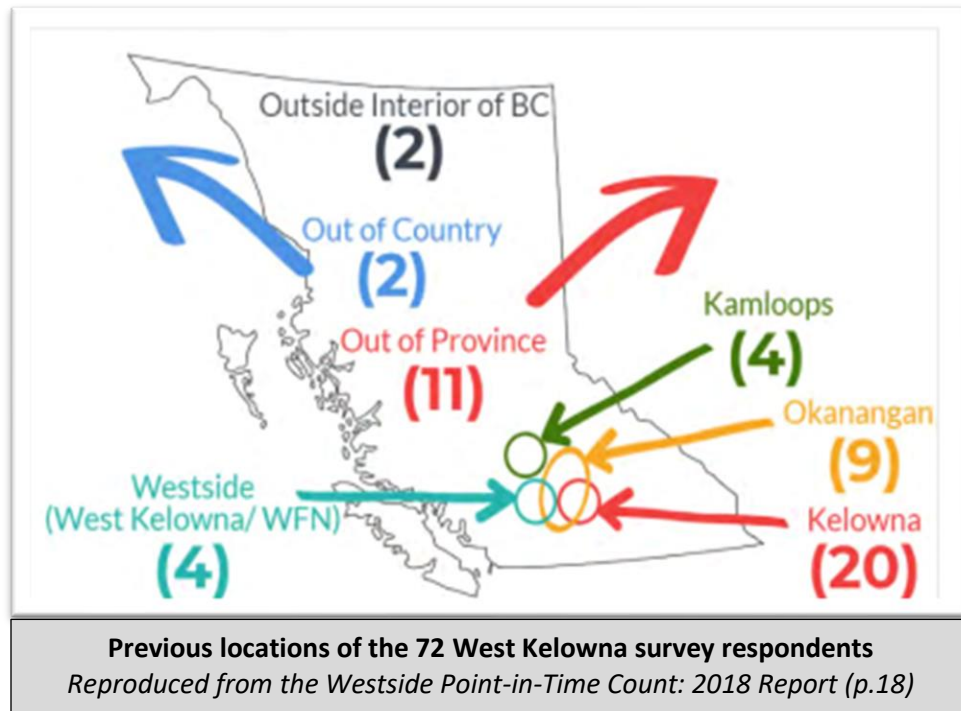


Kelowna Homelessness Research Collaborative

Migration & Homelessness:

A Summary of Evidence on Intraprovincial, Interprovincial, and International Migration across Canadian Communities



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The Kelowna Homelessness Research Collaborative (KHRC), is a multidisciplinary team of researchers interested in understanding and supporting the provision of services to – and the perspectives of – individuals with lived experience of homelessness or who are vulnerable to homelessness. Investigators and collaborators are primarily based in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, Canada. For additional resources, check out our website: <https://khrc.ok.ubc.ca/>

Overview: Migration & Homelessness

This summary seeks to discuss and inform assumptions regarding migration and homelessness through a presentation and analysis of available evidence, primarily through the review of available Point-in-Time count reports. While the focus of the paper is the context of British Columbia (and features Kelowna data whenever possible), national and international figures and analysis are included throughout. Seven sections of supporting evidence and analysis are presented, followed by a discussion section. While available evidence and analysis have their limitations, several shared observations have been reported, with important implication for how we might best meet the needs of individuals both experiencing homelessness as well as the broader group of vulnerable members within our society.

Key takeaways within the body of [Supporting Evidence](#) presented in subsequent sections, or implied from those available trends and analysis, include:

- The majority of individuals experiencing homelessness – across a range of diverse Canadian communities – have resided within their community for over a year, if not longer.
- As with the general population, individuals experiencing homelessness move to and from a range of communities across BC, the country, and the world, though movement within provinces is most common.
- Analyses of trends within individual municipality are strengthened when they are compared to the broader context of observations in other communities across the province (and country) at similar time points.
- Migration among those experiencing homelessness is primarily driven by the pursuit of employment opportunities and family supports, though some do relocate to access services.
- Those experiencing homelessness possibly have a higher rate of mobility than the general population.
- Relocating to new communities without an awareness of local supports or their access points can increase or sustain precarity and vulnerability in the absence of interventions to support integration.
- Sustained precarity and vulnerability should be avoided and mitigated when possible, especially if inaction exacerbates negative health, social, and financial outcomes for society.
- Existing service structures could / should have the capacity to identify new arrivals and connect them to their local support sectors to hasten access and more directly link to relevant supports.

Implications for policy, planning, and research revolve around: 1) how we communicate facts about experiences of migration within this population; 2) how data collection can be used – or supplemented – to better understand migration and other points of potential vulnerability; and 3) how existing systems can support new arrivals, as well as those experiencing or at risk of homelessness overall. These questions are summarized on the following page for further discussion among relevant stakeholders, and further elaborated in [Section 8](#). However, this likely represents an incomplete accounting of implications; we encourage readers to identify, consider, and discuss their own take-aways as they relate to best supporting vulnerable members of our community.

Questions are also presented within the context of the ongoing **provincial data integration project** to better understand, respond to, and prevent homelessness in B.C.,¹ as well as the ongoing development of the imminent **provincial homeless strategy**.² Each of these contexts may influence the relevance and feasibility of discussed opportunities. Overall, a provincial or national view of migration can most objectively represent this phenomenon, though differences between individual communities may still inform the emphasis of interventions.

¹ Preventing and reducing homelessness: an integrated data project (Government of British Columbia, November 2021) <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/affordable-and-social-housing/homelessness/homelessness-cohort>

² B.C. finally has a plan for the most difficult people to house in Kamloops and Kelowna (InfoTel, February 2022) <https://infotel.ca/newsitem/bc-finally-has-a-plan-for-the-most-difficult-people-to-house-in-kamloops-and-kelowna/it88686>

Potential Implications and Opportunities for Action

Communications

1. To what extent can communication regarding homelessness balance messaging where:
 - i. The scope and experience of migration in a given situation is contextualized within the broader collection of experiences across different communities?
 - ii. Migration is identified as a potential source of vulnerability (for those actively experiencing homelessness as well as for vulnerable groups generally)?

Data Collection

2. To what extent should local planners prioritize enumeration efforts (above and beyond Point-In-Time “PIT” counts) to identify new arrivals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness?
3. To what extent and in what form should further data be sought such that it is in keeping with best practices and regulations?
4. To what extent would a combined “PIT + By Name List” approach provide complementary sources of local information?
5. To what extent can PIT Counts explore the topics highlighted in the full report (length of time in community; prior communities; reported reasons for relocating) in a way that is useful to local, provincial, and / or federal planners and policymakers?
6. To what extent can Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) data be used to track migration of clients experiencing homelessness? What about clients at-risk of homelessness?
7. To what extent can other provincial data (e.g. health data) be used to track migration of clients experiencing homelessness? What about clients at-risk of homelessness?
8. To what extent can other federal data (e.g. EI, CPP disability, GIS, Census) be used to track migration of clients experiencing homelessness? What about clients at-risk of homelessness?
9. And can any of the above sources of data help identify who is at the greatest risk of experiencing homelessness? And if so, to what extent can Integrated Data be made available to communities?

Service Delivery & Planning

10. To what extent do / can MSDPR offices serve as a first access point for new arrivals experiencing homelessness, and a link to other local resources (e.g. employment, physical health, mental health, criminal justice questions, etc.)? What about clients at-risk of homelessness?
11. To what extent do / can other provincial offices (health, employment, libraries) serve as a first access point for new arrivals experiencing homelessness, and a link to other local resources (e.g. employment, physical health, mental health, criminal justice questions, etc.)? What about clients at-risk of homelessness?
12. To what extent do / can Service Canada offices serve as a first access point for new arrivals experiencing homelessness, and a link to other local resources?
13. To what extent do / can Service Canada offices serve as a first access point and as a resource link for clients at-risk of homelessness? Including whether additional needs are / can be assessed (e.g. employment, physical health, mental health, criminal justice questions, etc.).

Supporting Evidence

Seven sections of supporting evidence and analysis are presented, followed by a more in-depth discussion of implications and opportunities for action.

The included sections are presented to provide context and background, represent different facets of available evidence and analysis, address common misconceptions in an objective way, and to touch on the three general types of migrations: intraprovincial migration, interprovincial migration, and international migration.

SECTION	TITLE	PAGES	OVERVIEW
1	The Context of Migration (and Homelessness) in Canada	Pages 5-10	An introduction to different facets of migration, and some our operational definition of homelessness in this context.
2	Reporting on State-Supported Relocation in the United States and Canada	Pages 11-12	A summary of speculation and data on various levels of government influencing the migration of those experiencing homelessness.
3	Concerns of an Influx of Homelessness to the West	Pages 13-18	A summary of speculation and data on macro-level trends for migration related to geography.
4	Length of Residency in Current Community	Pages 19-28	A summary of how long individuals experiencing homelessness across various communities report having been in their current communities.
5	The Prior Communities of Recent Arrivals	Pages 29-42	A summary of where individuals experiencing homelessness across various communities report as their prior communities of residence.
6	Reported Reasons for Relocation	Pages 43-49	A summary of what new arrivals experiencing homelessness across various communities report as driving their decisions to migrate.
7	International Migration & Homelessness	Pages 50-59	An overview of what is known on international migration and homelessness, in Canada and in other OECD countries.
8	Implications and Opportunities for Action	Pages 60-65	An overview of implications and questions on how findings inform communications, data collection, and service delivery.

Section 1: The Context of Migration (and Homelessness) in Canada

The migration of individuals is a phenomenon of importance for planning and policy across levels of government, including both the movement into and within jurisdictions, and including both the movement of the overall population or more specific mobility patterns in labour groups or age demographics. The migration patterns specific to those experiencing and at-risk of homelessness can be framed both as a looming threat to any municipality willing to offer and advertise a level of support that exceeds that of its neighboring regions, but also as a distinct challenge in providing continuity of care to a vulnerable group. To date, both types of discussions have largely occurred in the absence of full and consistent data.

Context on Homelessness in Canada

While there are various conceptualizations of what it means to be homeless, one expansive, foundational understanding comes from the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (shown below),³ which was later incorporated into Canada’s Homelessness Strategy Directives.⁴

Homelessness	<p><i>“Homelessness is the situation of an individual or family who does not have a permanent address or residence; the living situation of an individual or family who does not have stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is often the result of what are known as systemic or societal barriers, including a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household’s financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination.”</i></p> <p>This definition includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those who are unsheltered 2. Those who are emergency sheltered 3. Those who are provisionally accommodated, and 4. Those who are at risk of homelessness
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Understanding housing precarity – whether one considers individuals meeting such conditions as experiencing homelessness or not – can be further informed by CMHC definitions⁵ guiding “core housing need” calculations:

Adequate Housing	Housing is considered adequate when it isn’t in need of major repairs. Major repairs include defective plumbing or electrical wiring, or structural repairs to walls, floors, or ceilings.
Suitable Housing	Housing is considered suitable when there are enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households. This is according to National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements.
Affordable Housing	Housing is considered to be affordable when housing costs less than 30% of before-tax household income.

³ Canadian Definition of Homelessness (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness 2012) <https://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHhomelessdefinition.pdf>

⁴ Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy Directives (ESDC 2020) <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/directives.html>

⁵ Identifying core housing need (CMHC 2019) <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/professionals/housing-markets-data-and-research/housing-research/core-housing-need/identifying-core-housing-need>

The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness further highlighted this definition and an associated understanding of what it means to be “housed” in a 2021 webinar.⁶ To be housed would be to fall outside of the criteria above – that is to say those “*residing in a stable, safe, permanent and appropriate home*”.

However, it should be noted that the available data on homelessness experiences are typically derived from Point-in-Time (PIT) counts, which typically focus on the smaller subset of “individuals and families who are staying in shelters, transitional housing, or who are ‘sleeping rough’”.⁷ The Canada’s federal homelessness strategy, Reaching Home, supports enumeration within Designated Communities,⁸ including a total of 61 communities within the 2018 nationally coordinated count.⁹ Additional details on Designated Communities and links to relevant plans are available through the Homeless Hub.¹⁰ Due to the absence of Alberta and Quebec representation within the 2016 Coordinated Point-In-Time Count,¹¹ and the postponement of many communities’ 2020 count due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2018 count represents the only coordinated PIT with full participation and coordinated timing. Likewise, due to the limited scope of the PIT counts, the most frequently cited source for a national accounting of experiences of homelessness in Canada is Gaetz et al.’s “The State of Homelessness in Canada – 2016”.¹² This source offers two fundamental estimates:

- “35,000 Canadians are homeless on a given night”
- “At least 235,000 Canadians experience homelessness in a year”

Additional enumerations are available, including Canada’s Shelter Capacity Reports,¹³ but are more limited in scope. It should also be noted that Designated Communities covered by the federally-funded counts tend to be larger communities. Other communities may conduct their own independent counts. In British Columbia, the province funded a series of coordinated counts across smaller communities in both 2018 as well as across 2020/2021 (as this second wave was likewise disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic). Efforts to chronicle active experiences of homelessness, including the multiple communities reporting counts of chronic and veteran homelessness through the Built for Zero campaign,¹⁴ as well as independent efforts by jurisdictions like Edmonton¹⁵ and Toronto,¹⁶ have identified that while some communities have seen successes, rates are on the rise in many regions.

PIT counts have many limitations, such as capturing only a limited snapshot of experiences of homelessness¹⁷ and the limited capacity to engage those experiencing “hidden homelessness” (e.g. couch surfing),¹⁸ especially youth.¹⁹ However, they offer a range of data related to this topic area and are available across multiple time points and across multiple jurisdictions. Both US and Canadian data related to homelessness are further overviewed in greater detail in [Section 3](#).

⁶ BNL/CA: Housing, Homelessness and Functional Zero (CAEH July 8, 2021) Accessible at <https://training.caeh.ca/monthly-webinars/webinar-archive/>

⁷ Everyone Counts: Coordinated Point-in-Time Counts in Canada (ESDC 2021) <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/resources/point-in-time.html>

⁸ About Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy (ESDC 2020) <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness.html>

⁹ Everyone Counts 2018: Highlights – Report (ESDC 2021) <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/reports/highlights-2018-point-in-time-count.html>

¹⁰ Community Profiles (Homeless Hub) <https://www.homelesshub.ca/CommunityProfiles>

¹¹ Homelessness Partnering Strategy Coordinated Canadian Point-in-Time Counts (ESDC, 2016) <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/reports/highlights-2016-point-in-time-count.html>

¹² The State of Homelessness in Canada 2016 https://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/SOHC16_final_20Oct2016.pdf

¹³ Shelter Capacity Report 2019 (ESDC) <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/publications-bulletins/shelter-capacity-2019.html>

¹⁴ Built for Zero Canada: Community Progress, <https://bfzcanada.ca/community-progress/>

¹⁵ Homeward Trust: Program Data (Edmonton) <https://homewardtrust.ca/what-weve-learned/performance-evaluation/>

¹⁶ City of Toronto – Shelter System Flow Data, <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/research-reports/housing-and-homelessness-research-and-reports/shelter-system-flow-data/>

¹⁷ See, e.g., the differences in results and limited overlap between Whitehorse’s 2021 PIT count and their By-Name List estimate (p.25): <https://yawc.ca/downloads/whitehorse-point-in-time-count-pit-2021.pdf>

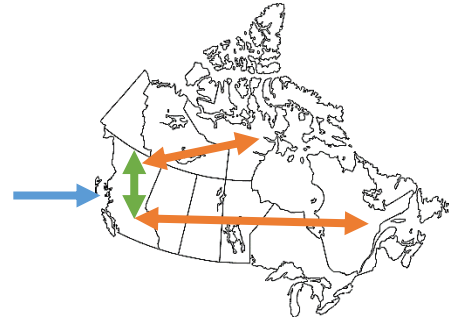
¹⁸ See, e.g. “How Many Street Homeless? NYC’s Tallies Leave the Question Open” (City Limits – Oct 2015) <https://citylimits.org/2015/10/13/how-many-street-homeless-nycs-tallies-leave-the-question-open/>

¹⁹ See, e.g., “We Count, California! A Statewide Capacity-Building Effort to Improve Youth Inclusion in California’s Point-in-Time Homeless Counts” (Lin et al., 2017) <https://doi.org/10.1002/wmh3.232>

Context on Migration & Homelessness in Canada

Migration can be understood as comprised of three categories of mobility, each of which carries unique assumptions and implications both for planning generally, and likely planning specific to those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. While the term “provincial” will be used in this report, with a specific focus on the context within British Columbia, these terms of course include mobility to and from the Canadian territories as well.

Intraprovincial Migration	The movement of individuals within a province / territory, for some pre-defined length of time typically linked to residency
Interprovincial Migration	The movement of individuals across provinces / territories, for some pre-defined length of time typically linked to residency
International Migration	The movement of individuals across nations, for some pre-defined length of time typically linked to residency



Diverse stakeholders voice concerns regarding over the hypothetical challenge of migration, approaching the topic from a range of different perspectives and with distinct goals:

1. Social advocates and concerned citizens voicing anger at any alleged shirking moral responsibility of cities accused of displacing their most vulnerable citizens elsewhere. This might take the form of suspicion that a particular government or body is issuing “one-way bus tickets” with a goal of moving a target population out of their jurisdictional area.
2. Citizens and political leaders concern that increasing the local safety net will simply draw in greater demand and ultimately prolong or exacerbate housing issues and experiences of homelessness. This sentiment is perhaps best captured with popular – but misquoted²⁰ – line from the film *Field of Dreams* (1989): “If you build it, they will come”.
3. The perhaps less frequently highlighted context – at least in terms of public discussion – are the added implications for policy makers and service providers in connecting with vulnerable individuals without a knowledge of local resources and without local supports. The challenges of implementing diversionary and prevention-based interventions for easy-to-miss population groups are exacerbated both by identifying in-migrants as well as sustaining support for out-migrants who remain at risk.

For our local community of Kelowna, the movement of people to and from communities across Canada is a fact acknowledged in the very first section of our Official Community Plan:

What is Kelowna? To some people, it’s an outdoor oasis filled with trails to hike and bike and lakes as a stunning backdrop. To others, this city is an economic powerhouse home to robust traditional sectors like agriculture and construction, and burgeoning new sectors such as information technology. Kelowna is all these things and much more. Most importantly, Kelowna is a collection of people. **People who have been here for generations, people who have just recently started to call this place home and even people who are just visiting.**²¹

²⁰ *Field of Dreams* (1989) <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0097351/quotes/qt0314964>

²¹ 2040 Official Community Plan (City of Kelowna) <https://www.kelowna.ca/our-community/planning-projects/2040-official-community-plan/ch-1-big-picture>

This is equally reflected in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms,²² with the available reporting on reasons for relocating confirming that many do migrate to pursue the gaining of a livelihood ([Section 6](#)), in addition to moving closer to their families, but also to access services.

Mobility Rights

- 6. (1) Every citizen of Canada has the right to enter, remain in and leave Canada. (2) Every citizen of Canada and every person who has the status of a permanent resident of Canada has the right:
 - to move to and take up residence in any province; and
 - to pursue the gaining of a livelihood in any province.;

Data on Migration & Homelessness in Canada

Reporting on migration patterns specific to this group has been limited and inconsistently reported, but is included in varying forms within different Point-In-Time counts conducted across communities of different sizes within British Columbia. Existing data and analysis can shed some light on the first two points presented above, and will be further elaborated in subsequent section. Firstly, there are only sparse – but frequently repeated – anecdotes to suggest that local Canadian governments intentionally contribute to the migration of those experiencing homelessness between cities. This is in contrast (and perhaps due to) the well documented practice within the United States. Secondly, the evidence that is available within PIT Count reports suggests that those experiencing homelessness engage in widespread migration that exceeds migratory patterns for the overall population, but without a clear directionality or imbalance favoring a particular region or particular community size. Rates of homelessness appear to be rising across the board, and the majority of those experiencing homelessness have resided in their local community for over a year. That appears to hold true across communities of varying sizes and locations within BC.

The third presented discussion frame, however, has limited analysis and discussion. While migration status should have no bearing on one’s right to housing (insofar as a given society seeks to grant such a right), it has the capacity to impact one’s social capital as well as impacting the reach of prevention and support services. Further inquiry should explore the prevalence of migratory patterns within vulnerable populations as well as the capacity for existing systems and services to support transitions. We hope that this overview can highlight available data and can shift discourse to the more productive and relevant discussion of improving the local response to rapid integration of vulnerable newcomers, one nuanced with the distinct implications of intraprovincial migration, interprovincial migration, and international migration.

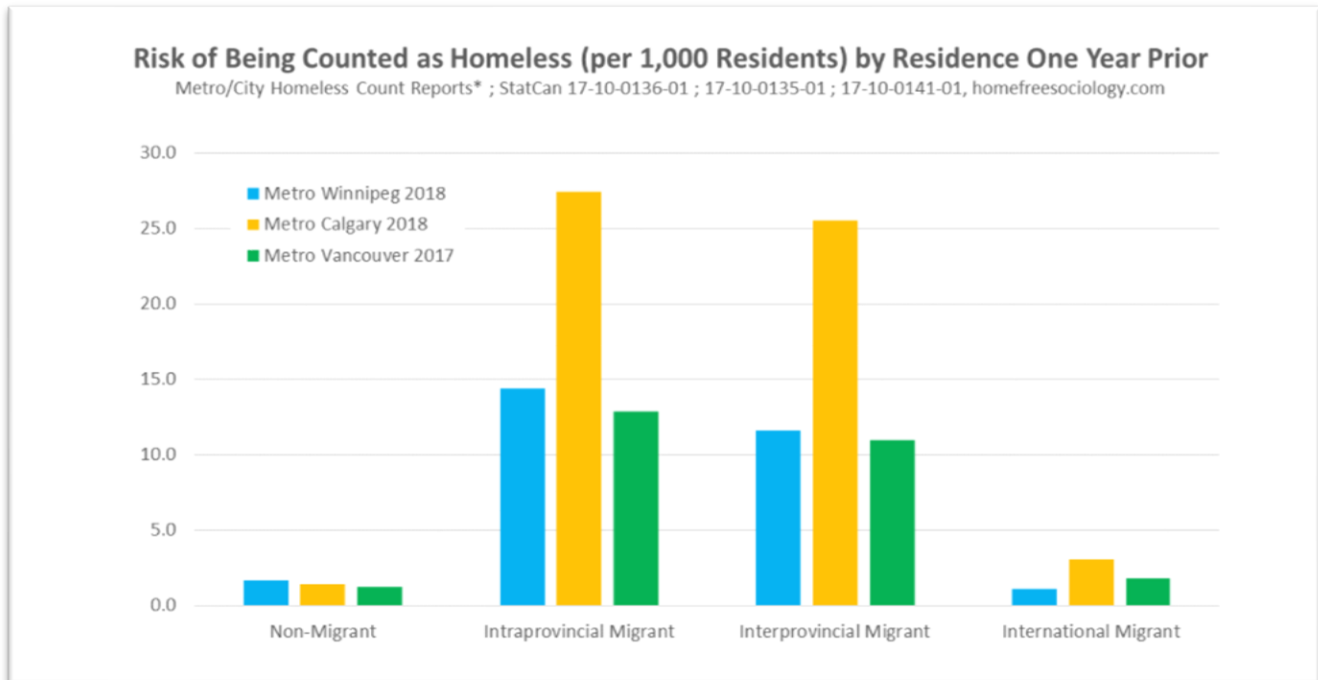
However, relocation can be particularly challenging for those without the financial means or family supports to establish themselves within a new environment, as well as those without knowledge of local supports and their access points. In his response to some narratives on migration to Vancouver, Dr. Lauster provided context on the apparent risk of homelessness among recent arrivals to a community:²³

Mostly moving works out pretty well, and people find work and a place to live. But sometimes it doesn’t work out. So some people move on again or return to where they came from. Others, for various reasons, find themselves homeless. Are recent movers more likely to find themselves homeless than long-time residents? Let’s compare homeless count data to general mobility data to find out... Even though most people who show up in homeless counts are long-time residents, being a recent mover to a region is much, much riskier. For both intraprovincial and interprovincial migrants, moving to a new place is a brave thing. This makes intuitive sense. Recent movers have

²² Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, s 7, Part 1 of the Constitution Act, 1982, being Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (UK), 1982, c 11. <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/rfc-dlc/ccrf-ccdl/check/art6.html>

²³ Homeless Counts and Migration Patterns in Metro Vancouver, Calgary, and Winnipeg (Home: Free Sociology! – Sept 12 2020) <https://homefreesociology.com/2020/09/12/homeless-counts-and-migration-patterns-in-metro-vancouver-calgary-and-winnipeg/>

to find housing without the benefit of already having any. They join a much smaller pool of local residents displaced from their housing in the search for a new place to live without the benefit of an old place to hold onto. So overall, recent movers are much more likely to find themselves out of luck in the search for housing than long-time residents. This seems to be exactly what we see for both intraprovincial and interprovincial migrants.



Context: Newcomers vs. Seasonal Migrants

In the Kelowna context, the local Journey Home Strategy on addressing homelessness identified both “newcomers” and “migrant workers” as distinct “key populations”.²⁴

- **Migrant Workers:** “The Kelowna region has a long history of migrant agricultural workers dating back to the late 1800s. The earliest migrant agricultural workers were the Chinese in the early 1900s. Due to the World Wars and other global trends, the groups that came to the region to work have shifted with the current status being a high proportion of young French Canadians and growing numbers of people from Latin America. The continued growth and operation of the agricultural industry in the Okanagan continues to depend on the employment of temporary migrant workers and, as such, this pattern will likely persist. This group is quite vulnerable to housing insecurity and homelessness especially in the case of those who are temporary foreign workers. The arrival of many new workers from Mexico is one example as they are known to face a range of socio-economic hardships in the Okanagan such as hours of work, access to housing, employment benefits, and fair wages.” (p.12)
- **Newcomers:** “The immigrant community is a growing population in the region. This population is often part of the hidden homeless, with a tendency for newcomers to the Okanagan to commonly deal with the high cost of housing in the region by house sharing. While newcomers may not access mainstream shelters, they nevertheless may need supports tailored to their unique experiences.” (p.13)

This suggests important distinctions in terms of why people relocate to regions. However, this report will focus on the three identified pathways of migration by destination: intraprovincial, interprovincial, and international.

²⁴ Kelowna’s Journey Home Strategy: Technical Report (2019) https://www.journeyhome.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/journey_home_technical_report.pdf

Likewise, much of the data presented in subsequent sections is based around the PIT Counts: waves of enumeration typically occurring in the Spring.²⁵ While other have occurred in the fall, annual counts are unable to capture seasonal changes among any population groups, and as will be demonstrated there counts often capture only brief and inconsistent snapshots of the migration experiences of those experiencing homelessness.

- 2016 Alberta PIT Counts: October 19, 2016
- 2017 Vernon PIT Count: October 19, 2017
- 2017 Duncan Winter PIT Count: February 21, 2017
- Federally coordinated 2018 “Everyone Counts”: Between March 1 and April 30, 2018
- Provincially coordinated 2018 counts: March / April 2018
- 2018 Westside PIT Count: July 23, 2018

²⁵ The listed dates have been pulled from the 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. (BC Housing, December 2018)
<https://www.bchousing.org/publications/2018-BC-Homeless-Counts.pdf>

Section 2: Reporting on State-Supported Relocation in the United States and Canada

In the lead-up to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, some scrutinized the treatment and risk of displacement of those sleeping rough,^{26,27} including the provision of one-way bus tickets to other regions.²⁸ While this was later identified as an “urban myth”,^{29,30} it was preceded by – and perhaps stemmed from – the real experience during Expo ’86 where over a thousand low-income residents of single room occupancy hotels in the Downtown Eastside were evicted with little notice to create vacancies for incoming tourists.³¹ Overall, media coverage can present a muddled picture of many possible factors driving up homelessness levels, which are supported by a mix of hearsay, anecdotes, and policy of intra and interprovincial migration policy for low-income individuals. A piece on Vancouver’s 2015 claim that their influx is driven by weather also touched on the “persistent myth” in the 1990’s that “Alberta premier Ralph Klein was providing the unemployed with one-way bus tickets to Vancouver in order to get them off his province’s welfare rolls”. Instead “the apparent exodus of Alberta’s poor was part of a program that paid the travel expenses of welfare recipients looking to return home”.³²

Concerns specific to busing continue to surface from time to time when individual cases are identified, particularly when those involved are not set up to receive appropriate supports at their destination.^{33,34} In one such instance with two individuals arriving to BC from Saskatchewan, a representative from Vancouver’s Union Gospel Mission acknowledged the practice, but only when paired with supports.³⁵ Overall, bus programs seek to reunify clients with family and / or other supports. This is also often the primary reason given by respondents in Point-in-Time counts that probe for the rationale behind migration between communities, as is demonstrated in later sections. An additional recent example of relocation has been in response to environmental emergencies, with the flooding in Merritt causing the evacuation of those experiencing homelessness to the nearby centres of Kamloops and Kelowna.³⁶

While there has been limited public reporting on the Canadian context outside of individual cases, the extensive documentation of bus programs south of the border may be fueling the overall narrative of state-implicated migration locally. In 2017, reporters with the Guardian published a piece overviewing their analysis of bus relocation programs for those experiencing homelessness.³⁷ They were able to compile destinations for 21,400 journeys across a six-year period. Jurisdictions such as New York go as far as offering airfare to individuals seeking to migrate. A visual representation of these data from the article is featured on the following page.

Despite that context and the larger scale, the practice has its supporters when implemented with care and guided by a goal of supporting the client. The paper cites the head of the National Alliance to End Homelessness as noting that bus programs can be a positive. This tool can be used to support individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness if a relocation is relevant to the individual case and the process has appropriate follow-ups to promote

²⁶ B.C. homeless relocation questioned (CTV News – Aug 15, 2008) <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/b-c-homeless-relocation-questioned-1.316505>

²⁷ Winter Olympics on slippery slope after Vancouver crackdown on homeless (The Guardian – Feb 3, 2010)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/feb/03/vancouver-winter-olympics-homeless-row>

²⁸ Whistler’s Homeless Get a One-Way Ticket Out of Town for the Olympics (Jan 10, 2010) <https://bigthink.com/guest-thinkers/whistlers-homeless-get-a-one-way-ticket-out-of-town-for-the-olympics/>

²⁹ Homeless not being displaced: RCMP (Castanet – Jan 14, 2010) <https://www.castanet.net/edition/news-story-52008-1-.htm>

³⁰ Rounding up homeless for Olympics dismissed as a myth (Toronto Star – Nov 29, 2009)

https://www.thestar.com/sports/olympics/2009/11/29/rounding_up_homeless_for_olympics_dismissed_as_a_myth.html

³¹ Expo 86 evictions: remembering the fair’s dark side (CBC News – May 4, 2016) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/expo-86-evictions-remembered-1.3566844>

³² Vancouver mayor says city’s ‘warmer weather’ to blame as he fails goal to end homelessness by 2015 (National Post – Mar 24, 2015) <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/vancouver-mayor-says-citys-warmer-weather-to-blame-as-he-fails-goal-to-end-homelessness-by-2015>

³³ Cavers thinks VPD is bussing homeless people to Kamloops (Kamloops This Week – May 17, 2016)

<https://www.kamloopsthisweek.com/local-news/cavers-thinks-vpd-is-bussing-homeless-people-to-kamloops-4361236>

³⁴ 2 homeless men from Saskatchewan given one-way bus tickets to B.C. (Global News – Mar 9, 2016)

<https://globalnews.ca/news/2567494/reports-2-homeless-men-from-saskatchewan-given-one-way-bus-tickets-to-b-c/>

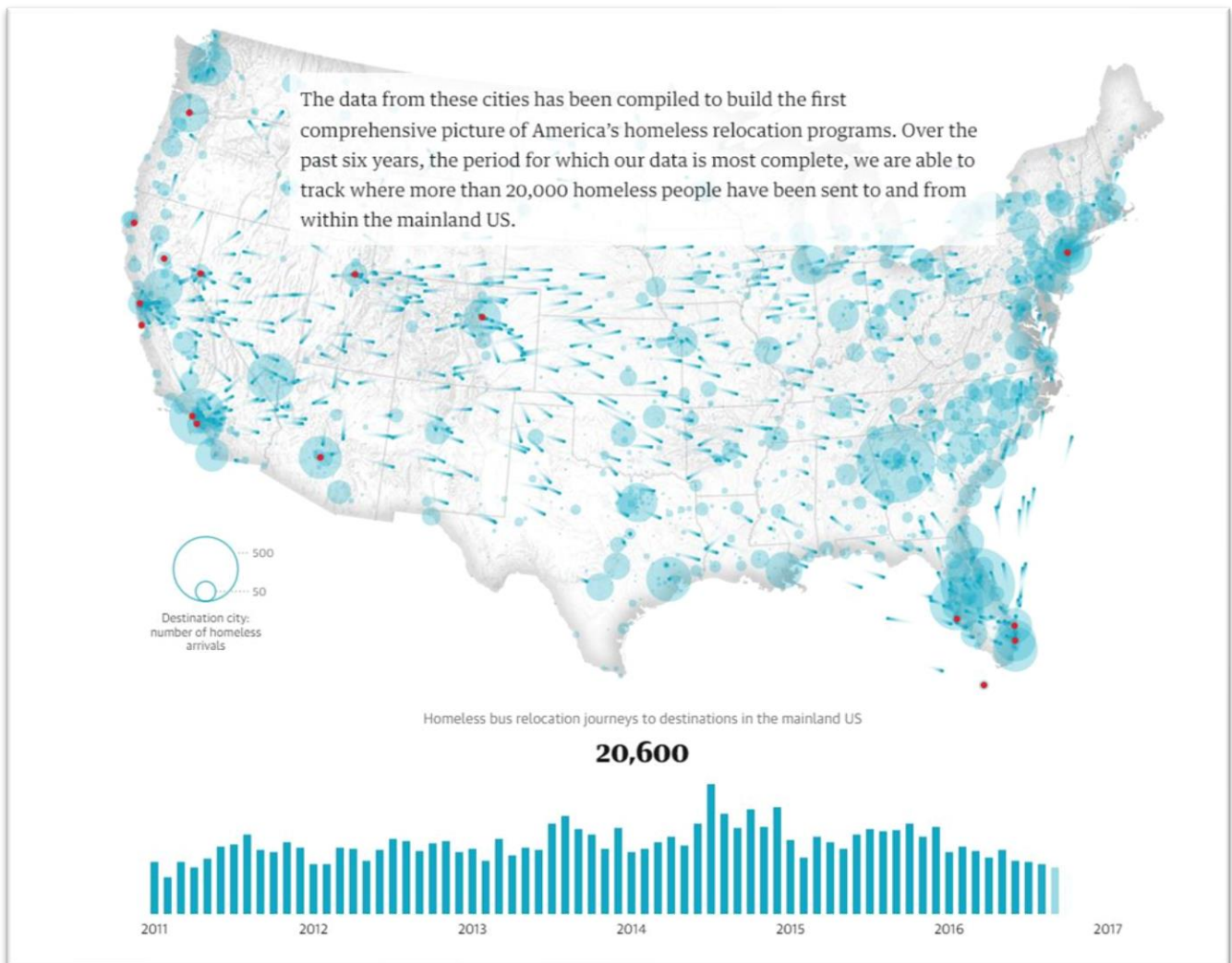
³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Shelters completely filled (Castanet – Dec 1, 2021) <https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/353340/Flood-evacuees-contribute-to-Kelowna-Gospel-Mission-s-bed-shortage>

³⁷ Bussed out: How America moves its homeless (Dec 20, 2017) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2017/dec/20/bussed-out-america-moves-homeless-people-country-study>

positive and lasting transitions. Overall, these programs typically aim to reunify individuals with supports in their home environments, with names including “Homeward Bound” and “Family Reunification”. To qualify, individuals often must provide evidence that a friend or relative will receive them at their chosen destination. Shelter are then also supposed to call and verify that the transition has been successful.

However, the NAEH representative further highlighted the limitations given that most people experience homeless in places they are from. Reporters also noted anecdotal testimony of only cursory checks being conducted, of pressure to accept the travel, and also a general lack of effectiveness and rapid returns to homelessness. In some cases, the provision of bus tickets was also contingent on contracts agreeing to a lifetime ban should they ever return, in an attempt to ensure the move is permanent (regardless of the outcome). The paper also addresses questionable motivations, noting that Atlanta, Georgia was accused of ramping up their program in the run-up to the 1996 summer Olympics, as well as citing the overall imbalance of jurisdictions such as San Francisco with an outflow that greatly outpaced any inflow.



Section 3: Concerns of an Influx of Homelessness to the West

The Guardian’s reporting also lies in parallel to one of the more macroscopic narratives related to migratory patterns of those experiencing homelessness, which is an overall influx along the Western Coastal regions of Canada and the United States. Migration data and analysis in Canada for this population is often limited to anecdotal experiences or community-level Point in Time counts. This can make the phenomenon a readily available target for both public and political blame for any challenges in providing services to those in need. Westward migration – whether genuine or perceived – is often attributed to either a more manageable climate or more generous social policies. Detailed below are known sources of data on homelessness rates that can speak to whether either type of claim can be supported, with [Section 5](#) of this resource later articulating known information on the former communities of those experiencing homelessness in BC (and elsewhere, for comparison).

Context for Perceived Migration Patterns

Concerns that migration stems from the promise of more liberal benefits can often be leveraged in opposition to further investments in social services. This debate was reintroduced in Victoria in the summer of 2020 with Victoria police chief Del Manak providing the following assessment:³⁸

“Their whole sole purpose of coming to Victoria was because they need a place to live and they heard that if they come to Victoria they’d be offered that opportunity... People definitely are here from out of town, out of province, looking for a free place to stay.”

Advocates and politicians subsequently pushed back against that narrative. A subsequent piece³⁹ cited the CEO of Victoria’s Our Place Society opining that he doesn’t think someone’s hometown matters when it comes to providing services or setting policy to support the most vulnerable people in the community. Victoria’s Mayor is likewise noted as rejecting the claim, pointing to 40 encampments in almost every major city in B.C., and similar encampments across Canada at the time.

While analysis on homeless encampments in Canada typically focused on addressing challenges and not tracking the respective locations of such sites,⁴⁰ documentation of US encampments generally reflects that encampments are a feature of many major cities,⁴¹ though with a large concentration statewide across California. While the National Alliance to End Homelessness again attributed this Western concentration to the limited supply and high price of housing,⁴² factors of cost and climate can themselves be linked – the US’s urban metro areas with the top five highest number of pleasant days of weather had median home values more than double that of the national median.⁴³

The identification of climate as a factor contributing to migration is a recurring theme in tempering expectations of western cities’ capacity to reduce the incidence of homelessness. Vancouver’s former mayor attributed their inability to end homelessness by 2015 to the warmer weather of the city, the province, and the West Coast general in comparison to other regions.⁴⁴ The Vancouver Sun published a 2016 piece to that end,⁴⁵ pushing back against the perspective of local politicians, who they allege believe that those experiencing homelessness do not migrate. The author notes:

³⁸ Police chief says people moving to Victoria for homeless benefits (CTV News - August 23, 2020)

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/police-chief-says-people-moving-to-victoria-for-homeless-benefits-1.5080190>

³⁹ Debate over whether people are migrating here in hopes of free housing (Times Colonist – Aug 29, 2020)

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/debate-over-whether-people-are-migrating-here-in-hopes-of-free-housing-4683705>

⁴⁰ See, e.g. BC Housing’s 2021 report on “Homeless Encampments in British Columbia”, <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/library/transition-from-homelessness/homeless-encampments-in-british-columbia&sortType=sortByDate>

⁴¹ List of tent cities in the United States (Wikipedia) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_tent_cities_in_the_United_States

⁴² How California Homelessness Became A Crisis (NPR – Jun 8, 2021)

<https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2021/06/08/1003982733/squalor-behind-the-golden-gate-confronting-californias-homelessness-crisis>

⁴³ Hottest homes, coolest prices: Why cash-strapped families are moving to regions with extreme climates (NBC – Sep 28, 2021)

<https://www.nbcnews.com/business/real-estate/hottest-homes-coolest-prices-why-cash-strapped-families-are-moving-n1280172>

⁴⁴ Vancouver mayor says city’s ‘warmer weather’ to blame as he fails goal to end homelessness by 2015 (National Post - Mar 24, 2015)

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/vancouver-mayor-says-citys-warmer-weather-to-blame-as-he-fails-goal-to-end-homelessness-by-2015>

⁴⁵ B.C. shelters report a spike as Canada’s homeless head west (Vancouver Sun – Mar 25, 2016) <https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/b-c-shelters-report-a-spike-as-canadas-homeless-head-west>

“But of course homeless people migrate. They move for weather, for lifestyle and for better shelter. They have easy access to transportation and the online and social networks to know where to go. No government wants to say that helping the homeless only invites a tide of new homeless, but in cities across Western Canada, that appears to be precisely the case. A nation of homeless is heading west, and until policymakers start acknowledging it, say critics, the situation is only going to get worse for the people with homes and the homeless alike.”

The notion of climate-linked migration was further supported by a 2020 opinion piece calling for an end to Vancouver service as “Canada's dumping ground for the homeless”.⁴⁶ The piece, citing a Simon Fraser University professor, posits that:

“It is clear that there is a migration pattern towards Vancouver and Victoria, and to halt this pattern policymakers need to use the information that is readily available to identify where people are in need of assistance, and allocate that assistance to where they are so that they can remain in their communities, whether it be in Surrey or Halifax.”

The source further posits that “the highest concentrations of homeless people in North American countries are in the warmer parts”, citing climate as “one of the most obvious relevant factors for westward migration”.

Of course, the Vancouver Sun piece is correct: people experiencing homelessness do migrate. The data presented in [Section 4](#) clearly illustrate that a portion of those enumerated across PIT counts identify as newly arrived within their current community in the past year, though the majority of respondents have typically called their community home for over a year. And while temperate climates are plausibly linked to a community’s share of those sheltering outdoors, the available analysis presented below on the geographic distribution of those experiencing homelessness overall (including both those sheltering outdoors and those sheltering indoors) do not point to any clear association with climate so much as a more specific concentration to the West Coast. Likewise, the data presented in [Section 5](#) on the prior communities of recent arrivals appears to contradict any claim of unidirectional migration. The data of reported reasons for relocation among this population presented in [Section 6](#) more strongly support a claim that like many individuals, those experiencing homelessness migrate in association with employment prospects and their family support networks. However, others do migrate to access services and supports, particularly those identified within interim housing or institutional care in the case of Kelowna.

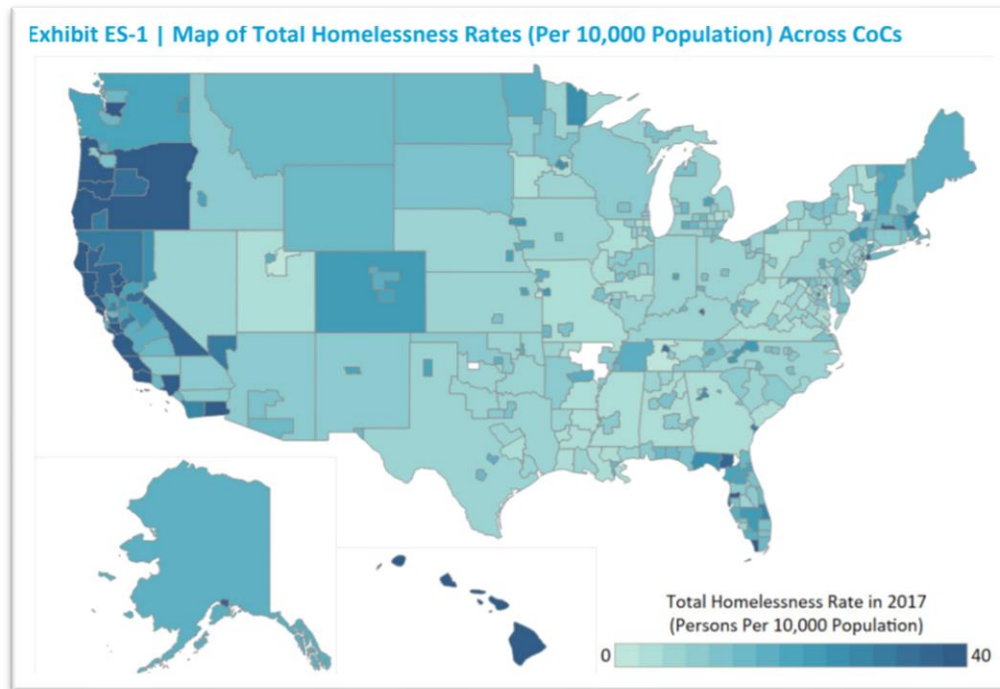
Geographical Breakdowns of Homelessness Data – US Data

While the enumeration of homelessness in Canada has historically – and continues to be – conducted as a municipal level, the US’s federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has collected and compiled years of extensive data collection in “Continuum of Care” (CoC) regions across the country.⁴⁷ This allows for comparisons across geographies in that context. The following images are exhibits presented in a HUD report on market predictors of homelessness.⁴⁸ The first image represents a heatmap on the per capita rates of homelessness (p.2) for each CoC across the US. While this does not speak to migratory shifts, the rates do support the narrative of increased homelessness in the West (as well as in the Northeast and Florida), whereas there are no obvious associations with a region’s climate. There are, however, a myriad of other possible explanatory factors. The HUD report also cites higher home values, median rents, and shares of renter-occupied units in West Coast communities, which also have higher median incomes but similarly higher unemployment.

⁴⁶ Opinion: Vancouver is Canada's dumping ground for the homeless, and this needs to stop (Daily Hive – Sep 9, 2020) <https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/vancouver-homeless-national-crisis-epicentre>

⁴⁷ HUD: Annual Homeless Assessment Reports (AHAR) <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/ahar/#2020-reports>

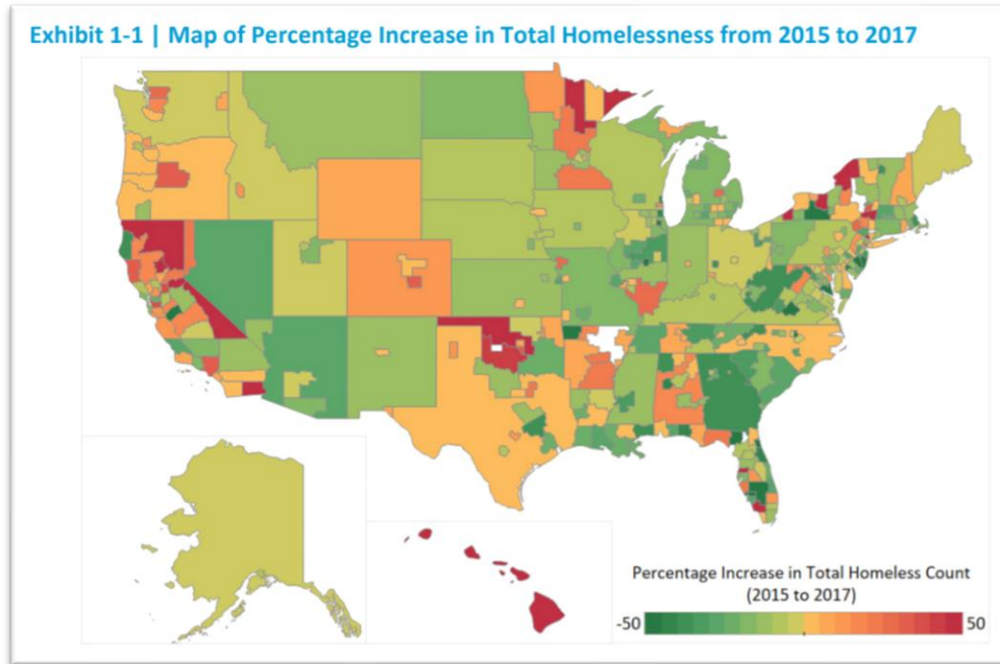
⁴⁸ Market Predictor of Homelessness: How Housing and Community Factors Shape Homelessness Rates Within Continuums of Care (HUD, 2019) <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/Market-Predictors-of-Homelessness.pdf>



The potential role of climate is further elaborated on page 13:

“Empirical evidence has indeed suggested that communities with warm climates have higher rates of unsheltered homelessness, on average, than communities with colder climates (Corinth and Lucas, 2018). This relationship, however, appears to be more tenuous among homelessness studies that control for an array of factors within their explanatory models. O’Flaherty (2018) suggests including the interaction between population characteristics such as poverty rates and conditions that affect the entire population (like temperature) in the model. Across metropolitan contexts, average temperature ranges were unassociated with homelessness rates, while areas with heavy precipitation had a significant negative association (Lee, Price-Spratlen, and Kanan, 2003). To more fully examine the relationship between climate and homelessness, Corinth and Lucas (2018) analyzed the relationship between the distribution of temperatures on CoC homelessness rates. CoCs with cold climates were found to have uniformly low rates of unsheltered homelessness, while warmer CoCs demonstrated substantial variation in the size of the unsheltered population. These findings seem to be clearly tied to the fact that the underlying data—namely PIT counts—are collected in January. The authors noted the need for future research to carefully account for climate factors when examining the determinants of homelessness.”

A second exhibit within the report is a heatmap of the percent increases across CoCs between 2015 and 2017 (p.7). While changes in rates of homelessness could likewise reflect local factors, they would also be influenced by any trends in migration – no clear trends by geography are apparent.



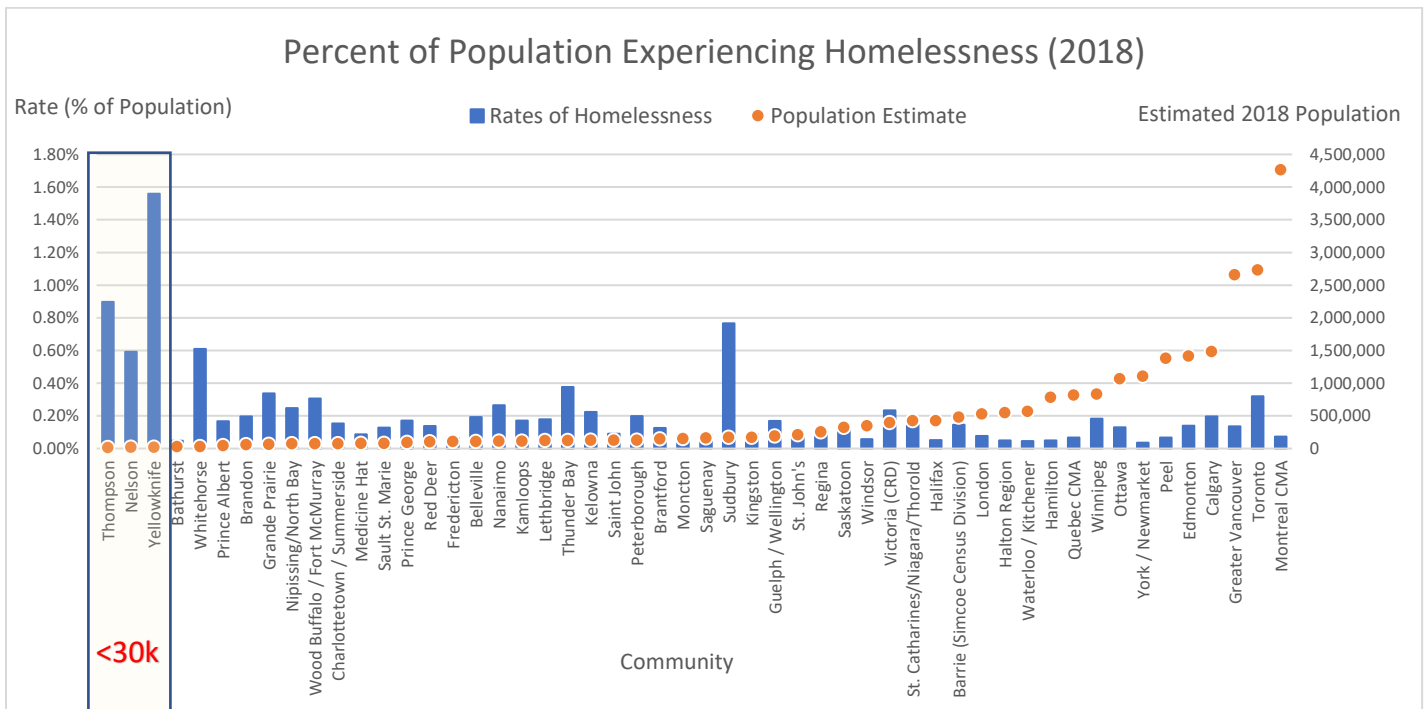
Geographical Breakdowns of Homelessness – Canadian Data

Section 1 introduced that 61 communities participated in the 2018 nationally coordinated Point-in-Time (PIT) count, and that further independently- and provincially-funded PIT counts are also available. However, it can be difficult to compare across jurisdictions as only raw numbers are reported, and it can also be difficult to generate per capita statistics without clear catchment limits. Very few PIT Reports specify the boundaries covered by their count,⁴⁹ making it difficult to assess whether the municipal population estimate or the Census Metropolitan Area population estimate is most relevant. Occasionally, multiple population centres are covered by a count.

Despite these challenges, best estimates⁵⁰ would suggest that the various federally-funded counts conducted in 2018 by participating communities converge at a rate of approximately 0.22% of their community members experiencing homelessness in that period. The 2018 federal counts don't point to the same level of geographic concentration as the previously noted US estimates. Of the five communities with rates of homelessness above 0.40%, four were linked by their smaller size and their relative remoteness (Sudbury's count noted extensive efforts to capture hidden homelessness compared to other jurisdictions).

⁴⁹ Metro Vancouver's reports are a notable exception, as they provide a map of included communities – see page 10 of their final data report for 2020, for example: https://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/HC2020_FinalReport.pdf

⁵⁰ Best estimates were produced by manually entering available 2018 counts from the individual communities compared to Statistics Canada "Population estimates by census metropolitan area and census agglomeration" for 2018 (<https://doi.org/10.25318/1710013501-eng>), though municipal population levels were used for Toronto and Kelowna and Regional Municipality populations for certain regional Ontario counts.



Of note, these 2018 estimates of homelessness rates across the country are fairly similar to the results of attempts to estimate and compare rates prior to the use national counts, specifically the estimates provided in Table 4 of the State of Homelessness in Canada 2013,⁵¹ transposed below alongside corresponding 2018 estimates. Again, the lack of consistent denominator population figures required to produce reliable rates for any given year will be further compounded when attempting to compare rates across counts and years, but it is illustrative of the nuances of homelessness enumeration and interpretation in a country whose overall Census Metropolitan Area population grew by almost 15% in the past decade.⁵² However, these data are likely insufficient in contextualizing geographic shifts, particularly in relation to what is available from the US. While some communities have adopted other methods of enumeration and tracking (see, e.g. the Built for Zero campaign⁵³), including the use of By-Name Lists of all community members currently experiencing homelessness, they are not designed to capture or inform trends in the specific context of migration, and likewise are not reported on a per capita basis (but could be readily adapted to reflect rate-based reporting if desirable, and represent useful methods of enumeration).

Community	Year	Est. Rate as % of Total Pop	Year	Est. Rate as % of Total Pop	Change in Rates	Change in Pop Over Period
Kelowna	2007	0.24%	2018	0.22%	-8%	+25%
Calgary	2012	0.29%	2018	0.21%	-27%	+14%
Red Deer	2012	0.31%	2018	0.15%	-51%	+8%
Edmonton	2012	0.27%	2018	0.15%	-44%	+15%
Lethbridge	2012	0.12%	2018	0.19%	+58%	+12%
Saskatoon	2008	0.12%	2018	0.16%	+33%	+28%
Toronto	2009	0.19%	2018	0.32%	+68%	+13%

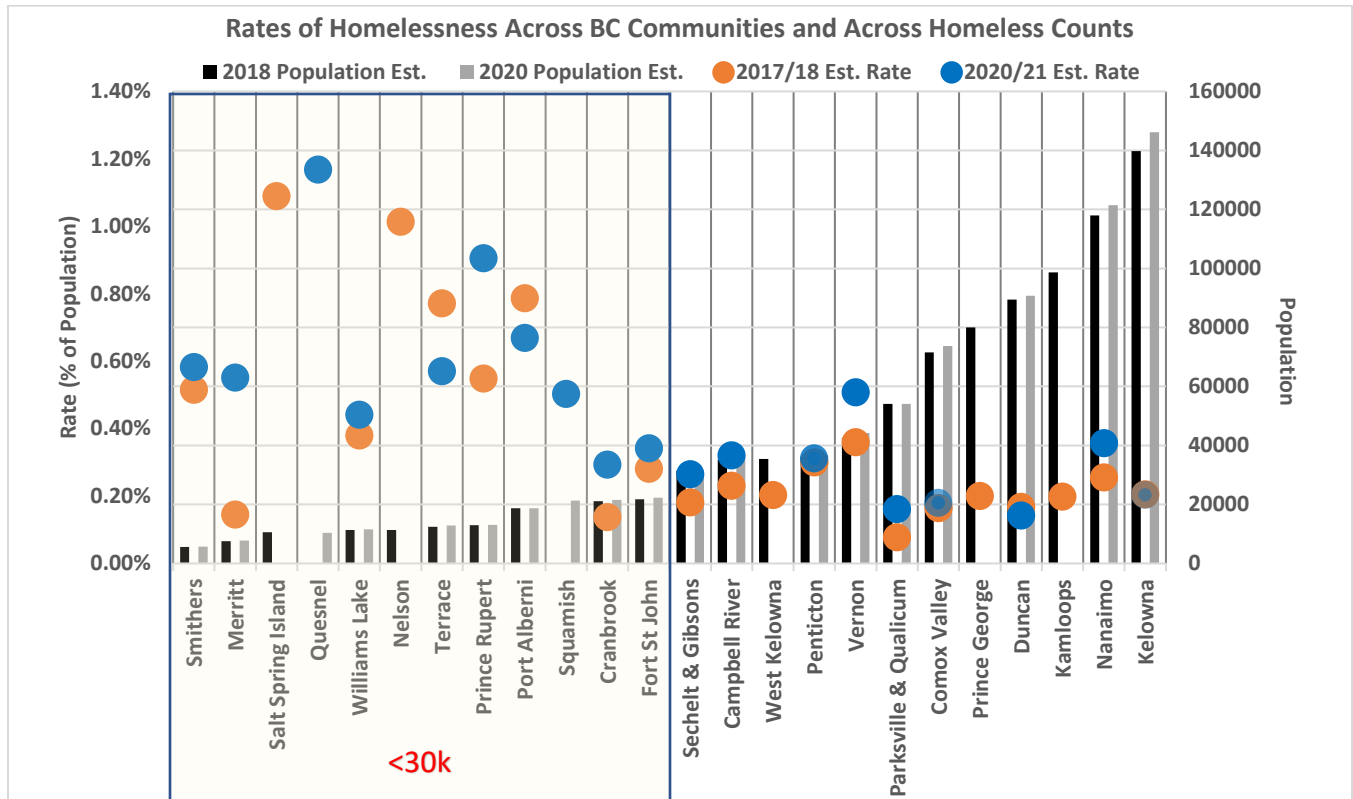
Vancouver rates reflected different boundaries and were therefore removed from the above

⁵¹ Stephen Gaetz, Jesse Donaldson, Tim Richter, & Tanya Gulliver (2013): The State of Homelessness in Canada 2013. Toronto: Canadian Homelessness Research Network Press. <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/SOHC2103.pdf> (Table 4, p.24)

⁵² Statistics Canada (2021) - Table 17-10-0135-01: Population estimates, July 1, by census metropolitan area and census agglomeration, 2016 boundaries <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710013501-eng>

⁵³ Built for Zero Canada: <https://bfzcanada.ca/>

Additional Point-in-Time data from provincially-funded counts in BC further support the observations of increased incidence within smaller communities and / or more remote communities, rather than any congregation specifically towards the coast and the Lower Mainland.⁵⁴



Perceptions of increasing homelessness may result from actual increases in both raw and per capita assessments faced by many communities. Likewise, perceived differences across regions may stem from a larger and / or more visible subset of those sheltering outdoors in those regions with warmer climates, as well as distortions from either larger raw numbers or greater density of those experiencing homelessness within larger urban areas. Furthermore, current economic conditions are such that while certain areas of both the United States and Canada face greater affordability crunches, for those in the lowest income brackets face a lack of affordability everywhere they go.

- “In no state, metropolitan area, or county in the U.S. can a worker earning the federal or prevailing state or local minimum wage afford a modest two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent by working a standard 40-hour work week.”⁵⁵
- Outside of the most northern regions, most of Canada remains unaffordable (30-49% of income spent on rent and utilities) or severely unaffordable (50%+) for the lowest income quartile.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Homeless Counts (BC Housing 2021) <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/housing-data/homeless-counts>

⁵⁵ Out of Reach: The High Cost of Housing (National Low Income Housing Coalition 2021) https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/oor/2021/Out-of-Reach_2021.pdf

⁵⁶ Canadian Rental Housing Index: Affordability (http://rentalhousingindex.ca/en/#affordability_cd)

Section 4: Length of Residency in Current Community

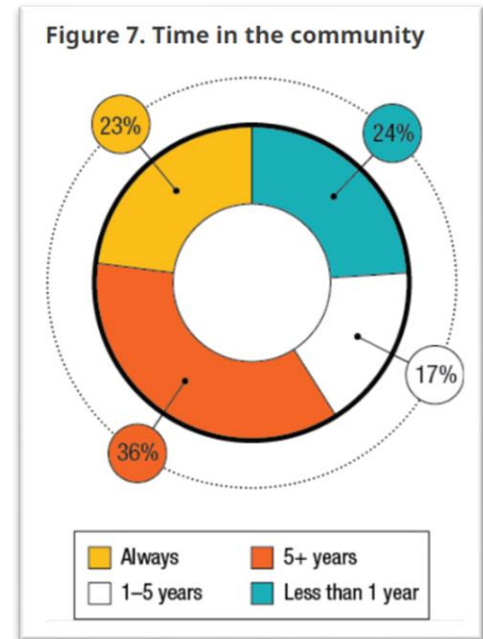
As was noted previously, the Vancouver Sun piece is certainly correct in asserting that people experiencing homelessness do migrate. As with many Canadian residents, a portion of those currently experiencing homelessness have relocated away from their home communities at some point in life, though it is not often known if they did so prior to or in between any experiences with housing precarity, or if they did so while actively experiencing homelessness. This represents important context – or again, often an absence of context – for understanding reported length of residency, as well as in interpreting the stated prior locations reported in [Section 5](#) and the reported reasons for relocation summarized in [Section 6](#). Furthermore, the individual Point-in-Time counts can be inconsistent in their reporting of length of residency, often using different thresholds or disaggregation’s. However, those that did include report comparable time points were aggregated in the 2018 coordinated PIT wave to produce the displayed figure, demonstrating a mixed tenure within communities.⁵⁷

The additional reporting highlighted below offers both shared and unique accounts of the length of time respondents have spent within their current communities. Practically speaking, this can provide system planners and service providers with a rough estimate of the number of new arrivals in a given year, individuals who may be less familiar with local supports and access points and who either enter our communities in need of support, or need support soon after their arrival.

Mobility / Stability in Smaller Cities

While the coordinated BC provincial counts⁵⁸ conducted in 2018 and 2020/2021 have not collected or reported information on the prior home communities of respondents, they did report information on two periods of time within their current community – whether they have been within community for at least 1 year, or at least 10 years – across both waves to date.

This first time period reflects what was introduced above, that approximately 5% - 38% of those experiencing homelessness in smaller cities across BC had arrived in their community within the past year. While it is not reported if these individuals relocated while experiencing homelessness, while experiencing some vulnerabilities or critical incidents that might have made them vulnerable to housing precarity, or whether they faced precarity only following their move, these individuals may have more limited knowledge of local supports and how to access them. More detailed reporting from Nanaimo, introduced further below, indicated that the bulk of new arrivals have relocated within a three-month period ahead of the count. Conversely, 30-75% of respondents had lived within the community for over 10 years. While again the timing and length of experiences of homelessness was not disaggregated by length of residency, these figures do support the claim that a large portion of those experiencing homelessness within BC communities are long-time residents of their local area.



Community	Year	Respondent has been in the community for:	
		At least 1 year	At least 10 years
Campbell River	2018	58%	34%
Campbell River	2021	76%	45%
Comox Valley	2018	83%	49%
Comox Valley	2020	78%	55%

⁵⁷ Everyone Counts 2018: Highlights – Report (ESDC 2021) <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/reports/highlights-2018-point-in-time-count.html>

⁵⁸ Homeless Counts (BC Housing) <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/housing-data/homeless-counts>

Community	Year	Respondent has been in the community for:	
		At least 1 year	At least 10 years
Cranbrook	2018	62%	42%
Cranbrook	2020	74%	44%
Duncan & Cowichan Valley	2018	N/A	N/A
Duncan & Cowichan Valley	2020	88%	47%
Fort St John	2018	72%	30%
Fort St John	2020	74%	54%
Merritt	2018	73%	64%
Merritt	2020	73%	54%
Parksville & Qualicum	2018	76%	45%
Parksville & Qualicum	2021	81%	41%
Penticton	2018	77%	49%
Penticton	2021	73%	46%
Port Alberni	2018	80%	50%
Port Alberni	2021	95%	73%
Prince Rupert	2018	80%	60%
Prince Rupert	2021	92%	75%
Quesnel	2018	N/A	N/A
Quesnel	2020	86%	56%
Sechelt & Gibsons	2018	74%	36%
Sechelt & Gibsons	2020	76%	47%
Smithers	2018	68%	44%
Smithers	2021	85%	69%
Squamish	2018	N/A	N/A
Squamish	2021	82%	39%
Vernon	2018	N/A	N/A
Vernon	2021	84%	42%
Williams Lake	2018	65%	53%
Williams Lake	2020	85%	74%

There was some variation in residency tenures across PIT waves. Both decreases and increases were observed, but overall the 2020/2021 counts recorded and increase in time resided within community. While the timing of the disrupted federal and provincial PIT counts allowed for some limited comparisons across 2020 and 2021 counts, there were no notable changes between communities with a second count in 2020 (i.e. pre-COVID) versus those with a second count in 2021 (i.e. during COVID).

Mobility / Stability in Vernon

The 2021 Vernon count demonstrated the majority of those experiencing homelessness in Vernon had moved there within the past 10 years, but a sizeable portion were long-time residents (42% having resided in the community for at least ten years). The 2019 independent city count had identified similar figures,⁵⁹ with 28% of respondents having lived in Vernon for less than one year, and with 60% of respondents indicating that they had either grown up in

⁵⁹ Our Homeless Count: Survey Results for Vernon BC (Oct 2019). Turning Points Collaborative / Social Planning Council. <https://socialplanning.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FINAL-REPORT-Our-Homeless-Count-Vernon-BC-October-2019.pdf>

Vernon or had family connections in the community. The 2019 count emphasized both sized of this observation in their executive summary:

- The annual surveys show that approximately 30% of people are new to Vernon each year, however the annual homeless rate does not increase by 30%. Just like any other demographic, people move in and out of the community (p.4)

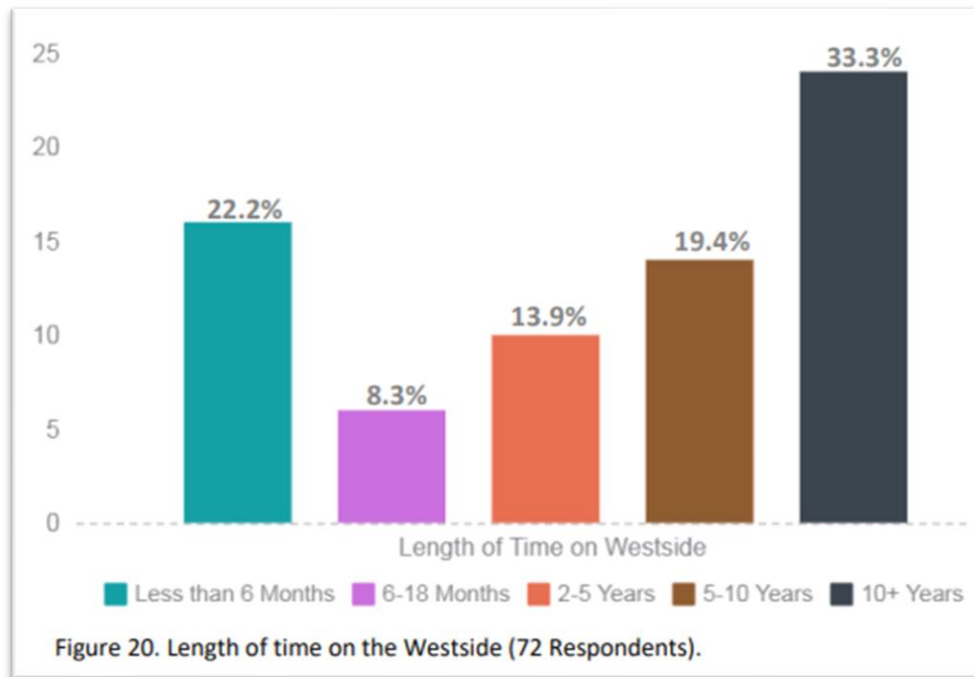
Mobility / Stability in Kelowna

The federally-funded PIT counts in Kelowna (and elsewhere) offer comparable information at the one-year mark; that info is also typically available across PIT waves (for Kelowna, counts conducted in 2016, 2018, and 2020).^{60,61,62} However, rates of recent arrivals are reported separately for the “Absolutely Homeless” and the “Temporarily Housed” in Kelowna. The observed rates of new arrivals match the general range of observations.

Count Year	Moved to Kelowna Within the Past Year (%)	
	Absolutely Homeless	Temporarily Housed
2016	29%	N/A
2018	26%	25%
2020	30%	34%

Mobility / Stability in West Kelowna

The counted conducted across the lake in West Kelowna in the summer of 2018 identified similar rates of new arrivals, with more detailed reporting on the full range of lengths of residency. Long-term residency endorsement was on lower end, comparable to Campbell River and Fort Saint John 2018 findings presented earlier.⁶³



⁶⁰ Community Report: Point-in-Time Count (Kelowna, 2016). Central Okanagan Foundation. https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/5514/6257/0882/PiT_Community_Report_2016_WEB_VERSION.pdf

⁶¹ Community Report: Point-in-Time Count (Kelowna, 2018). Central Okanagan Foundation. https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/6215/9501/9181/COF_PiT_Report_2018_FINAL.pdf

⁶² Community Report: Point-in-Time Count (Kelowna, 2020). Central Okanagan Foundation. https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/7516/1177/7135/COF_PiT_Report_2020_R7.pdf

⁶³ Westside Point-in-Time Count 2018 Report (City of West Kelowna / Westbank First Nation) https://www.westkelownacity.ca/en/our-community/resources/Documents/2018-point_in_time_count_edited_report_-_web.pdf

The 6-month time point was also captured for the City of Nanaimo and the City of Vancouver counts.

Mobility / Stability in Nanaimo

As is illustrated in the below figure extracted from the 2020 in Nanaimo,⁶⁴ the majority of respondents in Nanaimo’s PIT counts identified being long-term residents within the community. It should be noted that 2018 was also documented as being a period of growth in size within “Discontent City”, Nanaimo’s encampment of those sheltering outdoors (albeit in the fall of that year).⁶⁵ Despite this, the share of new arrivals (in the prior year) was nearly halved between 2016 and 2018 counts, declining again in 2020 to one of the lowest observed rates. While this particular time point of the past year could include those with lengthy stays within encampments, the 2018 count documented that a substantial portion of respondents had been in Nanaimo their entire lives (32%), a portion that actually further increased in 2020 (35%).

The report offers the following assessment (p.18):

The evidence is entirely clear: People experiencing homelessness in Nanaimo are in large part from Nanaimo. This finding debunks the popular (and derogatory) myth that “homeless people come to Nanaimo for the weather, public services, free accommodation etc. ...” And according to the survey data... the reported reasons people came to Nanaimo were identical to the reasons that anyone else does: For work, to go to school, to join family, to start a new life.

Reported reasons for relocating, including those presented in the 2020 Nanaimo report, are reported in [Section 6](#).

Count	Less than 1 Year	%	More than 1 Year	%
2020 (n = 352*)	34	10%	318	90%
2018 (n = 273*)	40	15%	233	85%
2016 (n=170*)	48	28%	122	72%
<i>*Differs from report, as “no answer” replies have been removed*</i>				

How long have you been in Nanaimo?

A very high percentage of respondents reported that they had lived in Nanaimo for most or all of their lives. The majority would certainly, by most measures, qualify as being “from Nanaimo”:

- 88.9% more than 1 year (318 / 358)
- 83.0% more than 2 years (297 / 358)
- 71.2% more than 5 years (255 / 358)

Nanaimo’s counts also offer a glimpse into those who had arrived in the prior 3-month period, a time point also presented in the 2018 Winnipeg Count.

⁶⁴ Nanaimo Community Report -- Everyone Counts: 2020 Point-In-Time Count (Nanaimo Homeless Coalition) https://www.uwcncvi.ca/application/files/9516/0134/4873/COMMUNITY_REPORT_Nanaimo_PiT_Count_2020.pdf

⁶⁵ Homeless Encampments in British Columbia (BC Housing, Oct 2021) <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/library/transition-from-homelessness/homeless-encampments-in-british-columbia&sortType=sortByDate>

Count	0 – 3 months	3 – 6 months	6 – 12 months	1 – 5 years	5 – 40 years	Always been here
2020 (n = 352*)	17 (5%)	7 (2%)	10 (3%)	63 (18%)	132 (38%)	123 (35%)
2018 (n = 273*)	23 (8%)	9 (3%)	8 (3%)	50 (18%)	96 (35%)	87 (32%)
<i>*Differs from report, as “no answer” replies have been removed*</i>						

Mobility / Stability in Vancouver (Metro)

A great deal of information is available on the mobility of those experiencing homelessness within Vancouver and its surrounding regions, with counts within Metro Vancouver available from as early as 2002, and with City of Vancouver Counts available starting in 2010.⁶⁶ The 2020 PIT report illustrated that a consistent majority of respondents had lived in the community for 5 years or more in all counts between 2011 and 2020.⁶⁷

The proportion who has arrived within the past year again consistently fits within the general range of the other counts. Furthermore, 18% of respondents in the 2020 metro count had identified as having always resided within the community. As is elaborated further in [Section 5](#), the City of Vancouver counts do assess where individuals were living the most recent time they became homeless. They also have their own measures of stability, described below.

Length of Time in Community	2008		2011		2014		2017		2020	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 1 year	416	20%	379	25%	373	21%	496	22%	449	22%
1 year to under 5 years	409	19%	296	19%	296	17%	401	18%	384	18%
5 years to under 10 years	312	15%	198	13%	189	11%	227	10%	252	12%
10 years or more	972	46%	645	42%	911	51%	1,138	50%	992	48%
<i>Total Respondents</i>	2,109	100%	1,518	100%	1,769	100%	2,262	100%	2,077	100%
Don't Know/No Answer	551		1,132		1,008		1,343		1,557	
Total	2,660		2,650		2,777		3,605		3,634	

Mobility / Stability in Vancouver (City Counts)

The City of Vancouver 2018 count again found similar overall proportion of “new arrivals” within the past year.⁶⁸ However, note that new arrivals were more predominant among the sheltered population compared to those sheltering outdoors.

⁶⁶ Homeless counts for both Metro Vancouver and the City of Vancouver can be accessed through the following webpage:

<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/homeless-count.aspx>

⁶⁷ 2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver (BCNPHA – Nov 2020)

https://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/HC2020_FinalReport.pdf

⁶⁸ Vancouver Homeless Count 2018 (Urban Matters CCC / BCNPHA) <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vancouver-homeless-count-2018-final-report.pdf>

Table 13: Length of Time in Vancouver

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
less than 6 months	149	20%	53	9%	202	15%
6 months to 1 year	60	8%	46	7%	106	8%
more than 1 year ²¹	549	72%	518	84%	1,067	78%
Responses	758	100%	617	100%	1,375	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	764		42		806	
Total	1,522		659		2,181	

The 2016 count had similar observations,⁶⁹ with a similar rate of recent arrivals, and one that again was more predominant within the shelter environment. The 2016 count offered the additional time point of arrivals in the past month, with rates that mirror the observations from the 2018 Winnipeg Street Census, further below.

Table 16 – Length of time in Vancouver¹⁹

	Sheltered homeless		Unsheltered homeless		Total homeless	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 1 month	54	9%	25	5%	79	7%
1 month to under 6 months	92	15%	42	8%	134	12%
6 months to under 1 year	62	10%	39	8%	101	9%
1 year or more	414	67%	398	79%	812	72%
Total respondents	622	100%	504	100%	1,126	100%
Not known	15		35		50	
Total surveyed	637		539		1,176	

Mobility / Stability in Winnipeg

Winnipeg's 2018 Street Census offered detailed insights into respondents' length within community.⁷⁰ Again, a majority of respondents had been in Winnipeg for over 10 years. Over 10% had relocated in the past 6 months, a figure somewhat closer to the Nanaimo data on that period compared to the available Vancouver figures, but all three offered a similar 5-10% range for those who reported having arrived in the past month. The Census noted:

Most survey respondents were long time residents of Winnipeg. More than half had lived in Winnipeg ten or more years (65.8 percent), including one third who had always lived in Winnipeg. However, one in seven (13.8 percent) had moved to Winnipeg within the last year. In total, 5.9 percent had moved to Winnipeg within the last month.

⁶⁹ Vancouver Homeless Count 2016 (Matt Thomson) <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/homeless-count-2016-report.pdf>

⁷⁰ Winnipeg Street Census 2018 https://streetcensuswpg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018_FinalReport_Web.pdf

Table 17. How Long Have Respondents Been in Winnipeg		
	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 10 days	27	2.6%
11-30 days	34	3.3%
31-90 days	27	2.6%
3-6 months	26	2.5%
6 months -1 year	30	2.9%
1-2 years	35	3.4%
3-5 years	90	8.6%
5-10 years	86	8.3%
10+ years	381	36.6%
Entire life	304	29.2%

N = 1041; Missing 29

Mobility / Stability in Calgary & Alberta’s 7 Cities

Within Alberta’s 2016 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness Report,⁷¹ recent arrivals were reported for each of the seven cities and again reflected had a range of rates.

Community	% New to City in the Past Year
	2016 Total
Grande Prairie	34%
Red Deer	32%
Calgary	11%
Medicine Hat	29%
Lethbridge	17%
Edmonton	14%
Wood Buffalo	17%

Note: “Wood Buffalo” is “Fort McMurray” in the 2018 reporting

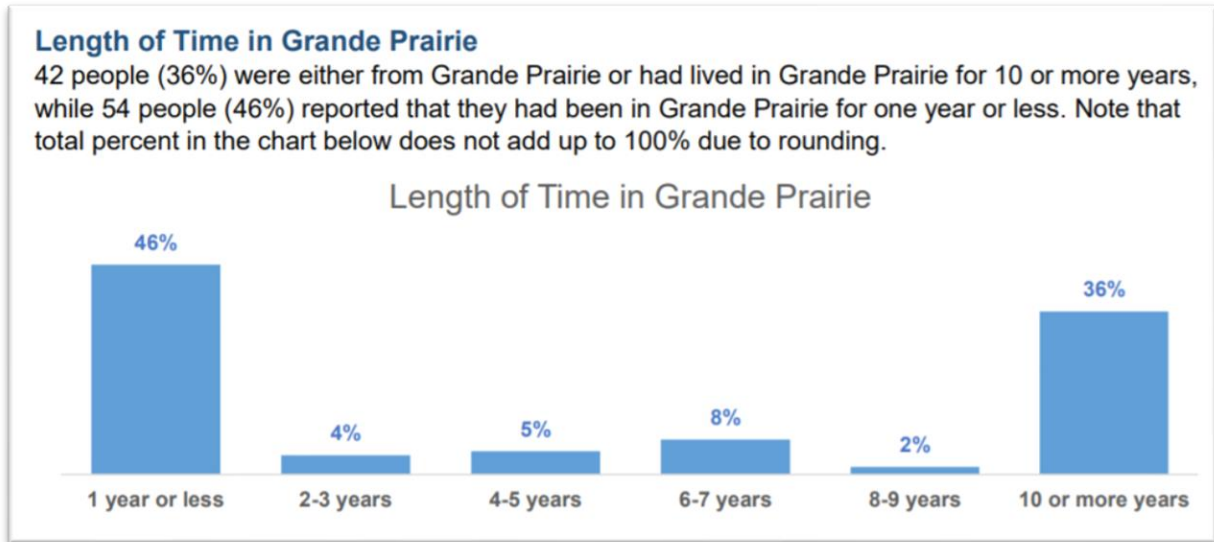
In comparison, within the 2018 Calgary count,⁷² 32% of respondents reported that they had been living in Calgary for less than a year, and 12% reported having always lived within the community. This represents a somewhat more mobile population compared to the other larger cities.

Grande Prairie produced a 2018 community report,⁷³ identifying a similarly high proportion of respondents reporting having arrived in the past year.

⁷¹ 2016 Alberta Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness (Three Hive Consulting) https://4e427522-7993-443c-9f89-8feda4db8781.filesusr.com/ugd/ff2744_50d2b36993f34223982e60a63d271e34.pdf

⁷² Spring 2018 Point-in-Time Count Report (Calgary Homeless Foundation) http://www.calgaryhomeless.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Calgary_PiT_Report_2018.pdf

⁷³ Everyone Counts: 2018 Point in Time Count (City of Grande Prairie) https://www.cityofgp.com/sites/default/files/uploads/reports/2018_pit_homeless_count_report.pdf



The City of Red Deer also produced a 2018 PIT Count Report⁷⁴ that provides additional context and reporting for their jurisdiction. The historical context provided within the report offered additional support that 2016 had a notably lower proportion identifying as new arrivals compared to both 2014 and 2018:

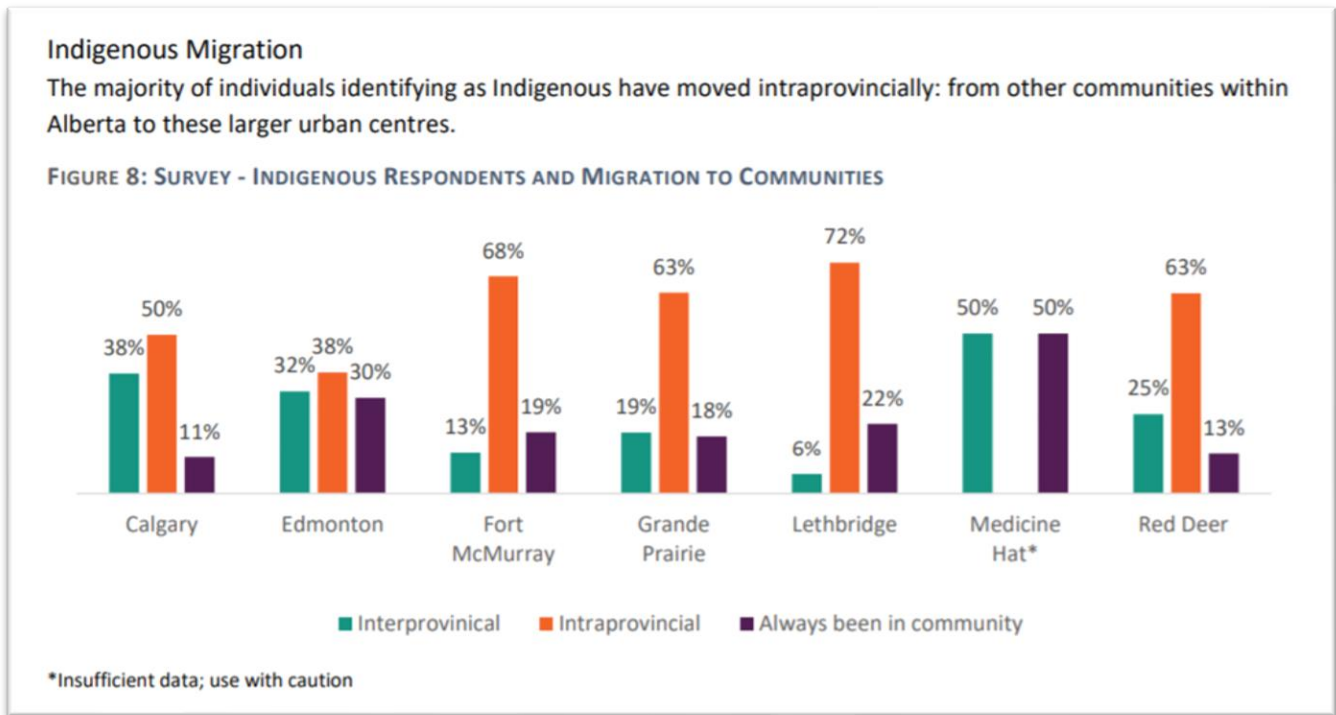
Mobility and migration patterns of homeless individuals and families are diverse and complex, whereas the reasons for the movement may not be much different from the general population. In all, 51.2% of respondents' survey indicated that they were new to the community in the last 12 months. In 2016, 33.6% respondents indicated that they were new to Red Deer in less than a year. Comparatively, in 2014, 46.5% have been in Red Deer less than one year.

By 2018, Alberta's counts across each of the "7 Cities" involved in the provincial enumeration efforts were included in an overarching technical report.⁷⁵ The 7 Cities report presents migration information specific to those who has identified as Indigenous (page 27), identifying that a subset of this group has always lived within the local community (though note that these figures were lower than the ~30% reported for respondents overall in the Winnipeg and Nanaimo surveys). The figure is reproduced on the following page.

However, while length of time in the community appears to have been asked of all participants (see Appendix B, page 42), similar reporting was not available in the 2018 report for the population overall.

⁷⁴ 2018 Point in Time Homeless Count & Survey (City of Red Deer) [https://www.reddeer.ca/media/reddeerca/about-red-deer/social-well-being-and-community-initiatives/housing-and-homelessness/2018-Red-Deer-Point-in-Time-\(PIT\)-Count-Final-Report.pdf](https://www.reddeer.ca/media/reddeerca/about-red-deer/social-well-being-and-community-initiatives/housing-and-homelessness/2018-Red-Deer-Point-in-Time-(PIT)-Count-Final-Report.pdf)

⁷⁵ 2018 Alberta Point-in-Time Homeless Count – Technical Report (Turner Strategies / 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness) https://www.7cities.ca/_files/ugd/ff2744_5d899dceff12471c835fddf4e5d119fc.pdf



Migration and the General Public

It should be noted, however, that while this evidence suggests that many individuals experiencing homelessness have long histories within their home communities, it also acknowledges that a fair portion are recent arrivals. While there’s no evidence to support any specific trends in direction of migration, a point further supported in [Section 5](#), there is some evidence to support that these rates of migration among those experiencing homelessness exceed those among the general population.

A rudimentary experiment using BC population statistics⁷⁶ with deaths and confirmed emigration removed would result in an estimated 78% of the estimated 2020 population having resided in BC for the full span of 2010 through 2020. This figure exceeds the 30-75% estimates for long-term residency observed in BC’s PIT counts.

It is possible, however, that questions on residency posed to the general population are less sensitive to short-term migration as well as ambiguity between what people with formal residences identify as they “address” and where they may be working and / or living; different approaches might identify lower figures of long-term permanency within the general population. That being said, even

British Columbia Population Statistics			
Year	Deaths	Emigrants	Difference (Cumulative)
<i>2010 BC Population Estimate</i>			4,465,546
2010 - 2011	-31,699	-11,809	4,422,038
2011 - 2012	-32,256	-13,258	4,376,524
2012 - 2013	-32,913	-12,873	4,330,738
2013 - 2014	-33,155	-12,978	4,284,605
2014 - 2015	-34,839	-12,771	4,236,995
2015 - 2016	-35,585	-13,172	4,188,238
2016 - 2017	-38,357	-11,892	4,137,989
2017 - 2018	-38,128	-10,994	4,088,867
2018 - 2019	-38,471	-11,150	4,039,246
2019 - 2020	-38,927	-8,582	3,991,737
<i>2020 BC Population Estimate</i>			5,147,712

matching or lower experiences of migration among those experiencing homelessness would not negate the unique potential challenges that migration might pose for this group in terms of seeking and receiving supports within a

⁷⁶ Components of population change by census division, 2016 boundaries (Statistics Canada) <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tb11/en/tv.action?pid=1710014001>

potentially unfamiliar system. While all people move, people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness are arguably more likely to face greater and / or persistent vulnerability through their migration.

As was detailed in the introduction, those risks likely warrant consideration of how information on migration among those experiencing homelessness (and other sources of information on migratory patterns of those at risk of homelessness) might inform targeted actions to support positive transitions across regions' respective continuums of care.

Section 5: The Prior Communities of Recent Arrivals

The narrative of Vancouver as a “dumping ground”⁷⁷ – as with similar perceptions within other communities – is founded within available data (albeit within a limited scope):

“In the City of Vancouver’s 2019 homeless count, based on those who responded, 16% (156 people) of the homeless reported they were from an area elsewhere in Metro Vancouver, while 31% (299 people) were from another area of BC, and 44% (435 people) from another area of Canada.”

While the cited figures are factually correct, the piece implies that that the experience of Vancouver is unique. When taken as a whole, the various PIT counts across BC and across the country support similar experiences. Accordingly, a more accurate summary was presented in the subsequent analysis piece presented by Dr. Nathan Lauster:⁷⁸

It’s worth noting that Winnipeg was actually featured as the origin for a homeless man in Vancouver in the image accompanying the “dumping ground” piece. So we should definitely take a look at how Winnipeg’s Street Census makes available the origins of its interprovincial migrants who show up as homeless. Guess what: 23% of them came from BC! Is Vancouver dumping its homeless on Winnipeg? That’s probably just as bad a take as the converse. A better take is that **people move**. And not just to Vancouver. And that people counted as homeless are first and foremost people.

While the prior communities of those enumerated as experiencing homelessness are not presented in all PIT reporting, those that do support a more complex view of migration. Data also suggest migration is without any specific directionality, and is marked primarily by intraprovincial migration within respective provinces.

Prior Communities of those in Vancouver (Metro)

Both the City and broader Metro region of Vancouver have a lengthy history of homelessness enumeration.⁷⁹ Counts of the Metro area have been conducted every three years since 2002, with the last count having taken place March 4th 2020.⁸⁰ As was the case with the 2017 count,⁸¹ the majority of respondents indicated migrating from other parts of BC. Both the 2017 and 2020 Metro Vancouver counts do suggest that Vancouver proper faces a greater degree of interprovincial migration than surrounding communities in the Metro area. However, as is demonstrated further below, the other counts conducted by the City of Vancouver demonstrate that the vast majority of respondents were also already residing in Vancouver when they last experienced homelessness.

In the surrounding communities (e.g. Richmond, Ridge Meadows, Langley, etc.), a large subset of respondents reported previously being from elsewhere in the Metro Vancouver area.

⁷⁷ Opinion: Vancouver is Canada's dumping ground for the homeless, and this needs to stop (Daily Hive – Sept 9 2020)

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/vancouver-homeless-national-crisis-epicentre>

⁷⁸ Homeless Counts and Migration Patterns in Metro Vancouver, Calgary, and Winnipeg (Home: Free Sociology! – Sept 12 2020)

<https://homefreesociology.com/2020/09/12/homeless-counts-and-migration-patterns-in-metro-vancouver-calgary-and-winnipeg/>

⁷⁹ Homeless Count (City of Vancouver) <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/homeless-count.aspx>

⁸⁰ BC Non-Profit Housing Association (2020). 2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver. Prepared for the Greater Vancouver Reaching Home Community Entity. Vancouver, BC: Metro Vancouver.

https://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/HC2020_FinalReport.pdf

⁸¹ B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association and M. Thomson Consulting. (2017). 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver. Prepared for the Metro Vancouver Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity. Burnaby, BC: Metro Vancouver. https://stophomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2017MetroVancouverHomelessCount_Nov2017.pdf

Table 26. Previous location if new to community by current community

	Previous Community	Current Community							
		Respondents in Surrey		Respondents in Vancouver		Respondents in Other Communities		Total Respondents	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2020	Rest of Canada	85	24%	417	47%	102	20%	604	35%
	Metro Vancouver	155	43%	110	12%	263	51%	528	30%
	Rest of BC	61	17%	238	27%	62	12%	361	21%
	Another Country	27	8%	76	9%	23	4%	126	7%
	Fraser Valley	26	7%	28	3%	65	13%	93	5%
	BC - Unknown	3	1%	16	2%	2	0%	21	1%

Table 29: Previous Location if New to Community for Less than one Year by Current Community

	Previous Community	Current Community							
		Respondents in Surrey		Respondents in Vancouver		Respondents in Other Communities		Total Respondents	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2017	Rest of Canada	13	15%	120	48%	22	17%	155	33%
	Metro Vancouver	41	46%	32	13%	69	52%	142	30%
	Rest of BC	27	30%	61	25%	19	14%	107	23%
	Another Country	4	4%	27	11%	14	11%	45	10%
	Fraser Valley	4	4%	8	3%	9	7%	21	4%

Earlier data from the 2011 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count⁸² suggest that the overall rates are relatively stable, in terms of migration to the broader Metro Vancouver area, and that those sheltering outdoors were more likely to be from the local area.

TABLE 26: PLACE OF ORIGIN

Where Came From	Sheltered Homeless		Unsheltered Homeless		Surveyed Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Metro Vancouver	253	32%	316	48%	569	39%
Rest of BC	161	21%	110	17%	271	19%
Elsewhere in Canada	298	38%	198	30%	496	34%
Outside Canada	71	9%	37	6%	108	7%
Total Respondents	783	100%	661	100%	1,444	100%
Unknown	—	—	—	—	133	—
Not asked	109	—	—	—	109	—
Total	892	—	661	—	1,686	—

Prior Communities of those in Vancouver (City)

As was noted, additional counts specific to the City of Vancouver are also available.⁸³ The 2018 City count further supported the Metro counts, with higher rates of migration from the rest of Canada compared to other regions.⁸⁴

⁸² Results of the 2011 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count (Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness) <https://stophomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/2011HomelessCountFinalReport28Feb2012-FinalVersion-Tuesday.pdf>

⁸³ Homeless Count (City of Vancouver) <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/homeless-count.aspx>

⁸⁴ Vancouver Homeless Count 2018 (Urban Matters CCC and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association) <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vancouver-homeless-count-2018-final-report.pdf>

4.1.8 Place of Residence Prior to Vancouver

Table 15 shows where respondents were living prior to their arrival in Vancouver. Fifteen percent (15%) indicated that they had been living elsewhere in Metro Vancouver, 27% elsewhere in British Columbia, 48% from elsewhere in Canada, and 11% from outside of Canada. However, as noted above, only 21% of respondents became homeless prior to moving to Vancouver. This table shows the previous home of all individuals, whether they became homeless in Vancouver (the majority), or elsewhere.

Table 15: Where arrivals are from

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Elsewhere in Metro Vancouver	106	17%	60	13%	166	15%
Rest of BC	144	23%	144	32%	288	27%
Rest of Canada	297	47%	218	48%	515	48%
Outside of Canada	83	13%	31	7%	114	11%
Total Respondents	630	100%	453	100%	1,083	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear / always in Vancouver	892		206		1,098	
Total	1,522		659		2,181	

This was further reflected in the 2016 City count,⁸⁵ with new arrivals similarly split between BC and the rest of the country (though primarily from Alberta, the nearest province).

Table 17 – Where new arrivals are from

	Sheltered Homeless		Unsheltered Homeless		Total Homeless	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Metro Vancouver	8	15%	5	20%	13	16%
Rest of BC	14	26%	8	32%	22	28%
Alberta	16	30%	1	4%	17	22%
Ontario	1	2%	3	12%	4	5%
Saskatchewan	3	6%	3	12%	6	8%
Manitoba	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Quebec	2	4%	1	4%	3	4%
Other Province ²⁰	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Outside Canada	7	13%	2	8%	9	11%
Multiple Responses	3	6%	2	8%	5	6%
Total respondents	54	100%	25	100%	79	100%
Not known	0		0		0	
Total Surveyed	54		25		79	

⁸⁵ Vancouver Homeless Count 2016 (Matt Thomson) <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/homeless-count-2016-report.pdf>

Despite these higher rates of migration from outside the province, 79% of respondents in the 2018 City counts also identified that they last had a home of their own in the Vancouver area.⁸⁶ This was similarly endorsed by both the sheltered and unsheltered groups. Accordingly, many of the individuals moving to Vancouver from other places in BC and other provinces are housed when they first arrive, though approximately a fifth of respondents migrated while experiencing homelessness (or, perhaps, housing precarity). While it is possible that an additional subset migrate while in some state of vulnerability, the experience of homelessness occurs subsequent to arrival for many.

4.1.7 Living in Vancouver When Became Homeless

Table 14 illustrates that the majority of respondents last had a home of their own in Vancouver (79%). The remaining respondents indicated that their last home was in another location than Vancouver (21%). The proportion of respondents who last had a home of their own in Vancouver was essentially equal across sheltered and unsheltered respondents.

Table 14: Where Living Most Recent Time Became Homeless

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Vancouver	515	79%	419	80%	934	79%
Elsewhere	137	21%	108	20%	245	21%
Responses	652	100%	527	100%	1,179	100%
Don't know / no answer / unclear	870		132		1,002	
Total	1,522		659		2,181	

Similar results on respondents' "last permanent home" can be found as early as the 2002 Greater Vancouver Regional District Homelessness report,⁸⁷ with 71% identifying that their last permanent home was in Greater Vancouver.

Last permanent home	Sheltered Homeless		Street Homeless		Total Homeless	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
GVRD	347	68%	240	76%	587	71%
Rest of BC	53	10%	27	9%	80	10%
Elsewhere in Canada	94	18%	44	14%	138	17%
Rest of World	18	4%	3	1%	21	3%
Total of Respondents:	512	100%	314	100%	826	100%
Not stated / not known	207		17		224	
Total	719		331		1050	

Source: 24-hour homeless snapshot survey

⁸⁶ Vancouver Homeless Count 2018 (Urban Matters CCC and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association) <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vancouver-homeless-count-2018-final-report.pdf>

⁸⁷ Research Project on Homelessness In Greater Vancouver - 2002 (Greater Vancouver Regional District) https://stophomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/2002-HCresearch_project11.pdf (p.77)

Prior Communities of those in Kelowna

Both the 2018⁸⁸ and 2020⁸⁹ Kelowna PIT reports provide detailed information on the home communities of recent arrivals. Among those classified as Absolutely Homeless as well as those who are Transitionally Housed, migration is driven by intraprovincial movement.

Note that because this question is linked to arrivals within the prior year period, counts comparisons cannot be used to demonstrate that any individuals are finding housing or moving on, as this would require asking the question of all identified individuals (and not just the newest arrivals). However, the high level of detail on the prior locations does provide a greater sense of the wide range of where new arrivals originate, with only minor patterns linked to both community proximity and size.

Absolutely Homeless		
	2020	2018
TOTAL RELOCATED	42	26
BC	28 (67%)	17 (65%)
Abbotsford	1	1
Armstrong		1
Chilliwack		1
Coldstream	1	
Cranbrook	1	
Dawson Creek		1
Fort St. John	1	
Golden	1	
Grand Forks	1	
Invermere		1
Kamloops	1	2
Kootenays		1
Lake Country	1	
Lumby	1	
Merritt	1	
Nelson	1	1
Oliver		1
Peachland		1
Penticton	6	
Prince Rupert	1	
Salmon Arm	1	
Squamish	1	
Terrace	1	
Trail	1	1

Transitionally Housed		
	2020	2018
TOTAL RELOCATED	31	12
BC	21 (68%)	11 (92%)
Abbotsford	1	
Coquitlam		1
Courtenay	1	
Delta	1	
Enderby	1	
Grand Forks		1
Hope	1	
Kamloops	3	
Okanagan Falls		1
Oliver	1	
Osoyoos	1	
Penticton		5
Prince George		1
Princeton	1	
Sicamous	1	
Vancouver	3	2
Vernon	5	
Victoria	1	
ALBERTA	6 (19%)	1 (8%)
Calgary	1	1
Cardston	1	
Edmonton	1	
Grande Cache	1	
Lethbridge	1	

⁸⁸ Community Report: Point-in-Time Count (Kelowna, 2018). Central Okanagan Foundation.
https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/6215/9501/9181/COF_PiT_Report_2018_FINAL.pdf

⁸⁹ Community Report: Point-in-Time Count (Kelowna, 2020). Central Okanagan Foundation.
https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/7516/1177/7135/COF_PiT_Report_2020_R7.pdf

Vancouver	4	2
Vancouver Island		1
Vernon		1
Victoria	2	
West Kelowna		1
MANITOBA	1 (2%)	
Winnipeg	1	
ALBERTA	5 (12%)	6 (23%)
Calgary	2	3
Edmonton	3	2
Red Deer		1
SASKATCHEWAN	2 (5%)	
Prince Albert	1	
Regina	1	
ONTARIO	1 (2%)	1 (4%)
Hamilton		1
Toronto	1	
QUEBEC		1 (4%)
Montreal		1
ATLANTIC	1 (2%)	
Halifax	1	
TERRITORIES		1 (4%)
White Horse		1
INTERNATIONAL	3 (7%)	
Tokyo	1	
USA	2	
OTHER	1 (2%)	

Red Deer	1	
SASKATCHEWAN	1 (3%)	
Regina	1	
ONTARIO	3 (10%)	
Beaverton	1	
Toronto	1	
Windsor	1	



While the Kelowna Point in Time counts also features a question on Indigenous Communities, it should be noted that the question posed is “Which Indigenous community are you from?” and not “What First Nations Community did you grow up in?” as is asked in Winnipeg’s survey below, or Alberta’s question specific to Indigenous respondents on “Where did you live before coming to this community?”. The latter questions perhaps speak less ambiguously to migration, whereas the first could be interpreted as speaking to ancestry and identification. Nevertheless, the 2020 report notes that most individuals who identified as Indigenous responded that they had relocated from a community within BC. Responses to the question on Indigenous communities identified a range of responses of Nations and Territories across BC, Ontario, other provinces, and across the US.

Prior Communities of those in Vernon

Vernon’s independent 2019 count⁹⁰ offered similar level of detail of prior community, only disaggregated across length of residency. As was noted in [Section 4](#), 28% of the 151 individuals identified in 2019 have lived in Vernon for less than one year, and over 60% indicated that they had grown up in Vernon or had family connections. Recall that this was also reflected in the 2021 BC Housing count,⁹¹ where 84% of respondents identified as having been

⁹⁰ Our Homeless Count: Survey Results for Vernon BC (Oct 2019). Turning Points Collaborative / Social Planning Council. <https://socialplanning.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FINAL-REPORT-Our-Homeless-Count-Vernon-BC-October-2019.pdf>
⁹¹ Homeless Counts (BC Housing 2021) <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/housing-data/homeless-counts>

in the community for at least 1 year. No respondents identified as being an immigrant or refugee arriving within the previous 5 years. Similar to the Kelowna findings, new arrivals come from all over, but primarily from elsewhere in BC. The same is true of the home communities of those with longer tenures within the community. One missing piece of information for this subset is the question posed in Vancouver’s count – where individuals last had a stable home of their own. As the report notes, the city does not experience a level of growth in the number of people experiencing homelessness that is proportionate to new arrivals, and nor do other communities; from this logic, we can deduce that some new arrivals are either finding housing or do move along to other communities. The extent to which individual respondents have experienced homelessness across multiple cities would require separate inquiry.

Where were you last living?

Less than one year	One to four years	Five to ten years	More than ten years
Kelowna (2) Ontario Abbotsford New Brunswick Prince George (2) Calgary Chilliwack Salmon Arm Kamloops Invermere	Eagle Bay Vancouver Regina Vanderhoof Dawson Creek Edgewood (2) Port Alberni Winnipeg Penticton	Edmonton (3) Kamloops Nelson Cranbrook (2) Calgary Kelowna Vancouver Penticton Valemont Canmore, AB	Burnaby (2) Ontario Surrey Prince George Williams Lake Kelowna North Vancouver Edmonton Calgary Grande Prairie Dawson Creek Vancouver Alberta Salmon Arm (2) Morley, AB

People come to Vernon from a variety of places and for a variety of reasons (most often cited reason is to reunite with family). **Moving to Vernon to access services is not the most common reason.** Kelowna, Prince George, Abbotsford, Calgary, Chilliwack and Kamloops all have services in place. Only Salmon Arm and Invermere have limited services. For the two people who named a Province, we are uncertain if services are in place. It is also worth noting that although the annual survey shows approximately 30% of people are new to Vernon each year, the annual rate of homelessness does not increase by 30%.

Prior Communities of those in Winnipeg

The 2018 Winnipeg Street Census⁹² report offers a detailed account of home communities specific to those who grew up in a First Nations reserve community, summarizing on page 16 that:

Indigenous people who are experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg come from across Canada, but predominantly are from Manitoba. The majority of participants who identified as First Nations grew-up in a First Nations reserve community, 60.6 percent. In response to the question “What First Nations Community did you grow up in?”, some Metis people listed a Metis community and some Inuit people listed a northern community. While these data are outside the original scope of the questionnaire, these responses reflect an evolving definitions and identifications of indigeneity.

⁹² Winnipeg Street Census 2018 https://streetcensuswpg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018_FinalReport_Web.pdf

Of the people who grew up in a First Nations community, 21.5 percent had been in Winnipeg for one year or less. The large number of individuals from Indigenous communities moving to Winnipeg and finding themselves in homelessness indicates a need for greater settlement services to help Indigenous people migrating to Winnipeg.

A map featured on page 19 illustrates this range of home communities of those identifying as Indigenous (though note the specific question was “What First Nations Community did you grow up in?”).

Map 1. Where Indigenous People Experiencing Homelessness Grew-Up



What might complement the existing analysis would again be to explore the point at which individuals arriving within the community experience homelessness. Even in terms of recent arrivals, the extent to which this group experiences homelessness prior to migrating compared to whether they secure housing that they are unable to maintain likely has important implications for how stakeholders should orient support services.

Table 18 on page 24 of the report further illustrates that overall, new arrivals to Winnipeg primarily relocated from elsewhere in Manitoba.

Table 18. Where Recent Movers (less than one year) to Winnipeg Come From		
	Frequency	Percentage
Manitoba	61	54.5%
Alberta	12	10.7%
Ontario	10	8.9%
British Columbia	9	8.0%
Saskatchewan	7	6.3%
Quebec	2	1.8%
Outside Canada	11	9.8%

N = 112 ; Missing 31

Prior Communities of those in Calgary & Alberta’s 7 Cities

The Calgary 2016 PIT Count Report found that:⁹³

“... approximately 31% of survey respondents arrived from outside of Calgary within the last 5 years: 8% from other parts of Alberta, 21% from elsewhere in Canada, and 1% from outside of Canada. Only 12% of survey respondents reported having always lived in Calgary.”

The City of Red Deer’s 2018 PIT Count Report again provided additional useful context to supplement the overall trends:⁹⁴

- “Intra-provincial in-migrants (persons who moved from a different city within the province into the community) constituted 70.6% of the new people in the community in 2018.”
- “In 2016, there was a slight variation in wording and positioning of questions that can limit comparability to previous counts. However, the average between the two counts of 2014 and 2016, 64.6% moved from communities in Alberta to Red Deer indicating the relative importance of intra-provincial migration among the homeless population.”
- “In 2012, the PiT count question was phrased differently. It asked: what city or community do you consider “home”? Out of the total respondents, 65% indicated Red Deer as home, 15.7% reported other communities in Alberta, 13.3% identified British Columbia, 3.6% other provinces and 2.4% outside Canada.”

⁹³ Point-in-Time Count Report – Fall 2016 (Calgary Homeless Foundation) <http://www.calgaryhomeless.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2016-Calgary-Point-in-Time-Homeless-Count-Full-Report.pdf>

⁹⁴ 2018 Point in Time Homeless Count & Survey (City of Red Deer) [https://www.reddeer.ca/media/reddeerca/about-red-deer/social-well-being-and-community-initiatives/housing-and-homelessness/2018-Red-Deer-Point-in-Time-\(PIT\)-Count-Final-Report.pdf](https://www.reddeer.ca/media/reddeerca/about-red-deer/social-well-being-and-community-initiatives/housing-and-homelessness/2018-Red-Deer-Point-in-Time-(PIT)-Count-Final-Report.pdf)

- “Within the province of Alberta; Calgary and Edmonton were frequently cited as the communities for intra-provincial migration to Red Deer. Some have also moved from smaller communities such as Steller, Sylvan Lake and Innisfail to Red Deer.”
- “Interprovincial in-migrants (those who moved from another province or territory into Red Deer) formed 29.4% of those who are new to the community in 2018.”
- Out of the total 29.4% of new arrivals, the main sources of inter-province migrants were British Columbia (16.8%), Saskatchewan (6.3%), and the other 6.3% representing the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba in an equal measure.

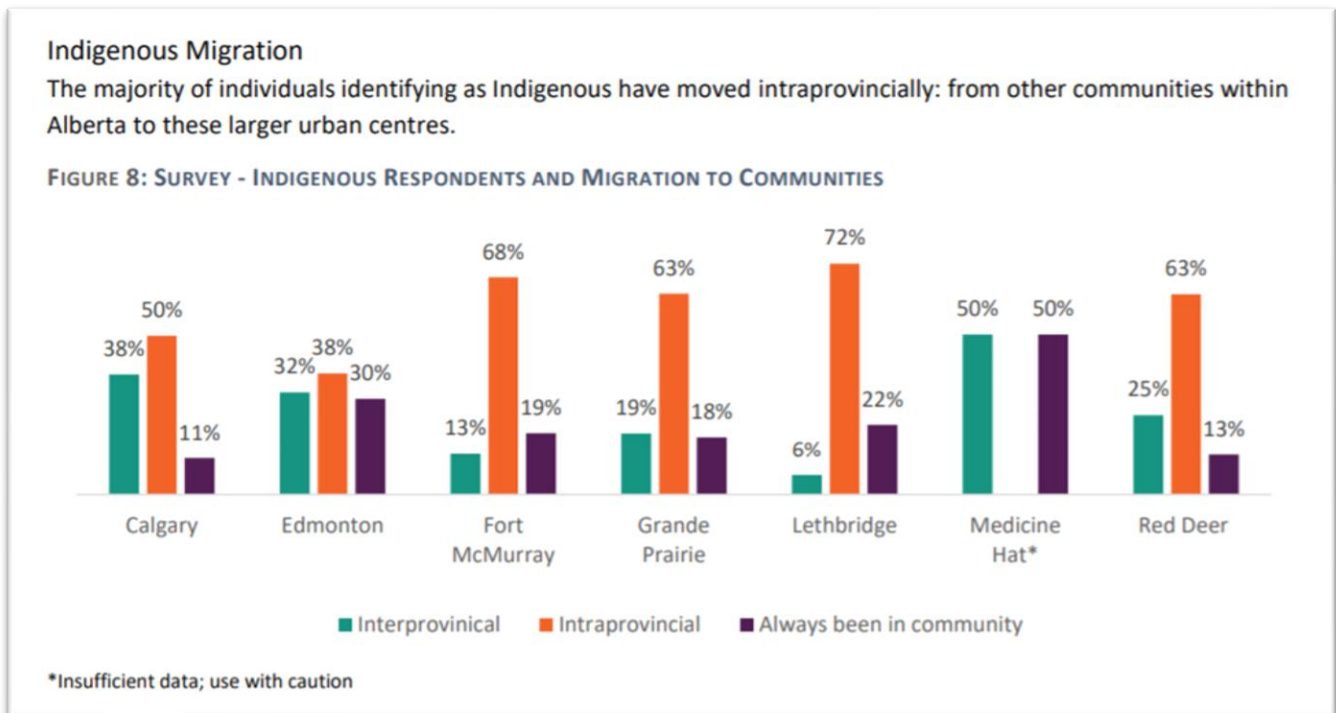
The Red Deer Report also offered a brief discussion of why intraprovincial migration tends to be more common:

There are several potential reasons why intra-provincial migration is much more pronounced than interprovincial migration. Distances within provinces are, on average, significantly shorter than distances between provinces, as the distance is one of the main barriers to migration (Amirault et al., 2013).

The 2018 Grande Prairie community count report similarly identified predominantly intraprovincial migration:⁹⁵

- 54 people surveyed during the count reported that they were new to Grande Prairie within the past year, up from 28 people in 2016. 78% of people who reported being new to Grande Prairie during the 2018 Count said that they had migrated from another Alberta community, while the remaining 22% reported migrating from elsewhere in Canada.

As was discussed in [Section 4](#), the 2018 7 Cities report⁹⁶ also presented migration information specific to those who has identified as Indigenous (page 27). Those who identified as Indigenous likely tended to have originally been from communities within Alberta than from other provinces.



⁹⁵ Everyone Counts: 2018 Point in Time Count (City of Grande Prairie)
https://www.cityofgp.com/sites/default/files/uploads/reports/2018_pit_homeless_count_report.pdf

⁹⁶ 2018 Alberta Point-in-Time Homeless Count – Technical Report (Turner Strategies / 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness)
https://www.7cities.ca/_files/ugd/ff2744_5d899dceff12471c835fddf4e5d119fc.pdf

Similar to the Winnipeg Street Census, responses from Indigenous respondents were also displayed in map form (page 27). However, there are caveats to note prior to interpretation:

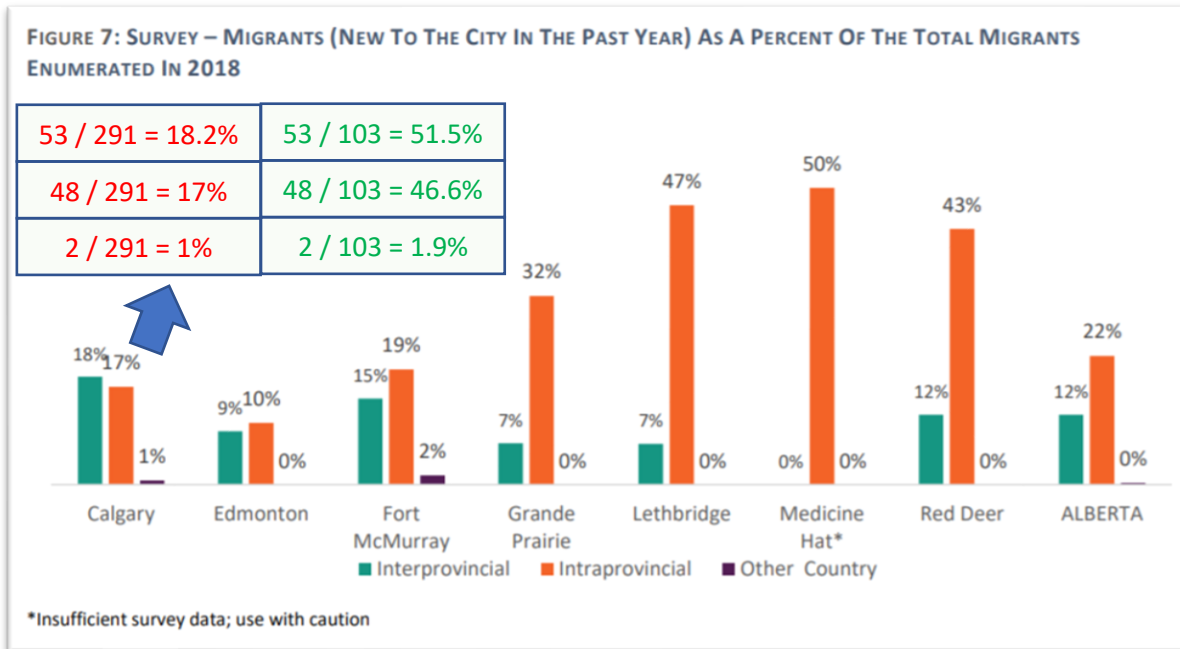
- As is evident, this map is specific to home communities within Alberta.
- While the question on the figure is “Where did you live before you came here?”, the displayed image appears to be a selectively shaded base map specific to First Nation territory zones (for an interactive map, see the Government of Canada’s “First Nation Profiles Interactive Map”).⁹⁷
- Accordingly, it is possible that this map instead displays Alberta-based responses to Question 12: “Which Indigenous nation or nations do you identify with?” (see Appendix B, page 46).



This represented a smaller portion of those who had always been within the community compared to other large cities, and a higher rate of interprovincial migration that many communities (though similar to the city-specific counts in Vancouver).

⁹⁷ First Nation Profiles Interactive Map (Government of Canada) <https://geo.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/cipn-fnpim/index-eng.html>

As was noted in [Section 4](#), by 2018, Alberta’s counts across each of the “7 Cities” involved in the provincial enumeration efforts were included in an overarching technical report.⁹⁸ Figure 7 on page 26 offered a graph illustrating “Migrants (New to The City in the Past Year) as a Percent of the Total Migrants Enumerated in 2018” across interprovincial, intraprovincial, and international streams. Note that the style of the graph in comparison to both other analyses presented in this section as well as the subsequent raw numbers presented in Appendix C (page 46) presents some ambiguity in interpretation. Based on the raw counts, the graph percentages might reflect type of migration as a percentage of overall surveys and not survey responses on that item (i.e. not removing missing responses). An alternative takeaway from the available raw figures might be to say that “51.5% of recent arrivals to Calgary who reported a prior community indicated that they arrived from another province”, for example. Leaving Medicine Hat aside, Lethbridge would have the highest representation of intraprovincial migration (87%).



Survey data: Migration

City	# Inter - Provincial	% Inter - Provincial	# Intra - Provincial	% Intra - Provincial	# Other Country	% Other Country	Total Migrants
Calgary	53	18.2%	48	16.5%	2	0.7%	291
Edmonton	27	9.0%	31	10.4%	0	0.0%	299
Fort McMurray	9	14.5%	12	19.4%	1	1.6%	62
Grande Prairie	9	7.0%	41	31.8%	0	0.0%	129
Lethbridge	7	6.9%	48	47.1%	0	0.0%	102
Medicine Hat*	0	0.0%	2	50.0%	0	0.0%	4
Red Deer	6	11.8%	22	43.1%	0	0.0%	51
Total	111	11.8%	204	21.7%	3	0.3%	938

*Insufficient data; use with caution

103 responses

⁹⁸ 2018 Alberta Point-in-Time Homeless Count – Technical Report (Turner Strategies / 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness) https://www.7cities.ca/_files/ugd/ff2744_5d899dceff12471c835fddf4e5d119fc.pdf

Regardless of the interpretation approach, the raw figures support a finding that intraprovincial migration represents the predominant source of new arrivals for the smaller Alberta communities among the 7 Cities.

Prior Communities of those in Nanaimo

Similar to Kelowna’s PIT Count Reports, Nanaimo’s 2020 PIT Report included a full list of identified prior communities in an Appendix (page 43)⁹⁹ – though based on the “n” the list also includes the prior communities of those who had resided in Nanaimo for over 5 years. As with other reporting, most listed communities are located elsewhere in BC:

Appendix H: Where did you live before you came here? Full list (n = 186)

Abbotsford	3	Greater Vancouver	1	Prince George	1
Ahousat	2	Haida Gwaii	1	Qualicum	3
Aldergrove	1	Halifax	1	Regina	1
All over	2	Hazelton	2	Reserve Cooper Isle	1
Barrie	1	Island	1	Richmond	2
Barrier	2	Kamloops	4	Saltspring Isl	1
Bowser	1	Kelowna	6	Saskatchewan	1
Burnaby	2	Kootenays	1	Scarborough	1
Cal-Edm	1	Ladysmith	6	Sooke	1
Calgary	8	Leduc	1	Spider Lake	1
Campbell River	2	Lindsay	1	Surrey	1
Castlegar	1	London	1	Tofino	2
Chemanius	1	Lower Mainland	1	Toronto	3
Chilliwack	1	Maple Ridge	4	Ucluelet	2
Comox	2	Courtenay	1	Van, Utah, Texas	1
Courtenay	1	McBride	1	Vancouver	14
Cowichan Lake	1	Mill Bay	2	Vernon	2
Cranbrook	1	Nanaimo	6	Victoria	14
Cremona	1	Nanaimo/Edson	1	Victoria, Kimberly	1
Cumberland	2	North Burnaby	1	West Van	1
DTES	1	Ottawa	1	Weyburn	1
Duncan	8	Parksville	7	White Rock	1
East Van, Ladysmith	1	Pembroke	1	Windsor	1
Edmonton	14	Penticton	1	Winnipeg	1
Ft St John	1	Port Alberni	3	WPG	1
Gabriola	2	Port Coq	1	Yellowknife	1
Gabriola island	1	Port Hardy	3		
Grand Prairie	1	Port Renfrew	1		

The report highlighted the local nature of homelessness, commenting that “people experiencing Homelessness in Nanaimo are in a large part from Nanaimo”, recalling the reporting presented in [Section 4](#) that 35% of the 352

⁹⁹ Nanaimo Community Report -- Everyone Counts: 2020 Point-In-Time Count (Nanaimo Homeless Coalition) https://www.uwcnvi.ca/application/files/9516/0134/4873/COMMUNITY_REPORT_Nanaimo_PiT_Count_2020.pdf

respondents identified having always lived within the Nanaimo community, with an additional 38% identifying having been in the community for over 5 years.

The report went on to identify that:

... not surprisingly many have come to Nanaimo from communities close by on Vancouver Island. Significantly, there is no one community (in the 60 plus identified) or region, except Vancouver Island, that is the overwhelming source of inflow to Nanaimo and the highest single number coming from any one other community was 14. (p.19)

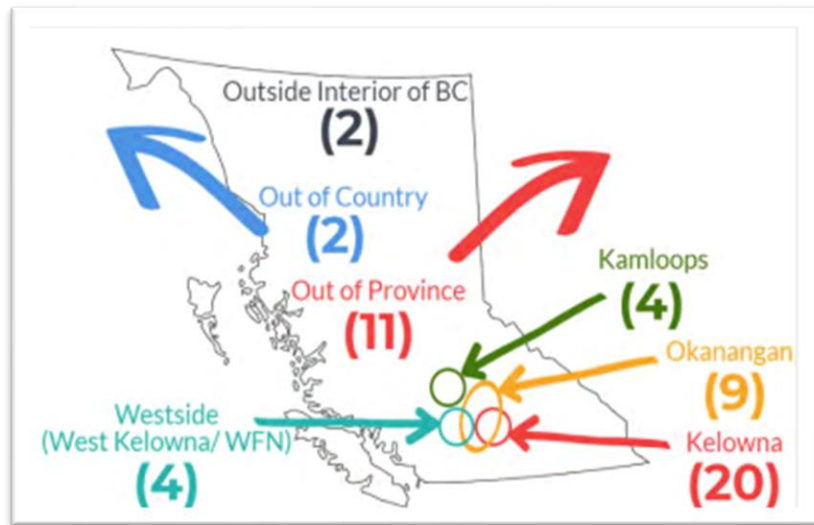
Nanaimo’s count also featured a question asking Indigenous respondents which Nation or Community they “belonged to” (Appendix I, page 44).¹⁰⁰ However, this more closely matched Kelowna’s ambiguous wording of “which community are your from, rather than the wording more directly related to residency used within the Winnipeg and Alberta surveys. A wide range of nations were identified, though the most common response was the local Snuneymuxw First Nation.

Prior Communities of those in West Kelowna

Within the West Kelowna 2018 count,¹⁰¹ while more than 65% of survey respondents reported living on the Westside for greater than 2 years, the survey identified the prior communities of all 72 respondents. As a percentage, this would suggest that:

- 5.6% have always lived on the Westside
- 27.8% are from across the lake in Kelowna
- 18.1% are from other areas within the Thompson-Okanagan Region (including Kamloops)
- 6.9% are from elsewhere in BC outside of the Interior Region
- 15.3% are from out of province
- 2.8% are from out of country

Figure 21 showed the previous locations of the 72 survey respondents (page 18):



¹⁰⁰ Nanaimo Community Report (Everyone Counts: 2020 Point-in-Time Count) https://www.uwcncvi.ca/application/files/9516/0134/4873/COMMUNITY_REPORT_Nanaimo_PiT_Count_2020.pdf

¹⁰¹ Westside Point-in-Time Count 2018 Report (City of West Kelowna / Westbank First Nation) https://www.westkelownacity.ca/en/our-community/resources/Documents/2018-point_in_time_count_edited_report_-_web.pdf

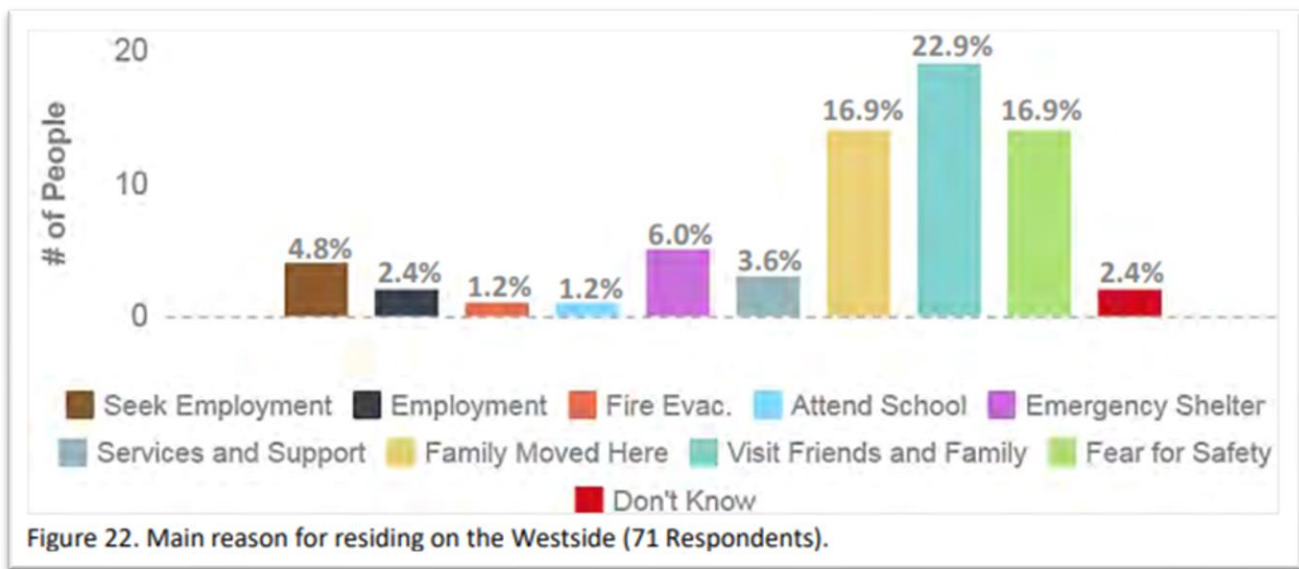
Section 6: Reported Reasons for Relocation

Insofar as those experiencing homelessness do migrate between regions, they report doing so for more fundamental reasons of securing social support and employment, above and beyond – or at least on par with – those looking to access services. Examples of evidence are elaborated further below. The Point-in-Time count reports themselves are often fairly direct in their assessments of the situation (notably those from the 2019 Vernon count and the 2020 Nanaimo count), perhaps seeking to counter existing narratives that run counter to the evidence:

- “People come to Vernon from a variety of places and for a variety of reasons. Moving to Vernon to access services in not the primary reason.”¹⁰²
- “...the reported reasons people came to Nanaimo were identical to the reasons that anyone else does: For work, to go to school, to join family, to start a new life.”¹⁰³

Reasons for Relocating to West Kelowna

The 2018 West Kelowna PIT Count¹⁰⁴ also asked all survey respondents about their main reason for residing on the Westside, with most identifying reasons related to their families, though many identify a fear for their safety – a much higher proportion than in other counts.



Reasons for Relocating to Kelowna

The Point in Time counts of 2018¹⁰⁵ and 2020¹⁰⁶ each included questions on the main reasons for moving to Kelowna. While for many new arrivals in Kelowna the reported impetus for relocation was in fact based on access to services and supports (and accessing shelters), family-based rationales had the highest endorsement in both years, with a similarly large subset migrating in search of employment or for confirmed employment opportunities. Responses to these questions were also broken down by those categorized as Absolutely Homeless (those within

¹⁰² Our Homeless Count: Survey Results for Vernon BC (2019) <https://socialplanning.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FINAL-REPORT-Our-Homeless-Count-Vernon-BC-October-2019.pdf>

¹⁰³ Nanaimo Community Report -- Everyone Counts: 2020 Point-In-Time Count (Nanaimo Homeless Coalition) https://www.uwenvi.ca/application/files/9516/0134/4873/COMMUNITY_REPORT_Nanaimo_PiT_Count_2020.pdf

¹⁰⁴ Westside Point-in-Time Count 2018 Report (City of West Kelowna / Westbank First Nation) <https://www.westkelownacity.ca/en/our-community/resources/Documents/2018-point-in-time-count-edited-report-web.pdf>

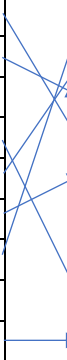
¹⁰⁵ Community Report: Point-in-Time Count (Kelowna, 2018). Central Okanagan Foundation. https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/6215/9501/9181/COF_PiT_Report_2018_FINAL.pdf

¹⁰⁶ Community Report: Point-in-Time Count (Kelowna, 2020). Central Okanagan Foundation. https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/7516/1177/7135/COF_PiT_Report_2020_R7.pdf

shelters and those sheltering outdoors) versus the Temporarily Housed (those within Interim Housing and Institutional Care).

Absolutely Homeless – 2018 PIT	
Moved to Kelowna Within Past Year (%)	
No	74%
Yes	26%
Main Reason You Came to Kelowna? (%)	
<i>*Arrived Within the Past Year (n=33)*</i>	
To Visit Friends / Family	26%
To Access Services and Supports	23%
To Find Housing	13%
Employment (secured)	10%
Employment (seeking)	8%
To Access Emergency Shelter	5%
Family Moved Here	3%
Fresh Start	3%
Fear for Safety	3%
Gain Sobriety	3%
Family Conflict	3%
Travelling Through	3%

Absolutely Homeless – 2020 PIT	
Moved to Kelowna Within Past Year (%)	
No	70%
Yes	30%
Main Reason You Came to Kelowna? (%)	
<i>*Arrived Within the Past Year (n=45)*</i>	
Family Moved Here	15%
Employment (seeking)	15%
To Access Services and Supports	13%
Visit Friends/Family	13%
Access Emergency Shelter	10%
Weather/Climate	10%
Unforeseen Event (e.g. car broke down)	8%
Employment (secured)	5%
Fear for Safety	3%
Recreation/Shopping	3%
Other	3%
To Start Over/To Have a Better Life	3%
To Get Away from Previous Place	3%



The endorsement of the “Weather/Climate” option may require additional context in subsequent reports to clarify whether this reflects a preference for a warmer environment, or displacement resulting from natural disasters.

As the table below illustrates, those classified as “Temporarily Housed” predominantly migrated to access services. As [Section 5](#) noted, migration among respondents was primarily intraprovincial. Of the new arrivals classified as Temporarily Housed in 2018, only 1 had arrived from outside of BC. Of the 31 Temporarily Housed new arrivals in 2020, 21 respondents had come from elsewhere in BC, with 6 respondents arriving from Alberta, 1 respondent from Saskatchewan, and 3 respondents from Ontario.

Temporarily Housed – 2018 PIT	
Moved to Kelowna Within Past Year (%)	
No	75%
Yes	25%
Main Reason You Came to Kelowna? (%)	
<i>*Arrived Within the Past Year (N=12)*</i>	
To Access Services and Supports	69%
To Visit Friends / Family	8%
To Find Housing	8%
Family Moved Here	8%
Fresh Start	8%

Temporarily Housed – 2020 PIT	
Moved to Kelowna Within Past Year (%)	
No	66%
Yes	34%
Main Reason You Came to Kelowna? (%)	
<i>*Arrived Within the Past Year (N=31)*</i>	
To Access Services and Supports	82%
To Find Housing	7%
Family Moved Here	4%
Employment (secured)	4%
Other	4%



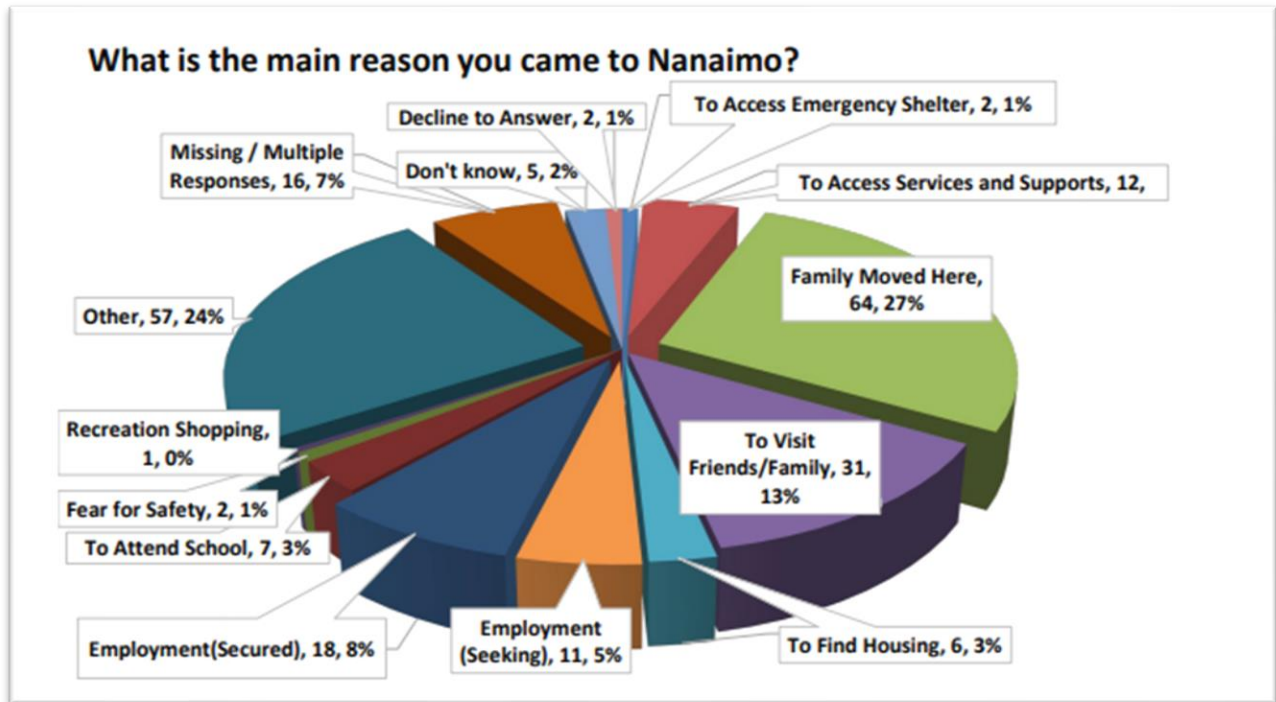
It should be noted that as the wording implies, the volunteer conducting the survey could only select one answer among a list of categories (including an “other” category).¹⁰⁷ The categories available for selection also mirror those reporting in the Nanaimo count below.

Reasons for Relocating to Nanaimo

Nanaimo’s 2020 PIT Count Report included the following observation:¹⁰⁸

“... while the paths into or causes of homelessness are complex and driven by large -scale social and economic forces, homelessness is realized or manifest in the immediate locale. It is a sign of local inequality and inequity. As such it can, in fact, must be changed and addressed at a local level. And not surprisingly many have come to Nanaimo from communities close by on Vancouver Island. Significantly, there is no one community (in the 60 plus identified) or region, except Vancouver Island, that is the overwhelming source of inflow to Nanaimo and the highest single number coming from any one other community was 14.”

Other than a high degree of coding to the category of “other” reasons for relocation, the pie chart presented on page 19 displayed a heterogeneity in reported rationales similar to that of Kelowna respondents, with 40% identifying reasons related to family moves or visiting friends.



Reasons for Relocating to Vancouver

The report on the 2011 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count¹⁰⁹ noted that their count also assessed reasons for relocation. Results reflected the same main three rationales, noting on page 59 that:

¹⁰⁷ As the footnotes in the Kelowna 2020 counts indicate, while the results of single-response questions represent endorsement of survey respondents, the results of multi-response questions represent the share of overall responses.

¹⁰⁸ Nanaimo Community Report -- Everyone Counts: 2020 Point-In-Time Count (Nanaimo Homeless Coalition) https://www.uwcncvi.ca/application/files/9516/0134/4873/COMMUNITY_REPORT_Nanaimo_PiT_Count_2020.pdf

¹⁰⁹ Results of the 2011 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count (Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness) <https://stophomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/2011HomelessCountFinalReport28Feb2012-FinalVersion-Tuesday.pdf>

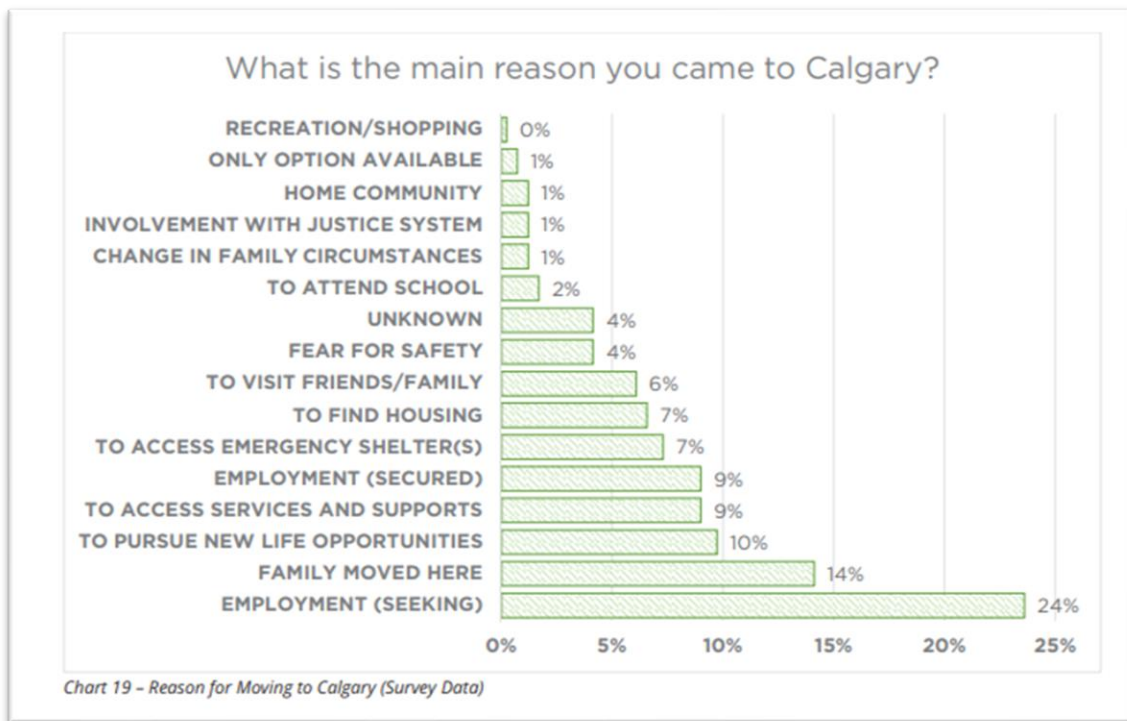
Respondents were also asked what brought them to their current municipality. The top three reasons for both the sheltered and unsheltered populations were homeless services such as housing, outreach, food (25%), family and friends (20%) and work or a hope to find work (16%). Family and friends was a higher priority for the unsheltered homeless population than it was for the sheltered (26% and 16% respectively). Sheltered homeless were more likely to arrive for work or in search of work than the unsheltered (18% versus 14%).

Reasons for Relocating – Calgary versus USA CPS

The 2018 Calgary PIT Count Report identified a similar pattern:¹¹⁰

The most common reasons cited for moving to Calgary pertain to employment (either secured employment or looking for work). Moving for family, moving to pursue new life opportunities, and moving to access services and supports were also frequently cited.

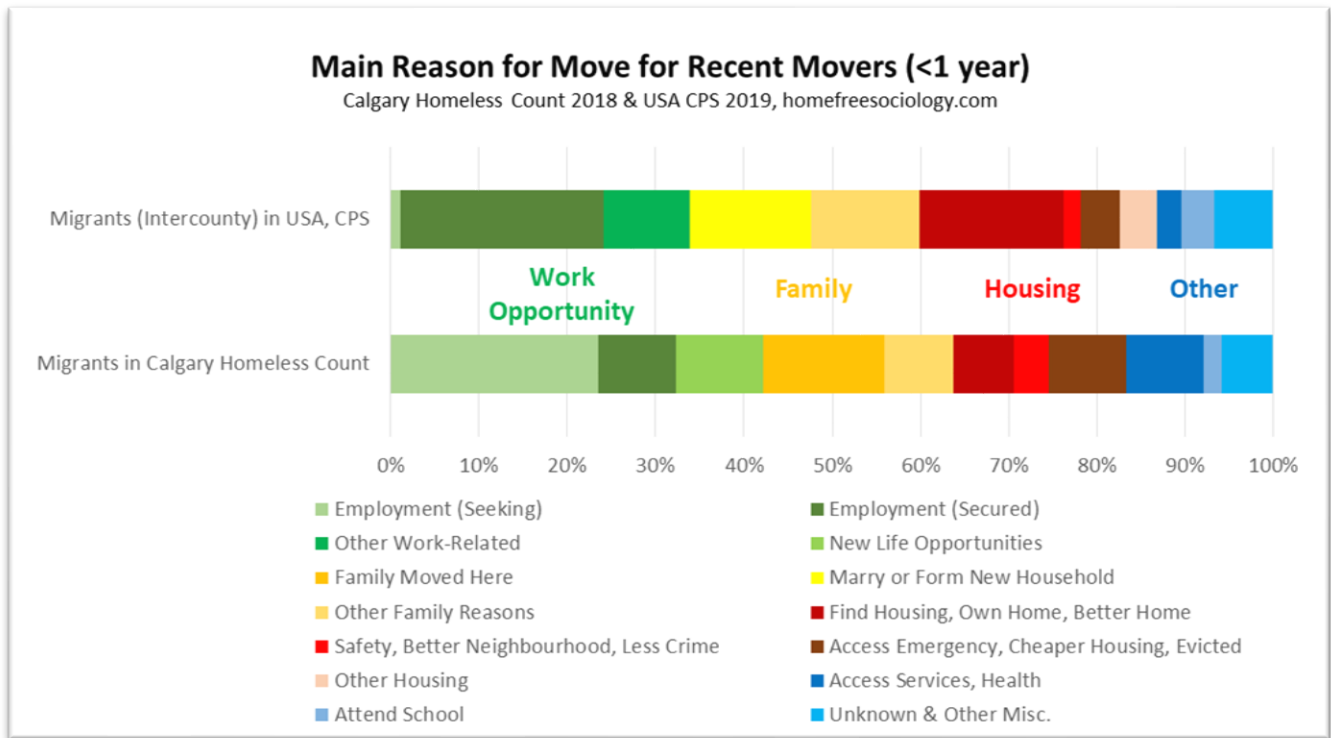
The full list of reported rationales was presented graphically on page 19:



In his analysis, Dr. Lauster visually compares that breakdown to reporting from intercounty migrants in the US, demonstrating the level of consistency across categories of rationales for relocation:¹¹¹

¹¹⁰ Spring 2018 Point-in-Time Count Report (Calgary Homeless Foundation) http://www.calgaryhomeless.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Calgary_PiT_Report_2018.pdf

¹¹¹ Homeless Counts and Migration Patterns in Metro Vancouver, Calgary, and Winnipeg (Home: Free Sociology! – Sept 12 2020) <https://homefreesociology.com/2020/09/12/homeless-counts-and-migration-patterns-in-metro-vancouver-calgary-and-winnipeg/>



Reasons for Relocating to Alberta’s 7 Cities

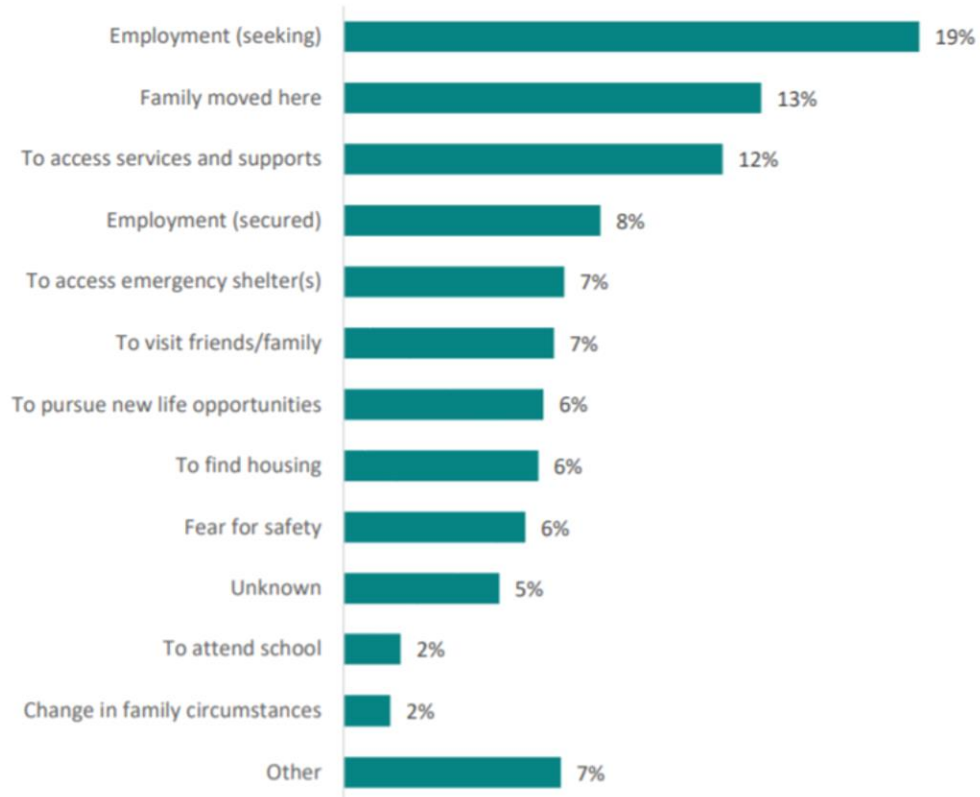
Among the overall 7 Cities group in the Alberta 2018 counts, respondents were also most likely to report moving to find employment, followed again by family-based reasons and seeking services.¹¹²

The report highlighted the following two differences between cities in terms of their top three cited reasons for relocation:

- Calgary: To pursue new life opportunities (10%) was a more frequently stated response than to access service and supports
- Grand Prairie: Fear for safety (14%) was a more frequently stated response than employment seeking

¹¹² 2018 Alberta Point-in-Time Homeless Count – Technical Report (Turner Strategies / 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness) https://www.7cities.ca/files/ugd/ff2744_5d899dceff12471c835fddf4e5d119fc.pdf

FIGURE 10: SURVEY – REASONS FOR COMING TO COMMUNITY

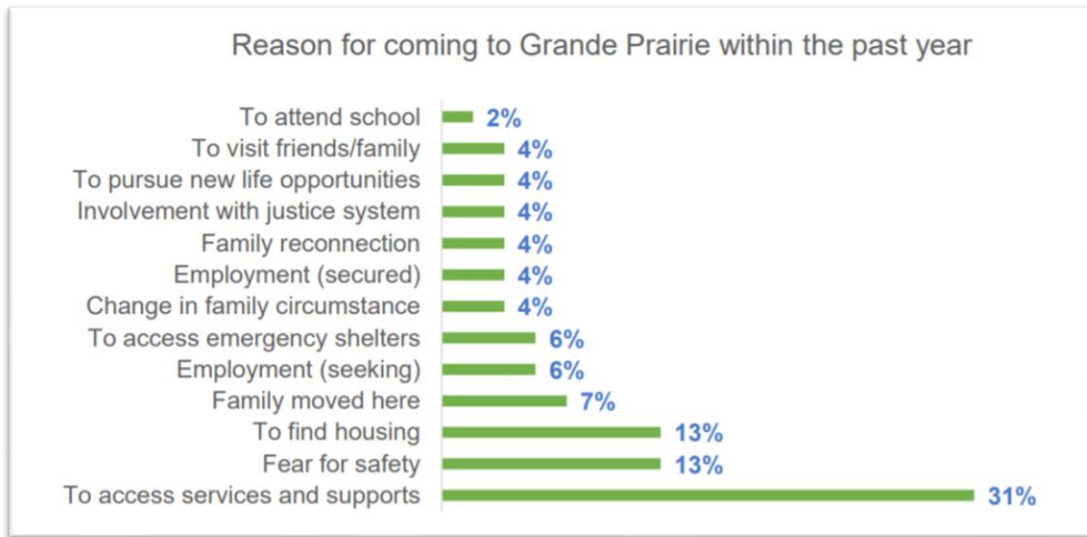


Differences between cities for top three reasons included:

- Calgary: To pursue new life opportunities (10%) was a more frequently stated response than to access service and supports
- Grand Prairie: Fear for safety (14%) was a more frequently stated response than employment seeking

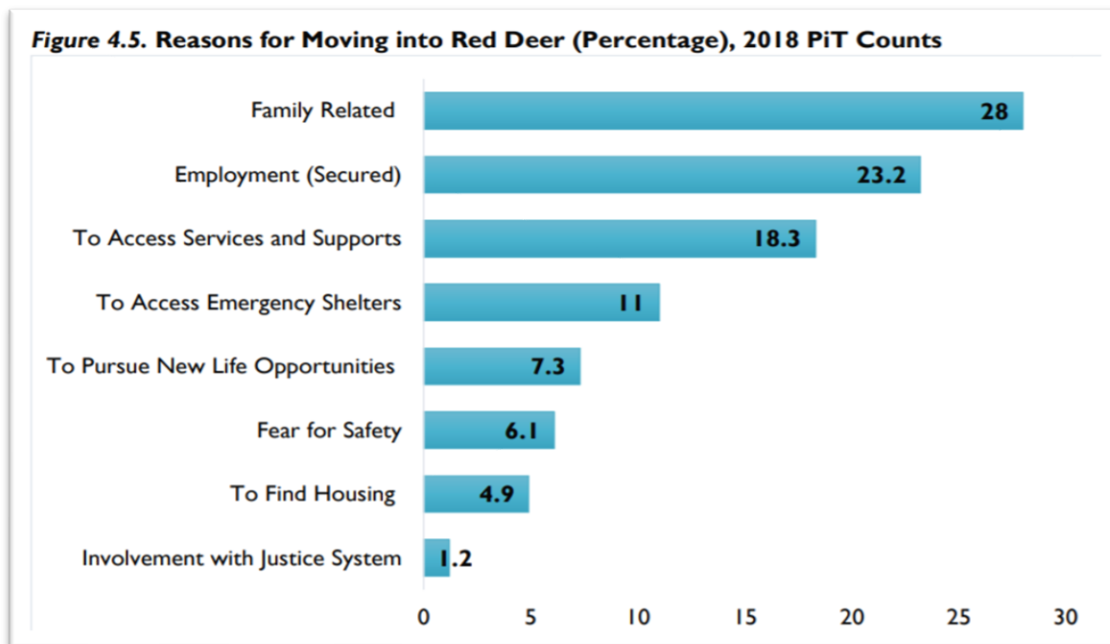
Grande Prairie’s community-specific 2018 report¹¹³ offered the additional context that among those who were new arrivals, “many said they had come to access community supports” (p.7). This point was not highlighted in the 7 Cities report (shown above), but was evident from the community-specific report (shown below):

¹¹³ Everyone Counts: 2018 Point in Time Count (City of Grande Prairie)
https://www.cityofgp.com/sites/default/files/uploads/reports/2018_pit_homeless_count_report.pdf



Red Deer’s report offered theoretical context that might inform a deeper understanding of the diverse motivations for relocation among survey respondents (p.24); their breakdown reflected other Alberta communities:¹¹⁴

It is often deemed that people experiencing homelessness are transient and are frequently “on the move” and the reasons are often varied. However, homeless mobility is highly spatially constrained and structured by sociocultural relations of stigmatization, economic productivity, and personal responsibility that are reflected in the operational conventions and institutional practices of transportation and social welfare systems (Jocoy & Del Casino, 2010). People experiencing homelessness move among spaces where they experience varying levels of inclusion and exclusion, thus complicating static, homogeneous characterizations that are often used to describe them (Nielson, 2015).

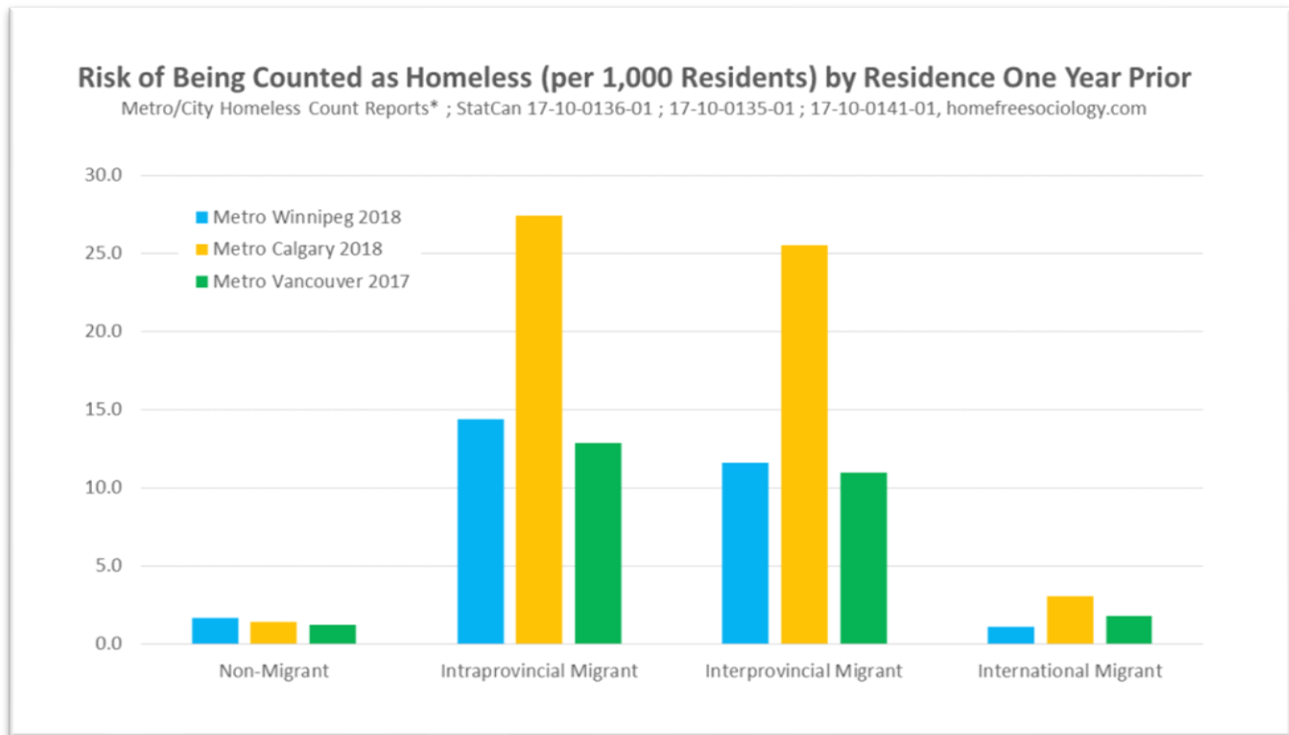


¹¹⁴ 2018 Point in Time Homeless Count & Survey (City of Red Deer) [https://www.reddeer.ca/media/reddeerca/about-red-deer/social-well-being-and-community-initiatives/housing-and-homelessness/2018-Red-Deer-Point-in-Time-\(PIT\)-Count-Final-Report.pdf](https://www.reddeer.ca/media/reddeerca/about-red-deer/social-well-being-and-community-initiatives/housing-and-homelessness/2018-Red-Deer-Point-in-Time-(PIT)-Count-Final-Report.pdf)

Section 7: International Migration & Homelessness

As was previously noted, the relative risk for international migrants being identified as homeless appears to be lower compared with other groups, as was illustrated in Dr. Lauster's graphic representation. His analysis again provides some brief context:¹¹⁵

Why doesn't the same pattern fit for international migrants? Several studies have aimed to answer this question, and the short answer is: because international migrants are both selected and supported differently. As a result, they're much closer to long-term residents in terms of their reduced risk of becoming counted as homeless, even though the risk is still there



International Migration in Canada

Canada has long experienced growing rates of immigration throughout its history.¹¹⁶ With a recorded net migration rate of 5.5 migrants per 1,000, Canada ranks lowest that Australia (7.49) or New Zealand (6.89), but 19th highest in the world (above the US and most of Europe).¹¹⁷ Targets for Permanent Resident admissions are set to continue to increase in the years to come (401,000 for 2021, 411,000 for 2022, and 421,000 for 2023).¹¹⁸ While relevant data from the 2021 census are not yet available, the 2016 national Census Profile offers an overview of immigration rates for comparison.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁵ Homeless Counts and Migration Patterns in Metro Vancouver, Calgary, and Winnipeg (Home: Free Sociology! – Sept 12 2020) <https://homefreesociology.com/2020/09/12/homeless-counts-and-migration-patterns-in-metro-vancouver-calgary-and-winnipeg/>

¹¹⁶ 150 years of immigration in Canada (Government of Canada, June 2016) <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-630-x/11-630-x2016006-eng.htm>

¹¹⁷ Country Comparison – Net Migration Rate (CIA World Factbook, 2021) <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/field/net-migration-rate/country-comparison>

¹¹⁸ Notice – Supplementary Information for the 2021-2023 Immigration Levels Plan (Government of Canada, July 2021) <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/supplementary-immigration-levels-2021-2023.html>

¹¹⁹ Census Profile, 2016 Census (Government of Canada) <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=PR&Code1=01&Geo2=PR&Code2=01&SearchText=Canada&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Immigration%20and%20citizenship&TABID=1&type=0>

Census Profile [Canada], 2016 Census		
Total – 2016 National Census	34,460,065	100%
Total non-immigrants	26,412,610	76.6%
Total immigrants	7,540,830	21.9%
Before 1981	1,941,510	5.6%
2011 to 2016	1,212,075	3.5%
Total - Admission category and applicant type for the immigrant population in private households who landed between 1980 and 2016	5,703,615	16.6%
Economic immigrants	2,994,130	8.7%
Immigrants sponsored by family	1,782,490	5.2%
Refugees	858,845	2.5%

The representation of international arrivals among the general population typically exceeds the representation of international arrivals among those experiencing homelessness as recorded in the various PIT counts. Despite the lowest incidence of homelessness among this group, some reporting suggests “a growing number of newcomers to Canada are ending up in shelters or are finding themselves homeless”,¹²⁰ citing two Employment and Social Development Canada reports.

The national shelter study,¹²¹ which looked at federal data on shelter users between 2005 and 2016, found that:

- “In 2016 over 7,600, or 5.9%, of shelter users reported that they were not Canadian citizens compared to 4.9% in 2014. This includes 5,067 permanent residents or immigrants, 1,991 refugees and 558 temporary residents (student, work or visitor visa). Compared to 2014, the first year that this data was collected, the number of permanent residents or immigrants using shelters remained stable (5,067 in 2016 vs. 5,036 in 2014) while the number of refugees increased by almost 900 (1,991 in 2016 vs. 1,096 in 2014). Non-citizens were more likely to access the shelter system as part of a family (35%) compared to non-citizens (12%). Data from refugee shelters are not included in this analysis.”
- “Although data from refugee shelters are not included in this study, there was an observable increase in the number of refugees using shelters, from about 1,100 in 2014 to nearly 2,000 in 2016. By contrast, the number of permanent residents or immigrants using shelters remained consistent over this period. Among non-citizens, 35% accessed shelters as part of a family compared to just 12% of Canadian citizens.”

The summary report of the 2018 nationally coordinated Point-in-Time count wave identified higher figures and offered notable differences in the representation of immigrants within regions of Canada, but also concluded that the incidence of homelessness was perhaps lower than the general population (though further analysis of whether this holds true once intra- and inter-provincial migrants are disaggregated is clearly warranted given Dr. Lauster’s initial estimates above):¹²²

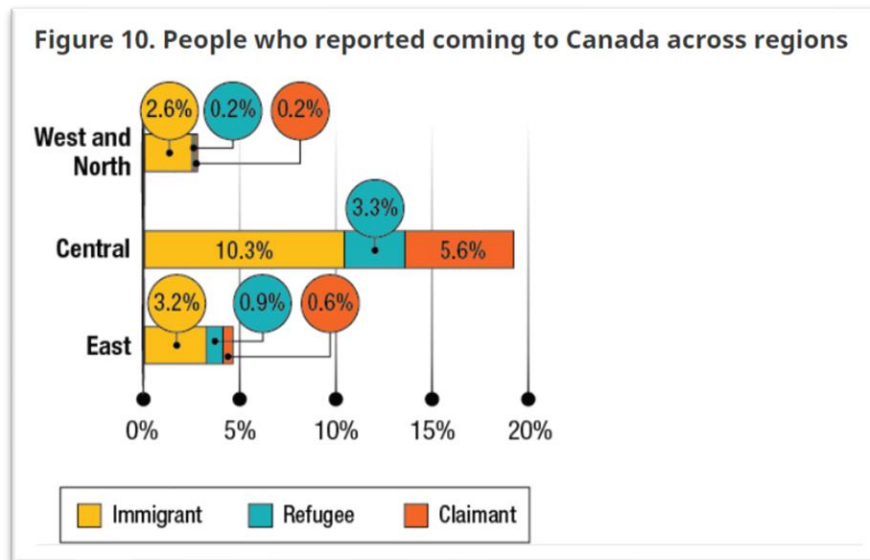
- “14% of respondents indicated that they came to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or refugee claimant. These included 8% who indicated that they came as an immigrant, 3% as a refugee and 4% as a refugee claimant. The majority (56%) have been in Canada for 5 or more years, however a significant minority (26%) came within 6 months prior to the count. In contrast, over 20% of the population in the 2016 census

¹²⁰ Growing number of newcomers, refugees ending up homeless in Canada: studies Social Sharing (CBC News, Aug 9 2019) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/homeless-newcomers-refugees-canada-studies-1.5242426>

¹²¹ Highlights of the National Shelter Study 2005 to 2016 (Government of Canada, August 2019) <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/reports-shelter-2016.html>

¹²² Everyone Counts 2018: Highlights – Report (ESDC 2021) <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/reports/highlights-2018-point-in-time-count.html>

reported that they were, or have been, a permanent resident in Canada. Although this figure does not include current refugees or refugee claimants, it suggests that newcomers to Canada experience lower rates of homelessness than the general population.”



International Migration & Homelessness in the Okanagan

PIT counts conducted within the Okanagan have identified very low levels of international migration:

- **Kelowna (2020):**¹²³ 1% of both the Absolutely Homeless and Transitionally Housed groups identified as being an immigrant or refugee in the past five years.
- **West Kelowna (2018):**¹²⁴ “Only one person experiencing homelessness who completed the survey was identified as having once been a newcomer to Canada, arriving over 10 years ago as an immigrant.”
- **Vernon (2019):**¹²⁵ “0 people indicated they were a newcomer (Immigrant or refugee in the last 5 years).”

International Migration & Homelessness in Calgary & Alberta

Alberta’s 2018 7 Cities PIT counts and reporting¹²⁶ focuses on recent international migration within the past five years, noting “a very small number (14) indicated that they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee in the past five years, representing just 1% of the total valid responses to this question”. The percentage increases to 2% for arrivals in the past 10 years, and 9% for all arrivals regardless of year. Given Canada’s overall demographics, this would suggest that international migrants – especially recent migrants – experience proportionately lower rate of homelessness, particularly given their increased presence within larger cities. Calgary’s 2018 Count Report offered the following breakdown and context:¹²⁷

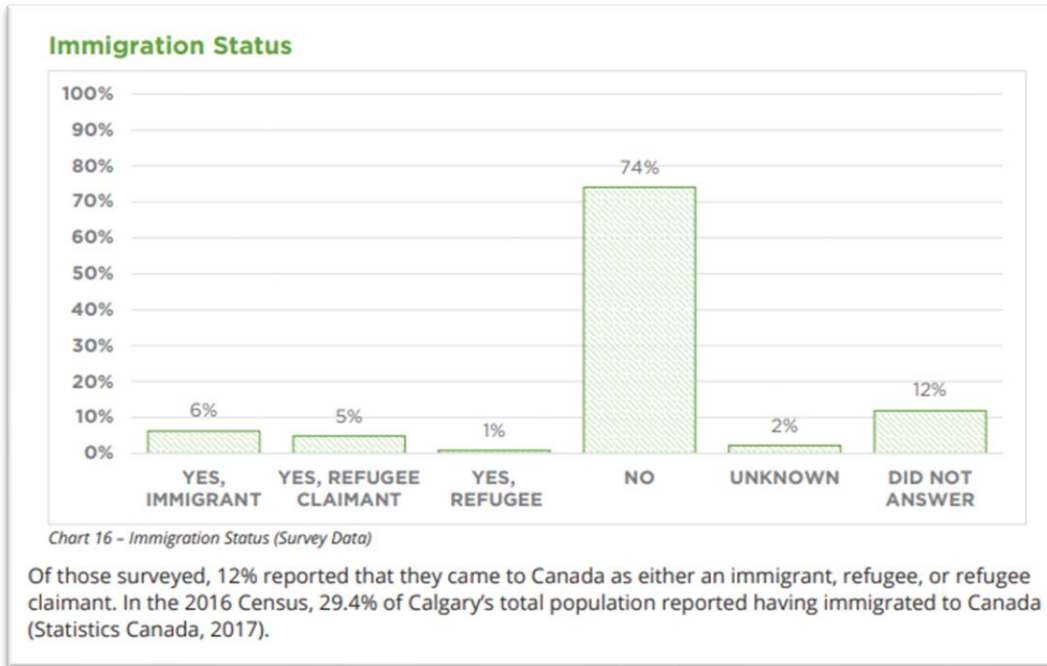
¹²³ Community Report: Point-in-Time Count (Kelowna, 2020). Central Okanagan Foundation. https://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/7516/1177/7135/COF_PiT_Report_2020_R7.pdf

¹²⁴ Westside Point-in-Time Count 2018 Report (City of West Kelowna / Westbank First Nation) <https://www.westkelownacity.ca/en/our-community/resources/Documents/2018-point-in-time-count-edited-report-web.pdf>

¹²⁵ Our Homeless Count: Survey Results for Vernon BC (Oct 2019). Turning Points Collaborative / Social Planning Council. <https://socialplanning.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FINAL-REPORT-Our-Homeless-Count-Vernon-BC-October-2019.pdf>

¹²⁶ 2018 Alberta Point-in-Time Homeless Count – Technical Report (Turner Strategies / 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness) https://www.7cities.ca/files/ugd/ff2744_5d899dceff12471c835fddf4e5d119fc.pdf

¹²⁷ Spring 2018 Point-in-Time Count Report (Calgary Homeless Foundation) http://www.calgaryhomeless.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Calgary_PiT_Report_2018.pdf



International Migration & Homelessness in Vancouver

The representation of immigrants among those experiencing homelessness in Metro Vancouver’s 2020 count was somewhat higher, and immigrants were more likely to be sleeping in shelters than sheltering outdoors.¹²⁸

Immigrants or Refugees to Canada

An amended question on newcomers was introduced in 2020 to learn whether homelessness prevention services could better accommodate people who arrived as refugees or refugee claimants.⁵¹ Respondents were asked whether they “came to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or a refugee claimant.”

- Table 40 shows that 86% of respondents were not immigrants, refugees or refugee claimants, while 14% of survey respondents or 290 individuals came to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or refugee claimant.

Table 40. Immigrants and refugees by sheltered and unsheltered respondents (2020)

Immigrants and Refugees	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Not an immigrant or refugee	986	83%	865	91%	1,851	86%
Immigrants and Refugees	205	17%	85	9%	290	14%
Immigrant	145	12%	67	7%	212	10%
Refugee	25	2%	5	1%	30	1%
Refugee claimant	23	2%	2	0%	25	1%
Did not further specify	12	1%	11	1%	23	1%
Total Respondents	1,178		920		2,098	
Don't Know/No Answer	1,427		109		1,536	
Total	2,605		1,029		3,634	

¹²⁸ BC Non-Profit Housing Association (2020). 2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver. Prepared for the Greater Vancouver Reaching Home Community Entity. Vancouver, BC: Metro Vancouver. https://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/HC2020_FinalReport.pdf

However, the report further noted that those identifying as immigrants or refugees were also primarily long-term residents and not new arrivals, and that the vast majority had been in Canada for over 10 years.

Table 41. Length of time in Canada by Immigrants and Refugees (2020)

Length of Time in Canada	Immigrants and Refugees	
	#	%
Under 6 months	15	6%
6 months to under 1 year	5	2%
1 year to under 5 years	24	9%
5 years to under 10 years	15	6%
10 years or more	200	77%
Total Respondents⁵²	259	100%

International Migration & Homelessness in Winnipeg

Despite the national 2018 PIT report’s finding of increased levels of immigrants among those experiencing homelessness in Central Canada, Winnipeg’s count identified relatively low levels.¹²⁹

e. Newcomers to Canada

The Winnipeg Street Census 2018 found only a small sample of immigrants and refugees experiencing homelessness. Only 51 (4.9 percent) of the survey respondents came to Canada as an immigrant, refugee, or refugee claimant, much lower than the general population in Winnipeg. Of these, about half had been in Winnipeg for less than 5 years (28 immigrants, refugees, and refugee claimants), while 23 had been in Winnipeg 5 years or longer.

Table 9. Immigration Status

	Frequency	Percentage
Born in Canada	1001	95.2%
Immigrant	23	2.2%
Refugee	16	1.5%
Refugee Claimant	8	0.8%
Newcomer (Immigration Type Unknown)	4	0.4%

N=1052, Missing 18

International Migration & Homelessness in Europe

Europe’s distinct geography and nature as a Union results in a range of migration experiences. Summaries of national experiences are presented in the following pages.

¹²⁹ Winnipeg Street Census 2018 https://streetcensuswpg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018_FinalReport_Web.pdf

Information on ethnic and migration background is available for European nations, including the below information pulled from two reports:

1. Extent and Profile of Homelessness in European Member States EOH Comparative Studies on Homelessness Brussels – A Statistical Update (European Observatory on Homelessness, 2014)
https://www.feantsaresearch.org/download/feantsa-studies_04-web24451152053828533981.pdf (p.68-70)
2. Fighting homelessness and housing exclusion in Europe: A study of national policies (European Social Policy Network, 2019)
<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=21629&langId=en> (p.43-44)

COUNTRY	Ethnic Background Extent and Profile of Homelessness in European Member States EOH Comparative Studies on Homelessness Brussels – A Statistical Update December 2014	Ethnicity and migration background Fighting homelessness and housing exclusion in Europe: A study of national policies 2019
Austria		In Austria, more than 50% of people registered as roofless in 2012 were born outside Austria. The expert notes that this strong representation of people born in other European countries or in non-European countries strongly reflects the existing rules governing access to institutions for homeless people, i.e. getting a place here usually requires Austrian citizenship, or, in the case of EU-citizenship, long-term legal residency in Austria. (p.43)
Belgium		Among the nearly 300 people sleeping rough in the Brussels Capital Region, interviewed in 2018, only one in every five people was Belgian, and one in four declared themselves to be an asylum seeker. (p.43)
Czech Republic (Czechia)	In the Czech Republic, ethnic minorities are not overrepresented among homeless people. However, as in several other Eastern EU Member States, Roma people are overrepresented among populations who are very badly housed and in living situations that might be defined as homeless, but are not always counted as being homeless. This administrative distinction occurs elsewhere in the EU, the UK also not recording ‘traveller’ populations that live permanently in mobile homes – including Roma – as being homeless on the basis that it is a chosen lifestyle. By contrast, a British citizen who was not identified as a traveller or Roma and was living	

	in a caravan because they had no home available would be defined as homeless. (p.68)	
Denmark	Detailed data are available in Denmark from the national counts of homelessness. These show that 81% of homeless people in Denmark are Danish, including a small group (6%) of Greenlandic people who are Danish citizens. Citizens of other Nordic countries (2%) and other non-Nordic EU Member States account for another 3%, with 2% from non-EU European countries, 5% from the Middle East and 6% from Africa. Overall, 10% of homeless people had migrated to Denmark and a further 7% were born in Denmark but had parents who were migrants. In the general population, migrants and the children of migrants make up 11% of the population, compared to 17% in the homeless population. (p.68)	In Denmark, in 2017, one in five homeless people are immigrants or descendants of immigrants (from a non-ethnic Danish background) compared to less than 14% in the total population; in the same year, 88% of migrants living rough (rough sleeping and in overnight shelters), coming primarily from Central and Eastern European countries, were staying in Copenhagen. (p.43)
Finland	Finland has proportionately high levels of homeless migrants, making up 26% of the homeless population in 2013 compared to 5% of the general population. Since 2009 there has been an increase of 273% in the levels of migrant homelessness (from 532 to 1986 people). (p.69)	2018 data from the national homelessness survey in Finland reveal that a quarter of all single homeless people have an immigrant background and that immigrant families are also overrepresented among homeless single-parent families. Between 2013 and 2017, the number of homeless immigrants rose from 250 people to 1,700. (p.43)
France	France has seen marked increases in migrant homelessness, from 38% in 2001 to 52% in 2012. Rates are higher in Paris than elsewhere in France; in some districts 40% of young homeless people are from Eastern Europe. It is also important to note that French homelessness services can be open to non-European migrant groups, which is not the case in some other countries. (p.69)	In France, data from 2012 also confirm a stronger representation of people born outside France among the homeless population: 56% of adults were born outside France, with 60% of these coming from an African country, and one-third from Eastern Europe. Homeless people born abroad were more likely to be accompanied by children. (p.44)
Germany	In Germany, NGO data on family background for 2012 show about 27% of the people using NGO homeless services had a migration background (compared to 20% of the general population) and that 16% were of foreign nationality (compared to 9% of the general population). (p.69)	In Germany, in the Region of North Rhine-Westphalia, the share of non-German nationals among the homeless population counted in June 2017 had risen considerably since the last count in 2016 (from 28.3% to 37%). (p.43)

Hungary	Hungarian data exist on the extent of homelessness among Roma people. From the 2011 February 3rd count, there was evidence of strong representation of Roma among homeless people aged 20-29 (44%), and 29% of homeless women and 24% of homeless men were reported as Roma. Some uncertainty exists as to whether or not all these homeless people would actively chose to identify themselves as Roma. (p.69)	
Italy	In Italy, the majority of people recorded in the 2011 survey were people of foreign nationality (60%), while only 40% of homeless people were of Italian nationality. Again, Italian definitions of homelessness are close to the French definitions – people living rough and in emergency shelters – and rates may have been lower among other homeless groups. (p.69)	In Italy, 58% of the homeless people recorded in the 2014 ISTAT survey were nonnationals. (p.44)
Ireland	In Ireland, the Census 2011 reported that almost three quarters of the usually resident homeless population, 2818 persons, reported themselves as White Irish. The next largest ethnic group was Other White, with 296 persons (11%), while 203 persons described their background as either Black or Black Irish (7%). There were 163 Irish Travellers, including people of Roma origin, enumerated as homeless (4%). (p.70)	
Luxemburg		In Luxembourg, the 2018 report of the Ministry for Family mentions 26% Luxembourg nationals, 40% EU nationals and 34% non-EU nationals. (p.44)
Netherlands	In the Netherlands, about half of homeless people were native Dutch, while the other half had a foreign background. Overall, 10% were described as being from Western countries, while 40% had a non-Western background. (p.70)	People with a non-western foreign background are heavily overrepresented among the homeless population in the Netherlands (48%), a situation which has become more pronounced over the years. (p.43)
Poland	In Poland, the number of migrants and foreign-born people in the homeless population appears to be marginal. This mirrors the situation reported in the Czech Republic. (p.70)	
Portugal	In Portugal, the 2011 census showed that 19% of the homeless population were not Portuguese in origin. The largest element within this non-Portuguese group (51%) were from other EU countries, while 39% were from African countries, 5% from South America and 5% from Asia. The 2011 Lisbon Social	

	<p>Network monitoring reported 30% foreigners, 68% Portuguese and 2% non-identified homeless people in Lisbon. The largest groups of foreign people in Lisbon’s homeless population were most commonly from Portuguese-speaking Africa⁹¹ (13%) and from elsewhere in the EU (6%). Some research has suggested that migrants can become homeless due to their immigration status, while others become homeless for the same reasons as the native Portuguese population. (p.70)</p>	
Spain	<p>In Spain, the most recent homelessness survey showed that 46% of the 12 100 homeless persons covered by the survey were non-Spanish nationals. Of these, only about 22% came from other EU Member States and more than half (56%) came from Africa. (p.70)</p>	
Sweden		<p>In 2017, 57% of the homeless population recorded in Sweden were nationals and 43% had a migrant background. Compared to the previous count (2011), the number of persons with a migration background doubled (Knutagård 2018). (p.43)</p>
UK	<p>In the UK, PIE data on the statutory homelessness system in England show a relatively strong representation of homeless British citizens whose ethnic origin is not White European.⁹² Scotland has relatively low numbers of people whose ethnic origin is not White European, as do Wales and Northern Ireland. However, England, particularly with respect to London and the major cities of the Midlands and the North, has far more ethnic diversity than other parts of the UK. Heads of households accepted as statutorily homeless in England were White European in 67% of cases, compared to 80% of the general population in 2011. Homeless people in the statutory system were more likely to be Black British (14%) than the general population in 2011 (4%) but almost equally likely to be Asian British (6% compared to 8% of the general population). In 2013/2014, the majority of statutorily homeless households in England were White European (63%). It is important to note that the statutory homeless system is very active in London, which is a highly multicultural city, whereas much of the rest of the UK remains predominantly White European. (p.70)</p>	

International Migration & Homelessness in the United States

Within the United States, immigration status or ethnic background do not appear to items reviewed within the Annual Homeless Assessment Reports.¹³⁰ A lack of data at this intersection has been identified in other works, such as the 2016 “A Broken Dream: Homelessness & Immigrants”:¹³¹

“... despite an increase in the number of homeless immigrants and refugees, nationwide and statewide data regarding the relationships between homelessness and immigration is nearly nonexistent.”

Individual studies have captured different aspects of the phenomenon. Early work by Culhane et al. posited a potential “... positive relationship between immigrant communities and crowding that reduces the likelihood of shelter admissions.”¹³² Tsai and Gu’s study of 29,896 native-born and 6404 foreign-born US adults found “no significant difference in rates of lifetime adult homelessness between foreign-born adults and native-born adults (1.0% vs 1.7%)”.¹³³

Subsequent reporting during the pandemic had suggested that COVID-19 has caused surges in experiences of homeless among undocumented immigrants in New York¹³⁴ and elsewhere.¹³⁵ Other work in LA hints to early challenges for immigrant populations, including “a housing system that is challenging for immigrant and monolingual populations to navigate” as well as exits immigration detention centers.¹³⁶

¹³⁰ The 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress (US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2019) <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2019-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

¹³¹ Gilleland, Jodylyn; Lurie, Kaya; and Rankin, Sara, "A Broken Dream: Homelessness & Immigrants" (2016). Homeless Rights Advocacy Project. 1. <https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/hrap/1>

¹³² Culhane, D. P., Lee, C., & Wachter, S. M. (1996). Where the Homeless Come From: A Study of the Prior Address Distribution of Families Admitted to Public Shelters in New York City and Philadelphia. Retrieved from https://repository.upenn.edu/spp_papers/63

¹³³ Tsai, J., & Gu, X. (2019). Homelessness among immigrants in the United States: rates, correlates, and differences compared with native-born adults. *Public Health*, 168, 107-116. <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Jack-Tsai-Homelessness-among-immigrants-in-the-United-States-Rates.pdf>

¹³⁴ COVID-19 is Creating More Homeless Undocumented Immigrants in New York (Documented, April 2021) https://documentedny.com/2021/04/08/elmhurst_encampments/

¹³⁵ ‘The pandemic hit, and my world came crashing down,’ homeless immigrant says (Chicago Sun Times, May 2021) <https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/5/10/22429505/homeless-immigrants-covid-pandemic-homelessness>

¹³⁶ Stemming the Rise of Latino Homelessness: Lessons from Los Angeles County (Melissa Chinchilla, 2019) <https://latino.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Stemming-the-Rise-of-Latino-Homelessness-2-1.pdf> (Page 8)

Section 8: Implications and Opportunities for Action

As was noted at the outset, the body of evidence and analysis in this area led us to identify a series of implications and questions for aspects of Communications, Data Collection, and Service Delivery & Planning in the broader support sector as it relates to supporting those experiencing – or at risk of – homelessness. We identify a range of items that we deemed potentially relevant, but we encourage all readers to consider how available evidence, or gaps therein, impacts how they can best support vulnerable members within our community.

Implications & Questions for Communications

As was noted in the earlier sections, distortions of the experiences of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness can be leveraged to oppose infrastructure investments, and may also increase stigma towards those groups on that basis. However, it always seems that we should discuss migration and mobility with regards to their potential connection to vulnerability and access to services.

- *To what extent can communication regarding homelessness balance messaging where:*
 - *The scope and experience of migration in a given situation is contextualized within the broader collection of experiences?*
 - *Migration is identified as a potential source of vulnerability (for those actively experiencing homelessness as well as for vulnerable groups generally)?*

Much of the existing discussion on this topic area omits the full complexity and context of the phenomenon of migration, be it intentionally or otherwise. Highlighting local figures without context fails to present the reality of migration among vulnerable members of society – that people experiencing homelessness do migrate, as do many community members. The rate of migration may perhaps be higher among those experiencing homelessness than the rest of the population, but rationales for relocating are varied. Communication perhaps led within the provincial context, if not the national context; this would be in line with subsequent potential implications for provincial and federal bodies as it relates to data collection and service delivery.

Likewise, those seeking to dispel potentially stigmatizing narratives (i.e., that those experiencing homelessness are migrating en masse in search of free rides) should still acknowledge – though also normalize – the reality of these experiences. Relocation can be particularly challenging for those without the financial means or family supports to establish themselves within a new environment, as well as those without knowledge of local supports and their access points. In his response to some narratives on migration to Vancouver, Dr. Nathan Lauster provided the following summary:¹³⁷

“Mostly moving works out pretty well, and people find work and a place to live. But sometimes it doesn’t work out. So some people move on again or return to where they came from. Others, for various reasons, find themselves homeless.”

His analysis, as with the evidence presented in the earlier sections, reinforces that migration represents an added source of potential vulnerability. Accordingly, it should likely require specific consideration within existing planning and analysis within the support sector. It also more broadly reinforces the need for policymakers, planners, and data analysts to appreciate the unique pathways into – and out of – homelessness, and to incorporate our best available understandings into how we facilitate and promote access to the full range of relevant supports required to empower vulnerable members of our society.

Implications & Questions for Data Collection

As was noted in the introduction, various opportunities presented below may align with the goals and methods of the ongoing **data integration project** to better understand, respond to, and prevent homelessness in B.C.¹³⁸

¹³⁷ Homeless Counts and Migration Patterns in Metro Vancouver, Calgary, and Winnipeg (Home: Free Sociology! – Sept 12 2020) <https://homefreesociology.com/2020/09/12/homeless-counts-and-migration-patterns-in-metro-vancouver-calgary-and-winnipeg/>

¹³⁸ Preventing and reducing homelessness: an integrated data project (Government of British Columbia, November 2021) <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/affordable-and-social-housing/homelessness/homelessness-cohort>

- *To what extent can PIT Counts explore the topics in [Section 4](#) (length of time in community), [Section 5](#) (prior communities), and [Section 6](#) (reported reasons for relocating) in a way that is useful to local, provincial, and / or federal planners and policymakers?*

As was present, the available federal, provincial, and independent PIT Counts often include different elements or different wordings of the same questions. This applies to questions on migration, but also many elements of PIT counts. In other cases, there are simply different levels of detail or formats in presenting collected data within the report, even across the coordinated federal counts. While this has provided a wide range of information, it presents challenges in understanding broad trends, and extracting them from their specific local contexts. Communities receiving federal funds may benefit from constructing both their PIT questionnaire and subsequent reports to both address data queries specific to their local stakeholders, as well as providing some level of alignment with other counts in their region, and ideally also those across the country.

This may require additional questions, but also additional levels of detail in reporting – since the PIT data itself will be held by the respective agencies, the general use of information collected by the counts is limited to the level of information presented in the reports. Greater detail on certain metrics, as well as consistency both across counts but also across broader inquiry and analysis can support planning and research by a range of stakeholders. This may equally apply to the standardized reporting of BC Housing counts, which may benefit from more extensive reporting (though the 2020/2021 is forthcoming).¹³⁹

In some cases, this may include purpose-driven disaggregation. In the Kelowna case, breaking down “reasons for relocating” ([Section 6](#)) by those who are “absolutely homeless” and those who are “transitionally housed” helped highlight differences between those groups that were relatively explainable with Kelowna being a regional service hub. This may require alignment in other demographic categories. For example, traditional “65+” reporting cut offs for a “seniors” age bracket should perhaps be lowered in line with existing work on Older People Experiencing Homelessness given the experiences of accelerate ageing in such conditions, either to 50+ in line with the ongoing work of Dr. Sarah Canham and colleagues on Ageing in the Right Place,¹⁴⁰ or at least to 55+ in line with the BC Housing PIT count cutoff for “seniors”.¹⁴¹ Specifically related to migration, if respective counts can’t all present the full list of original communities, having breakdowns by broader categories of migration (intraprovincial, interprovincial, or international) may be sufficient in comparing across regions and developing an accurate assessment of migration experiences and trends.

What is not broadly known is the extent to which the ~30% cohort of new, past-year arrivals to communities across BC migrate following experiences of homelessness, such as for employment and housing opportunities, or arrive to new communities housed (or with anticipated housing) only to subsequently slip into increased vulnerability in the first few months of residency. As was presented in [Section 5](#), this style of question was asked within City of Vancouver counts,¹⁴² and may help communities better understand local paths into homelessness. This too may benefit from disaggregation by demographic factors or by type of migration. It should be noted that this piece of information could in theory be derived from prior PIT counts, in part – responses to length of time in community could be compared to respondents’ identified length of time homeless. Those whose length of time homeless exceeding their time within the community can be assumed to have left their prior community without housing, whereas the reverse situation would point to local challenges. That information could be further linked to probes on motivations around their move, to assess breakdowns in transition plans across diverse trajectories between communities. This disaggregation of distinct experiences may prove meaningful in determining whether prevention services or outreach services are best placed to support new arrivals.

- *To what extent might a combined “Point-in-Time and By Name List” approach provide complementary sources of local information?*

¹³⁹ See: Homeless Counts (BC Housing 2021) <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/housing-data/homeless-counts>

¹⁴⁰ See, e.g.: Canham, S. L., Humphries, J., Moore, P., Burns, V., & Mahmood, A. (2021). Shelter/housing options, supports and interventions for older people experiencing homelessness. *Ageing & Society*, 1-27. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X21000234>

¹⁴¹ See: Homeless Counts (BC Housing 2021) <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/housing-data/homeless-counts>

¹⁴² Vancouver Homeless Count 2018 (Urban Matters CCC and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association) <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vancouver-homeless-count-2018-final-report.pdf>

As was noted, intraprovincial, interprovincial, and international migration can be assessed through Point in Time counts and By Name List registration, provided those methods of enumeration seek and report on those topic areas. This information can be used to guide both overall policy and individualized supports. By Name Lists in particular may shed additional light on seasonal migration, such as for temporary employment or other factors that influence the timing of relocations. That information might inform where and when communities should invest in outreach campaigns. However, for a By Name List to provide that information, it would need to be assessed at initial intake and at intake for subsequent returns to services, and aggregated and reported for use by local planners. For this reason, individual agencies can also seek this information out at intake, be it those within the broader homelessness support sector, or those outside the sector but who focus services on community integration and resettlement.

There is some evidence in support of combined enumeration efforts, namely the commentary presented within Whitehorse's 2021 PIT Report on divergent accounting from each approach:¹⁴³

This was the first time that questions about the BNL have been asked in Whitehorse. The majority of respondents (78%) reported not being on the BNL (81 of 104 respondents). Only 17% of respondents were on the BNL (18 of 104 respondents)... On April 14th, 2021, the day that the 2021 PiT count ended, there were 206 people on the BNL. This number includes inactive, housed, and active people on the list. The number of actively homeless people on the BNL was 75. While the PiT count and the BNL are not comparable, some inferences can be drawn.

The report goes on to note that the "2021 PiT count did not adequately capture people who were on the By-Name List (only 24% of people who were on the BNL were captured in the PiT count)." It also noted that "the BNL is likely not a complete picture of homelessness in Whitehorse since the BNL only had 75 actively homeless individuals at the time of the count and this count captured 151 individual experiencing homelessness." While Whitehorse perhaps represents a unique jurisdiction compared to other PIT count site due to its geography, further inquiry into divergences may be helpful to guiding enumeration efforts.

- *To what extent should local planners prioritize enumeration efforts (including, but also above and beyond PIT counts) to identify new arrivals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness?*

It seems that regular, broad scale enumeration to collect these forms of data, as well as the review and analysis of findings, can subsequently help to identify the scope and pathway of vulnerability associated with migration patterns across communities. If the existing system structure proves to be as effective in identifying new arrivals and connecting them to supports as it does for other service users, then tailored action may not be required. However, if migrating to a new community is associated with higher levels of chronicity or delays in accessing services, investment in community integration for that subset may prove helpful in preventing harm.

- *To what extent and in what form should further data be sought such that it is in keeping with best practices and regulations?*

Despite the above commentary, data collection requires a commitment of resources. Part of the cost analysis will include the costs and limitations for analysis when enumeration meets limits within existing information and privacy legislation (e.g., FIPPA and PIPA).¹⁴⁴ This applies to broad governmental enumeration, but also any efforts of individual organizations. Of additional important is that existing and additional data collection of personal information from the vulnerable members of society balance the protection and care of those sharing their data alongside the potential for addressing systemic inequalities. BC's 2020 Grandmother Perspective report¹⁴⁵ on disaggregated demographic data collection presented by the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner is both directly relevant to how homelessness enumeration explores aspects of racial and sexual identity, especially in terms of overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among this group, as well as any future efforts of broader data integration and disaggregation related to those at risk of homelessness.

¹⁴³ Whitehorse Point in Time Count 2021: Community Report <https://yawc.ca/downloads/whitehorse-point-in-time-count-pit-2021.pdf>

¹⁴⁴ Legislation (Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner) <https://www.oipc.bc.ca/about/legislation>

¹⁴⁵ Disaggregated demographic data collection in British Columbia: The grandmother perspective (British Columbia's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner) <https://bhumanrights.ca/publications/datacollection/>

- *To what extent can MSDPR data be used to track migration of clients experiencing homelessness (e.g., B.C. Employment and Assistance Data – No Fixed Address clients with a change in office accessed for services or change in community postal code under contact info)?*
- *To what extent can MSDPR data be used to track migration of clients at-risk of homelessness (e.g., all support recipients from both regular and disability streams with a change in office accessed for services or change in community postal code under contact info)?*

While the evidence presented in the above sections is focused on Point-in-Time counts limited in scope to those actively experiencing homelessness, of equal importance is the extent to which we can prevent experiences of homelessness. As is further elaborated below in the context of service actions, MSDPR is perhaps uniquely connected to a large cohort of individuals at risk of homelessness: those accessing the provincial financial safety net. While the safety net is intended to support vulnerable community members, the rates of regular Income Assistance remain insufficient in meeting the shelter needs of individuals outside of subsidized setting (challenges with the structure and scope of this “last resort” funding have been extensively covered in the works of the BC Basic Income Panel).¹⁴⁶ MSDPR may have access to information related to migration patterns among both actively homeless and at-risk groups, as well as information related to a range of other outcomes and service processes, along or in conjunction with other provincial departments. Existing information and future opportunities may perhaps be presented publicly as the provincial data integration project progresses.¹⁴⁷

- *To what extent can other provincial data (e.g. health data) be used to track migration of clients experiencing homelessness (e.g., No Fixed Address clients with a change in office accessed for services or change in community postal code under contact info)?*
- *To what extent can other provincial data (e.g. health data) data be used to track migration of clients at-risk of homelessness (e.g., all service recipients with a change in office accessed for services or change in community postal code under contact info)?*

The above commentary may also be explored in the context of other departments, especially is health data is able to shed some light on both migration as well as outcomes. Ministry of Health Medical Services Plan (MSP) data appears to be a component of the data integration project, though possibly only to use the “client registry as the population directory used to link the data”, and not as a method to explore health conditions.¹⁴⁸

- *To what extent can other federal data (e.g. EI, CPP disability, GIS, Census) be used to track migration of clients experiencing homelessness (e.g., No Fixed Address clients with a change in office accessed for services or change in community postal code under contact info)?*
- *To what extent can other federal data (e.g. EI, CPP disability, GIS, Census) data be used to track migration of clients at-risk of homelessness (e.g., all service recipients with a change in office accessed for services or change in community postal code under contact info)?*

At the same time, federal assistance systems such as Employment Insurance, but also Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits and the Guaranteed Income Supplements, could be reviewed for aggregate trends in movement of those receiving lower, fixed incomes. As a supplement to provincial data, these systems are uniquely positioned to explore trends in interprovincial migration across Canada (though again, only if such efforts have the potential to support services and planning). The various federal departments (tax, supports, demographics) presents a hypothetical opportunity for integrated data related to those at risk of homelessness at that national level as well.

- *Can any of the above sources of data help identify who is at the greatest risk of experiencing homelessness? And if so, to what extent can Integrated Data be made available to communities?*

As was noted earlier, data collection should be carried out with clear intentions, and with a goal of using collected data in support of communities. This should equally include efforts to identify and support those at-risk of

¹⁴⁶ BC Basic Income Panel: <https://bcbasicincomepanel.ca/papers>

¹⁴⁷ Preventing and reducing homelessness: an integrated data project (Government of British Columbia, November 2021) <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/affordable-and-social-housing/homelessness/homelessness-cohort>

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

homelessness if we are to ever shift to a prevention-focused model. Methods and scope should be linked to community needs, and subject to change over time accordingly to maintain responsiveness. Communities should review their respective data needs collaboratively, and pool their knowledge for collective action.

Furthermore, the data being linked by the provincial government in BC¹⁴⁹ will undoubtedly support planning and services at a provincial level, but how can it be made available to individual communities? If there is an opportunity for communities to make data requests to inform their efforts in supporting individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in their local area, as well as supporting local service providers and planners, that should be publicized at project completion. Communities would also benefit from widespread guidance on how and when available data might support planning, such that municipal staff and other local stakeholders can form relevant requests.

Implications & Questions for Service Delivery

As has been noted, this specific intersection of migration and homelessness is part of a larger question on the extent to which a broader array of actors can support the goal of ending homelessness – that is to say being part of the systematic response to ensure that homelessness “is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience”.¹⁵⁰

- *To what extent do / can MSDPR offices serve as a first access point for new arrivals experiencing homelessness, and a link to other local resources?*
- *To what extent do / can MSDPR offices serve as a first access point and as a resource link for clients at-risk of homelessness? Including whether additional needs are assessed (e.g. employment, physical health, mental health, criminal justice questions, etc.).*
- *To what extent do / can other provincial offices (health, employment, libraries) serve as a first access point for new arrivals experiencing homelessness, and a link to other local resources?*
- *To what extent do / can other provincial offices (health, employment, libraries) serve as a first access point and resource link for clients at-risk of homelessness? Including whether additional needs are / can be assessed (e.g. employment, physical health, mental health, criminal justice questions, etc.).*
- *To what extent do / can Service Canada offices serve as a first access point for new arrivals experiencing homelessness, and a link to other local resources?*
- *To what extent do / can Service Canada offices serve as a first access point and as a resource link for clients at-risk of homelessness? Including whether additional needs are / can be assessed (e.g. employment, physical health, mental health, criminal justice questions, etc.).*

Each of the above questions address the previously noted opportunity for broad client access and – perhaps – larger capacity presented by the widespread and interconnected nature of governmentally-linked offices. However, each also acknowledges that the implications concern both existing capacity as well as potential capacity. The first is a matter of inquiry, and likely influences the latter aspect of whether these offices can play a role in facilitating access and connection to broad ranges of local supports. But even if they can serve a navigation role, further questions should be raised on whether this should be an area for further investment or reorganization, whether that is the most efficient option, whether something new is needed, or, again, whether the status quo is deemed to be sufficient.

While these questions are presented in the context of supporting new arrivals within respective communities, to offer such supports would be equally relevant all clients experiencing homelessness, as well as all clients at risk of homelessness. From an intraprovincial perspective, many at risk individuals relocating within the province may be receiving provincial sorts across their transition, or shortly after their arrival. For this reason, structures such as the Ministry for Social Development and Poverty Reduction may both have a fairly precise estimate of migration among those experiencing homelessness, as was noted above, but also an existing channel of communication to that cohort

¹⁴⁹ Preventing and reducing homelessness: an integrated data project (Government of British Columbia, November 2021) <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/affordable-and-social-housing/homelessness/homelessness-cohort>

¹⁵⁰ Canadian Definition of Ending Homelessness: Measuring Functional and Absolute Zero (Based on Turner, Albanese, & Pakeman, 2017) https://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/Ending_Homelessness_Definition.pdf

in its entirety (either in person, or remotely for those under a direct deposit option). Given this access, there exists a possible targeted outreach opportunity specific to those relocating to new location, perhaps providing information or an initial access point for support services within their new community. Likewise, there may be a broader opportunity to connect all clients to basic service navigation tools, if that isn't already part of the registration process.

As was noted above, the Government of British Columbia is in the process of developing a homelessness strategy,¹⁵¹ which may be released in the coming weeks, so these implications will need to be assessed in the context of established goals and priorities set forth in that document once they have been presented publicly.

And again, there are implication and questions specific to actors directly within the homeless-serving sector, but also for other federal actors with varying degrees of crossover with potentially vulnerable individuals more broadly. In the interprovincial context, while programs such as Employment Insurance (EI) or the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) are not focused on those experiencing homelessness, there's the potential for clients on those fixed supports to fall into greater vulnerability. This may be particularly true for those nearing the end of their EI benefits and those starting to access CPP disability benefits; both these groups and other beneficiary groups face changes to their income situation, possibly for the first time, and possibly without any knowledge of local sector agencies or supports related to housing and rental supplements.

While international arrivals may possibly face a decreased risk, those who do experience vulnerability may have even more gaps when it comes to knowledge of basic supports or how to access them in times of need, be it due to language barriers or simply an unfamiliar safety net. In such cases, parallel services such as Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) may benefit from having resources guide on hand in case need is identified.

Conclusion

The intent of this report was initially to present as comprehensive of a scan on available evidence around migration and homelessness as was possible. However, in doing so, we observed that this topic – along with many other topics in the area of homelessness – is connected to broader complexities of the vulnerabilities and needs of our fellow community members.

Overall, we encourage all readers to reflect on the extent to which we can better connect those experiencing or at risk of homelessness to relevant supports as quickly, clearly, and compassionately as possible.

The Kelowna Homelessness Research Collaborative (KHRC), is a multidisciplinary team of researchers interested in understanding and supporting the provision of services to – and the perspectives of – individuals with lived experience of homelessness or who are vulnerable to homelessness. Investigators and collaborators are primarily based in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, Canada. For additional resources, check out our website: <https://khrc.ok.ubc.ca/>

Any feedback on this report can be submitted to:

Ask.khrc@ubc.ca



¹⁵¹ B.C. finally has a plan for the most difficult people to house in Kamloops and Kelowna (InfoTel, February 2022) <https://infotel.ca/newsitem/bc-finally-has-a-plan-for-the-most-difficult-people-to-house-in-kamloops-and-kelowna/it88686>