

# DRIVERS OF HOMELESSNESS: Findings for Action



## HIGHLIGHTS

For most households a short-term personal crisis will not cause homelessness, whether it is a workplace injury, a divorce, a child being diagnosed with autism, a disability, the death of a loved one, fleeing domestic violence, or a job loss. Yet when the economic or social fabric of our society erodes, these crises can put a household into homelessness. Homelessness is the outcome of a unique combination and sequencing of structural factors, systems failures, and individual circumstances.

In Greater Victoria, homelessness responses have been largely focused on helping or managing people after they have lost their housing. The housing crisis and pandemic have brought a spotlight to the need for an upstream focus on stopping homelessness before it happens.

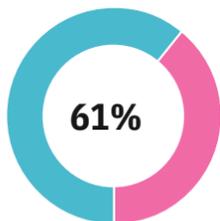
### HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION WORKS

- ➔ The majority of individuals who accessed homelessness prevention programs were at imminent risk of homelessness.
- ➔ The programs prevented homelessness for the majority of participants.

### PROGRAMS OF LAST RESORT

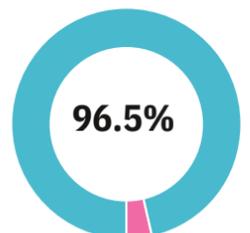
#### Homelessness

61% report that they would have been in absolute homelessness without the program



#### Core Housing Need

96.5% of participants pay more than 30% of their income on housing



#### Housing Stability

89% of participants said the intervention stabilised their housing



#### Homelessness Avoided

87% of participants said the intervention helped them avoid homelessness

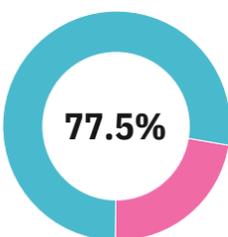


### KEY DRIVERS OF HOMELESSNESS

#### STRUCTURAL FACTORS

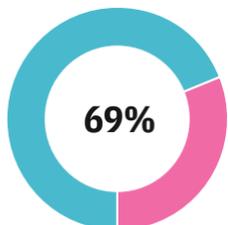
##### ➔ Unaffordable Housing

77.5% of participants paid more than 50% of their income on rent



##### ➔ Poverty

69% of participants have incomes below Canada's poverty line



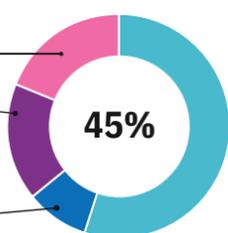
##### ➔ Gender-based Violence

Experiences of violence by gender:

19% of women-identifying people

17% of people with non-binary gender pronouns

9% male-identifying people



##### ➔ Impacts of Colonialism

Indigenous people were overrepresented as service recipients

##### ➔ Inequality and discrimination relating to gender identity and sexual orientation

2SLGBTQIA+ individuals were overrepresented as service recipients

##### ➔ Disability

People who receive social assistance for persons with a disability are overrepresented.

#### SYSTEMIC FACTORS

##### Gaps between housing and health and corrections



##### Gaps between social assistance rates and the cost of living



#### INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Underemployment or job loss

54%

Family or personal crisis

49%

Health crisis

26%



#### Learn More

Read *Drivers of Homelessness: Findings for Action* report at <https://communitycouncil.ca/drivers-of-homelessness-final/>