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Lived Homeless Experience

Many Ways to Home

Changing the Face of Our Community
Our Role, Our Response

Discussion

Research Matters: Read, Listen,
& Watch to Find Out More

Do you know anyone that is homeless? What are your perceptions and/or biases about the challenges of homelessness and about homeless people themselves?

At a Glance

1. Who is Homeless: Canada Statistics
2. Who is Homeless: Abbotsford Statistics
3. Causes of Homelessness: Abbotsford
4. People don't realize. . .
5. Who is Homeless: Real Stories
6. Health Issues Homeless Face
7. What do the Homeless Need?

Who is Homeless: Canada Statistics

Homelessness today is much more diverse than the traditional majority of older single men. Homeless people are a range of:

Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation, Indigenous Heritage, & Canadian Newcomers

Newcomers are more likely to spend 50%, or more, of their income on housing, making them at risk for homelessness ([Preston et al., 2017](#))

Indigenous homelessness is defined differently. See link for complete definition

[Indigenous Homelessness](#)

Learn More: [Affordable Housing For Refugees is a Major Challenge \[Article\]](#), [Linking Immigrant Settlement, Health, Housing, and Homelessness in Canada \[PDF\]](#), [Housing First | Canadian Government](#)

Who is Homeless: Canada Statistics

Note: Difficult to collect exact numbers if people are staying on friends couches or in places other than shelters

- **Adults ages 25-49 (52%** of total homeless, by age)
- **Seniors 65+ (>4%** of total homeless, by age)
- **Single adult Males ages 25-55 (47.5%)**
- **Women (27.3%** of total homeless)
- **Youth ages 13-24** (about **20%** total homeless, by age)
 - **LGBTQ+ Youth (29.5%** of young homeless people)
- **Indigenous Peoples** (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit), overrepresentation
- **Families** (on average stay in shelters 2x's as long as individuals)

[\(Gaetz, 2013\)](#)

Who is Homeless: Abbotsford Statistics

Note: Difficult to collect exact numbers if people are staying on friends couches or in places other than shelters

- **606** people interviewed in the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD), **274** in Abbotsford
 - **64%** male, **35%** female, **0.8%** transgender/other
 - **61%** interviewed were between the ages 30 - 59
 - Typically unemployed, or rely on government assistance
 - **41%** reported impact by change, or withdraw from services (refused welfare, reduced service hours, long wait periods, etc.)
 - **49%** have been in ministry care (system failure)
 - **35%** homeless with Indigenous Ancestry (**4%** of total Canadian population is Indigenous)
 - Indigenous youth overrepresented in the child welfare system

[\(Fraser Valley Regional District, 2017\)](#)

Who is Homeless: Abbotsford Statistics

CONCLUSION

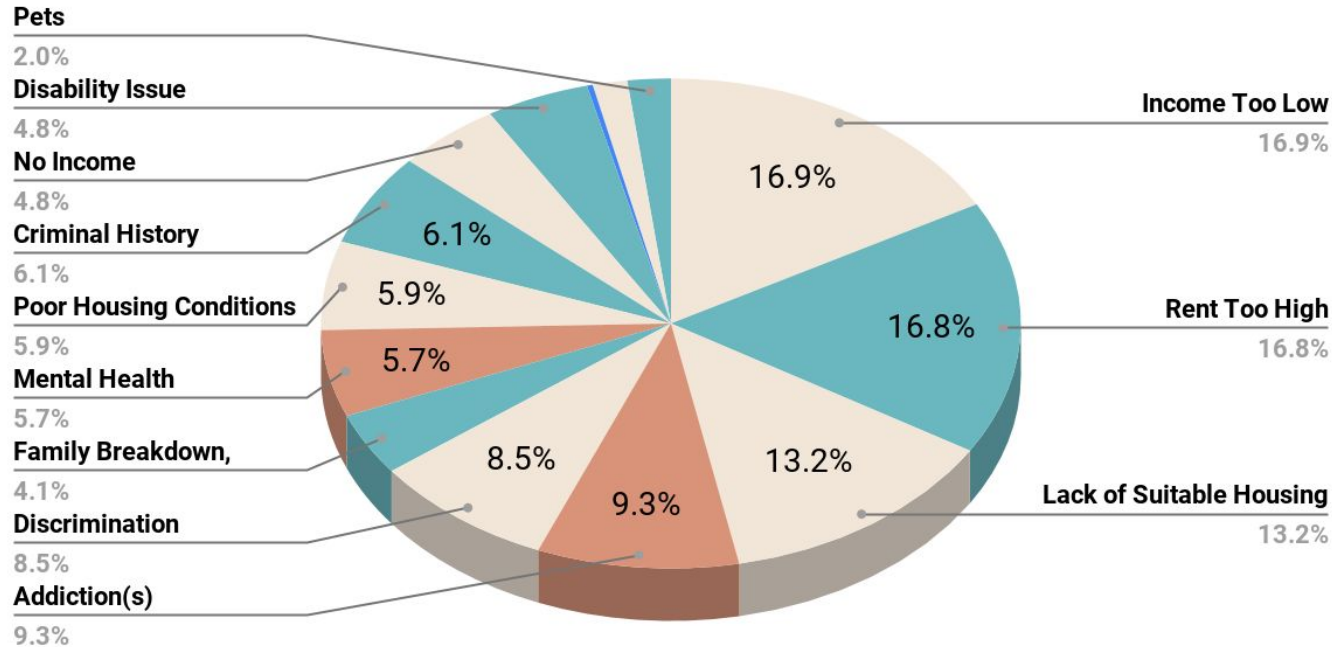
1. Need more affordable and supportive social housing
2. Need to work with Indigenous communities to mitigate multi-generational impacts of the residential school system
3. Further policy development and implementing strategies to target specific populations

The most used community services. *In descending order*

1. Meal Programs
2. Emergency Room Visits
3. Food Bank
4. Extreme Weather Shelters
5. Drop-in
6. Outreach Services
7. Harm Reduction
8. etc.

Causes of Homelessness: Abbotsford

Table 1 - Reasons for Being Homeless in Abbotsford (2018)



Total 751
Responses

(MCC, 2018, pg. 8)


[Living Homeless:
Abbotsford 2018
Homelessness
Survey \[PDF\]](#)

Note: Respondents could check more than one response category

People don't realize. . .

- How much it sucks to be homeless
- How homeless people aren't lazy
- How many kind people there are out there on the streets
- How difficult and exhausting it is to drag your stuff around everywhere
- How hard it is to not have privacy
- How a lot of times you just want to be with other people

(Zurowski, 2017, p. 5)



Who is Homeless: Real Stories



(Rideau, 2017)

Learn More:

[Laina & Mantis \[Youtube\]](#)

[Aboriginal Women - In her voice \[Youtube\]](#)

[Tears for Marnie](#)

[She Survived BC's Overdose Crisis](#)

[Our Journey Home \[Vimeo\]](#)

[Homeless Youth Sleeping Rough in London \[Youtube\]](#)

[Homelessness is only one piece of my puzzle \[PDF\]](#)



Health Issues Homeless Face

1. Death, injuries, violence
2. Musculoskeletal disorders and chronic pain
3. Hunger and nutrition
4. Skin and foot problems
5. Infectious diseases
6. Dental problems
7. Respiratory illness
8. Chronic diseases and disorders
9. Sexual and reproductive care
10. Mental health issues

[\(Woolley, 2015\)](#)

What do the homeless need?



7 Principles for Leadership & Inclusion of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness

Integrating Services to Address Homelessness

Ending Homelessness

Resources

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