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.
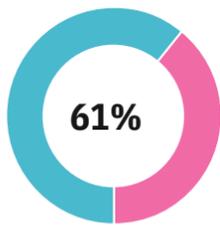
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION WORKS

➡ The majority of individuals who accessed homelessness prevention programs were at imminent risk of homelessness.

➡ The programs prevented homelessness for the majority of participants.
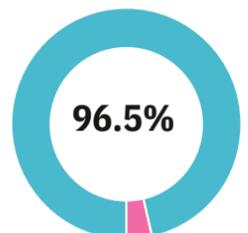
PROGRAMS OF LAST RESORT

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

61%

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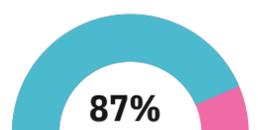
96.5%

Housing Stability
89% of participants said the intervention stabilised their housing

89%

Homelessness Avoided
89% of participants said the intervention stabilised their housing
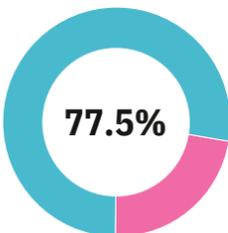
87%
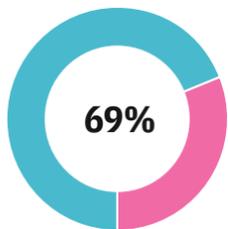
KEY DRIVERS OF HOMELESSNESS

STRUCTURAL FACTORS

➡ **Unaffordable Housing**
77.5% of participants paid more than 50% of their income on rent

77.5%

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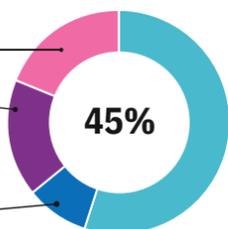**69%** of participants have incomes below Canada's poverty line

69%

➡ **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

45%

➡ **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.

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

SYSTEMIC FACTORS

Gaps between housing and health and corrections

| Housing | ⟵⋯⟶ | Health | ⟵⋯⟶ | Corrections |

Gaps between social assistance rates and the cost of living

| Cost of Living | ⟵⋯⋯⋯⟶ | Social Assistance Rates |

INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Underemployment or job loss **54%**

Family or personal crisis **49%**

Health crisis **26%**