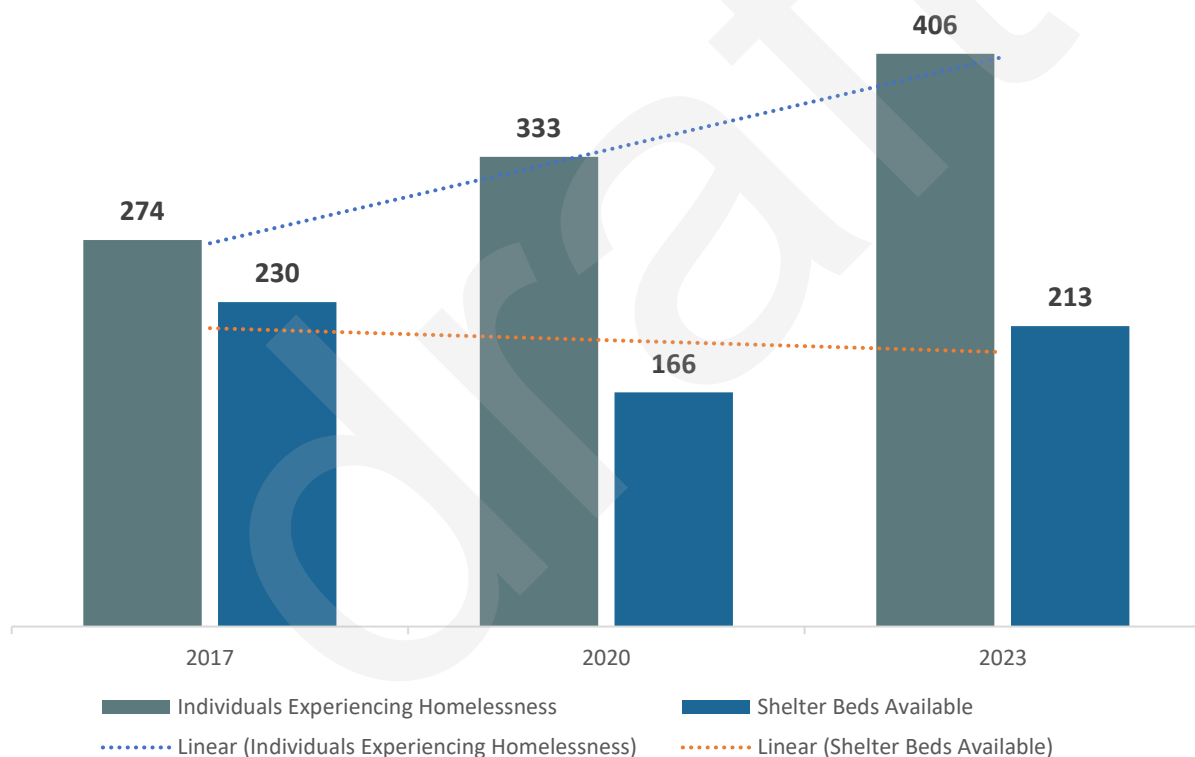
On the night of the count, 213 shelter beds were available in Abbotsford, making up 35% of the region's shelter inventory. From 2020 to 2023, the FVRD's shelter inventory increased by 110 beds; however, Abbotsford's shelter

inventory decreased by 47 beds. Despite the reduced number of shelter beds available in 2023 compared to 2020, the percentage of the region’s shelter beds located in Abbotsford remained about the same.

In Abbotsford, the increase in individuals experiencing homelessness who were “sheltered” on the night of the count was due to an increased utilization of shelter beds, not an increase in the number of beds available. With 190 of 213 shelter beds occupied, Abbotsford had a shelter utilization rate of 89% on the night of the count compared to the utilization of 75% of available shelter beds on the night of the count in 2020¹³.

The total number of shelter beds available in Abbotsford has not kept up to the increases in individuals experiencing homelessness as identified by PiT count and survey methodology. With every shelter bed utilized, Abbotsford’s current shelter inventory could only accommodate 52% of those identified as experiencing homelessness¹⁴. Since PiT count figures can only provide an undercount of actual populations experiencing homelessness, the gap between Abbotsford’s capacity to provide shelter and the need for shelter is likely even greater.

FIGURE 2. SHELTER BEDS COMPARED TO THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, ABBOTSFORD (2017-2023)



¹³ The utilization of shelter inventory is calculated by dividing the number of sheltered individuals on the night of the count by the total number of shelter beds available obtained from shelter and municipal staff.

¹⁴ The potential capacity to provide shelter is calculated by dividing the number of shelter spaces available on the night of the count by the number of people identified as experiencing homelessness.

GENDER IDENTITY

Individuals who identify as male consistently account for roughly two-thirds of all individuals who experience homelessness in the region as per Point-in-Time counts. However, PIT Count methodology does not capture all persons experiencing homelessness, especially those in hidden forms of homelessness noted in section one of this report.

TABLE 9. GENDER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, ABBOTSFORD (2017-2023)

Gender	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	166	63.1%	212	70.2%	252	70.0%
Female	95	36.1%	87	28.8%	104	28.8%
Transgender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	2	0.8%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Two-Spirit	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Non-binary	0	0.0%	3	1.0%	3	0.8%
Total	263	100%	302	100%	360	100.0%

Women make up a more significant proportion of those experiencing hidden homelessness, and are therefore undercounted in Point-in-Time counts and surveys¹⁵ Individuals who identify as male account for 70% of Abbotsford's PIT count figures and survey findings. Those who identified as female made up 29%, and less than 1% identified as transgender, two-spirit, non-binary, or other gender not listed.

TABLE 10. TRANS EXPERIENCE, ABBOTSFORD (2023)

Trans Experience	2023	
	N	%
Can Identify with trans experience	11	2.7%
Cannot identify with trans experience	298	74.0%
No Response	94	23.3%
Total	403	100%

Survey respondents were asked, "Do you identify as someone with a trans-experience? (your gender is different than what was assigned at birth)" A total of 11 or 2.7% respondents yes to this question. In comparison, the 2021 Census of Population reports that 0.19% of Canada's population aged 15 and older identify as transgender¹⁶.

These figures suggest an over-representation of individuals that identify as transgender within populations experiencing homelessness, which reflects research findings, which note more significant rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ populations¹⁷.

¹⁵ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. "The Pan-Canadian Women's Housing & Homelessness Survey." Homeless Hub. 2021. <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/EN-Pan-Canadian-Womens-Housing-Homelessness-Survey-FINAL-28-Sept-2021.pdf>

¹⁶ Statistics Canada "Canada is the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people" April 27, 2022. Census of Population 2021. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/220427/dq220427b-eng.pdf?st=JB7Vb5sN>

¹⁷ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. "Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming and Safe PiT Counts" Homeless Hub. 2019. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf

AGE

In 2023, the largest age category of individuals experiencing homelessness in Abbotsford is 40-49 years of age (24.3%), followed by 30-39 (23.7%), and when combined, individuals aged 30-49 make up nearly half (48%) of survey respondents. The age categories 40-49, as well as those 60 and older increased between 2020 and 2023; while those 30 and under decreased, and those 50-59 increased only slightly.

TABLE 11. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS, ABBOTSFORD (2017-2023)

Age	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 15	5	1.9%	1	0.3%	0	0%
15-19	34	13.0%	22	7.0%	12	3.4%
20-29	41	15.5%	64	20.4%	46	13.0%
30-39	56	21.2%	93	29.6%	84	23.7%
40-49	45	17.1%	49	15.6%	86	24.3%
50-59	59	22.3%	58	18.5%	70	19.8%
60 or older	24	9.1%	27	8.6%	56	15.8%
Total	264	100%	314	100%	354	100.0%

Compared to the general population of Abbotsford, those 29 and under and over 60 were underrepresented among individuals experiencing homelessness as identified in the PiT Count, while adults, especially those 30-59 were overrepresented. It should be noted that youth homelessness is often more hidden, which is known to result in an under-representation of young people within PiT Counts¹⁸.

TABLE 12. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS COMPARED TO POPULATION, ABBOTSFORD (2023)

Age	Population (2021 Census) ¹⁹		2023 PiT Count		% Difference
	N	%	N	%	%
Younger than 15	26,655	17.4%	0	0.0%	-17.4%
15-19	9,265	6.0%	12	3.4%	-2.6%
20-29	20,640	13.4%	46	13.0%	-0.4%
30-39	21,735	14.2%	84	23.7%	+9.5%
40-49	19,335	12.6%	86	24.3%	+11.7%
50-59	18,505	12.1%	70	19.8%	+7.7%
60 or older	37,380	24.4%	56	15.8%	-8.6%
Total	153,520	100.0%	354	100.0%	0.0%

¹⁸ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. "Point-in-Time Count Toolkit." 2018. Homeless Hub. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/download-chapter/PiT%20Count%20Toolkit%202020%20Final.pdf

¹⁹ Statistics Canada. 2023. Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

In 2023, those who identify as heterosexual accounted for 92.8% of all respondents in Abbotsford, which is consistent with previous survey results, while 7.2% of respondents described their sexual orientation as bisexual, pansexual, two-spirited, gay, and other.

Individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ account for 4% of Canada's total population aged 15 and older²⁰, which suggests an over-representation of individuals who do not identify as heterosexual or straight within populations experiencing homelessness in Abbotsford and throughout the region. This is consistent with research findings, which note higher rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ populations²¹.

TABLE 13. SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, ABBOTSFORD (2017-2023)

Sexual Orientation	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Heterosexual/Straight	199	86.5%	206	92.0%	295	92.8%
Bisexual	21	9.1%	8	3.6%	12	3.8%
Two-Spirited	2	0.9%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Gay	3	1.3%	3	1.3%	1	0.3%
Other	2	0.9%	0	0.0%	5	1.6%
Questioning	2	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Don't know	0	0.0%	6	2.7%	0	0.0%
Pansexual	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	4	1.3%
Lesbian	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	230	100.0%	224	100.0%	318	100%

INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

Based on 2021 Census data, there is an overrepresentation of Indigenous populations within populations experiencing homelessness in Abbotsford. In 2023, 31.8% of respondents identified as Indigenous in Abbotsford, compared to 4.5% of Abbotsford's general population²².

TABLE 14. INDIGENOUS IDENTITY COMPARED TO POPULATION, FVRD (2023)

Community	2021 Census		2023 PiT Count		Difference
	N	%	N	%	%
Abbotsford	6,850	4.5%	88	31.8%	27.3%
Chilliwack	7,250	7.9%	134	41.5%	33.6%
Mission	3,380	8.3%	59	43.7%	35.4%
Eastern Fraser Valley	1,425	10.0%	22	32.8%	22.8%
FVRD	24,010	7.6%	303	37.8%	30.2%

²⁰ Statistics Canada. "A statistical portrait of Canada's diverse LGBTQ2+ communities" June 15, 2021. 2018 Canadian Community Health Survey. www.150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/210615/dq210615a-eng.pdf?st=72rw-AmE

²¹ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. "Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming and Safe PiT Counts" Homeless Hub. 2019. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf

²² Statistics Canada. Indigenous Population Profile, 2021 Census of Population. www.12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/ipp-ppa/index.cfm?Lang=E

A total of 88 or 32% of respondents in Abbotsford identified as Indigenous (including First Nations, Metis, Inuit, or other Indigenous ancestry) compared to 77 or 34.4% of respondents in 2020. Of the 88 individuals who identified as Indigenous, 63 identified as First Nation or Indigenous, 20 as Metis, and 3 as Inuit.

TABLE 15. INDIGENOUS IDENTITY BY RESPONSES, ABBOTSFORD (2020-2023)

Indigenous Identity	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
First Nations	56	25.0%	55	19.9%
Indigenous/Aboriginal Ancestry	0	0.0%	8	2.9%
Metis	16	7.1%	20	7.2%
Inuit	1	0.4%	2	0.7%
Not listed (other)	4	1.8%	3	1.1%
Don't Know	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Does Not Identify as Indigenous	147	65.6%	189	68.2%
Total	224	100%	277	100%

LENGTH OF TIME IN ABBOTSFORD

Survey results show individuals experiencing homelessness in Abbotsford are most likely to be long-term residents. A total of 231 or 84.3% have lived in Abbotsford for more than one year, while 115 or 42% had lived in Abbotsford for more than 10 years.

TABLE 16. LENGTH OF TIME IN CURRENT COMMUNITY, ABBOTSFORD (2023)

Length in Abbotsford	2023	
	N	%
Less than 6 months	31	11.3%
6-11 months	12	4.4%
12-23 months	26	9.5%
2-5 years	56	20.4%
6-10 years	34	12.4%
11+ years	86	31.4%
Always lived in the community	29	10.6%
Total	274	100%

COMMUNITY LIVED IN PREVIOUSLY

TABLE 17. COMMUNITY LIVED IN PRIOR, ABBOTSFORD²³ (2017-2023)

Previous Community	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Within the FVRD	56	33.5%	57	33.5%	50	21.1%
Within Metro Vancouver	14	8.4%	46	27.1%	86	36.3%
Another Part of BC	60	35.9%	35	20.6%	46	14.8%
Another Part of Canada	27	16.2%	27	15.9%	50	21.1%
Another Country	10	6.0%	5	2.9%	5	2.1%
Total	167	100.0%	170	100.0%	237	100.0%

²³ Table excludes respondents who indicated always living in Abbotsford.

Survey respondents were asked to identify the community they lived in prior to living in Abbotsford. 36.30% of respondents had previously lived in Metro Vancouver, 21.1% had lived in the FVRD, 14.8% elsewhere in B.C., 21.1% elsewhere in Canada, and 2.1% outside of Canada. In 2023, there was a notable increase in respondents who had previously lived within Metro Vancouver and elsewhere in Canada.

SOURCE OF INCOME

Similar to 2017 and 2020 PIT Count and Survey results, income assistance (both standard income assistance and disability allowance) was the most commonly reported source of income. In 2023, the proportion is 56.3% compared to 45.6% in 2020. However, in 2023 income from disability allowance reached 31.1%, surpassing income assistance as the most commonly reported source of income.

In 2023, 6.4% of responses reflect formal or informal employment (binning) compared to 18.2% in 2020. Income from vending (sex work) reflects 15.6% of responses compared to 2.7% in 2020.

TABLE 18. SOURCE OF INCOME, ABBOTSFORD (2020-2023)²⁴

Source of Income	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Income Assistance	102	22.7%	94	23.8%	110	25.2%
IA (Disability Allowance)	73	16.2%	86	21.8%	136	31.1%
Binning/Bottles ²⁵	57	12.7%	45	11.4%	6	1.4%
No Income	40	8.9%	5	1.2%	20	4.6%
Other ²⁶	22	4.9%	41	10.4%	18	4.1%
Panhandling	31	6.9%	35	8.8%	0	0.0%
Family/Friends	20	4.4%	22	5.5%	5	1.1%
Part-time Job	26	5.8%	23	5.8%	12	2.7%
Vending (Sex work)	24	5.3%	11	2.7%	68	15.6%
Disability (CPP)	12	2.7%	9	2.2%	10	2.3%
Canadian Pension Plan	11	2.4%	9	2.2%	13	3.0%
Honoraria/Stipend	15	3.3%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%
Youth Agreement	3	0.7%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%
Other Types of Pension	6	1.3%	2	0.5%	4	1.0%
Old Age Security	4	0.9%	6	1.5%	10	2.3%
Full-time Job	1	0.2%	4	1.0%	10	2.3%
Employment insurance	3	0.7%	2	0.5%	0	0%
Total	450	100.0%	394	100.0%	437	100.0%

²⁴ Respondents could select more than one sources of income that apply to them, therefore, the number in the “N” column accounts for multiple responses, and provides the number of unique individuals.

²⁵ In 2023 the option was informal employment which was captured under binning.

²⁶ Includes GST/HST refund and Child and Family tax refund.

SERVICE USAGE

Respondents in Abbotsford indicated accessing various services as outlined below. Service usage reported in 2023 is largely similar to 2020. In Abbotsford, respondents were most likely to report using emergency shelter, harm reduction, meal program/soup kitchen, emergency room, or ambulance services.

TABLE 19. SERVICES USED, ABBOTSFORD (2020 - 2023)²⁷

Service Used	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
Ambulance	91	6.2%	104	7.8%
Cultural Services ²⁸	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Dental Services	35	2.4%	36	2.7%
Emergency Room	132	9.0%	130	9.7%
Emergency Shelter²⁹	281	19.3%	308	23.0%
Employment Services	43	2.9%	26	1.9%
Financial Services ³⁰	-	-	26	1.9%
Food Bank	88	6.0%	57	4.3%
Harm Reduction	135	9.3%	144	10.8%
Health Clinic	93	6.3%	83	6.2%
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	72	4.9%	7	0.5%
Housing Help/ Eviction Prevention	29	2.0%	12	0.9%
Meal Program/Soup Kitchen	133	9.1%	137	10.2%
Mental Health Services	57	3.9%	47	3.5%
Newcomer Services	3	0.2%	1	0.1%
None	5	0.3%	0	0.0%
Other	7	0.5%	6	0.4%
Other Addiction Services	59	4.0%	6	0.4%
Outreach	124	8.5%	95	7.1%
Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) ³¹	0	0.0%	70	5.2%
Probation/Parole	49	3.4%	28	2.1%
Transitional Housing	22	1.5%	13	1.0%
Total Responses	1458	100.0%	1338	100.0%

²⁷ Respondents could check off all that applied, hence the number column represents all respondents and not individual respondents.

²⁸ Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) was not included in 2020 list of services

²⁹ Cultural Services was not included in 2020 list of services.

³⁰ Includes both emergency shelter and extreme weather shelter

³¹ Financial Services was not included in 2020 list of services

BARRIERS TO SERVICES

In total 133 respondents indicated that they experience barriers to accessing available services while 121 respondents answered no to the question: “Are there any barriers preventing you from accessing services?”

Of the types of barriers to accessing services reported, transportation issues was most commonly reported (24.1%), followed by health and mental health issues (9.0%), mobility challenges (7.5%), lack of knowledge/information about services (7.5%), and substance use issues (6.0%).

TABLE 20: BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES, ABBOTSFORD (2023)

Barriers to Accessing Services	2023	
	N	%
Transportation issues	32	24.1%
Mobility issues (difficulty walking or access using a wheelchair)	10	7.5%
Not having required identification	4	3.0%
Not having knowledge or information about services	10	7.5%
Substance use issues	8	6.0%
Health and Mental health issues	12	9.0%
Other	57	42.9%
Total	133	100.0%

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Individuals experiencing homelessness were asked to identify what additional services might be meaningful or helpful to them. Although responses related to a range of services, the largest proportion of responses were linked to affordable housing, including supportive housing, rent support, etc.

Many responses reflected the types of services already offered in Abbotsford, which may reflect barriers to accessing these services, or the need to increase, improve, or expand existing services, as well as the high value placed on these service types.

Common responses to the question, “What additional services might be meaningful or helpful to you?” from respondents in Abbotsford include, but are not limited to the following types of services or service improvements:

- Housing
- Counseling including trauma counseling and therapy
- More health care services
- More outreach services
- Transportation
- More shelter beds

GOVERNMENT CARE

A total of 108 or 26.6% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Abbotsford had previously been in government care, which is a decrease from 31.8% in 2020 and 41.6% in 2017³². Despite this decrease, these figures still suggest an overrepresentation of adults previously in government care within populations experiencing homelessness.

Of respondents who reported previously being in government care, 84 had lived in foster care, 11 in youth group homes, and the remaining 13 had youth or independent living agreements.

TABLE 21: GOVERNMENT CARE, ABBOTSFORD (2017-2023)

Government Care	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Government Care	114	41.6%	106	31.8%	108	26.6%
Total	274	100%	333	100%	406	100%

TABLE 22. TYPES OF GOVERNMENT CARE, ABBOTSFORD (2023)

Type of Government Care	2023	
	N	%
Foster Care	84	20.7%
Youth Group Care	11	2.7%
Youth Agreement	9	2.2%
Independent Living Agreement	4	1.0%
Total	108	26.6%

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

A total of 78 or 19% of all individuals experiencing homelessness in Abbotsford, responded “yes” to the question “Were you, your parents, or grandparents ever in a residential school? This was the first time this question had been asked in the PIT Count and Survey; however, personal experience in residential school was previously captured within the survey question on government care.”³³

Of the 78 respondents who identified as having a personal connection to residential school, 16 had personally attended residential school, 33 had a parent attend residential school, and 29 had a grandparent attend residential school.

TABLE 23. RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE, ABBOTSFORD (2023)

Residential School Experience	2023	
	N	%
Personally attended	16	20.5%
Parent attended	33	42.3%
Grandparent attended	29	37.2%
Total	78	100%

³² In 2017 and 2020, the examples of government care included “residential school”.

³³ Interviewers were instructed to ask the question with sensitivity and to request consent prior to asking the question.

RACE

Most respondents in Abbotsford identified as White/Caucasian/European (78.9%) or Indigenous (11.9%), with the remaining 9.2% of respondents identifying with a range of other racial categories. This was the first time this question had been asked in the PIT Count and Survey.

TABLE 24. RACIAL GROUP IDENTIFICATION, ABBOTSFORD (2023)

Racial Identity	2023	
	N	%
White	186	78.9%
Indigenous	28	11.9%
Multi-racial	9	3.8%
Black	5	2.1%
Metis	0	0.0%
South Asian	3	1.3%
Metis/white	0	0.0%
Middle Eastern	0	0.0%
Hispanic	2	0.8%
East Indian	1	0.4%
Eurasian	0	0.0%
Jewish	1	0.4%
Mexican	0	0.0%
Latino/white	0	0.0%
Asian	0	0.0%
West Indian	1	0.4%
Total	236	100.0%

BARRIERS TO HOUSING

The number one barrier reported in Abbotsford in response to the question, “What barriers, if any, have you experienced when trying to find housing?” was the unavailability of affordable housing.

A total of 233 or 58% of the total respondents indicated experiencing at least one barrier in attempting to find housing. The most common barrier stated was a lack of affordable housing (56.2%), followed by stigma and prejudice (15.2%).

TABLE 25: BARRIERS TO HOUSING, ABBOTSFORD (2023)³⁴

Barriers to Housing	2023	
	N	%
Lack of affordable housing	131	56.2%
Insufficient income in relation to cost of living	0	0.0%
Stigma or prejudice	35	15.2%
Lack of references	5	2.1%
Criminal record	15	6.4%
Poor credit score	18	7.7%
Other	29	12.4%
Total	233	100.0%

³⁴ The total represents total number of responses.

FAMILY MEMBERS AND PETS

A total of 56 or 13.8% of respondents in Abbotsford said they had company with them at the time of the survey; of which, 33 were accompanied by a spouse or partner, 4 had a child/children with them and 19 had a pet.

AREAS FREQUENTED

Respondents were asked to identify where they spent most of their time. For privacy reasons, detailed responses will not be identified in this report.

The largest proportion of Individuals experiencing homelessness in in Abbotsford spent most of their time in the downtown areas of Abbotsford. As far as location types, indoor and outdoor public spaces, such as parks, natural areas and retail malls, as well as shelters and outreach centres were common types of places that people reported frequenting.

REASONS FOR RELOCATING TO ABBOTSFORD

Respondents were asked to identify the reason they moved to the community where they were interviewed. The following are the most common reasons provided for relocating to Abbotsford:

- To be with or closer to family
- Employment
- To be with significant other
- Safer community
- Better place to get clean/stay clean and start over

“DIRECTED/INSTRUCTED” TO RELOCATE TO ABBOTSFORD

Respondents were asked: “Did a worker, counselor, officer, official, etc. of an organization send or direct you to come to Abbotsford?” In total, 40 or 10% of those surveyed stated that they were “directed/instructed” to relocate to Abbotsford, 184 or 46% responded “no” to this question, and the remaining 179 or 44% did not respond to the question.

APPENDIX C:

SUB-COMMUNITY RESULTS: CHILLIWACK

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The 2023 FVRD Homelessness Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Survey took place on March 7-8, 2023 within Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Chilliwack River Valley, Mission, Kent, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope, and Boston Bar. The first PiT Count and Survey for the region was in 2004, with subsequent undertakings in 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2020 (prior to the Covid-19 pandemic).

Although Point-in-Time counts and surveys are not able to, or intended to, enumerate every person experiencing homelessness, the consistent application of Point-in-Time Count and Survey methodology helps to uncover trends related to the extent of homelessness within a given area¹. Similar undertakings routinely occur in Metro Vancouver and across the Province.

The resulting data and survey findings help inform and improve supports for individuals experiencing homelessness, identify unmet housing needs, determine potential gaps in related health services, and support funding applications for local housing and homelessness initiatives.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Municipal and regional staff worked in collaboration with local service agencies and other partners to plan, prepare for, and administer the 24-hour point-in-time count and survey of individuals experiencing homelessness across the region.

As with past Point-in-Time homelessness counts and surveys, the 2023 project would not have been possible without the generous in-kind contributions of staffing resources, expertise, and other supports provided by a number of local service agencies and other partners throughout the region.

The following service providers, government agencies, and organizations contributed immensely to the undertaking of a 2023 Point-in-Time homelessness counts and survey within Chilliwack.

- Ann Davis Transition Society
- Chilliwack Community Services
- Cyrus Centre (Chilliwack)
- Fraser Health
- Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction (Chilliwack)
- Ministry of Children and Family Development (Chilliwack)
- Mountainside Harm Reduction
- Pacific Community Resources Society
- Pearl Life Renewal Society
- RainCity Housing and Support Society
- RCMP (Chilliwack)
- Ruth and Naomi's Mission Society
- Salvation Army
- School District #33
- Stó:lō Service Agency
- Wilma's' Transition House
- Xwchiyò:m (Cheam) First Nation

¹ For more information about project methodology, limitations, and ethical considerations associated with PiT Counts and Surveys, refer to the Introduction of the regional report.

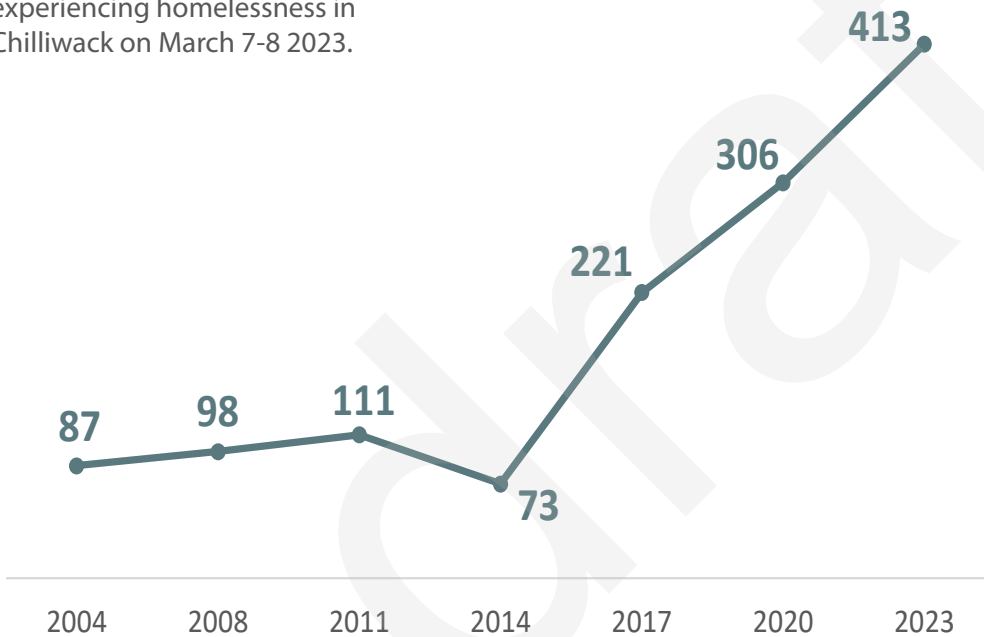
FVRD 2023 Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count & Survey

Since 2004, communities in the FVRD have worked together to conduct a tri-annual Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Survey of individuals experiencing homelessness within the region. The results provide critical information about the scope and nature of homelessness which is used to improve supports and services, as well as monitor homelessness prevention strategies.

ENUMERATION

413

individuals identified as experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack on March 7-8 2023.



- 107 additional people or an increase of 35% since 2020.
- Rates of physical and mental health challenges continue to increase.
- 50% have lived in Chilliwack for 10 or more years.



OVERNIGHT LOCATIONS

The increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack continues to outpace the increase in emergency shelter beds.



55%
Shelter



24%
Outside



10%
Couch-surfed



5%
Vehicle



6%
Hospital

WHO IS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?

Chilliwack saw an increase in older populations and fewer children and youth experiencing homelessness.



3%

are aged 19 or younger, a decrease from 11% in 2020.



53%

of the those experiencing homelessness are between the ages of 30-49



13%

are aged 60 or older, an increase from 10% in 2020.

42%

identified as **Indigenous** compared to 7.9% of the general population.

32%

had been in **government care** as a child or youth.



Women are underrepresented in PiT Count data as they are more likely to experience hidden forms of homelessness.



68%

Male



31%

Female



1%

Transgender, two-spirit, non-binary, other.

HEALTH CHALLENGES

73% reported experiencing at least one health challenge.



63%

Addiction

38%

Medical Condition

43%

Mental Health Issue

30%

Physical Disability

20%

Acquired Brain Injury

22%

Learning Disability

Of those experiencing addiction:

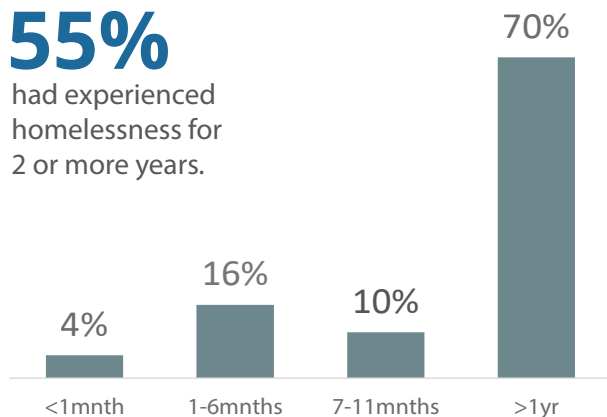
- 14% reported receiving treatment and 28% reported seeking treatment.
- 54% also identified as having a mental health issue.



DURATION AND CAUSE

55%

had experienced homelessness for 2 or more years.



31%

Housing and financial issues largely related to cost and income

35%

Health Issues including physical, mental, and addiction or substance use.

30%

Interpersonal and family issues, largely with spouse or partner



42% of respondents listed two or more reasons for their most recent housing loss.

POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) COUNT AND SURVEY RESULTS

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

FIGURE 1. TOTAL INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, CHILLIWACK (2004-2023)



Since 2014, there are an additional 340 people experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack, which is a 466% increase in nine years, the highest rate of increase for this period within the region.

TABLE 1: CHANGE IN NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2004-2023)

Community	2004-2008		2008-2011		2011-2014		2014-2017		2017-2020		2020-2023		2004-2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Abbotsford	9	4%	-118	-50%	34	29%	123	81%	59	22%	73	22%	180	80%
Chilliwack	11	13%	13	13%	-38	-34%	148	203%	85	38%	107	35%	326	375%
Mission	25	33%	-46	-46%	21	39%	-12	-16%	115	183%	-3	-2%	100	133%
Eastern FV ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	-	22	28%	100	-
Total	58	14%	-120	-26%	1	0%	260	75%	289	48%	199	22%	687	169%

² For more information on the methodology used, see Section 1 of this report.

³ The first PiT Count and Survey in Eastern Fraser Valley communities was in 2020.

The distribution of populations experiencing homelessness in the FVRD is largely reflective of the distribution of population within the region. That being said, Chilliwack makes up a greater portion of the region's PiT Count and Survey totals (38%), than portion of the the region's total population (30%).

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL POPULATION COMPARED TO PIT COUNT TOTALS, FVRD⁴ (2020-2023)

	2020				2023			
	PiT Count		Population		PiT Count		Population	
	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD
Abbotsford	333	37%	152,267	51%	406	37%	172,488	52%
Chilliwack	306	34%	91,797	31%	413	38%	100,943	30%
Mission	178	20%	39,873	13%	175	16%	42,472	13%
Eastern FV	78	9%	15,635	5%	100	9%	15,635	5%
Total	895	100%	299,572	100%	1094	100%	331,538	100%

REASONS FOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked to identify the reason(s) for their most recent loss of housing. A total of 157 or 42% of respondents said their most recent loss of housing was due to reasons that fall into two or more of the categories in Table 3, which aligns with the understanding that homelessness is typically due to the accumulation of impacts caused by a combination of factors, not a single issue or event⁵.

The response categories with the most significant number of responses were health issues (34.7%), housing and financial issues (30.5%), and interpersonal and family issues (30.0%). An analysis of individual responses identified the most commonly reported reason for housing loss was addiction or substance use (13.3%), a lack of income (13.1%), spousal conflict or abuse⁶ (13.1%), mental health issues (9.3%), and physical health issues (6.9%).

TABLE 3. DETAILED LIST OF REASONS FOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS⁷, CHILLIWACK (2023)

Reasons for Experiencing Homelessness	2023	
	N of Responses	% of Responses
Housing and Financial Issues (Total)	270	30.5%
Not enough income	116	13.1%
Rental support stopped	1	0.1%
Unfit/Unsafe housing	46	5.2%
Building sold/renovated	17	1.9%
Owner moved in	3	0.3%
Landlord/tenant conflict	51	5.8%
Guest policy	7	0.8%
Complaint	12	1.4%

⁴ Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population, <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

⁵ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Homeless Hub (website), Causes Of Homelessness <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/causes-homelessness>

⁶ Analysis combines responses from "Conflict with spouse/partner" and "Experienced abuse by spouse/partner".

⁷ Respondents could check off or listed as many reasons as what apply to them having lost their housing. Therefore, numbers and percentages reflect all responses and not the total of respondents. In addition, respondents may also have provided multiple responses from a single category.

Place not physically accessible	2	0.2%
Left the community/relocated	15	1.7%
Interpersonal and family issues (Total)	265	30.0%
Conflict with spouse/partner	79	8.9%
Conflict with parent/guardian	46	5.2%
Conflict with other	16	1.8%
Experienced abuse by spouse/partner⁸	37	4.2%
Experienced abuse by parent/guardian/caregiver	19	2.2%
Experienced abuse by child/dependent	4	0.4%
Experienced abuse by other	6	0.7%
Death or Departure of family member	29	3.3%
Experienced discrimination	29	3.3%
Health issues (Total)	306	34.7%
Physical health issue	61	6.9%
Mental health issue	82	9.3%
Addiction/Substance use issue	117	13.3%
Hospitalization or treatment program	25	2.8%
Covid-19 Pandemic	21	2.4%
Incarceration (Correctional facility or jail) (Total)	20	2.3%
Incarceration (jail or prison)	20	2.3%
Other Reasons (Total)	22	2.5%
Other	22	2.5%
Don't know why	0	0.0%
Total Responses (all categories)	883	100.0%

DURATION OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Of those surveyed, 80% are experiencing chronic homelessness as defined by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness,⁹ which is a significant increase compared to under 63% in 2020 and 69% in 2017.

Chronic Homelessness refers to the experience of individuals, often with disabling conditions (e.g. chronic physical or mental illness, substance use), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year and is associated with increased difficulty in getting back into housing and is often associated with long or repeated episodes of homelessness¹⁰.

In 2023, 70% of respondents had reported experiencing homelessness for more than one year, a significant increase from 50% of all respondents in 2020 and 2017. However, perhaps most alarming, is that 183 respondents or 55.1% reported experiencing homelessness for more than 2 years.

⁸ The analysis of individual responses combines the number of response associated with "Conflict with spouse/partner" and "Experienced abuse by spouse/partner."

⁹Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Homeless Hub (website), Addressing Chronic Homelessness, <https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/prevention/addressing-chronic-homelessness>

¹⁰ National Alliance to End Homelessness, End Homelessness (website), Chronically Homeless, <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/who-experiences-homelessness/chronically-homeless/>

TABLE 4. LENGTH OF TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, CHILLIWACK (2017- 2023)

Length of Time	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 1 month	16	12%	19	10%	15	4%
1-6 months	27	20%	42	22%	53	16%
7-11 months	25	18%	27	14%	33	10%
1 year or more	69	50%	103	54%	231	70%
Total	137	100%	191	100%	332	100%

HEALTH CHALLENGES

Survey respondents were invited to share information about personal health challenges, including medical conditions, physical disabilities, mental health issues, addiction, acquired brain injuries, and learning disabilities.

In 2023, 273 or 73% of survey respondents reported at least 1 health challenge and 75 or 20% reporting three or more health challenges. Trends in historical data shows an increase in all categories of self-reported health challenges, with the largest rate of increase related to medical conditions. In 2023, 38% of respondents identified as having a medical condition, 30% a physical disability, 20% an acquired brain injury, and 22% a learning disability.

259 or 63% of survey respondents in Chilliwack responded “yes” to the question, “Do you identify as having an addiction at this time?” Of the 202 respondents who identified as currently experiencing addiction, 140 or 54% also reported mental health challenges, (referred to as a concurrent disorder), which further compounds the complexity of care, supports, and housing solutions required.

Of the 259 respondents who identified as currently experiencing addiction, 36 or 14% indicated they were receiving treatment and 72 or 28% indicated they were seeking treatment. Of those who reported experiencing addiction, using a combination of substances was most commonly reported (64%), followed by crystal meth (9%), opiates (9%), alcohol (9%), other (6%), and cocaine (1%).

TABLE 5. SELF-REPORTED HEALTH ISSUES, CHILLIWACK (2017-2023) ¹¹

Health Issue	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Addiction	95	43.0%	144	47.1%	259	62.7%
Mental Health Issue	63	28.5%	92	30.1%	179	43.4%
Physical Disability	38	17.2%	60	19.6%	124	30.0%
Medical Condition	50	22.6%	77	25.2%	158	38.3%
Acquired Brain Injury	-	-	33	10.8%	83	20.1%
Learning Disability	-	-	-	-	89	21.5%

¹¹ Acquired brain Injury was not asked in 2017 and learning disability was not asked in 2017 and 2020.

“SHELTERED” AND “UNSHELTERED” HOMELESSNESS

A total of 226, or 55% of all individuals included in the Point-in-Time Count stayed at an emergency shelter, which is an increase of 60 people compared to 2020. Despite an increase in people staying in shelters on night of the count, the percentage of sheltered individuals increased by less than a percentage.

TABLE 6. RATIO OF “SHELTERED” AND “UNSHELTERED” INDIVIDUALS, CHILLIWACK (2020-2023)

Sheltered and Unsheltered	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
Sheltered	166	54%	226	55%
Unsheltered	140	46%	187	45%
Total	306	100%	406	100%

The remaining 187 or 45% of individuals experiencing homelessness reported unsheltered accommodations, which is an increase of 47 people compared to 2020. Despite an increase in people who were unsheltered on night of the count, the percentage of unsheltered individuals decreased by less than a percentage.

TABLE 7. ACCOMMODATION ON THE NIGHT OF THE SURVEY, CHILLIWACK (2023)

Place Stayed	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
Shelter	166	54%	226	55%
Hospital	11	10%	26	6%
Outside	83	27%	100	24%
Car, van, or camper	16	5%	19	5%
Someone else's place	30	4%	42	10%
Total	306	100%	413	100%

SHELTER BEDS

In Chilliwack, the increase in individuals experiencing homelessness who were “sheltered” on the night of the count was due to the increased utilization of shelter beds, as well as the number of beds available. With 226 of the 243 shelter beds occupied, Chilliwack had a shelter utilization rate of 93% on the night of the count, compared to the utilization of 166 or 81.8% of 203 shelter beds in 2020¹².

TABLE 8. DISTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL SHELTER INVENTORY, FVRD (2017-2023)

Community	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Abbotsford	230	58%	166	34%	213	35%
Mission	45	11%	87	18%	98	16%
Chilliwack	109	28%	203	41%	243	40%
Agassiz-Harrison*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Hope-Boston Bar*	12	3%	36	7%	48	8%
Total	396	100%	492	100%	602	100%

*Sub-Communities of Eastern Fraser Valley

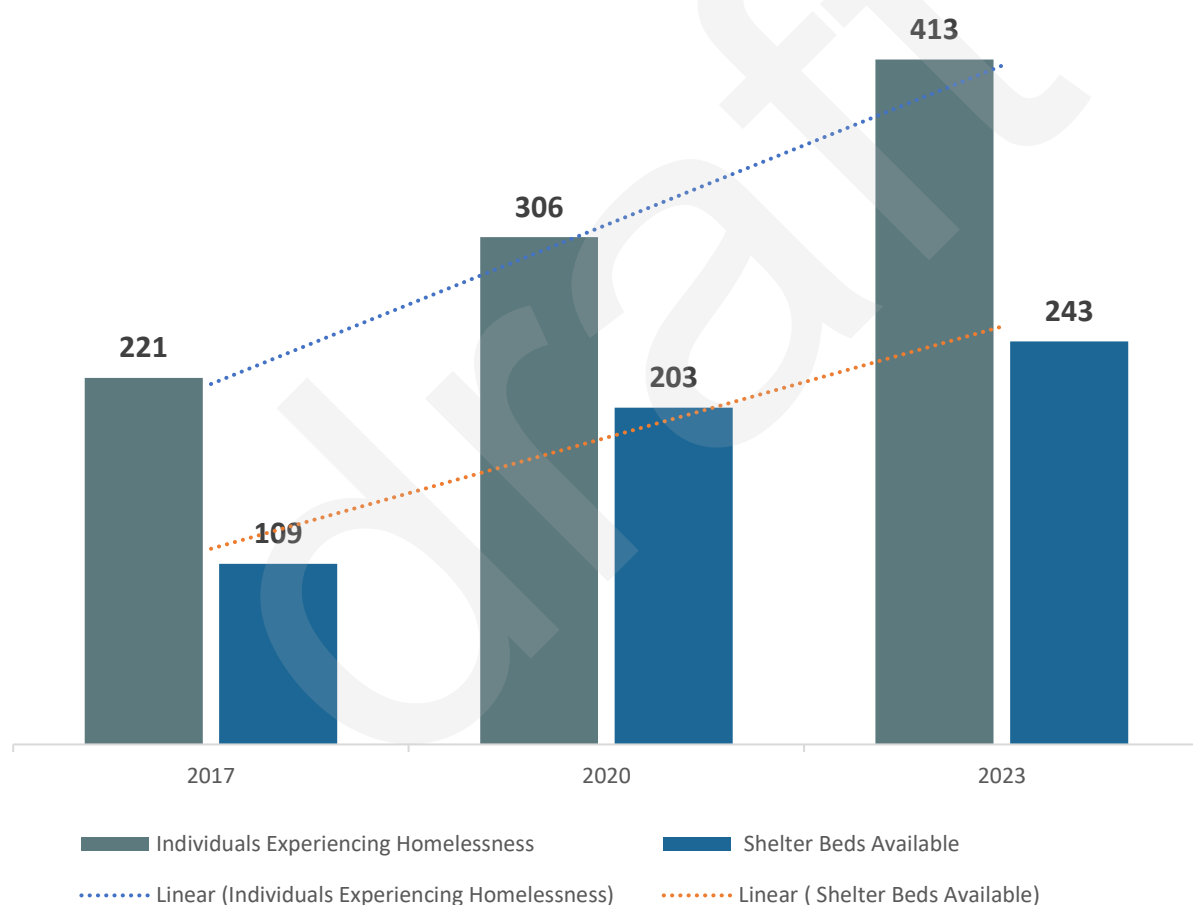
¹² The utilization of shelter inventory is calculated by dividing the number of sheltered individuals on the night of the count by the total number of shelter beds available obtained from shelter and municipal staff.

From 2020 to 2023, Chilliwack’s shelter inventory on the night increased by 40 beds, while the region’s shelter inventory increased by 110 beds. Shelter beds in Chilliwack make up 40% of all shelter beds available in the region on the night of the count, compared to 41% in 2020, and 28% in 2017.

The total number of shelter beds available in Chilliwack has increased but they have not kept up to the increase in individuals experiencing homelessness based on PiT Count figures. With every shelter bed utilized, Chilliwack’s current shelter inventory could only provide shelter for 59% of those identified as experiencing, which is a decrease from 66% in 2020¹³.

Since PiT count figures can only provide an undercount of actual populations experiencing homelessness, the gap between Chilliwack’s capacity to provide shelter and the need for shelter is likely even greater.

FIGURE 2. SHELTER BEDS COMPARED TO THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, CHILLIWACK (2017-2023)



¹³ The potential capacity to provide shelter is calculated by dividing the number of shelter spaces available on the night of the count by the number of people identified as experiencing homelessness.

GENDER IDENTITY

Individuals who identify as male consistently account for roughly two-thirds of all individuals who experience homelessness in the region as per Point-in-Time counts. However, PiT Count methodology does not capture all persons experiencing homelessness, especially those in hidden forms of homelessness noted in section one of this report.

Women make up a more significant proportion of those experiencing hidden homelessness, and are therefore undercounted in Point-in-Time counts and surveys¹⁴. Individuals who identify as male account for 68.0% of Chilliwack’s PiT count figures and survey findings. Those who identified as female made up 31.1%, and less than 1% identified as transgender, two-spirit, non-binary, or other gender not listed.

TABLE 9. GENDER OF SURVEYED INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, CHILLIWACK (2017-2023)

Gender	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	112	62.2%	158	60.3%	249	68.0%
Female	67	37.2%	104	39.7%	114	31.1%
Transgender	1	0.6%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.3%
Two-Spirit	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.3%
Non-binary	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.3%
Total	180	100%	262	100%	366	100.0%

Survey respondents were asked, “Do you identify as someone with a trans-experience? (your gender is difference than what was assigned at birth)” A total of 7 or 1.9% of respondents yes to this question. In comparison, the 2021 Census of Population reports that 0.19% of Canada’s population aged 15 and older identify as transgender.¹⁵

These figures suggest an over-representation of individuals that identify as transgender within populations experiencing homelessness, which reflects research findings, which note more significant rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ populations¹⁶.

FIGURE 10. TRANS EXPERIENCE, CHILLIWACK (2023)

Trans Experience	2023	
	N	%
Can Identify with trans experience	7	1.9%
Cannot identify with trans experience	325	87.1%
No Response	41	11.0%
Total	373	100%

¹⁴ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “The Pan-Canadian Women’s Housing & Homelessness Survey.” Homeless Hub. 2021. <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/EN-Pan-Canadian-Womens-Housing-Homelessness-Survey-FINAL-28-Sept-2021.pdf>

¹⁵ Statistics Canada “Canada is the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people” April 27, 2022. Census of Population 2021. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/220427/dq220427b-eng.pdf?st=JB7Vb5sN>

¹⁶ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming and Safe PiT Counts” Homeless Hub. 2019. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf

AGE

Similar to 2020, the single largest age category in Chilliwack is age 30-39 (28.9%), followed by age 40-49, which combined make up more than half (53.3%) of individuals experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack.

The proportion of youth experiencing homelessness (19 and younger) in 2023 was 3%, which is a decrease from 10% in 2020, and 22% in 2017. It should be noted that youth homelessness is often more hidden which is known to result in an under-representation of young people within PiT Counts¹⁷. The portion of those aged 60 and older was 12.5%, an increase from 9.9% in 2020 and 5.8% in 2017.

TABLE 11. AGE OF SURVEYED RESPONDENTS, CHILLIWACK (2017-2023)

Age	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 15	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
15-19	37	21.5%	28	10.7%	9	2.5%
20-29	22	12.8%	48	18.3%	63	17.2%
30-39	31	18.0%	65	24.8%	106	28.9%
40-49	37	21.5%	49	18.7%	90	24.5%
50-59	34	19.8%	46	17.6%	52	14.2%
60 or older	10	5.8%	26	9.9%	46	12.5%
Total	172	100%	262	100%	367	100.0%

Compared to the general population of Chilliwack, those under age 29 or over age 60 are underrepresented among individuals experiencing homelessness as identified in the PiT Count, while adults, especially those 30-49 were overrepresented.

TABLE 12. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS COMPARED TO POPULATION, CHILLIWACK (2023)

Age	Population (2021 Census) ¹⁸		2023 PiT Count		% Difference
	N	%	N	%	%
Less than 15	20,390	17.9%	1	0.3%	-17.6%
15-19	6,520	5.7%	9	2.5%	-3.2%
20-29	11,985	10.6%	63	17.2%	+ 6.6%
30-39	14,615	12.9%	106	28.9%	+ 16.0%
40-49	13,190	12.1%	90	24.5%	+ 12.4%
50-59	14,775	13%	52	14.2%	+ 1.2%
60 or older	32,320	28.4%	46	12.5%	-15.9%
Total	113,770	100.0%	367	100.0%	0.0%

¹⁷ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. "Point-in-Time Count Toolkit." 2018. Homeless Hub. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/download-chapter/PiT%20Count%20Toolkit%202020%20Final.pdf

¹⁸ Statistics Canada. 2023. Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

In 2023, those who identify as heterosexual accounted for 88.4% of all respondents in Chilliwack, which is consistent with previous survey results, while 11.6% of respondents described their sexual orientation as bisexual, pansexual, two-spirited, gay, and other.

In comparison, individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ account for 4% of Canada's total population aged 15 and older¹⁹ which suggests an over-representation of individuals who do not identify as heterosexual or straight within populations experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack and throughout the region. This is consistent with research findings, which note higher rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ populations²⁰.

TABLE 13. SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, CHILLIWACK (2017-2023)

Sexual Orientation	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Heterosexual/Straight	121	91.0%	168	89.8%	298	88.4%
Bisexual	9	6.8%	10	5.4%	23	6.8%
Two-Spirited	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	2	0.6%
Gay	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	3	0.9%
Other	2	1.5%	1	0.5%	4	1.2%
Questioning	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	1	0.3%
Don't know	0	0.0%	4	2.2%	0	0.0%
Pansexual	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	2	0.6%
Lesbian	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	4	1.2%
Total	133	100.0%	187	100.0%	337	100.0%

INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

Based on 2021 Census data, there is an overrepresentation of Indigenous populations within populations experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack. In 2023, 41.5% of respondents identified as Indigenous in Chilliwack compared to 7.9% of Chilliwack's general population²¹.

TABLE 14. INDIGENOUS IDENTITY COMPARED TO POPULATION, FVRD (2023)

Community	2021 Census		2023 PiT Count		Difference
	N	%	N	%	%
Abbotsford	6,850	4.5%	88	31.8%	27.3%
Chilliwack	7,250	7.9%	134	41.5%	33.6%
Mission	3,380	8.3%	59	43.7%	35.4%
Eastern Fraser Valley	1,425	10.0%	22	32.8%	22.8%
FVRD	24,010	7.6%	303	37.8%	30.2%

¹⁹ Statistics Canada. "A statistical portrait of Canada's diverse LGBTQ2+ communities" June 15, 2021. 2018 Canadian Community Health Survey. www.150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/210615/dq210615a-eng.pdf?st=72rw-AmE

²⁰ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. "Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming and Safe PiT Counts" Homeless Hub. 2019. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf

²¹ Statistics Canada. Indigenous Population Profile, 2021 Census of Population. www.12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/ipp-ppa/index.cfm?Lang=E

A total of 134 or 40% of respondents in Chilliwack identified as Indigenous (including First Nations, Metis, Inuit, or other Indigenous ancestry), compared to 38% in 2020. Of the 134 individuals who identify as Indigenous, 95 identified as First Nation or Indigenous, and 22 as Metis.

TABLE 15. INDIGENOUS IDENTITY BY RESPONSES, CHILLIWACK (2020-2023)

Indigenous Identity	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
First Nations	66	33.7%	95	28.1%
Indigenous/Aboriginal Ancestry	4	2.0%	13	3.8%
Metis	5	2.6%	22	6.5%
Inuit	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Not listed	0	0.0%	4	1.2%
Don't Know/Unsure	0	0.0%	15	4.4%
Does Not Identify as Indigenous	121	61.7%	189	55.9%
Total	196	100.00%	338	100.00%

LENGTH OF TIME IN CHILLIWACK

Survey results show individuals experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack are most likely to be long-term residents. A total of 268 or 84.0% have lived in Chilliwack for more than one year, while 149 or 46.7% had lived in Chilliwack for more than 10 years.

TABLE 16. LENGTH OF TIME LIVING IN CHILLIWACK (2023)

Length in Chilliwack	2023	
	N	%
Less than 6 months	28	8.8%
6-11 months	23	7.2%
12-23 months	18	5.6%
2-5 years	59	18.5%
6-10 years	42	13.2%
11+ years	82	25.7%
Always lived in the community	67	21.0%
Total	319	100.0%

COMMUNITY LIVED IN PREVIOUSLY

TABLE 17. COMMUNITY LIVED IN PRIOR, CHILLIWACK²² (2017-2023)

Previous Community	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Within the FVRD	23	27.7%	35	28.7%	63	25.7%
Within Metro Vancouver	10	12.0%	19	15.6%	70	28.6%
Another Part of BC	31	37.3%	22	18.0%	53	21.6%
Another Part of Canada	13	15.7%	38	31.1%	48	19.6%
Another Country	6	7.2%	8	6.6%	11	4.5%
Total	83	100.0%	122	100.0%	245	100.0%

²² Table excludes respondents who indicated always living in Chilliwack.

Survey respondents were asked what community they lived in prior to living in Chilliwack. 25.7% of respondents had lived in the FVRD, 28.6% within Metro Vancouver, 21.6% elsewhere in B.C., 19.6% elsewhere in Canada, and 4.5% outside of Canada. In 2023, there was a notable increase in respondents who had previously lived within Metro Vancouver.

SOURCE OF INCOME

Similar to 2017 and 2020 PIT Count and Survey results, income assistance (both standard income assistance and disability allowance) was the most commonly reported source of income. In 2023, the proportion is 48.6% compared to 46.5% in 2020 and 38.2% in 2017. However, in 2023 income from disability allowance reached 25.8%, surpassing income assistance as the most commonly reported source of income.

A total of 42 or 7.5% of responses reflect formal and informal (binning) employment, compared to 48 or 15.2% in 2020. Income from employment insurance increased from 2 or 0.6% of responses in 2020 to 94 or 16.8% of responses in 2023.

TABLE 18. SOURCE OF INCOME, CHILLIWACK (2017-2023)²³

Source of Income	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Income Assistance	55	25.3%	87	27.5%	128	22.8%
IA (Disability Allowance)	28	12.9%	60	19.0%	145	25.8%
Binning/Bottles ²⁴	25	11.5%	27	8.5%	24	4.3%
No Income	18	8.3%	18	5.7%	23	4.1%
Other ²⁵	24	11.1%	32	10.1%	45	8.0%
Panhandling	10	4.6%	11	3.5%	0	0.0%
Family/Friends	20	9.2%	12	3.8%	13	2.3%
Part-time Job	8	3.7%	20	6.4%	18	3.2%
Vending (sex-work)	2	0.9%	19	6.0%	12	2.1%
Disability (CPP)	5	2.3%	7	2.2%	5	0.9%
CPP	4	3.2%	10	3.2%	47	8.4%
Honoraria/Stipend	0	0.0%	0	0%	2	0.4%
Youth Agreement	10	4.6%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Other Pension	3	1.4%	5	1.6%	1	0.2%
Old Age Security	3	1.4%	5	1.6%	4	0.7%
Full-time Job	2	0.9%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Employment insurance	0	0.0%	2	0.6%	94	16.8%
Total	217	100.0%	316	100.0%	561	100.0%

²³ Respondents could select more than one sources of income that apply to them, therefore, the number in the "N" column accounts for multiple responses, and provides the number of unique individuals.

²⁴ In 2023 the option was informal employment which was captured under binning.

²⁵ Includes GST/HST refund and Child and Family tax refund.

SERVICE USAGE

Respondents in Chilliwack indicated accessing various services as outlined below. Service usage reported in 2023 was largely similar to 2020; however, there was a notable increase in the number of responses related to harm reduction, overdose prevention, and addiction services.

In Chilliwack, respondents were most likely to report using emergency shelter, harm reduction, meal program/soup kitchen, emergency room, or ambulance services.

TABLE 19. SERVICES USED, CHILLIWACK (2020-2023)²⁶

Service Used	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
Ambulance	62	5.6%	116	5.6%
Cultural Services ²⁷	-	-	15	0.7%
Dental Services	24	2.2%	14	0.7%
Emergency Room	98	8.8%	178	8.9%
Emergency Shelter²⁸	227	20.6%	367	18.3%
Employment Services	27	2.5%	45	2.2%
Financial Services ²⁹	-	-	42	2.1%
Food Bank	79	7.2%	158	7.9%
Harm Reduction	58	5.3%	199	9.9%
Health Clinic	53	4.8%	19	0.9%
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	59	5.4%	100	5.0%
Housing Help/ Eviction Prevention	13	1.2%	26	1.3%
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchen	136	12.4%	196	9.8%
Mental Health Services	36	3.3%	78	3.9%
Newcomer Services	-	-	2	0.1%
None	52	4.7%	4	0.2%
Other	13	1.2%	19	0.9%
Other Addiction Services	24	2.2%	48	2.4%
Outreach	84	7.7%	170	8.5%
Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) ³⁰	0	0.0%	125	6.2%
Probation/Parole	26	2.4%	58	2.9%
Transitional Housing	27	2.5%	29	1.4%
Total Responses	1098	100.0%	2,008	100.0%

²⁶ Respondents could check off all that applied, hence the number column represents all respondents and not individual respondents.

²⁷ Cultural Services was not included in 2020 list of services.

²⁸ Includes both emergency shelter and extreme weather shelter

²⁹ Financial Services was not included in 2020 list of services

³⁰ Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) was not included in 2020 list of services

BARRIERS TO SERVICES

In total 163 respondents indicated that they experience barriers to access available services while 125 respondents answered no to the question: “Are there any barriers preventing you from accessing services”?

Of the types of barriers to accessing services reported, transportation issues was most commonly reported (19.6%), followed by health and mental health issues (8.0%), substance use issues (5.0%), and mobility challenges (4.3%).

TABLE 20: BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES, CHILLIWACK (2023)

Barriers to Accessing Services	2023	
	N	%
Transportation issues	32	19.6%
Mobility issues (difficulty walking or access using a wheelchair)	7	4.3%
Not having required identification	2	1.2%
Not having knowledge or information about services	2	1.2%
Substance use issues	8	5.0%
Health and Mental health issues	13	8.0%
Other	99	60.7%
Total	163	100.0%

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Individuals experiencing homelessness were asked to identify what additional services might be meaningful or helpful to them. Although responses related to a range of services, the largest proportion of responses were linked to affordable housing, including supportive housing, rent support, etc.

Many responses reflected the types of services already offered in Chilliwack, which may reflect barriers to accessing these services, or the need to increase, improve, or expand existing services, as well as the high value placed on these service types.

Common responses to the question, “What additional services might be meaningful or helpful to you?” from respondents in Chilliwack include, but are not limited to the following types of services or service improvements:

- More affordable housing
- Rent support
- More outreach services
- Easier access to treatment
- Training/employment readiness

GOVERNMENT CARE

A total of 134 individuals or 32.4% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack had previously been in government care, which is an increase from 22.2% in 2020 and a decrease from 36.2% in 2017³¹. These figures suggest an overrepresentation of adults previously in government care within populations experiencing homelessness. Of respondents who reported previously being in government care, 52.2% had lived in foster care, 25.4% in youth group homes, and the remaining 22.4% had youth or independent living agreements.

TABLE 21. TYPES OF GOVERNMENT CARE, CHILLIWACK (2017-2023)

Government Care	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Government Care	80	36.2%	68	22.2%	134	32.4%
Total	221	100%	306	100%	413	100%

FIGURE 22. TYPES OF GOVERNMENT CARE, CHILLIWACK (2023)

Type of Government Care	2023	
	N	%
Foster Care	70	52.2%
Youth Group Care	34	25.4%
Youth Agreement	10	7.5%
Independent Living Agreement	20	14.9%
Total	134	100.0%

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

A total of 99 or 24.0% of all individuals experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack, responded “yes” to the question “Were you, your parents, or grandparents ever in a residential school?” This was the first time this question had been asked in the PIT Count and Survey; however, personal experience in residential school was previously captured within the survey question on government care.³²

Of the 99 respondents who identified as having a personal connection to residential school, 16 had personally attended residential school, 40 had a parent attend residential school, and 43 had a grandparent attend residential school.

TABLE 23. RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE, CHILLIWACK (2023)

Residential School Experience	2023	
	N	%
Personally attended	16	16.2%
Parent attended	40	40.4%
Grandparent attended	43	43.4%
Total	99	100.0%

³¹ In 2017 and 2020, the examples of government care included “residential school”.

³² Interviewers were instructed to ask the question with sensitivity and to request consent prior to asking the question.

RACE

Most respondents in Chilliwack identified as White/Caucasian/European (69.7%) or Indigenous (21.9%) with the remaining 8.4% of respondents identifying with a range of other racial categories. This was the first time this question had been asked in the PIT Count and Survey.

FIGURE 24. RACIAL GROUP IDENTIFICATION, CHILLIWACK (2023)

Racial Identity	2023	
	N	%
White	178	69.7%
Indigenous	56	21.9%
Multi-racial	4	1.6%
Black	6	2.4%
Metis	5	2.0%
South Asian	1	0.4%
Metis/white	0	0.0%
Middle Eastern	2	0.8%
Hispanic	1	0.4%
East Indian	0	0.0%
Eurasian	0	0.0%
Jewish	1	0.4%
Mexican	0	0.0%
Latino/white	0	0.0%
Asian	1	0.4%
West Indian	0	0.0%
Total	255	100.0%

BARRIERS TO HOUSING

The number one barrier reported in Chilliwack in response to the question, “What barriers, if any, have you experienced when trying to find housing?” was the unavailability of affordable housing.

A total of 275 or 74 % of the total respondents indicated experiencing at least one barrier in attempting to find housing. The most common barrier stated was a lack of affordable housing (53.5%), followed by insufficient income in relation to cost of living (18.9%) a lack of references (7.3%) and stigma and prejudice (5.1%); however, a range of barriers were shared by respondents.

TABLE 25: BARRIERS TO HOUSING, CHILLIWACK (2023)³³

Barriers to Housing	2023	
	N	%
Lack of affordable housing	147	53.5%
Insufficient income in relation to cost of living	52	18.9%
Stigma or prejudice	14	5.1%
Lack of references	20	7.3%
Criminal record	11	4.0%
Poor credit score	10	3.6%
Other	21	7.6%
Total	275	100.0%

³³ The total represents total number of responses.

FAMILY MEMBERS AND PETS

A total of 61 or 14.8 % of respondents in Chilliwack said they had company with them at the time of the survey; of which, 43 were accompanied by a spouse or partner, 4 had a child/children with them and 14 had a pet.

AREAS FREQUENTED

Respondents were asked to identify where they spent most of their time. For privacy reasons, detailed responses will not be identified in this report.

The largest proportion of Individuals experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack spent most of their time in the downtown areas of Chilliwack. As far as location types, indoor and outdoor public spaces, such as parks, natural areas and retail malls, as well as shelters and outreach centres were common types of places that people reported frequenting.

REASONS FOR RELOCATING TO CHILLIWACK

Respondents were asked to identify the reason they moved to the community where they were interviewed. The following are the most common reasons provided for relocating to Chilliwack:

- To be with or closer to family
- Employment
- To be with significant other
- Treatment
- Friends
- Housing

“DIRECTED/INSTRUCTED” TO RELOCATE TO CHILLIWACK

Respondents were asked: “Did a worker, counselor, officer, official, etc. of an organization send or direct you to come to Chilliwack?” In total, 22 or 6% of all those surveyed stated that they were “directed/instructed” to relocate to Chilliwack and 217 (58%) responded with “no” to this question, and the remaining 134 (36%) did not respond to the question.

APPENDIX D:

SUB-COMMUNITY RESULTS: MISSION

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The 2023 FVRD Homelessness Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Survey took place on March 7-8, 2023 within Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Chilliwack River Valley, Mission, Kent, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope, and Boston Bar. The first PiT Count and Survey for the region was in 2004, with subsequent undertakings in 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2020 (prior to the Covid-19 pandemic).

Although Point-in-Time counts and surveys are not able to, or intended to, enumerate every person experiencing homelessness, the consistent application of Point-in-Time Count and Survey methodology helps to uncover trends related to the extent of homelessness within a given area¹. Similar undertakings routinely occur in Metro Vancouver and across the Province.

The resulting data and survey findings help inform and improve supports for individuals experiencing homelessness, identify unmet housing needs, determine potential gaps in related health services, and support funding applications for local housing and homelessness initiatives.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Municipal and regional staff worked in collaboration with local service agencies and other partners to plan, prepare for, and administer the 24-hour point-in-time count and survey of individuals experiencing homelessness across the region.

As with past Point-in-Time homelessness counts and surveys, the 2023 project would not have been possible without the generous in-kind contributions of staffing resources, expertise, and other supports provided by a number of local service agencies and other partners throughout the region.

The following service providers, government agencies, and organizations contributed immensely to the undertaking of a 2023 Point-in-Time homelessness counts and survey within Mission.

- City of Mission
- Fraser Health
- Fraser House Society
- IHEART Team
- Impact Society
- Mission Community Services
- Mission Division of Family Practice
- Mission Hope Central
- Mission Friendship Centre
- Pacific Community Resource Society
- RCMP (Mission)
- SARA for Women
- Union Gospel Mission
- School District #75

¹ For more information about project methodology, limitations, and ethical considerations associated with PiT Counts and Surveys, refer to the Introduction of the regional report.

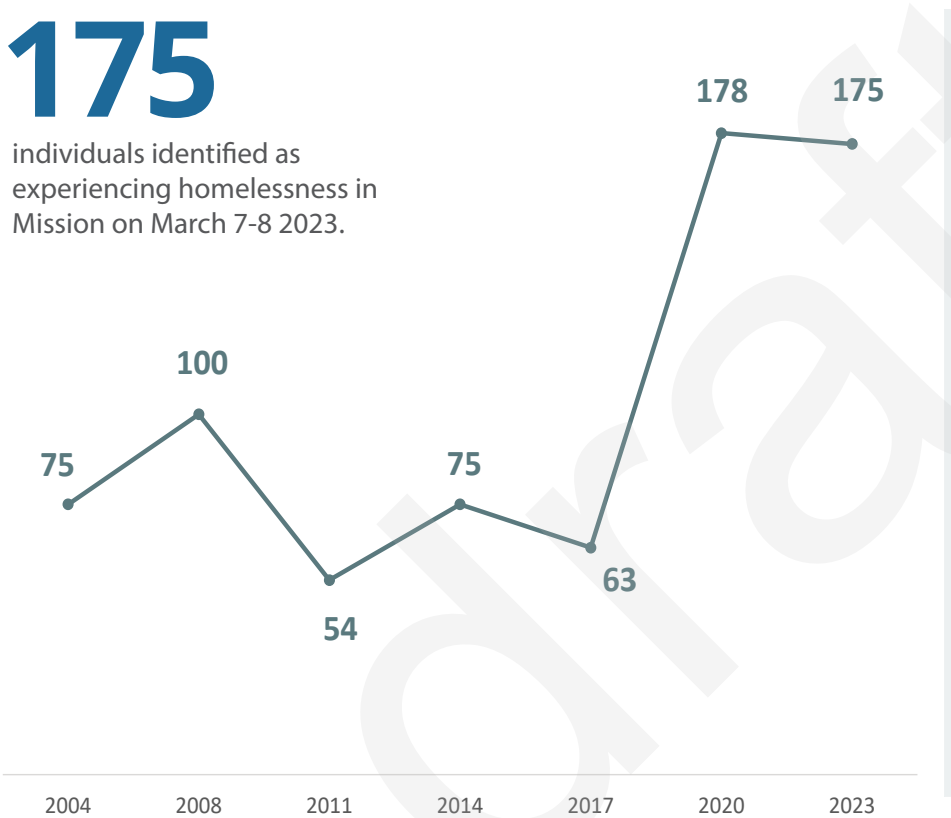
FVRD 2023 Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count & Survey

Since 2004, communities in the FVRD have worked together to conduct a tri-annual Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Survey of individuals experiencing homelessness within the region. The results provide critical information about the scope and nature of homelessness which is used to improve supports and services, as well as monitor homelessness prevention strategies.

ENUMERATION

175

individuals identified as experiencing homelessness in Mission on March 7-8 2023.



- Since 2017, 112 additional people or an increase of 178% since 2017.
- 52% had lived in Mission for ten or more years.
- Rates of physical and mental health challenges continue to increase.



OVERNIGHT LOCATIONS

The increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Mission continues to outpace the increase in emergency shelter beds.



56%
Shelter



23%
Outside



10%
Couch-surfed



8%
Vehicle



3%
Hospital

WHO IS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?

Mission saw an increase in older populations and children and youth experiencing homelessness.



3%

are aged 19 or younger, a decrease from 1% in 2020.



63%

of the those experiencing homelessness are between the ages of 30-59.



19%

are aged 60 or older, compared to 12% in 2017.

44%

identified as **Indigenous** compared to 8.3% of the general population.

27%

had been in **government care** as a child or youth.



66%

Male



34%

Female

Women are underrepresented in PiT Count data as they are more likely to experience hidden forms of homelessness.



52%

had lived in Mission for 10 or more years.

HEALTH CHALLENGES

74% reported experiencing at least one health challenge.



54%

Addiction

36%

Medical Condition

44%

Mental Health Issue

28%

Physical Disability

20%

Acquired Brain Injury

23%

Learning Disability

Of the those experiencing addiction:

- 11% reported receiving treatment and 28% reported seeking treatment.
- 62% also identified as having a mental health issue.



DURATION AND CAUSE

65%

had experienced homelessness for more than 2 or more years.

81%



3%

<1mth

12%

1-6mths

4%

7-11mths

>1yr

33%

Health Issues including physical, mental, and addiction or substance use.



34%

Housing and financial issues largely related to cost and income.

29%

Interpersonal and family issues, largely with spouse or partner.

40% of respondents listed two or more reasons for their most recent housing loss.

POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) COUNT AND SURVEY RESULTS

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

FIGURE 1. TOTAL INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, MISSION (2004-2023)

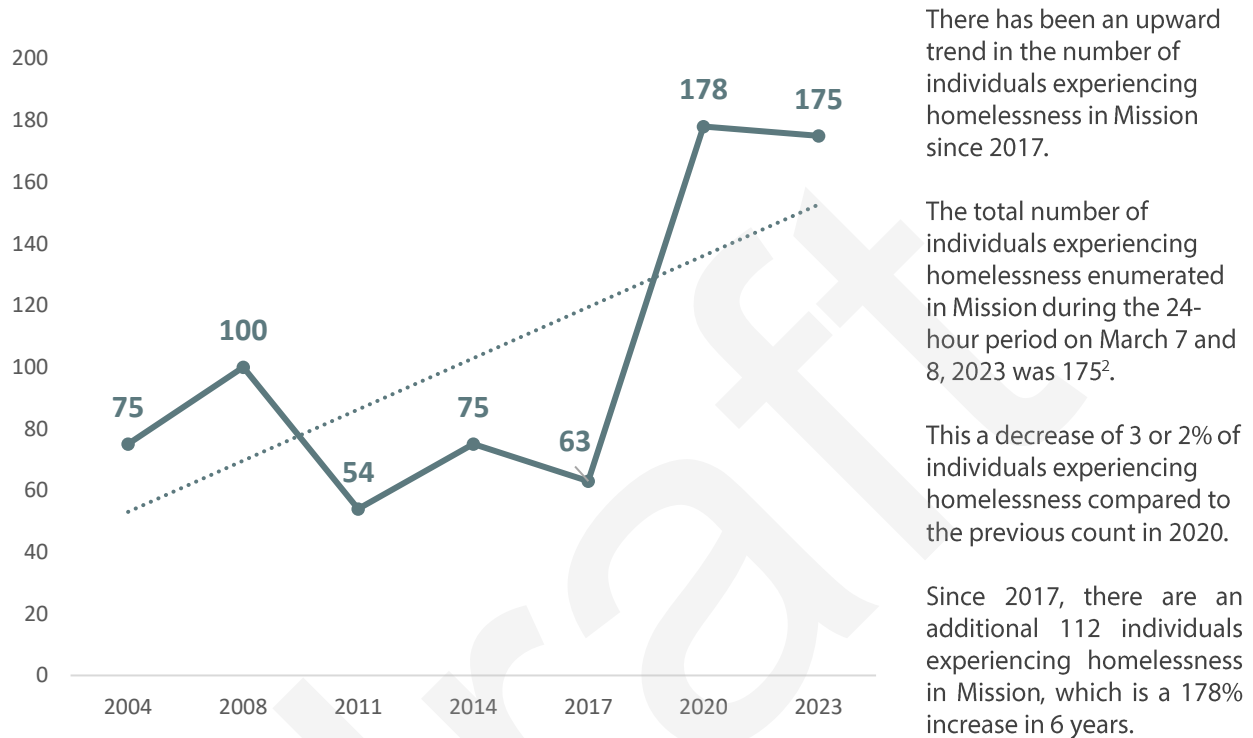


TABLE 1: CHANGE IN NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2004-2023)

Community	2004-2008		2008-2011		2011-2014		2014-2017		2017-2020		2020-2023		2004-2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Abbotsford	9	4%	-118	-50%	34	29%	123	81%	59	22%	73	22%	180	80%
Chilliwack	11	13%	13	13%	-38	-34%	148	203%	85	38%	107	35%	326	375%
Mission	25	33%	-46	-46%	21	39%	-12	-16%	115	183%	-3	-2%	100	133%
Eastern FV ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	-	22	28%	100	-
Total	58	14%	-120	-26%	1	0%	260	75%	289	48%	199	22%	687	169%

² For more information on the methodology used, see Section 1 of this report.

³ The first PiT Count and Survey in Eastern Fraser Valley communities was in 2020.

The distribution of populations experiencing homelessness in the FVRD is largely reflective of the distribution of population within the region. That being said, Mission makes up a greater portion of the region's PiT Count and Survey totals (16%), than portion of the region's total population (13%).

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL POPULATION COMPARED TO PIT COUNT TOTALS, FVRD⁴ (2020-2023)

	2020				2023			
	PiT Count		Population		PiT Count		Population	
	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD
Abbotsford	333	37%	152,267	51%	406	37%	172,488	52%
Chilliwack	306	34%	91,797	31%	413	38%	100,943	30%
Mission	178	20%	39,873	13%	175	16%	42,472	13%
Eastern FV	78	9%	15,635	5%	100	9%	15,635	5%
Total	895	100%	299,572	100%	1094	100%	331,538	100%

REASONS FOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked to identify the reason(s) for their most recent loss of housing. A total of 58 or 40% of respondents said their most recent loss of housing was due to reasons that fall into two or more of the categories in Table 3, which aligns with the understanding that homelessness is typically due to the accumulation of impacts caused by a combination of factors, not a single issue or event⁵.

The response categories with the most significant number of responses were housing and financial issues (34.0%), health issues (32.8%), and interpersonal and family issues (29.4%). An analysis of individual responses identified the most commonly reported reason for housing loss was a lack of income (12.1%), addiction or substance use (13.8%), mental health issues (10.0%), spousal conflict or abuse⁶ (8%), and landlord or tenant issues (7.6%).

TABLE 3. DETAILED LIST OF REASONS FOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS⁷, MISSION (2023)

Reasons for Experiencing Homelessness	2023	
	N of Responses	% of Responses
Housing and Financial Issues (Total)	99	34.1%
Not enough income	35	12.1%
Rental support stopped	1	0.3%
Unfit/Unsafe housing	19	6.6%
Building sold/renovated	6	2.1%
Owner moved in	1	0.3%
Landlord/tenant conflict	22	7.6%
Guest policy	1	0.3%

⁴ Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population, <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

⁵ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Homeless Hub (website), Causes Of Homelessness <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/causes-homelessness>

⁶ Analysis combines responses from "Conflict with spouse/partner" and "Experienced abuse by spouse/partner".

⁷ Respondents could check off or listed as many reasons as what apply to them having lost their housing. Therefore, numbers and percentages reflect all responses and not the total of respondents. In addition, respondents may also have provided multiple responses from a single category.

Complaint	2	0.7%
Place not physically accessible	4	1.4%
Left the community/relocated	8	2.6%
Interpersonal and family issues (Total)	85	29.3%
Conflict with spouse/partner	19	6.6%
Conflict with parent/guardian	17	5.9%
Conflict with other	15	5.2%
Experienced abuse by spouse/partner⁸	4	1.4%
Experienced abuse by parent/guardian/caregiver	8	2.8%
Experienced abuse by child/dependent	3	1.0%
Experienced abuse by other	4	1.4%
Death or Departure of family member	10	3.4%
Experienced discrimination	5	1.7%
Health issues (Total)	95	32.8%
Physical health issue	18	6.2%
Mental health issue	29	10.0%
Addiction/Substance use issue	40	13.8%
Hospitalization or treatment program	6	2.1%
Covid-19 Pandemic	2	0.7%
Incarceration (Correctional facility or jail) (Total)	2	0.7%
Incarceration (jail or prison)	2	0.7%
Other Reasons (Total)	9	3.1%
Other	8	2.8%
Don't know why	1	0.3%
Total Responses⁹ (Total)	290	100.0%

DURATION OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Of those surveyed in Mission, 85% are experiencing chronic homelessness as defined by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness,¹⁰ which is a significant increase compared to 63% in 2020 and 76% in 2017.

Chronic Homelessness refers to the experience of individuals, often with disabling conditions (e.g. chronic physical or mental illness, substance use), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year and is associated with increased difficulty in getting back into housing and is often associated with long or repeated episodes of homelessness¹¹.

⁸ The analysis of individual responses combines the number of response associated with "Conflict with spouse/partner" and "Experienced abuse by spouse/partner."

⁹ Numbers and percentages reflect responses and not respondents. In addition, respondents may also have provided multiple responses from a single category.

¹⁰ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Homeless Hub (website), Addressing Chronic Homelessness, <https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/prevention/addressing-chronic-homelessness>

¹¹ National Alliance to End Homelessness, End Homelessness (website), Chronically Homeless, <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/who-experiences-homelessness/chronically-homeless/>

In 2023, 105 or 81% of respondents had reported experiencing homelessness for more than one year, a significant increase from 50% of all respondents in 2020 and 2017. However, perhaps most alarming, is that 81 65.3% of respondents reported experiencing homelessness for more than 2 years.

TABLE 4. LENGTH OF TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, MISSION (2017- 2023)

Length of Time	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 1 month	16	12%	19	9%	4	3%
1-6 months	27	20%	42	20%	15	12%
7-11 months	25	18%	27	13%	5	4%
More than 1 year	69	50%	103	50%	100	81%
Total	137	100%	206	100%	124	100%

HEALTH CHALLENGES

Survey respondents were invited to share information about personal health challenges, including medical conditions, physical disabilities, mental health issues, addiction, acquired brain injuries, and learning disabilities.

In 2023, 108 or 74% of survey respondents reported at least one health challenge and 36 or 25% reporting three or more health challenges. Trends in historical data shows an increase in all categories of self-reported health challenges, with the largest rate of increase related to medical conditions. In 2023, 44.3% of respondents identified as having a mental health issue, 36.4% a medical condition, 28.4% a physical disability, 22.7% a learning disability, and 19.9% an acquired brain injury.

95 or 54% of survey respondents in Mission responded “yes” to the question, “Do you identify as having an addiction at this time?” Of the 95 respondents who identified as currently experiencing addiction, 59 or 62% also reported mental health challenges, (referred to as a concurrent disorder), which further compounds the complexity of care, supports, and housing solutions required.

Of the 95 respondents who identified as currently experiencing addiction, 10 indicated they were receiving treatment and 14 indicated they were seeking treatment. Of those who reported experiencing addiction, using a combination of substances was most commonly reported (53%), followed by alcohol (14%), opiates (13%) crystal meth (11%), other (10%), and cocaine (3%).

TABLE 5. SELF-REPORTED HEALTH ISSUES, MISSION (2017-2023) ¹²

Health Issue	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Addiction	33	52.4%	110	61.8%	95	54.0%
Mental Health Issue	26	41.3%	53	29.8%	78	44.3%
Physical Disability	11	17.5%	33	18.5%	50	28.4%
Medical Condition	32	50.8%	49	27.5%	64	36.4%
Acquired Brain Injury	-	-	21	11.8%	35	19.9%
Learning Disability	-	-	-	-	40	22.7%

¹² Acquired brain Injury was not asked in 2017 and learning disability was not asked in 2017 and 2020.

“SHELTERED” AND “UNSHelterED” HOMELESSNESS

A total of 98, or 56% of all individuals included in the Point-in-Time Count stayed at an emergency shelter in Mission, compared to 64 or 36% of individuals experiencing homelessness in 2020.

TABLE 6. RATIO OF “SHELTERED” AND “UNSHelterED” INDIVIDUALS, MISSION (2020-2023)

Sheltered and Unsheltered	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
Sheltered	64	36%	98	56%
Unsheltered	114	64%	77	44%
Total	178	100	175	100.0%

The remaining 77 or 44% of individuals experiencing homelessness reported unsheltered accommodations, compared to 114 or 64% in 2020. A total of 40 or 22.9% had stayed outside, 9.7% had couch surfed, 3.4% were in the hospital, and 8.0% had stayed in a vehicle.

TABLE 7. ACCOMMODATION ON THE NIGHT OF THE SURVEY, MISSION (2020-2023)

Place Stayed	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
Shelter	64	36.0%	98	56.0%
Jail	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hospital	1	0.6%	6	3.4%
Outside	88	49.4%	40	22.9%
Car, van, or camper	14	7.9%	14	8.0%
Someone else's place	11	6.2%	17	9.7%
Total	178	100.0%	175	100.0%

SHELTER BEDS

The total number of shelter beds available in Mission have increased but not kept up to the increase in individuals experiencing homelessness. In Mission, the increase in individuals experiencing homelessness who were “sheltered” on the night of the count was mostly due to the increased utilization of shelter beds, rather than an increase in shelter beds available.

TABLE 8. DISTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL SHELTER INVENTORY, FVRD (2017-2023)

Community	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Abbotsford	230	58%	166	34%	213	35%
Mission	45	11%	87	18%	98	16%
Chilliwack	109	28%	203	41%	243	40%
Agassiz-Harrison*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Hope-Boston Bar*	12	3%	36	7%	48	8%
Total	396	100%	492	100%	602	100%

*Sub-Communities of Eastern Fraser Valley

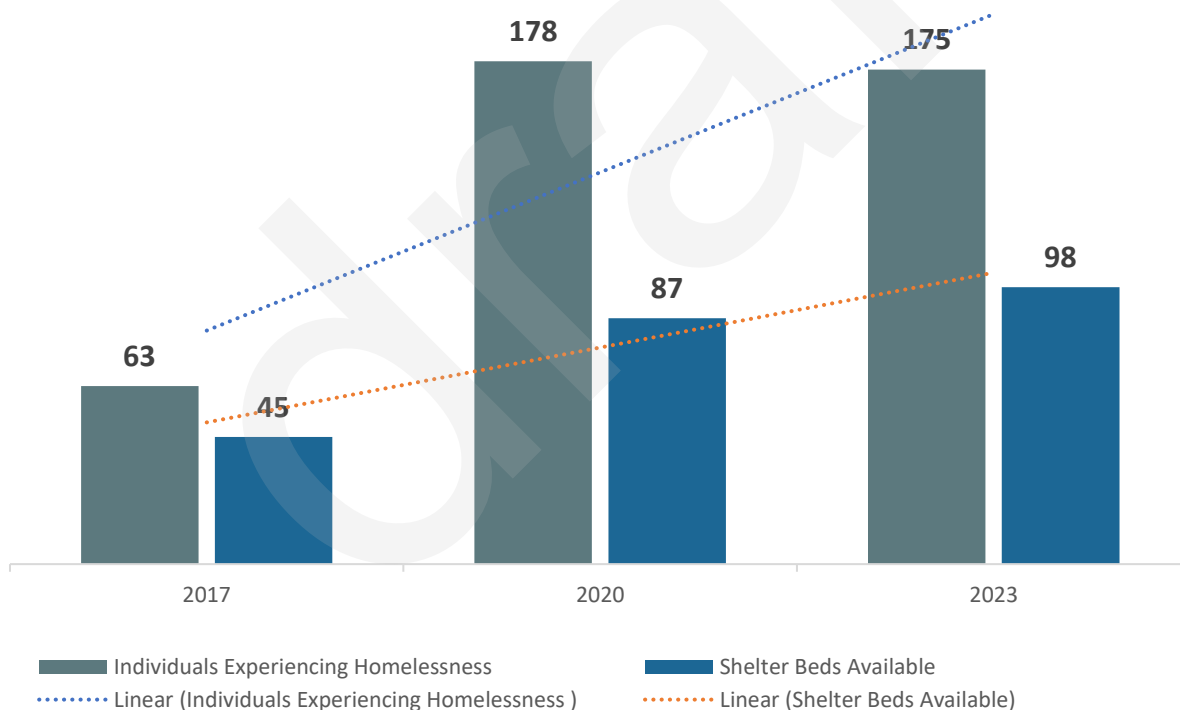
Mission’s shelter inventory on the night of the count included 98 shelter spaces, which is an additional 11 beds compared to an inventory of 87 shelter beds in 2020. On the night of the count, Mission’s shelter inventory made up 16% of all shelter spaces available in the region, compared to 18% in 2020, and 11% in 2017.

With every shelter bed utilized, Mission’s current shelter inventory could only provide shelter for 56% of those identified as experiencing homelessness in 2023; compared to 49% in 2020¹³.

All 98 shelter beds within Mission’s shelter inventory were occupied on the night of the count, providing a utilization rate of 100%, compared to the utilization of only 65% of available shelter beds in 2020¹⁴. A 100% shelter utilization rate is a strong indicator that there is unmet demand for emergency shelter beds in Mission.

Since PiT count figures can only provide an undercount of actual populations experiencing homelessness, the gap between Mission’s capacity to provide shelter and the need for shelter is likely even greater.

FIGURE 2. SHELTER BEDS COMPARED TO THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, MISSION (2017-2023)



¹³ The potential capacity to provide shelter is calculated by dividing the number of shelter spaces available on the night of the count by to the number of people identified as experiencing homelessness (total PiT Count figures).

¹⁴ The utilization of shelter inventory is calculated by dividing the number of sheltered individuals on the night of the count by the total number of shelter beds available obtained from shelter and municipal staff.

GENDER IDENTITY

Individuals who identify as male consistently account for roughly two-thirds of all individuals who experience homelessness in the region as per Point-in-Time counts. However, PiT Count methodology does not capture all persons experiencing homelessness, especially those in hidden forms of homelessness noted in section one of this report.

Women make up a more significant proportion of those experiencing hidden homelessness, and are therefore undercounted in Point-in-Time counts and surveys¹⁵. Individuals who identify as male account for 66.4% of Mission’s PiT count figures and survey findings and those who identified as female made up 33.6%, which is a bigger proportion of females compared to 2020 and 2017. In Mission, no survey respondents identified as transgender, two-spirit, non-binary, or other gender not listed.

TABLE 9. GENDER OF SURVEYED INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, MISSION (2017-2023)

Gender	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	41	70.7%	112	73.6%	97	66.4%
Female	17	29.3%	39	25.7%	49	33.6%
Transgender	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Two-Spirit	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Non-binary	0	0%	1	0.7%	0	0%
Total	58	100%	152	100%	146	100.0%

TABLE 10. TRANS EXPERIENCE, MISSION (2023)

Trans Experience	2023	
	N	%
Can Identify with trans experience	6	4.1%
Cannot identify with trans experience	129	88.4%
No Response	11	7.5%
Total	146	100.0%

Survey respondents were asked, “Do you identify as someone with a trans-experience? (your gender is difference than what was assigned at birth)” A total of 6 or 4.1% of respondents yes to this question. In comparison, the 2021 Census of Population identified only 0.19% of Canada’s population aged 15 and older identify as transgender¹⁶.

These figures suggest an over-representation of individuals that identify as transgender within populations experiencing homelessness, which reflects research findings, which note more significant rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ populations.¹⁷

¹⁵ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “The Pan-Canadian Women’s Housing & Homelessness Survey.” Homeless Hub. 2021. <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/EN-Pan-Canadian-Womens-Housing-Homelessness-Survey-FINAL-28-Sept-2021.pdf>

¹⁶ Statistics Canada “Canada is the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people” April 27, 2022. Census of Population 2021. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/220427/dq220427b-eng.pdf?st=JB7Vb5sN>

¹⁷ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming and Safe PiT Counts” Homeless Hub. 2019. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf

AGE

A total of 91 or 62.8% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Mission are between the ages of 30 to 59. In 2023, the portion of those experiencing homelessness in Mission who are age 60 and older has increased from 2017, but was largely similar to 2020, while the proportion of youth relatively small.

TABLE 11. AGE OF SURVEYED RESPONDENTS, MISSION (2017-2023)

Age	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 15	1	1.7%	0	0%	0	0%
15-19	2	3.4%	1	0.7%	4	2.8%
20-29	9	15.5%	21	14.5%	23	15.9%
30-39	8	13.8%	25	17.2%	29	20.0%
40-49	17	29.3%	37	25.5%	31	21.4%
50-59	14	24.1%	33	22.8%	31	21.4%
60 or older	7	12.1%	28	19.3%	27	18.6%
Total	58	100%	145	100%	145	100.0%

Compared to the general population of Mission, those 19 and under and over 60 are underrepresented among individuals experiencing homelessness (as identified in the PiT Count), while adults, especially those 40-49 were overrepresented. It should be noted that youth homelessness is often more hidden, which is known to result in an under-representation of young people within PiT Counts¹⁸.

TABLE 12. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS COMPARED TO POPULATION, MISSION (2023)

Age	Population (2021 Census) ¹⁹		2023 PiT Count		% Difference
	N	%	N	%	%
Less than 15	7,810	18.8%	0	0.0%	-18.81%
15-19	2,480	6.0%	4	2.8%	-3.17%
20-29	4,375	10.5%	23	15.9%	5.36%
30-39	6,040	14.5%	29	20.0%	5.45%
40-49	5,545	13.4%	31	21.4%	8.04%
50-59	5,860	14.1%	31	21.4%	7.28%
60 or older	9,410	22.7%	27	18.6%	-4.07%
Total	41,515	100.0%	145	100.0%	0.00%

¹⁸ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. "Point-in-Time Count Toolkit." 2018. Homeless Hub. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/download-chapter/PiT%20Count%20Toolkit%202020%20Final.pdf

¹⁹ Statistics Canada. 2023. Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

In 2023, those who identify as heterosexual accounted for 94% of all respondents in Mission, which is consistent with previous survey results, while 6.0% of respondents described their sexual orientation as bisexual, pansexual,, gay, and other.

Individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ account for 4% of Canada’s total population aged 15 and older²⁰, which suggests an over-representation of individuals who do not identify as heterosexual or straight within populations experiencing homelessness in Mission and throughout the region. This is consistent with research findings, which note higher rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ populations²¹.

TABLE 13. SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, MISION (2017-2023)

Sexual Orientation	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Heterosexual/Straight	46	95.80%	131	96.40%	126	94.0%
Bisexual	0	0.0%	2	1.5%	4	3.0%
Two-Spirited	1	2.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Gay	1	2.1%	1	0.7%	2	1.5%
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%
Questioning	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Don't know	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%
Pansexual	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%
Lesbian	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%
Total	48	100.0%	136	100.0%	134	100.0%

INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

Based on 2021 Census data, there is an overrepresentation of Indigenous populations within populations experiencing homelessness in Mission. In 2023, 43.7% of respondents identified as Indigenous compared to 8.3% of Mission’s general population²².

TABLE 14. INDIGENOUS IDENTITY COMPARED TO POPULATION, FVRD (2023)

Community	2021 Census		2023 PiT Count		Difference
	N	%	N	%	
Abbotsford	6,850	4.5%	88	31.8%	27.3%
Chilliwack	7,250	7.9%	134	41.5%	33.6%
Mission	3,380	8.3%	59	43.7%	35.4%
Eastern Fraser Valley	1,425	10.0%	22	32.8%	22.8%
FVRD	24,010	7.6%	303	37.8%	30.2%

²⁰ Statistics Canada. “A statistical portrait of Canada's diverse LGBTQ2+ communities” June 15, 2021. 2018 Canadian Community Health Survey. www.150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/210615/dq210615a-eng.pdf?st=72rw-AmE

²¹ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming and Safe PiT Counts” Homeless Hub. 2019. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf

²² Statistics Canada. Indigenous Population Profile, 2021 Census of Population. www.12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/ipp-ppa/index.cfm?Lang=E

A total of 59 or 35.8% of respondents in Mission identified as Indigenous (including First Nations, Metis, Inuit, or other Indigenous ancestry), compared to 37 or 26.0% in 2020. Of the 59 individuals who identify as Indigenous, 45 identified as First Nation or Indigenous, 13 as Metis, and 1 as Inuit.

TABLE 15. INDIGENOUS IDENTITY BY RESPONSES, MISSION (2020-2023)

Indigenous Identity	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
First Nations	30	21.1%	44	26.7%
Indigenous/Aboriginal Ancestry	0	0.0%	1	0.6%
Metis	7	4.9%	13	7.9%
Inuit	0	0.0%	1	0.6%
Not listed	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Does Not Identify as Indigenous	106	74.1%	106	64.2%
Total	143	100.0%	165	100.0%

LENGTH OF TIME IN MISSION

Survey results show individuals experiencing homelessness in Mission are most likely to be long-term residents. A total of 116 or 89.9% have lived in Mission for more than one year, while 67 or 52% had lived in Mission for more than 10 years.

TABLE 16. LENGTH OF TIME LIVING IN MISSION (2023)

Length in Mission	2023	
	N	%
Less than 6 months	8	6.2%
6-11 months	5	3.9%
12-23 months	7	5.4%
2-5 years	28	21.7%
6-10 years	14	10.8%
11+ years	49	38.0%
Always lived in the community	18	14.0%
Total	129	100.0%

COMMUNITY LIVED IN PREVIOUSLY

TABLE 17. COMMUNITY LIVED IN PRIOR, MISSION²³ (2017-2023)

Previous Community	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Within the FVRD	22	46.8%	17	26.2%	30	28.8%
Within Metro Vancouver	12	25.5%	26	40.0%	41	39.4%
Another Part of BC	11	23.4%	11	16.9%	20	19.2%
Another Part of Canada	2	4.3%	9	13.8%	11	10.6%
Another Country	0	0.0%	2	3.1%	2	2.0%
Total	47	100.0%	65	100.0%	104	100.0%

²³This table excludes respondents who indicated always living in Mission.

Survey respondents were asked what community they lived in prior to living in Mission. 29% of respondents had lived in the FVRD, 39% within Metro Vancouver, 19% elsewhere in B.C., 11% elsewhere in Canada, and 2% outside of Canada.

SOURCE OF INCOME

Similar to 2017 and 2020 PiT Count and Survey results, income assistance (both standard income assistance and disability allowance) was the most commonly reported source of income. In 2023, the proportion is 74.9% compared to 45.0% in 2020 and 41.8% in 2017. A small percentage (4.6%) reported formal employment and 5.6% of respondents reported income from informal (binning) employment.

TABLE 18. SOURCE OF INCOME, MISSION (2017-2023)²⁴

Source of Income	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Income Assistance	28	27.2%	60	27.3%	66	38.4%
IA (Disability Allowance)	15	14.6%	39	17.7%	63	36.5%
Binning/Bottles ²⁵	15	14.6%	45	20.5%	2	1.2%
No Income	6	5.8%	9	4.1%	12	6.9%
Other ²⁶	5	4.9%	6	2.7%	3	1.7%
Panhandling	6	5.8%	20	9.1%	0	0.0%
Family/Friends	7	6.8%	7	3.2%	3	1.7%
Part-time Job	5	4.9%	10	4.5%	8	4.6%
Vending (sex-work)	2	1.9%	5	2.3%	0	0.0%
Disability (CPP)	7	6.8%	3	1.4%	1	0.6%
CPP	2	1.9%	8	3.6%	5	2.9%
Honoraria/Stipend	2	1.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Youth Agreement	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.6%
Other Pension	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.6%
Old Age Security	1	1.0%	6	2.7%	6	3.4%
Full-time Job	1	1.0%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
Employment insurance	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	1	0.6%
Total Responses	103	100.0%	220	100.0%	172	100.0%

²⁴ Respondents could select more than one sources of income that apply to them, therefore, the number in the "N" column accounts for multiple responses, and provides the number of unique individuals.

²⁵ In 2023 option was informal employment and captured as "binning"

²⁶ Includes GST/HST refund and Child/Family Tax benefit

SERVICE USAGE

Respondents in Mission indicated accessing various services as outlined below. Service usage reported in 2023 is largely similar to 2020. In Mission, respondents were most likely to report using emergency shelter, meal program/soup kitchen, emergency room, harm reduction, and the food bank.

TABLE 19. SERVICES USED, MISSION (2023)²⁷

Service Used	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
Ambulance	35	4.7%	28	4.2%
Cultural Services ²⁸	0	0.0%	28	4.2%
Dental Services	5	0.7%	10	1.5%
Emergency Room	55	7.4%	63	9.5%
Emergency Shelter²⁹	174	23.6%	103	15.5%
Employment Services	18	2.4%	5	0.8%
Financial Services ³⁰	-	-	11	1.7%
Food Bank	73	9.9%	49	7.4%
Harm Reduction	65	8.8%	56	8.4%
Health Clinic	51	6.9%	36	5.4%
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	30	4.1%	17	2.6%
Housing Help/ Eviction Prevention	6	0.8%	11	1.7%
Meal Program/Soup Kitchen	56	7.5%	85	12.8%
Mental Health Services	28	3.8%	41	6.2%
Newcomer Services	2	0.3%	0	0.0%
None	4	0.5%	10	1.5%
Other	12	1.6%	8	1.2%
Other Addiction Services	30	4.1%	6	0.9%
Outreach	62	8.4%	38	5.7%
Overdose Prevention Site ³¹	-	-	36	5.4%
Probation/Parole	26	3.5%	14	2.1%
Transitional Housing	6	0.8%	8	1.2%
Total Responses	738	100.0%	663	100.0%

²⁷ Respondents could check off all that applied, hence the “N” column represents all respondents and not individual respondents.

²⁸ Cultural Services was not included in 2020 list of services.

²⁹ Includes both emergency shelter and extreme weather shelter

³⁰ Financial Services was not included in 2020 list of services

³¹ Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) was not included in 2020 list of services

BARRIERS TO SERVICES

In total 52 respondents indicated that they experience barriers to access available services, while 66 respondents answered no to the question: “Are there any barriers preventing you from accessing services”?

Of the types of barriers to accessing services reported, health and mental health issues was most commonly reported (21.2%), followed by transportation issue (15.4%), substance use issues (5.8%), not having the required identification (3.8%), and not having knowledge or information about services (3.8%).

TABLE 20: BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES, MISSION (2023)

Barriers to Accessing Services	2023	
	N	%
Transportation issues	8	15.4%
Mobility issues (difficulty walking or access using a wheelchair)	0	0.0%
Not having required identification	2	3.8%
Not having knowledge or information about services	2	3.8%
Substance use issues	3	5.8%
Health and Mental health issues	11	21.2%
Other	26	50.0%
Total	52	100.0%

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Individuals experiencing homelessness were asked to identify what additional services might be meaningful or helpful to them. Although responses related to a range of services, the largest proportion of responses were linked to affordable housing, including supportive housing, rent support, etc.

Many responses reflected the types of services already offered in Mission, which may reflect barriers to accessing these services, or the need to increase, improve, or expand existing services, as well as the high value placed on these service types.

Common responses to the question, “What additional services might be meaningful or helpful to you?” from respondents in Mission include, but are not limited to the following types of services or service improvements:

- Affordable housing
- Income/financial support
- Training/schooling
- Group sessions for mental health and addiction
- Easier access to treatment

GOVERNMENT CARE

A total of 47 individuals or 26.9% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Mission had previously been in government care, compared to 29.2% in 2020 and 36.5% in 2017³². These figures suggest an overrepresentation of adults previously in government care within populations experiencing homelessness. Of respondents who reported previously being in government care, 63.8% had lived in foster care, 32.0% in youth group homes, and the remaining 4.3% had youth or independent living agreements.

TABLE 21. TYPES OF GOVERNMENT CARE, MISSION (2017-2023)

Government Care	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Government Care	23	36.5%	52	29.2%	47	26.9%
Total	63	100.0%	178	100.0%	175	100.0%

TABLE 22. TYPES OF GOVERNMENT CARE, MISSION (2023)

Type of Government Care	2023	
	N	%
Foster Care	30	17.1%
Youth Group Care	15	8.6%
Youth Agreement	1	0.6%
Independent Living Agreement	1	0.6%
Total	47	26.9%

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

A total of 44 or 25.1% of all individuals experiencing homelessness in Mission, responded “yes” to the question “Were you, your parents, or grandparents ever in a residential school?” This was the first time this question had been asked in the PIT Count and Survey; however, personal experience in residential school was previously captured within the survey question on government care.

Of the 44 respondents who identified as having a personal connection to residential school, 5 had personally attended residential school, 19 had a parent attend residential school, and 20 had a grandparent attend residential school.

TABLE 23. RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE, MISSION (2023)

Residential School Experience	2023	
	N	%
Personally attended	5	11.4%
Parent attended	19	43.2%
Grandparent attended	20	45.5%
Total	44	100.0%

³² In 2017 and 2020, the examples of government care included “residential school”.

RACE

Most respondents in Mission identified as White/Caucasian/European (70.8%) or Indigenous (20.8%) with the remaining 8.4% of respondents identifying with a range of other racial categories. This was the first time this question had been asked in the PIT Count and Survey.

TABLE 24. RACIAL GROUP IDENTIFICATION, MISSION (2023)

Racial Identity	2023	
	N	%
White	75	70.8%
Indigenous	22	20.8%
Multi-racial	0	0.0%
Black	0	0.0%
Metis	3	2.8%
South Asian	0	0.0%
Metis/white	2	1.9%
Middle Eastern	1	0.9%
Hispanic	0	0.0%
East Indian	0	0.0%
Eurasian	2	1.9%
Jewish	0	0.0%
Mexican	0	0.0%
Latino/white	1	0.9%
Asian	0	0.0%
West Indian	0	0.0%
Total	106	100.0%

BARRIERS TO HOUSING

The number one barrier reported in Mission In response to the question, “What barriers, if any, have you experienced when trying to find housing?” was insufficient income in relation to the cost of housing.

A total of 108 or 74% of respondents indicated experiencing at least one barrier in attempting to find housing. The most common barrier stated was insufficient income in relation to cost of living (49.1%), followed by a lack of affordable housing (33.2%), and stigma and prejudice (9.3%); however, a range of barriers were shared by respondents.

TABLE 25: BARRIERS TO HOUSING, MISSION (2023)³³

Barriers to Housing	2023	
	N	%
Lack of affordable housing	36	33.2%
Insufficient income in relation to cost of living	53	49.1%
Stigma or prejudice	10	9.3%
Lack of references	3	2.8%
Criminal record	1	0.9%
Poor credit score	2	1.9%
Other	3	2.8%
Total	108	100.0%

³³ The total represents total number of responses.

FAMILY MEMBERS AND PETS

A total of 26 or 14.9 % of respondents in Mission said they had company with them at the time of the survey; of which, 15 were accompanied by a spouse or partner, 3 had a child/children with them and 8 had a pet.

AREAS FREQUENTED

Respondents were asked to identify where they spent most of their time. For privacy reasons, detailed responses will not be identified in this report.

The largest proportion of Individuals experiencing homelessness in Mission spent most of their time in the downtown areas of Mission. As far as location types, indoor and outdoor public spaces, such as parks, natural areas and retail malls, as well as shelters and outreach centres were common types of places that people reported frequenting.

REASONS FOR RELOCATING TO MISSION

Respondents were asked to identify the reason they moved to the community where they were interviewed. The following are the most common reasons provided for relocating to Mission:

- To be with or closer to family
- Moved with partner
- Rehab/Treatment
- Employment
- Available shelter space

“DIRECTED/INSTRUCTED” TO RELOCATE TO MISSION

Respondents were asked: “Did a worker, counselor, officer, official, etc. of an organization send or direct you to come to Mission?” In total, 15 or 10% of those surveyed stated that they were “directed/instructed” to relocate to Mission, 82 or 56% responded “no” to this question, and the remaining 49 or 34% did not respond to the question.

APPENDIX E:

SUB-COMMUNITY RESULTS: EASTERN FRASER VALLEY

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The 2023 FVRD Homelessness Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Survey took place on March 7-8, 2023 within Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Chilliwack River Valley, Mission, Kent, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope, and Boston Bar. The first PiT Count and Survey for the region was in 2004, with subsequent undertakings in 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2020 (prior to the Covid-19 pandemic).

Although Point-in-Time counts and surveys are not able to, or intended to, enumerate every person experiencing homelessness, the consistent application of Point-in-Time Count and Survey methodology helps to uncover trends related to the extent of homelessness within a given area¹. Similar undertakings routinely occur in Metro Vancouver and across the Province.

The resulting data and survey findings help inform and improve supports for individuals experiencing homelessness, identify unmet housing needs, determine potential gaps in related health services, and support funding applications for local housing and homelessness initiatives.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Municipal and regional staff worked in collaboration with local service agencies and other partners to plan, prepare for, and administer the 24-hour point-in-time count and survey of individuals experiencing homelessness across the region.

As with past Point-in-Time homelessness counts and surveys, the 2023 project would not have been possible without the generous in-kind contributions of staffing resources, expertise, and other supports provided by a number of local service agencies and other partners throughout the region.

The following service providers, government agencies, and organizations contributed immensely to the undertaking of a 2023 Point-in-Time homelessness count and survey within Eastern Fraser Valley Communities.

- District of Kent
- Village of Harrison Hot Springs
- Agassiz-Harrison Community Services
- Boston Bar North Bend Enhancement Society
- Central Community Church (Agassiz)
- Fraser Health
- Hope and Area Transition Society
- Olive Branch Meal Program, Agassiz
- RCMP (Agassiz)

¹ For more information about project methodology, limitations, and ethical considerations associated with PiT Counts and Surveys, refer to the Introduction of the regional report.

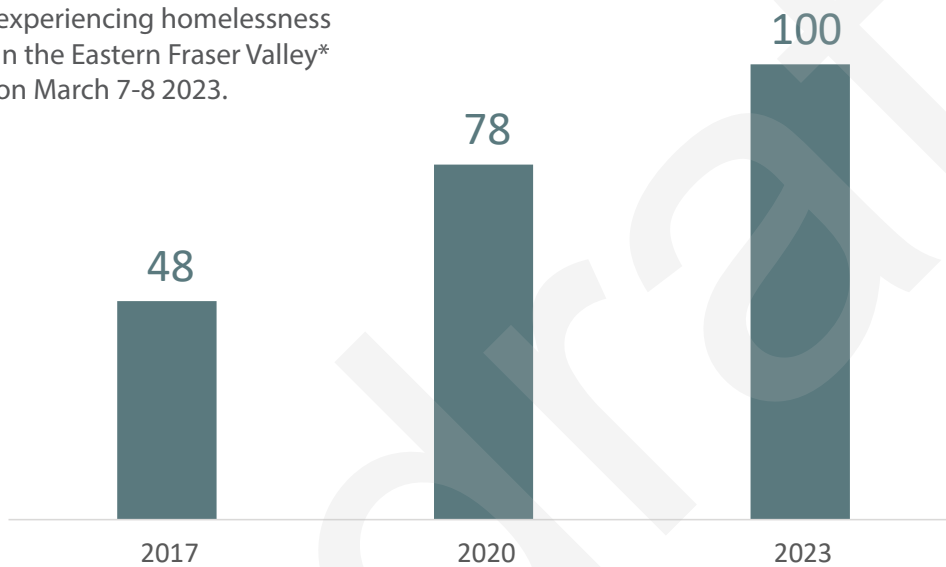
FVRD 2023 Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count & Survey

Since 2004, communities in the FVRD have worked together to conduct a tri-annual Point-in-Time (PiT) Count and Survey of individuals experiencing homelessness within the region. The results provide critical information about the scope and nature of homelessness which is used to improve supports and services, as well as monitor homelessness prevention strategies.

ENUMERATION

100

individuals identified as experiencing homelessness in the Eastern Fraser Valley* on March 7-8 2023.



- 22 additional people or an increase of 28% since 2020.
- 52 additional people or an increase of 108% since 2017.



OVERNIGHT LOCATIONS

1/2 of all individuals included in the Point-in-Time Count stayed at an emergency shelter.



50%
Shelter



18%
Couch-surfed



18%
Vehicle



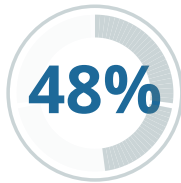
14%
Outside

WHO IS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?

The Eastern Fraser Valley saw an increase in older populations and children and youth experiencing homelessness.



13% are aged 19 or younger, compared to less than 2% in 2020.



48% of the those experiencing homelessness are between the ages of 40-59.



18% are aged sixty or older, compared to 7% in 2017.

33%

identified as **Indigenous** compared to 10% of the general population.

23%

had been in **government care** as a child or youth.



62%
Male



38%
Female

Women are underrepresented in PiT Count data as they are more likely to experience hidden forms of homelessness.



49%

had lived in the Eastern Fraser Valley for 10 or more years.

HEALTH CHALLENGES

51% reported experiencing at least one health challenge.



34%
Addiction

40%
Medical Condition

30%
Mental Health Issue

31%
Physical Disability

25%
Acquired Brain Injury

17%
Learning Disability

Of the 34 people who reported addiction or substance use issues:

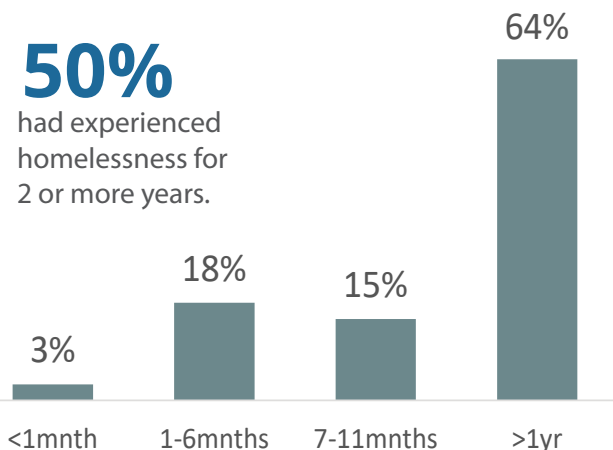
- 15% reported receiving treatment and 35% reported seeking treatment.
- 41% also identified as having a mental health issue.



DURATION AND CAUSE

50%

had experienced homelessness for 2 or more years.



40%

Housing and financial issues largely related to cost and income.



33%

Health Issues including physical, mental, and addiction or substance use.

22%

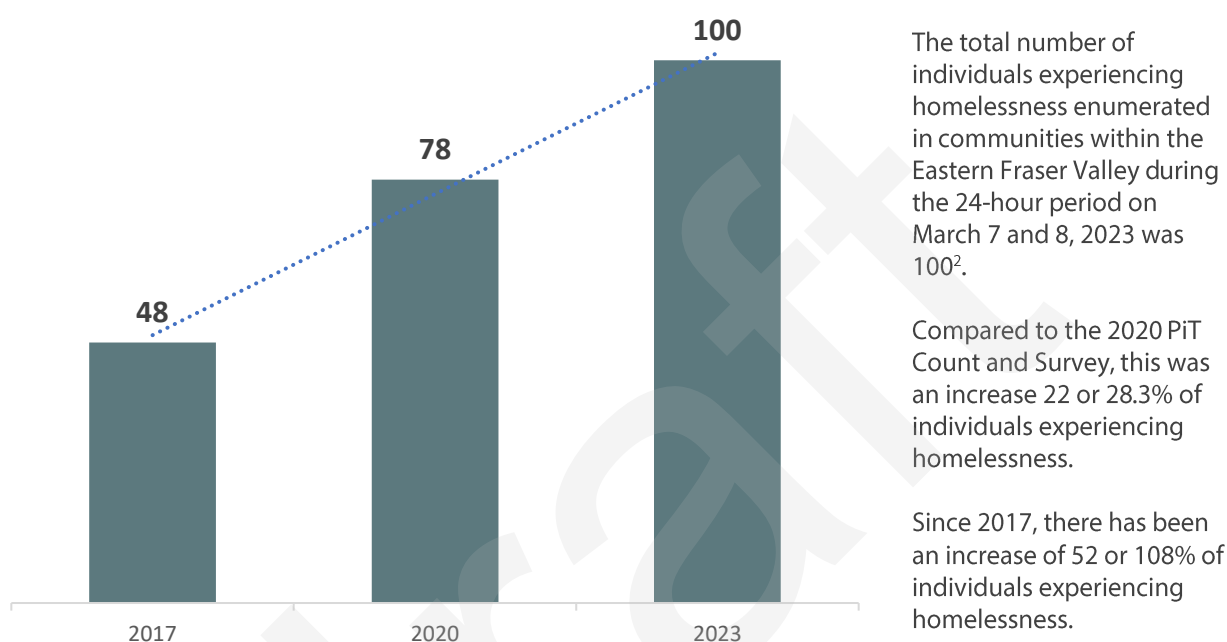
Interpersonal and family issues, largely with spouse or partner.

48% of respondents listed two or more reasons for their most recent housing loss.

POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) COUNT AND SURVEY RESULTS

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

FIGURE 1. TOTAL INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2017-2023)



The first PiT Count and Survey within the communities of Hope, Agassiz-Kent, Harrison, and Boston Bar took place in 2017. Therefore, unlike Abbotsford, Mission and Chilliwack, the analysis of Pit Count and Survey data for the Eastern Fraser Valley is limited to more recent trends.

TABLE 1: CHANGE IN NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FVRD (2004-2023)

Community	2004-2008		2008-2011		2011-2014		2014-2017		2017-2020		2020-2023		2004-2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Abbotsford	9	4%	-118	-50%	34	29%	123	81%	59	22%	73	22%	180	80%
Chilliwack	11	13%	13	13%	-38	-34%	148	203%	85	38%	107	35%	326	375%
Mission	25	33%	-46	-46%	21	39%	-12	-16%	115	183%	-3	-2%	100	133%
Eastern FV ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	-	22	28%	100	-
Total	58	14%	-120	-26%	1	0%	260	75%	289	48%	199	22%	687	169%

² For more information on the methodology used, see Section 1 of this report.

³ The first PiT Count and Survey in Eastern Fraser Valley communities was in 2017.

The distribution of populations experiencing homelessness in the FVRD is largely reflective of the distribution of population within the region. That being said, Eastern Fraser Valley communities make up a greater portion of the region's PiT Count and Survey totals (9%), than portion of the region's total population (5%).

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL POPULATION COMPARED TO PIT COUNT TOTALS, FVRD⁴ (2020-2023)

	2020				2023			
	PiT Count		Population		PiT Count		Population	
	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD	Total	% of FVRD
Abbotsford	333	37%	152,267	51%	406	37%	172,488	52%
Chilliwack	306	34%	91,797	31%	413	38%	100,943	30%
Mission	178	20%	39,873	13%	175	16%	42,472	13%
Eastern FV	78	9%	15,635	5%	100	9%	15,635	5%
Total	895	100%	299,572	100%	1094	100%	331,538	100%

REASONS FOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked to identify the reason(s) for their most recent loss of housing. A total of 31 or 48% of respondents said their most recent loss of housing was due to reasons that fall into two or more of the categories in Table 3, which aligns with the understanding that homelessness is typically due to the accumulation of impacts caused by a combination of factors, not a single issue or event⁵.

The response categories with the most significant number of responses were housing and financial issues (39.6%), health issues (33.1%), and interpersonal and family issues (21.7%).

An analysis of individual responses identified the most commonly reported reason for housing loss was a lack of income (11.1%) and addiction or substance use (11.1%), followed by mental health issues (10.3%) and physical health issues (10.3%), spousal conflict or abuse⁶ (9.1%), and unfit or unsafe housing (9.0%).

TABLE 3. DETAILED LIST OF REASONS FOR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS⁷, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2023)

Reasons for Experiencing Homelessness	N of Responses	% of Responses
Housing and Financial Issues (total)	57	39.6%
Not enough income	16	11.1%
Rental support stopped	0	0.0%
Unfit/Unsafe housing	13	9.0%
Building sold/renovated	6	4.2%

⁴ Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population, <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

⁵ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Homeless Hub (website), Causes Of Homelessness <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/causes-homelessness>

⁶ The analysis of individual responses combines the number of response associated with "Conflict with spouse/partner" and "Experienced abuse by spouse/partner."

⁷ Respondents could check off or listed as many reasons as what apply to them having lost their housing. Therefore, numbers and percentages reflect all responses and not the total of respondents. In addition, respondents may also have provided multiple responses from a single category.

Owner moved in	2	1.4%
Landlord/tenant conflict	11	7.6%
Guest policy	1	0.7%
Complaint	0	0.0%
Place not physically accessible	0	0.0%
Left the community/relocated	8	5.6%
Interpersonal and family issues (total)⁸	31	21.7%
Conflict with spouse/partner	8	5.6%
Conflict with parent/guardian	3	2.1%
Conflict with other	8	5.6%
Experienced abuse by spouse/partner	5	3.5%
Experienced abuse by parent/guardian/caregiver	0	0.0%
Experienced abuse by child/dependent	0	0.0%
Experienced abuse by other	1	0.7%
Death or Departure of family member	3	2.1%
Experienced discrimination	3	2.1%
Health issues (total)	48	33.1%
Physical health issue	15	10.3%
Mental health issue	15	10.3%
Addiction/Substance use issue	16	11.1%
Hospitalization or treatment program	0	0.0%
Covid-19 Pandemic	2	1.4%
Incarceration in correctional facility or jail (total)	1	0.7%
Incarceration (jail or prison)	1	0.7%
Other Reasons (total)	7	4.90%
Other	5	3.5%
Don't know why	2	1.4%
Total Responses⁹	144	100.0%

DURATION OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Of those surveyed in the Eastern Fraser Valley communities, 78.8% are experiencing chronic homelessness as defined by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness¹⁰, which is similar to 76.5% in 2020.

Chronic Homelessness refers to the experience of individuals, often with disabling conditions (e.g. chronic physical or mental illness, substance use), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year and is associated with increased difficulty in getting back into housing and is often associated with long or repeated episodes of homelessness¹¹.

⁸ The analysis of individual responses combines the number of response associated with "Conflict with spouse/partner" and "Experienced abuse by spouse/partner."

⁹ Numbers and percentages reflect responses and not respondents. In addition, respondents may also have provided multiple responses from a single category.

¹⁰ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Homeless Hub (website), Addressing Chronic Homelessness, <https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/prevention/addressing-chronic-homelessness>

¹¹ National Alliance to End Homelessness, End Homelessness (website), Chronically Homeless, <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/who-experiences-homelessness/chronically-homeless/>

In 2023, 63.6% of respondents had reported experiencing homelessness for more than one year, which is an increase from 55.9% of all respondents in 2020. However, perhaps most alarming, is that 33 respondents or 50.0% reported experiencing homelessness for more than 2 years¹².

TABLE 4. LENGTH OF TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2017- 2023)

Length of Time	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 1 month	3	8.8%	3	8.8%	2	3.0%
1-6 months	5	14.7%	5	14.7%	12	18.2%
7-11 months	7	20.6%	7	20.6%	10	15.2%
More than 1 year	19	55.9%	19	55.9%	42	63.6%
Total	34	100%	34	100%	66	100%

HEALTH CHALLENGES

Survey respondents were invited to share information about personal health challenges, including medical conditions, physical disabilities, mental health issues, addiction, acquired brain injuries, and learning disabilities.

In 2023, 51 or 51% of survey respondents reported at least 1 health challenge and 21 or 21% reporting three or more health challenges. All health challenge categories increased, with the largest rate of increase related to acquired brain injury, medical conditions, and physical disabilities. In 2023, 40% of respondents identified as having a medical condition, 31% a physical disability, 30% a mental health issue, 25% an acquired brain injury, and 17% a learning disability.

34 or 34% of survey respondents in the Eastern Fraser Valley responded “yes” to the question, “Do you identify as having an addiction at this time?” Of those who identified as having an addiction, 14 or 41.2% also reported experiencing mental health challenges. This is referred to as a concurrent disorder, which further compounds the complexity of care, supports, and housing solutions required.

Of the 34 respondents who identified as currently experiencing addiction, 5 or 14.7% indicated they were receiving treatment and 12 or 35.3% indicated they were seeking treatment. Of those who reported experiencing addiction, using a combination of substances was most commonly reported (19%), followed by crystal meth and alcohol (11% each), opiates (2%), and cocaine (1%).

TABLE 5. SELF-REPORTED HEALTH ISSUES, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2017-2023) ¹³

Health Issue	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Addiction	21	32.8%	22	25.3%	34	34.0%
Mental Health Issue	18	28.1%	23	26.4%	30	30.0%
Physical Disability	9	14.1%	15	17.2%	31	31.0%
Medical Condition	18	28.1%	22	25.3%	40	40.0%
Acquired Brain Injury	-	-	8	9.2%	25	25.0%
Learning Disability	-	-	-	-	17	17.0%

¹²Data on individuals experiencing homelessness for more than two years was not captured in previous PiT Counts, thus comparable data is not available.

¹³ Acquired brain Injury was not asked in 2017 and learning disability was not asked in 2017 and 2020.

“SHELTERED” AND “UNSHELTERED” HOMELESSNESS

A total of 50 or 50.0% of all individuals included in the Point-in-Time Count stayed at an emergency shelter in the Eastern Fraser Valley, compared to 27 or 34.6% of individuals experiencing homelessness in 2020.

TABLE 6. RATIO OF “SHELTERED” & “UNSHELTERED” INDIVIDUALS, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2020-2023)

Sheltered and Unsheltered	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sheltered	12	25.0%	27	34.6%	50	50.0%
Unsheltered	36	75%	51	65.4%	50	50.0%
Total	48	100%	78	100.0%	100	100.0%

Of the remaining 50 or 50% of individuals experiencing homelessness reported unsheltered accommodations, 18% has stayed in a vehicle, 18% had couch surfed, and 14% had stayed outside. Compared to 2020, there was an increase in the number of individuals who had stayed in a shelter or a vehicle on the night of the count, and a decrease in those who had couch surfed or stayed outside.

TABLE 7. ACCOMMODATION ON THE NIGHT OF THE SURVEY, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2020-2023)

Place Stayed	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
Shelter	27	34.6%	50	50%
Jail	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hospital	2	2.6%	0	0.0%
Outside	16	20.5%	14	14.0%
Car, van, or camper	12	15.4%	18	18.0%
Someone else's place	21	26.9%	18	18.0%
Total	78	100.0%	100	100%

SHELTER BEDS

TABLE 8. DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS, FVRD (2017-2023)

Community	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Abbotsford	230	58%	166	34%	213	35%
Mission	45	11%	87	18%	98	16%
Chilliwack	109	28%	203	41%	243	40%
Agassiz-Harrison*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Hope-Boston Bar*	12	3%	36	7%	48	8%
Total	396	100%	492	100%	602	100%

*Sub-Communities of Eastern Fraser Valley

In the Eastern Fraser Valley, the increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness who were “sheltered” is due to an increase in shelter inventory as well as the increased utilization of shelter beds on the night of the count.

With all available shelter beds occupied on the night of the count, the shelter utilization rate for the Eastern Fraser was 100%, compared to 75.0% utilization of all available shelter spaces in 2020¹⁴. A 100% shelter utilization rate is a strong indicator that there is unmet demand for emergency shelter beds in the Eastern Fraser Valley.

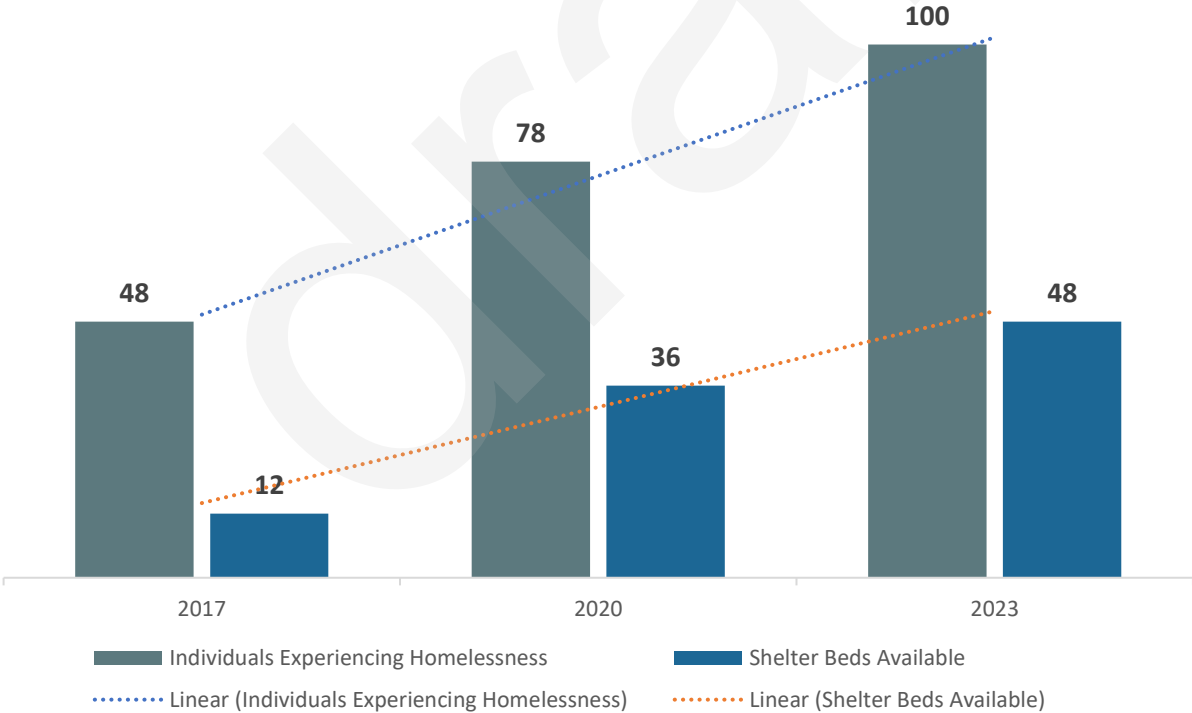
The total number of shelter beds available in the Eastern Fraser Valley has increased but not kept up increases in individuals experiencing homelessness as identified by PiT count and survey methodology.

On the night of the count, 48 shelter beds were available in the Eastern Fraser Valley, making up 8% of the region’s shelter inventory, reflecting an additional 12 beds compared to 2020. All emergency shelter spaces in the Eastern Fraser Valley are located in the District of Hope. There are no emergency shelters located in the District of Kent (Agassiz), the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, or Boston Bar (Electoral Area A).

With every shelter bed utilized, the Eastern Fraser Valley’s current shelter inventory could only accommodate up to 48% of those identified as experiencing homelessness.¹⁵

Since PiT Count figures can only provide an undercount of actual populations experiencing homelessness, which suggests there is likely an even larger gap between the Eastern Fraser Valley’s capacity to provide shelter and the need for shelter.

FIGURE 2. SHELTER BEDS COMPARED TO THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2017-2023)



¹⁴ The utilization of shelter inventory is calculated by dividing the number of sheltered individuals on the night of the count divided by the total number of shelter beds obtained from shelter and municipal staff.

¹⁵ The potential capacity to provide shelter is calculated by dividing the number of shelter spaces available on the night of the count by the number of people identified as experiencing homelessness.

GENDER IDENTITY

Individuals who identify as male consistently account for roughly two-thirds of all individuals who experience homelessness in the region as per Point-in-Time counts. However, PiT Count methodology does not capture all persons experiencing homelessness, especially those in hidden forms of homelessness noted in section one of this report.

Women make up a more significant proportion of those experiencing hidden homelessness, and are therefore undercounted in Point-in-Time counts and surveys¹⁶. Individuals who identify as male account for 61.5% of Eastern Fraser Valley PiT count figures and survey findings and those who identified as female made up 38.5%, which is a more significant portion than in 2020. In the Eastern Fraser Valley, no survey respondents identified as transgender, two-spirit, non-binary, or other gender not listed.

TABLE 9. GENDER OF SURVEYED INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2017-2023)

Gender	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	33	68.8%	51	68.0%	59	61.5%
Female	14	29.2%	23	30.7%	37	38.5%
Transgender	1	2.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Two-Spirit	0	0.0%	1	1.3%	0	0.0%
Non-binary	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	48	100.0%	75	100%	96	100.0%

Survey respondents were asked, “Do you identify as someone with a trans-experience? (your gender is difference than what was assigned at birth)” A total of 3 or 3.0% of respondents yes to this question. In comparison, based on the 2021 Census of Population 0.19% of Canada’s population aged 15 and older identify as transgender¹⁷.

These figures suggest an over-representation of individuals that identify as transgender within populations experiencing homelessness, which reflects research findings, which note more significant rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ populations.¹⁸

TABLE 10. TRANS EXPERIENCE, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2023)

Trans Experience	2023	
	N	%
Identify with trans experience	3	3.0%
Do not identify with trans experience	37	37.0%
No Response	60	60.0%
Total	100	100.0%

¹⁶ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “The Pan-Canadian Women’s Housing & Homelessness Survey.” Homeless Hub. 2021. <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/EN-Pan-Canadian-Womens-Housing-Homelessness-Survey-FINAL-28-Sept-2021.pdf>

¹⁷ Statistics Canada “Canada is the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people” April 27, 2022. Census of Population 2021. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/220427/dq220427b-eng.pdf?st=JB7Vb5sN>

¹⁸ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. “Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming and Safe PiT Counts” Homeless Hub. 2019. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf

AGE

The age bracket of 50-59 make up the largest proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness, which is a slight increase compared to 2020 and 2017. Compared to 2020, the age bracket with the largest increase was age 15-19, while age 30-39 saw the most significant decrease.

TABLE 11. AGE OF SURVEYED RESPONDENTS, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2017-2023)

Age	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 15	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	1.1%
15-19	5	11.1%	1	1.7%	11	12.2%
20-29	9	20.0%	3	5.2%	8	8.8%
30-39	8	17.8%	14	24.1%	11	12.2%
40-49	10	22.2%	15	25.9%	18	20.0%
50-59	10	22.2%	14	24.1%	25	27.8%
60 or older	3	6.7%	11	19.0%	16	17.8%
Total	45	100%	58	100%	90	100.0%

Compared to the general population of the Eastern Fraser Valley, those over 60 are underrepresented among individuals experiencing homelessness (as identified in the PiT Count), while adults, especially those 40-59 were overrepresented.

Youth, aged 15-19 were also overrepresented among populations experiencing homelessness within the Eastern Fraser Valley. It should be noted that youth homelessness is often more hidden, which is known to result in an under-representation of young people within PiT Counts.¹⁹

TABLE 12. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS COMPARED TO POPULATION, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY²⁰ (2023)

Age	Population (2021 Census) ²¹		2023 PiT Count		% Difference
	N	%	N	%	%
Less than 15	2,875	12.9%	1	1.1%	-11.8%
15-19	920	4.1%	11	12.2%	8.1%
20-29	1,860	8.3%	8	8.8%	0.5%
30-39	2,295	10.3%	11	12.2%	1.9%
40-49	2,320	10.4%	18	20.0%	9.6%
50-59	3,530	15.8%	25	27.8%	12.0%
60 or older	8,570	38.3%	16	17.8%	-20.5%
Total	22,370	100.0%	90	100.0%	0.0%

¹⁹ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. "Point-in-Time Count Toolkit." 2018. Homeless Hub. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/download-chapter/PiT%20Count%20Toolkit%202020%20Final.pdf

²⁰ Comparable general population data for the Eastern Fraser Valley uses combined 2021 Census data for the District of Kent, the District of Hope, the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, Electoral Area A, Electoral Area B, Electoral Areas C, Electoral Area D, Electoral Area E, and Electoral Area H.

²¹ Statistics Canada. 2023. Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

In 2023, those who identify as heterosexual accounted for 86.7% of all respondents in Eastern Fraser Valley, which is consistent with previous survey results, while 13.3% of respondents described their sexual orientation as bisexual, pansexual, two-spirited, gay, and other.

Individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ account for only 4% of Canada's total population aged 15 and older²², which indicates an over-representation of individuals who do not identify as heterosexual or straight within populations experiencing homelessness in the Eastern Fraser Valley and throughout the region. This is consistent with research findings, which note higher rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ populations²³

TABLE 13. SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2017-2023)

Sexual Orientation	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Heterosexual/Straight	47	98.8%	40	95.2%	52	86.7%
Bisexual	0	0.0%	1	2.4%	6	10.0%
Two-Spirited	1	2.2%	0	2.4%	0	0.0%
Gay	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	3.3%
Questioning	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Don't know	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Pansexual	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Lesbian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	48	100.0%	42	100.0%	60	100.0%

INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

Indigenous populations are generally overrepresented within populations experiencing homelessness, including the region as a whole. In 2023, 32.8% of respondents identified as Indigenous in the Eastern Fraser Valley, compared to 10.0% of the general population²⁴.

TABLE 14. INDIGENOUS IDENTITY COMPARED TO POPULATION, FVRD (2023)

Community	2021 Census		2023 PiT Count		Difference
	N	%	N	%	
Abbotsford	6,850	4.5%	88	31.8%	27.3%
Chilliwack	7,250	7.9%	134	41.5%	33.6%
Mission	3,380	8.3%	59	43.7%	35.4%
Eastern Fraser Valley	1,425	10.0%	22	32.8%	22.8%
FVRD	24,010	7.6%	303	37.8%	30.2%

²² Statistics Canada. "A statistical portrait of Canada's diverse LGBTQ2+ communities" June 15, 2021. 2018 Canadian Community Health Survey. www.150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/210615/dq210615a-eng.pdf?st=72rw-AmE

²³ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. "Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming and Safe PiT Counts" Homeless Hub. 2019. www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf

²⁴ Statistics Canada. Indigenous Population Profile, 2021 Census of Population. www.12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/ipp-ppa/index.cfm?Lang=E

A total of 22 or 22% of respondents in the Eastern Fraser Valley identified as Indigenous (including First Nations, Metis, Inuit, or other Indigenous ancestry), compared to 11 respondents or 14% in 2020. Of the 22 individuals who identify as First Nations 20 identified as First Nation or Indigenous and 2 as Metis.

TABLE 15. INDIGENOUS IDENTITY BY RESPONSES, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2023)

Indigenous Identity	2023	
	N	%
First Nations	17	24.7%
Indigenous/Aboriginal Ancestry	3	4.3%
Metis	2	2.9%
Inuit	0	0.0%
Not listed (other)	0	0.0%
Don't Know	2	2.9%
Does Not Identify as Indigenous	45	65.2%
Total	69	100%

LENGTH OF TIME IN EASTERN FRASER VALLEY

Survey results show that individuals experiencing homelessness in the Eastern Fraser Valley are most likely to be long-term residents. A total of 47 or 77.0% have lived in the Eastern Fraser Valley for more than one year, while 30 or 49.1% had lived in the Eastern Fraser Valley for more than 10 years.

TABLE 16. LENGTH OF TIME LIVING EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2023)

Length in Eastern Fraser Valley	2023	
	N	%
Less than 6 months	9	14.8%
6-11 months	5	8.2%
12-23 months	3	4.9%
2-5 years	10	16.4%
6-10 years	4	6.6%
11+ years	23	37.6%
Always lived in the community	7	11.5%
Total	61	100.0%

COMMUNITY LIVED IN PREVIOUSLY

TABLE 17. COMMUNITY LIVED IN PRIOR, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY²⁵ (2017-2023)

Previous Community	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Within the FVRD	11	32.4%	10	37.0%	19	38.8%
Within Metro Vancouver	11	32.4%	3	11.1%	17	34.7%
Another Part of B.C.	7	20.5%	8	29.6%	8	16.3%
Another Part of Canada	4	11.8%	6	22.2%	5	10.2%
Another Country	1	2.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	34	100.0%	27	100.0%	49	100.0%

²⁵This table excludes respondents who indicated always living in Eastern Fraser Valley.

Survey respondents were asked what community they lived in prior to living in their current community within the Eastern Fraser Valley. In 2023, 38.8% of respondents had lived in the FVRD, 34.7% within Metro Vancouver, 16.3% elsewhere in B.C., and 10.2% elsewhere in Canada. In 2023, there was a notable increase in respondents who had previously lived within Metro Vancouver.

SOURCE OF INCOME

Similar to 2017 and 2020 PIT Count and Survey results, income assistance (both standard income assistance and disability allowance) was the most commonly reported source of income. In 2023, this proportion is 65.4%, which is an increase compared to 44.4% in 2020 and 42.0% in 2017. However, income from disability allowance surpassed income assistance as the most commonly reported source of income.

TABLE 18. SOURCE OF INCOME, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2017-2023)²⁶

Source of Income	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Income Assistance	14	22.6%	16	25.4%	27	32.1%
IA (Disability Allowance)	12	19.4%	12	19.0%	28	33.3%
Binning/Bottles ²⁷	6	9.7%	6	9.6%	2	2.4%
No Income	9	14.5%	0	0.0%	1	1.2%
Other ²⁸	0	0.0%	4	6.3%	9	10.7%
Panhandling	4	6.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Family/Friends	3	4.8%	0	0.0%	2	2.4%
Part-time Job	4	6.4%	12	19.0%	6	7.1%
Vending (sex-work)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disability (CPP)	2	3.2%	6	9.6%	0	0.0%
CPP	2	3.2%	0	0.0%	5	6.0%
Honoraria/Stipend	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Youth Agreement	2	3.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Pension	1	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Old Age Security	2	3.2%	2	3.2%	4	4.8%
Full-time Job	1	1.6%	4	6.3%	0	0.0%
Employment insurance	0	0.0%	1	1.6%	0	0.0%
Total	62	100.0%	63	100.0%	84	100.0%

²⁶ Respondents could select more than one sources of income that apply to them, therefore, the number in the "N" column accounts for multiple responses, and provides the number of unique individuals.

²⁷ In 2023 option was informal employment and captured as "binning"

²⁸ Includes GST/HST refund and Child and Family tax refund.

SERVICE USAGE

Respondents in the Eastern Fraser Valley indicated accessing various services as outlined below. Service usage reported in 2023 is largely similar to 2020; however, there was a notable increase in reported use of emergency shelter, hospital emergency room, ambulance, and harm reduction services.

In The Eastern Fraser Valley, respondents were most likely to report using emergency shelter, hospital emergency room, outreach, food bank, and mental health services.

TABLE 19. SERVICES USED, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2020-2023)²⁹

Service Used	2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%
Ambulance	10	4.6%	19	7.2%
Cultural Services ³⁰	-	-	0	0.0%
Dental Services	7	3.2%	11	4.2%
Emergency Room	19	8.8%	29	11.1%
Emergency Shelter³¹	29	13.4%	51	19.6%
Employment Services	7	3.2%	7	2.7%
Financial Services ³²	-	-	2	0.8%
Food Bank	15	6.9%	23	8.8%
Harm Reduction	7	3.2%	15	5.7%
Health Clinic	20	9.3%	16	6.2%
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	20	9.3%	13	5.0%
Housing Help/ Eviction Prevention	8	3.7%	3	1.1%
Meal Program/Soup Kitchen	12	5.6%	8	3.1%
Mental Health Services	14	6.5%	22	8.4%
Newcomer Services	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
None	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
Other	6	2.8%	8	3.1%
Other Addiction Services	5	2.3%	3	1.1%
Outreach	31	14.4%	24	9.2%
Overdose Prevention Site ³³	-	-	0	0.0%
Probation/Parole	3	1.4%	0	0.0%
Transitional Housing	2	0.9%	7	2.7%
Total Responses	216	100.0%	261	100.0%

²⁹ Respondents could check off all that applied, hence the “N” column represents all respondents and not individual respondents.

³⁰ Cultural Services was not included in 2020 list of services.

³¹ Includes both emergency shelter and extreme weather shelter

³² Financial Services was not included in 2020 list of services

³³ Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) was not included in 2020 list of services

BARRIERS TO SERVICES

In total 30 respondents indicated that they experience barriers to access available services, while 22 respondents answered no to the question: “Are there any barriers preventing you from accessing services?”

Of the types of barriers to accessing services reported, transportation issues (40%) was most commonly reported, followed by health and mental health issues (13.3%), not having knowledge or information about services (6.8%), substance use issues (3.3%), and mobility issues (3.3%).

TABLE 20: BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2023)

Barriers to Accessing Services	2023	
	N	%
Transportation issues	12	40.0%
Mobility issues (difficulty walking or access using a wheelchair)	1	3.3%
Not having required identification	0	0.0%
Not having knowledge or information about services	2	6.8%
Substance use issues	1	3.3%
Health and Mental health issues	4	13.3%
Other	10	33.3%
Total	30	100.0%

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Individuals experiencing homelessness were asked to identify what additional services might be meaningful or helpful to them. Although responses related to a range of services, the largest proportion of responses were linked to affordable housing, including supportive housing, rent support, etc.

Many responses reflected the types of services already offered in the Eastern Fraser Valley, which may reflect barriers to accessing these services, or the need to increase, improve, or expand existing services, as well as the high value placed on these service types.

Common responses to the question, “What additional services might be meaningful or helpful to you?” from respondents in the Eastern Fraser Valley include, but are not limited to the following types of services or service improvements:

- Transportation
- Housing
- Mental health support
- Employment training
- Treatment centre
- Drop-in centre

GOVERNMENT CARE

A total of 23 individuals or 23.0% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Eastern Fraser Valley had previously been in government care, compared to 11.5% in 2020 and 29.2% in 2017³⁴. These figures suggest an overrepresentation of adults previously in government care within populations experiencing homelessness.

In 2023, of respondents who reported previously being in government care, 69.6% had lived in foster care, 26.1% in youth group homes, and the remaining 4.3% on an independent living agreement.

TABLE 21. TYPES OF GOVERNMENT CARE, EASTER FRASER VALLEY (2017-2023)

Government Care	2017		2020		2023	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Government Care	14	29.2%	9	11.5%	23	23.0%
Total	48	100.0%	78	100.0%	100	100.0%

FIGURE 22. TYPES OF GOVERNMENT CARE, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2023)

Type of Government Care	2023	
	N	%
Foster Care	16	69.60%
Youth Group Care	6	26.1%
Youth Agreement	0	0.0%
Independent Living Agreement	1	4.3%
Total	23	100%

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

A total of 11 or 11.0% of all individuals experiencing homelessness in the Eastern Fraser Valley, responded “yes” to the question “Were you, your parents, or grandparents ever in a residential school?” This was the first time this question had been asked in the PIT Count and Survey; however, personal experience in residential school was previously captured within the survey question on government care.³⁵

Of the 11 who identified as having a personal connection to residential school, 1 had personally attended residential school, 6 had a parent attend residential school, and 4 had a grandparent attend residential school.

Residential School Experience	2023	
	N	%
Personally attended	1	9.1%
Parent attended	6	54.5%
Grandparent attended	4	36.4%
Total	11	100.0%

³⁴ In 2017 and 2020, the examples of government care included “residential school”.

³⁵ Interviewers were instructed to ask the question with sensitivity and to request consent prior to asking the question.

RACE

Most respondents in Eastern Fraser Valley identified as White/Caucasian/European (76.4%) or Indigenous (16.4%) with the remaining 7.2% of respondents identifying with a range of other racial categories. This was the first time this question had been asked in the PIT Count and Survey.

FIGURE 24. RACIAL GROUP IDENTIFICATION, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2023)

Racial Identity	2023	
	N	%
White	42	76.4%
Indigenous	9	16.4%
Multi-racial	0	0.0%
Black	0	0.0%
Metis	1	1.8%
South Asian	0	0.0%
Metis/white	1	1.8%
Middle Eastern	0	0.0%
Hispanic	0	0.0%
East Indian	1	1.8%
Eurasian	0	0.0%
Jewish	0	0.0%
Mexican	1	1.8%
Latino/white	0	0.0%
Asian	0	0.0%
West Indian	0	0.0%
Total	55	100.0%

BARRIERS TO HOUSING

The number one barrier reported in the Eastern Fraser Valley in response to the question, “What barriers, if any, have you experienced when trying to find housing?” was the unavailability of affordable housing.

A total of 45 or 45% of the total respondents indicated experiencing at least one barrier in attempting to find housing. The most common barrier stated was a lack of affordable housing (81.4%), followed by stigma and prejudice (11.8%) and insufficient income in relation to cost of living (6.8%).

TABLE 25: BARRIERS TO HOUSING, EASTERN FRASER VALLEY (2023) ³⁶

Barriers to Housing	2023	
	N	%
Lack of affordable housing	48	81.4%
Insufficient income in relation to cost of living	4	6.8%
Stigma or prejudice	7	11.8%
Lack of references	0	0.0%
Criminal record	0	0.0%
Poor credit score	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Total	59	100.0%

³⁶ The total represents total number of responses.

FAMILY MEMBERS AND PETS

A total of 29 or 29.0% of respondents in Eastern Fraser Valley said they had company with them at the time of the survey; of which, 8 were accompanied by a spouse or partner, 3 had a child/children with them, and 18 had a pet.

AREAS FREQUENTED

Respondents were asked to identify where they spent most of their time. For privacy reasons, detailed responses will not be identified in this report.

The largest proportion of Individuals experiencing homelessness in Eastern Fraser Valley spent most of their time in various areas of town, including the downtown of Hope. As far as location types, indoor and outdoor public spaces, such as parks, natural areas, as well as shelters were common types of places that people reported frequenting.

REASONS FOR RELOCATING TO EASTERN FRASER VALLEY

Respondents were asked to identify the reason they moved to the community where they were interviewed. The following are the most common reasons provided for relocating to the Eastern Fraser Valley.

- To be with or closer to family
- Employment
- Fleeing abuse
- Followed their partner

“DIRECTED/INSTRUCTED” TO RELOCATE TO EASTERN FRASER VALLEY

Respondents were asked: “Did a worker, counselor, officer, official, etc. of an organization send or direct you to come to the Eastern Fraser Valley?” In total, 3 or 3.0% of all those surveyed stated that they were “directed/instructed” to relocate to Eastern Fraser Valley and 50 or 50% responded with “no” to this question, and the remaining 47 or 47% did not respond to the question.

APPENDIX F:

FVRD 2023 POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) COUNT AND "SHELTERED" SURVEY

COMMUNITY SHELTERED PERSONS - Survey # _____

Location: _____ Interviewer Name: _____

PART 1: SCREENING QUESTIONS:

1. Will you be sleeping here tonight?

- Yes [To Q 2]
- No [End]
- No answer [End]

2. Have you already answered this survey this evening/tonight (with someone wearing a yellow button/sticker)?

- Yes [End]
- No [To Q 3]
- No Answer [End]

3. Do you currently have a place to stay where you pay monthly rent?

- Yes [End]
- No [To Q 4]
- No answer [End]

PART 2: SURVEY

4. How long have you been without a place of your own?

days _____ # Weeks _____ # Months _____ # Years _____

- Don't know
- No Answer

5. How old are you? OR What year were you born?

Age (in years) _____ or year of birth _____

- Don't know
- No Answer

6. How old were you the first time you were homeless?

Age _____ Don't know No answer

7. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read options & check all that apply.]

A. Housing and Financial Issues

- Not enough income for housing (e.g. loss of benefit or job)
- Rental Supplement (HPP, HOP, etc.) expired
- Unfit/unsafe housing condition
- Building sold or renovated
- Owner moved in
- Landlord/tenant conflict
- Guest policy
- Complaint (e.g. pet/noise/damage)
- Place not physically accessible
- Left the community/relocated

B. Interpersonal and Family Issues

- Conflict with spouse/ partner
- Conflict with parent/guardian
- Conflict with other: (Specify) _____
- Experienced abuse by spouse/partner
- Experienced abuse by: parent/guardian/caregiver
- Experienced abuse by child/ dependent
- Experienced abuse by other: (Specify) _____
- Death or Departure of family member
- Experienced discrimination

C. Health or Corrections

- Physical health issue
- Mental health issue
- Addiction/Substance use issue
- Hospitalization or treatment program
- Covid-19 Pandemic
- Incarceration (jail or prison)

D. Other

- Other reason: _____ Don't know No answer

8. In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the past year (last 12 months)?

#Days _____ #Weeks _____ #Months _____ Don't know No answer

9. What gender do you identify with? [Show or read list and check what applies]

- Male Female Non-binary Agender Two-spirit
- Not listed (specify) _____ Don't know No answer

10. Do you identify as someone with trans experience (your gender identity is different than what was assigned at birth)?

- Yes No Don't know No answer

11. How do you describe your sexual orientation? [Show or read list and check all that apply]

- Straight/Heterosexual Asexual Bisexual Gay Lesbian
- Pansexual Two-spirit Questioning Queer
- Not listed (Specify _____) Don't know No answer

12. As a child or youth were you ever in foster care, a youth group home, on a youth agreement or on an independent living agreement?

- No Yes - Foster care Yes - Youth group home
- Yes - Youth agreement Yes - Independent living agreement
- Don't know No answer

[NOTE: SENSITIVE QUESTION! PREFACE BY ASKING FOR CONSENT: "CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL?"]

13. Were you, your parents, or grandparents ever in a residential school?

- No Yes I was Yes one or more parents were Yes one or more grandparents were Don't know No answer

14. Do you identify as having the following health challenges at this time? [Note: Specify condition only if told]

	Treatment									
	Y*	Spec	N*	DK*	NA*	Y*	N*	DK*	NA*	
Medical Condition										
Physical Disability										
Mental Health Issue										
Learning Disability/Cognitive Impairment										

* = Yes; No; Don't know; No Answer

15. Do you identify as having an addiction at this time?

Yes No [To Q 18] Don't Know [To Q 18] No Answer [To Q18]

16. Are you receiving, or are you seeking treatment for your addiction?

Yes, receiving treatment Yes, seeking treatment
 No Don't know No Answer

17. If "Yes" to Q 16 [Specify treatment]

18. Do you use any of the following substances?

Opiates Cocaine Crystal meth Alcohol
 Other (Specify) _____ Don't know No answer

19. Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth? (e.g. from injury related to an accident, violence, overdose, stroke or brain tumor) Yes No Don't know No answer

20. What are your sources of income? [Read list and select all that apply.]

Income Assistance Disability Assistance (PWD, PPMB)
 Full time employ Part time employ Casual employ
 Honorarium Informal employment (bottle returns)
 Sex work Money from family/friends
 Employment insurance Old Age Security (OAS/GIS)
 CPP or other pension CPP Disability Youth Agreement
 Veteran/VAC Benefits Child and family tax benefits
 GST/HST refund Other source(s): _____
 No income No answer
 Don't know

21. Do you identify as Indigenous, including First Nations (with or without status, Treaty/Non-Treaty) Metis, or Inuit, or do you have other North American Indigenous Ancestry? [Check All that Apply and specify only when told]

No Yes-First Nation (Spec _____) Yes-Inuit (Spec _____)
 Yes-Metis (Spec _____) Yes-Indigenous Ancestry (Spec _____)
 Not listed (Spec _____) Unsure Don't know No answer

22. What racial group or groups do you identify with? [State e.g. Black, South Asian, White, etc. and record answer]

Don't know No answer

23. Do you have family members, anyone else or a pet who stayed with you last night? Check all that apply]

Partner/Spouse
 Child(ren)/dependents (#1 age: _____) #2 age: _____) #3 age: _____)
 Pet(s) Not listed (Specify _____) No Don't know No answer

24. What services have you used in the past 12 months? [Read list and check all that apply]

Cultural Supports Ambulance Emergency room
 Hospital non-emergency room Health clinic
 Dental clinic or dentist Mental health services
 OPS Harm reduction services
 Other addiction services (Specify _____)
 Food Bank Meal Programs/soup kitchens (Specify _____)
 Other Food services (specify _____)
 Emergency shelter Extreme weather shelter
 Employment services Financial services (Specify _____)
 Probation/Parole services
 Transitional Housing (Specify _____)
 Housing Assistance/Eviction prevention (Spec _____)
 Outreach (Spec _____) Newcomer services (immigrant, refugee)
 Other services not listed (Spec _____)
 None Don't know No Answer

25. If "none" please say why/what is the reason?

26. Are there any barriers preventing you from accessing services in Abbotsford? No Yes

(Specify _____)
 Don't know No answer

27. What additional services might be meaningful/helpful to you?

Don't know No answer

28. What barriers, if any, have you experienced when trying to find housing?

None Don't know No answer

29. In which area(s) of Abbotsford do you spend the majority of your time? _____

30. How long have you been living in Abbotsford?

#Days _____ #Months _____ #Years _____

Always lived in Abbotsford [END OF SURVEY]
 Don't know [To Q31] No answer [To Q31]

31. Where did you live before you came to Abbotsford?

Community _____ Province/Country _____
 Don't know No answer

32. What is the reason you came to live in Abbotsford?

_____ Don't know No answer

33. Did a worker, counselor, officer, official, etc. of an organization send or direct you to come to Abbotsford? Yes (Spec _____)

No Don't know No answer

FVRD 2023 POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) COUNT AND "UNSHeltered" SURVEY

COMMUNITY UNSHeltered PERSONS: Survey # _____

Location: _____ Interviewer Name: _____

=====

PART 1: SCREENING QUESTIONS:

1. Have you already answered this survey today or last evening (with someone wearing a yellow sticker/button)? Yes [End] No [To Q 2]
 No answer [End]

2. Do you currently have a place to stay where you pay monthly rent?
 Yes [End] No [To Q 3] No answer [To Q3]

3. Where did you stay last night?

- Outside (e.g. doorway, tent, vacant building,) [To Q4]
- Vehicle (e.g. car, van, trailer, boat) Type: _____ [To Q4]
- Shelter, Transition House: Name _____ [To Q4]
- Detox/Hospital/Jail: Name _____ [To Q4]
- Hotel/motel I pay can stay only up to 30 days only [To Q4]
- Someone else's place (couch surfing)
 - Temporary situation have own place to return to [End]
 - Temporary situation don't have own place to return to [To Q4]
- A client's place [To Q4]
- Parent(s) or guardian's house
 - I can stay as long as I want [END]
 - Temporary situation have home to return to [END]
 - Temporary situation don't have home to return to [To Q4]
- Own place inside where you pay rent [END]
- Not listed (Specify _____) [To Q4]
- Don't know [END] No answer [END]

PART 2: SURVEY

4. How long have you been without a place of your own?
days _____ # Weeks _____ # Months _____ # Years _____
 Don't know No Answer

5. How old are you? OR What year were you born?
Age (in years) _____ or year of birth _____
 Don't know No Answer

6. How old were you the first time you were homeless?
Age _____ Don't know No answer

7. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read options & check all that apply.]

A. Housing and Financial Issues

- Not enough income for housing (e.g. loss of benefit or job)
- Rental Supplement (HPP, HOP, etc.) expired
- Unfit/unsafe housing condition
- Building sold or renovated
- Owner moved in
- Landlord/tenant conflict
- Guest policy
- Complaint (e.g. pet/noise/damage)
- Place not physically accessible
- Left the community/relocated

B. Interpersonal and Family Issues

- Conflict with spouse/ partner
- Conflict with parent/guardian
- Conflict with other: (Specify) _____
- Experienced abuse by spouse/partner
- Experienced abuse by: parent/guardian/caregiver
- Experienced abuse by child/ dependent
- Experienced abuse by other: (Specify) _____
- Death or Departure of family member
- Experienced discrimination

C. Health or Corrections

- Physical health issue
- Mental health issue
- Addiction/Substance use issue
- Hospitalization or treatment program
- Covid-19 Pandemic
- Incarceration (jail or prison)

D. Other

Other reason: _____ Don't know No answer

8. In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the past year (last 12 months)?

#Days _____ #Weeks _____ #Months _____ Don't know No answer

9. What gender do you identify with? [Show or read list and check what applies]

- Male Female Non-binary Two-spirit Agender
- Not listed (specify _____) Don't know No answer

10. Do you identify as someone with trans experience (your gender identity is different than what was assigned at birth)?

Yes No Don't know No answer

11. How do you describe your sexual orientation? [Show or read list and check all that apply]

- Straight/Heterosexual Asexual Bisexual Gay Lesbian
- Pansexual Two-spirit Questioning Queer
- Not listed (Specify _____) Don't know No answer

12. As a child or youth were you ever in foster care, a youth group home, on a youth agreement or on an independent living agreement?

- No Yes - Foster care Yes - Youth group home
- Yes - Youth agreement Yes - Independent living agreement
- Don't know No answer

[NOTE: SENSITIVE QUESTION! PREFACE BY ASKING FOR CONSENT: "CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL?"]

13. Were you, your parents, or grandparents ever in a residential school?

- No Yes I was Yes one or more parents were
- Yes one or more grandparents were Don't know No answer

14. Do you identify as having the following health challenges at this time? [Note: Specify condition only if told]

	Treatment									
	Y*	Spec	N*	DK*	NA*	Y*	N*	DK*	NA*	
Medical Condition										
Physical Disability										
Mental Health Issue										
Learning Disability/Cognitive Impairment										

* = Yes; No; Don't know; No Answer

15. Do you identify as having an addiction at this time?

Yes No [To Q18] Don't know [To Q18] No Answer [To Q18]

16. Are you receiving, or are you seeking treatment for your addiction?

Yes, receiving treatment Yes, seeking treatment
 No Don't know No Answer

17. If "Yes" to Q 16 [Specify treatment being received or sought]

18. Are you using any of the following substances? [Read & check all that apply] Opiates Cocaine Crystal meth Alcohol

Other (Specify) _____ No Don't know No answer

19. Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth? (e.g. from injury related to an accident, violence, overdose, stroke or brain tumor) Yes No Don't know No answer

20. What are your sources of income? [Read list and select all that apply.]

Income Assistance Disability Assistance (PWD, PPMB)
 Full time employ Part time employ
 Casual employ Honorarium
 Sex work Informal employment (bottle returns)
 Employment insurance Old Age Security (OAS/GIS)
 CPP or other pension CPP Disability
 Veteran/VAC Benefits GST/HST refund
 Youth Agreement Child and family tax benefits
 Money (family/friends) No income
 Other source(s) _____ Don't know No answer

21. Do you identify as Indigenous, including First Nations (with or without status, Treaty/Non-Treaty) Metis, or Inuit, or do you have other North American Indigenous Ancestry? [Check All that Apply and specify only when told]

No Yes First Nation (Spec _____) Yes Inuit (Spec _____)
 Yes Metis (Spec _____) Yes Indigenous Ancestry (Spec _____) Not listed (Specify _____)
 Unsure Don't know No answer

22. What racial group or groups do you identify with? [State e.g. Black, South Asian, White, etc. and record answer]

Don't know No answer

23. Do you have family members, anyone else or a pet who stayed with you last night? [Check all that apply]

No Yes Partner/Spouse Yes Child(ren)/dependents
 (#1 age: _____) (#2 age: _____) (#3 age: _____)
 Pet(s) Not listed (Specify _____) Don't know No answer

24. What services have you used in the past 12 months? [Read list and check all that apply]

Cultural Supports Ambulance Emergency room
 Hospital non-emergency room Health clinic
 Dental clinic or dentist Mental health services
 OPS Harm reduction services
 Other addiction services (Specify _____)
 Food Bank Meal Programs/soup kitchens (Specify _____)
 Other Food services (specify _____)
 Emergency shelter Extreme weather shelter
 Employment services Financial services (Specify _____)
 Probation/Parole services
 Transitional Housing (Specify _____)
 Housing Assistance/Eviction prevention (Spec _____)
 Outreach (Spec _____) Newcomer services (immigrant, refugee)
 Other services not listed (Spec _____)
 None Don't know No Answer

25. If "none" in Q 24 above please say why/what is the reason?

26. Are there any barriers preventing you from accessing services in Abbotsford? No Yes (Specify _____)
 Don't know No answer

27. What additional services might be meaningful/helpful to you?

None Don't know No answer

28. What barriers, if any, have you experienced when trying to find housing?

None Don't know No answer

29. In which area(s) of Abbotsford do you spend the majority of your time? _____

30. How long have you been living in Abbotsford?

#Days _____ #Months _____ #Years _____ Always lived in Abbotsford
 [END OF SURVEY] Don't know [To Q31] No answer [To Q31]

31. Where did you live before you came to Abbotsford?

Community _____ Province/Country _____
 Don't know No answer

32. What is the reason you came to live in Abbotsford?

_____ Don't know No answer

33. Did a worker, counselor, officer, official, etc. of an organization send or direct you to come to Abbotsford?

Yes (Spec _____)
 No Don't know No answer

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