

Data on Youth Homelessness, Resilience, and School Engagement in the Okanagan

KHRC Local Data Scan



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This rapid data scan represents an incomplete collection of local data available on topics specific to youth. It pulls together links to various sources of information related to youth homelessness, resilience, school engagement, and other topics relevant to youth vulnerability in Kelowna, the Okanagan region, the province of British Columbia, and / or federally, depending on the availability of relevant data).

We aim to supplement this scan as additional sources of local data are identified moving forward.

Included topics to date cover:

1. [Size of Local Youth Cohort](#)
2. [Youth Resilience](#)
3. [Student Health and Mental Health](#)
4. [Low Income Rates Among Youth](#)
5. [Youth Core Housing Need](#)
6. [Youth Homelessness](#)
7. [Crime Rates Related to Youth and Families](#)
8. [Youth & Government Care](#)
9. [School Completion Rates](#)
10. [Upstream Kelowna](#)

Additional possible sources of information include:

- Data internal to youth-involved organization
- Additional data from MCFD and other provincial sources
- Ongoing research inquiries (KHRC projects, Upstream Kelowna, etc.)
- Completed youth-related projects in and around parallel topics of mental health and resiliency
- Other publicly available data that was not identified during this initial scan

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 or suggestions for further additions can be submitted to:

ask.khrc@ubc.ca

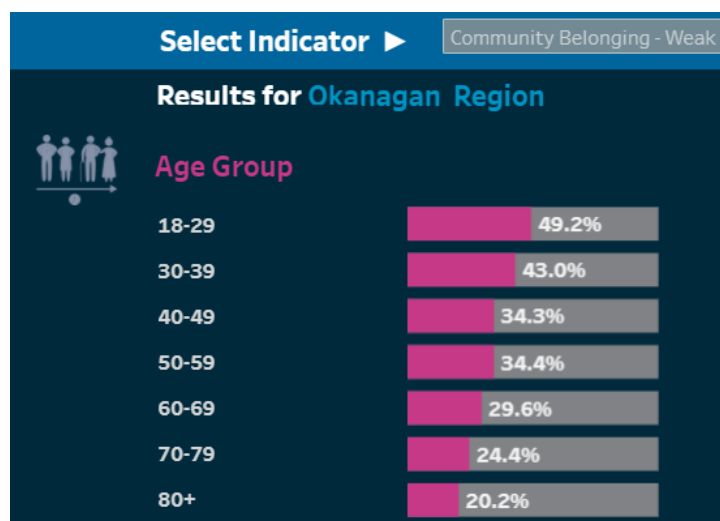
Size of Local Youth Cohort (For Reference)

Kelowna is the third largest Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) in BC (222,162 in the [2021 Census](#)).

Just over 50,000 residents were under the age of 25 in the [2016 Census](#), around 25.7%.

Youth Resilience

We know from the BC COVID Speak survey ([Round 1](#)) that younger cohorts in the Okanagan report weaker community attachment. This was specifically categorized as a “resilience” variable, albeit in the broader context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The [second round](#) of the survey in 2021 provided additional information (housing, education, employment, etc.), shown below, again broken down by age categories.

B.C. COVID-19 SPEAK Round 2	REGION: OKANAGAN						
	Age Category						
	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
Mental health - poor	56.0	42.1	32.7	27.6	18.0	13.0	13.4
Mental health worsening	74.5	68.5	59.2	59.7	49.1	39.7	43.7
Stressed	46.0	35.0	28.3	22.7	12.0	11.6	8.2
Feeling lonely - always	30.8	17.7	11.3	10.5	5.8	5.5	Suppressed
Mental Health - difficulty access	32.4	22.2	13.3	6.6	4.1	Suppressed	0.0
Employment change - worse	32.1	23.3	24.3	19.3	13.6	7.9	Suppressed
Education change - worse	35.1	12.6	9.3	5.6	2.2	Suppressed	0.0
Housing change - worse	20.5	9.6	7.5	3.7	1.7	0.6	Suppressed
Increased household conflict	54.1	54.6	57.5	46.4	35.9	29.5	21.2

B.C. COVID-19 SPEAK Round 2	REGION: OKANAGAN						
	Age Category						
	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
Not working due to COVID-19	11.4	<i>Suppressed</i>	4.0	6.2	4.2	1.4	<i>Suppressed</i>
Work interruption	50.1	39.7	37.2	33.7	31.7	24.3	<i>Suppressed</i>
Financial stress - current	47.9	37.6	36.0	30.9	18.4	13.5	13.4
Financial stress - future	45.8	30.0	30.1	29.3	16.8	10.9	10.0
Concern for food security	21.2	17.7	15.2	10.9	5.8	5.9	<i>Suppressed</i>
Housing insecure	10.7	6.3	5.3	5.0	2.9	2.2	<i>Suppressed</i>
Used financial relief services	72.5	61.1	52.4	43.7	38.7	28.3	32.6
Connection with family - less	56.6	61.7	60.8	55.7	56.5	53.6	46.6
Connection with friends - less	75.0	80.6	78.6	77.0	73.2	67.7	66.4
Community belonging - weak	71.5	66.3	57.6	53.5	47.1	39.7	29.3
https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/bccdc/viz/BCCOVID-19SPEAKSurveyRound2/BCCOVID-19SPEAKresults							

Student Health and Mental Health

Various health-related studies have been conducted with UBC-Okanagan students by Campus Health:

- <https://campushealth.ok.ubc.ca/publications/>

There are also older findings specific to UBCO students from the 2013 National College Health Assessment that provides detailed information on mental health challenges.

University of British Columbia – Okanagan Executive Summary (Spring 2013)	
American College Health Association / National College Health Assessment II (p.19-21)	
	Any time within the last 12 months (%)
Felt things were hopeless	49.2
Felt overwhelmed by all you had to do	89.1
Felt very lonely	63.2
Felt very sad	64.8
Felt so depressed that it was difficult to function	35.5
Felt overwhelming anxiety	54.5
Felt overwhelming anger	40.5
Seriously considered suicide	8.8

Intentionally cut, burned, bruised, or otherwise injured yourself	6.8
Attempted suicide	0.8

Low Income Rates Among Youth

Poverty among the youth demographic was previously collected through the work of the [Central Okanagan Poverty Reduction Committee](#), which continues at present in the form of the [Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy](#) under Urban Matters CCC and the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

- With support from the Vancouver Foundation, United Way SIBC, the City of Kelowna and the District of Lake Country, the Central Okanagan Poverty Reduction Committee partnered with Urban Matters CCC to develop the Central Okanagan Community Wellness Analysis. The analysis provides data on key wellness and poverty indicators for the Central Okanagan and also provides a profile for each of the communities within the region.
 - [Central Okanagan Community Wellness Analysis \(2020\)](#)

Income data is available down to a CMA level for Kelowna, through the [2016 Census Data Tables](#) (recalling the 2021 Census data will be released throughout 2022), including the incidence across a range of census family and household types:

- Low-income Indicators (4), Individual Low-income Status (6), Age (14) and Census Family and Household Type Characteristics of Persons (31) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census - 100% Data [98-400-X2016124](#)

As well as across age brackets, with a relatively high level of detail (shown in the table below):

- Low-income Indicators (4), Individual Low-income Status (6), Age (15), Sex (3) and Year (2) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data and 2016 Census - 100% Data [98-400-X2016126](#)

Kelowna CMA				
<i>Low-income indicators = Low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT)</i>				
Age	Low-income status - applicable	In low income	Not in low income	Prevalence of low income (%)
Total - Age	180125	22535	157590	12.5
0 to 17 years	32245	4925	27315	15.3
0 to 5 years	9865	1575	8290	16
6 to 10 years	9260	1525	7730	16.5
11 to 17 years	13120	1820	11300	13.9
18 to 64 years	112890	13355	99530	11.8
18 to 24 years	15840	2425	13420	15.3
25 to 54 years	69430	7575	61860	10.9
25 to 34 years	22800	2610	20190	11.4
35 to 44 years	21175	2385	18780	11.3
45 to 54 years	25465	2580	22885	10.1

55 to 64 years	27615	3360	24255	12.2
65 years and over	34990	4255	30735	12.2
65 to 74 years	20315	2130	18185	10.5
75 years and over	14675	2120	12555	14.4

Recall as well that some additional local data specific to poverty are available through some of our other community reports:

- ➔ KHRC’s “State of Poverty” resource provides sources for poverty rates and other information (including strategies) at local, provincial, and federal levels
 - [The State of Poverty: A Summary of Policy, Data, and Reporting across Canada](#) (Updated Version: March 22 2022)
- ➔ KHRC’s \$25 Sector Wage report, while non-specific to youth, provides additional context how the “living wage” might miss out on single, young men and women, as well as lone parents, given that the living wage formula is built around the context of “the amount needed for a family of four with each of two parents working full-time...”, and not those outside of an economic family.
 - [Supporting Sector Staff: A Case for a \\$25 Target Wage](#) (November 24, 2021)

The [2021 BC Child Poverty Report Card](#) also includes community specific summaries of child poverty, including one for the Kelowna Census Tracts (p.25):

Kelowna Census Tracts

There were 5,930 children (or 16.3% of all children) in the Kelowna CMA living in poverty in 2019. One in 10 or more children lived in poverty in 39 out of 40 Kelowna CMA census tracts (97.5% of Kelowna CMA census tracts). One hundred or more children lived in poverty in 28 out of 40 Kelowna CMA census tracts (70.0% of Kelowna CMA census tracts). High child poverty rate census tracts were clustered along Highway 97 from Downtown Kelowna to Rutland.

Youth Core Housing Need

There is a general report on [Youth Households Living in Core Housing Need](#) through the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CMHC, 2020 – p.1):

- ➔ *This research insight presents an analysis of the core housing need (CHN) of youth from 2001 to 2016. We examine the incidence of CHN among households aged 15-to-19, 20-to-24 and 25-to-29. Our analysis also focuses on the housing conditions of different youth household groups, such as homeowners, renters, visible minority households, immigrant households, and female-led lone-parent households.*
- ➔ *We find that the proportion of youth households living in core housing need in Canada declined from 18.6% in 2001 to 14.8% in 2016. However, over the 2001-2016 period, renters had significantly higher incidences of CHN compared to owners. The proportions of youth in core housing need varied severely as well across age groups, demographics, and household types. Youth households in CHN experienced significant increases in the average depths of need from 2001 to 2016.*

- ➔ *The majority of youth, when leaving their family home and forming a household, move into a rental unit. In 2016, 65.8% of youth households were renters, compared to 28.0% of non-youth households (those aged 30 and over).*
- ➔ *In addition, incidences of CHN varied significantly across youth age groups. Notably, we observe that the incidence of CHN among youth households aged 15-to-24 in 2016 was high, at 27.1%, but the CHN was mostly temporary and quickly diminished to 12.9% as the youth households reached the 25-to-29 age group. The many significant life events that youth households can experience during a short time span can explain the variations in their housing needs. These events include completing their education, renting their first home, as well as finding employment. Youth households are also likely to purchase their first home and start families as they progress through the different age groups.*

That information by age brackets is also available for Kelowna and Rutland specifically, with the “core area” having a core housing need rate of 17% for primary household maintainers aged 15-24. Note, however, that this represents both owners and renters; given that ownership (and income) is positively associated with age, the difference in core housing need between owners and renters also increases with age (e.g., 65+ core housing need for owners was 5.8% in Kelowna overall compared to 42.1% of renters, whereas the difference for the 15-24 cohort was 10.5% for owners and 18.2% for renters).

- Age of Primary Household Maintainer (% of Households in Core Housing Need) – [Kelowna CMHC Profile](#)

Kelowna: Age of Primary Household Maintainer (% of Households in Core Housing Need) – 2016							
Region	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	Total 65+	Total
Core Area	17.0%	11.2%	8.5%	8.6%	9.2%	11.1%	10.1%
Rutland	16.3%	10.6%	11.3%	8.4%	9.3%	11.5%	10.4%
Kelowna	16.6%	11.0%	9.4%	8.5%	9.3%	11.2%	10.2%

That’s 16.6% of 2,590 15-24 year-old-led households tested for core housing need, suggesting that approximately 430 households were classified as being in core housing need.

Kelowna: Age of Primary Household Maintainer (Households Tested for Core Housing Need) – 2016							
Region	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	Total 65+	Total
Core Area	1,855	6,570	7,100	8,960	10,175	15,980	50,635
Rutland	735	3,015	3,525	4,480	4,915	5,585	22,255
Kelowna	2,590	9,580	10,625	13,440	15,095	21,565	72,89

There is also thesis work (and a subsequent research article) focused on local student rental experiences, though the work was conducted over a decade ago:

- [In tuition: a case study of UBCO student youth rental housing experiences in the City of Kelowna](#) (McEwan, Jamie Gordon – Thesis: 2010)

The primary conclusions of this case study are that the student youth respondents face barriers of rental housing unaffordability, unsuitability, and unavailability. The issues of unsuitable rental housing include its quality, locale, roommate problems, and discrimination from landlords.

Empirical evidence indicates that the coping strategies used among UBCO student youth in Kelowna include social networking, taking on parttime jobs, and using student loans to pay for housing. There are also a variety of coping strategies recognized as important for this population, but not being currently utilized, including crowding or sharing housing, and living in a state of “hidden homelessness”. Finally, this thesis discusses a variety of potential policy recommendations made by the key informants, including re-assessing funding and cooperation between the private and public sectors, constructing additional purpose-built rental units, creating rental housing services for UBCO student youth, and examining the utilization of secondary suites. [Abstract]

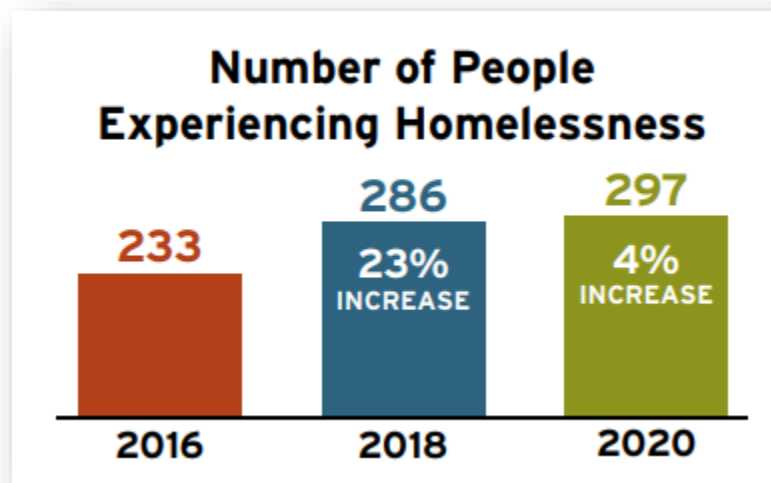
- Doing Their "Home" Work: A Case Study of University of British Columbia Okanagan Student Youth Rental Housing Experiences in the City of Kelowna. McEwan, Jamie; Teixeira, Carlos. BC Studies; *Vancouver Iss.* 173, (Spring 2012): 123-142,177-178.
<https://www.proquest.com/docview/1021199768?accountid=14656&pq-origsite=summon>

Youth Homelessness

The Central Okanagan Foundation hosted Point in Time (PiT) Counts in 2016, 2018, and 2020, while West Kelowna also conducted a PiT Count in 2018. Vernon and Penticton have their own counts, which most recently were conducted through the [BC Housing counts](#).

While the overall number of individuals of all ages identified in the Kelowna Point-in-Time counts has increased over time, the representation of youth (< 25) within Kelowna's count of Absolute Homelessness (sheltered or unsheltered) has been decreasing, from 2016's high of ~15%, to 2018's tally of ~12%. to 2020's tally of ~8%.

- [Kelowna PiT Count Report \(2016\)](#)
- [Kelowna PiT Count Report \(2018\)](#)
- [Kelowna PiT Count Report \(2020\)](#)



In terms of the two main breakdowns of experience, the age breakdown was as follows. Note that this additional context shows an equivalent increase in the representation of youth among those transitionally housed (c.f. a decrease in youth counted overall) – recalling that the age breakdowns noted above (and

presented within the respective PiT count infographics) are specific to the subset experiencing absolute homelessness.


Absolute Homelessness	2016 (n=181)	2018 (n=248)	2020 (n=256)
0-14 years	2%	3%	2%
15-24 years	14%	9%	6%
25-64 years	79%	85%	89%
65+ years	6%	3%	3%

Transitionally Housed	2016 (n=273)	2018 (n=319)	2020 (n=335)
0-14 years	4%	11%	14%
15-24 years	13%	9%	10%
25-64 years	81%	78%	74%
65+ years	2%	2%	3%

The [Boys & Girls Clubs of the Okanagan](#) provide the following summary of their Youth Shelter work in their presentation of the Upstream Kelowna project detailed [later on](#):

**Emergency Youth Shelter,
- Annual Report, 2020**

- 39 youth, 466 occurrences
- 39 Shelter Diversion Attempts/
19 Diverted



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However, it should be noted that the 2020 PiT Count Report discusses the challenges of identifying youth within these counts (p.37-38):

- According to the present findings, rates of youth absolute homelessness in Kelowna fall below the national average recorded during the 2018 Coordinated PiT Count¹¹. Youth remain a unique population that must be considered. As mentioned previously, a decrease in youth absolute homelessness has been observed in Kelowna between 2016-2020. However, many youth are known to experience hidden homelessness, which is difficult to measure with a PiT Count approach. Youth staying in impermanent or precarious situations with family or friends may see changes in their housing situations precipitate quickly. It is recommended by the PiT Count Youth Sub Committee that future PiT Counts continue to evaluate the extent to which PiT Counts

are a useful tool for enumerating youth homelessness and explore additional or alternative methodologies to youth magnet events.

- It was noted that youth sometimes struggled with some of the terminology used on the surveys. Youth staying temporarily with others often do not identify their situation as corresponding to “homelessness”. In order to more accurately capture data on people living in impermanent housing situations, it may be required to revise the wording on surveys implemented in locations where these individuals are surveyed.

We also know that ~120 residents under the age of 25 were identified as residing in a “collective dwelling” in the [2016 Census](#).

- *'Collective dwelling' refers to a dwelling of a commercial, institutional or communal nature. It may be identified by a sign on the premises or by an enumerator speaking with the person in charge, a resident, a neighbour, etc. Included are lodging or rooming houses, hotels, motels, tourist establishments, nursing homes, hospitals, staff residences, military bases, work camps, jails, group homes, and so on.[Footnote 2]*

Kelowna Data quality																				
Dwelling type (5)	Age (20)																			
	Total - Age	0 to 14 years	15 to 19 years	15 to 17 years	18 to 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 29 years	30 to 34 years	35 to 39 years	40 to 44 years	45 to 49 years	50 to 54 years	55 to 59 years	60 to 64 years	65 years and over	65 to 69 years	70 to 74 years	75 to 79 years	80 to 84 years	85 years and over
Total - Dwelling type	194,870	27,585	10,490	6,080	4,405	12,090	11,735	12,140	11,135	11,085	12,385	14,660	15,660	14,250	41,675	13,080	9,610	7,555	5,670	5,755
Private dwellings ¹	190,565	27,560	10,470	6,075	4,395	12,030	11,680	12,085	11,070	11,010	12,295	14,485	15,520	14,110	38,260	12,930	9,395	7,160	4,935	3,840
Single-detached houses	112,740	18,215	6,990	4,215	2,780	5,690	4,995	6,090	6,475	7,100	8,030	9,415	9,820	8,635	21,285	7,670	5,385	3,925	2,510	1,795
Other private dwellings	77,825	9,345	3,475	1,860	1,615	6,335	6,685	5,995	4,595	3,910	4,265	5,075	5,700	5,475	16,970	5,260	4,010	3,235	2,425	2,045
Collective dwellings ²	4,305	25	20	5	10	60	55	55	65	75	90	175	140	140	3,415	150	215	395	735	1,915

West Kelowna's [2018 Point-in-Time Count](#) identified that most individuals enumerated were over 25 (p.11):

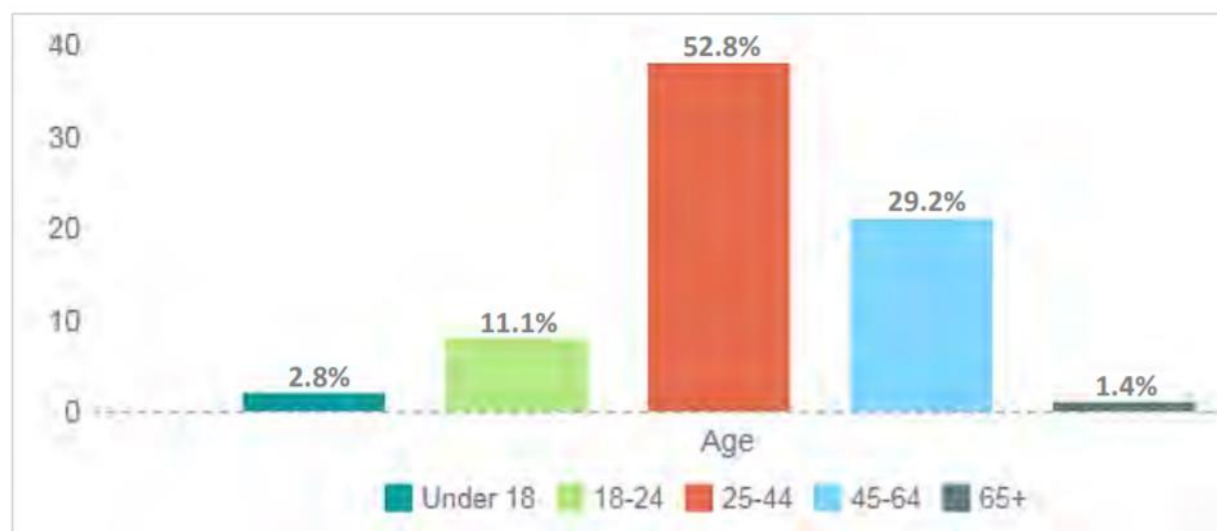


Figure 4. Age distribution of survey respondents (72 Respondents).

However, as with other counts, most identified their first instance of homelessness to have been when they were younger than 25 (p.11):

FIRST HOMELESS EXPERIENCE (64 Respondents)

Survey respondents were asked to identify at what age their first instance of homelessness occurred. Studies suggest that around 1/3 of homeless adults first experienced homelessness as teenagers³. The administrative data supports this trend for those experiencing homelessness on the Westside. Indigenous persons report more initial homelessness at <18 years (40% vs 30%) however this difference is not significant ($p=.362$).

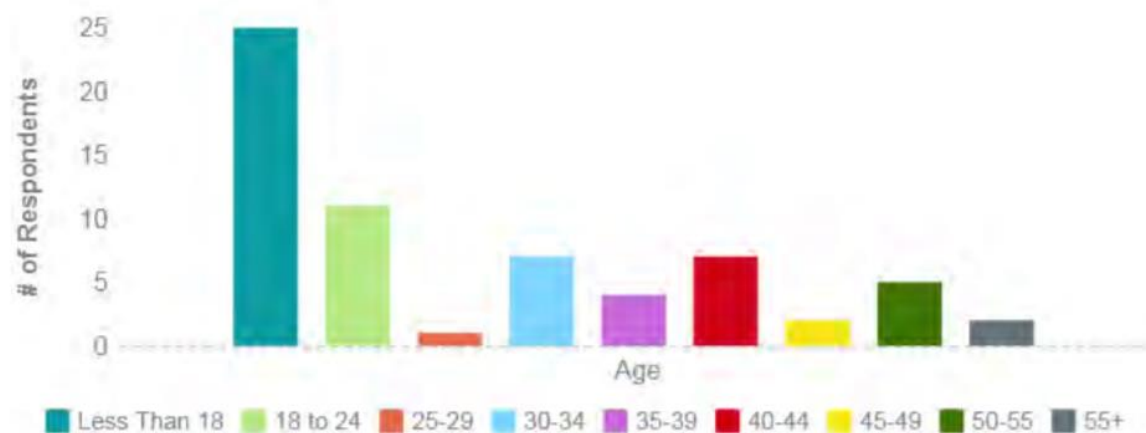


Figure 5. Age distribution of survey respondents experiencing homelessness for the first time (64 Respondents).

In the Penticton context, “No Where To Go: A report from the Youth Homelessness Research Project” was presented to Penticton’s council (first in 2021, and again in 2022), is publicly available, and appears on [PDF page 93](#) on the full council record for February 15th 2022. This school-based survey to assess youth experiences of homelessness outside of the PiT.

- *A survey was developed to create a profile of the experience of youth regarding homelessness in Penticton. The survey breaks new ground in compiling detailed, baseline information on this age cohort to inform the development of community led strategies. The roll out of the community survey of youth was also delayed because of the pandemic. Initial distribution of the survey was supported by the Foundry and local community agencies. Access to the schools, considered a vital point of connection for youth, required a more formal process... Permission to promote the survey in schools was received in early 2021 and youth were then invited to submit their feedback until mid March.*

The following select charts summarizing their findings were included within that report.

Figure 4 (PDF p.111):

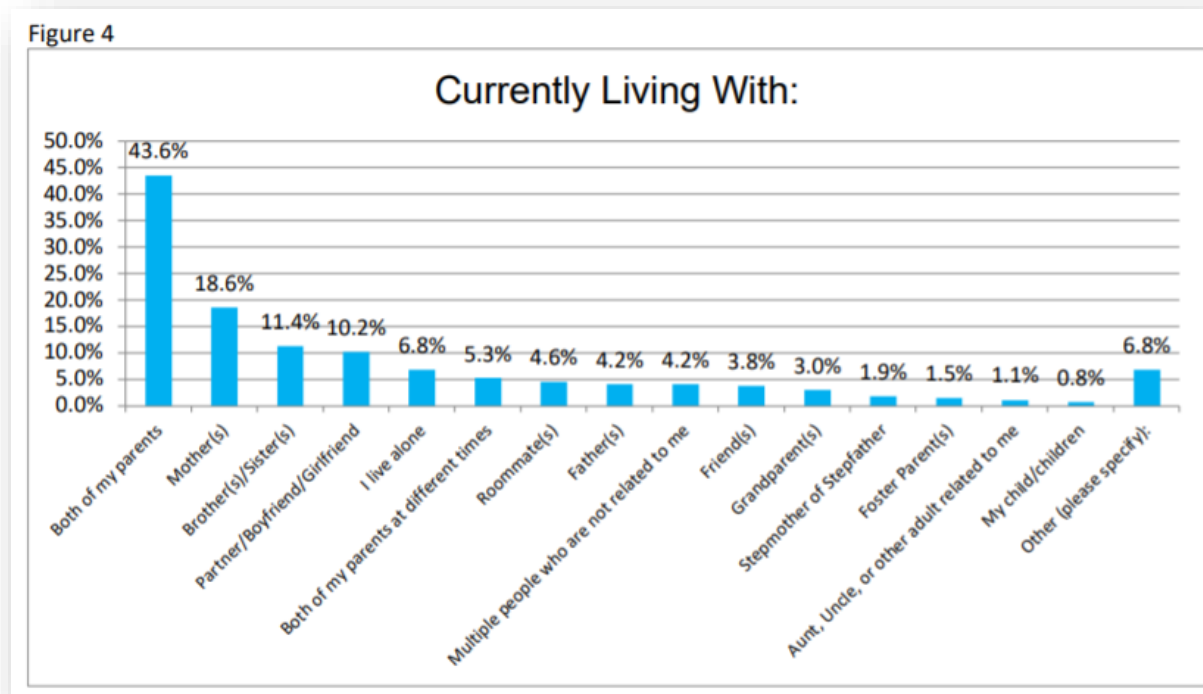


Figure 5 (PDF p.111):

Figure 5

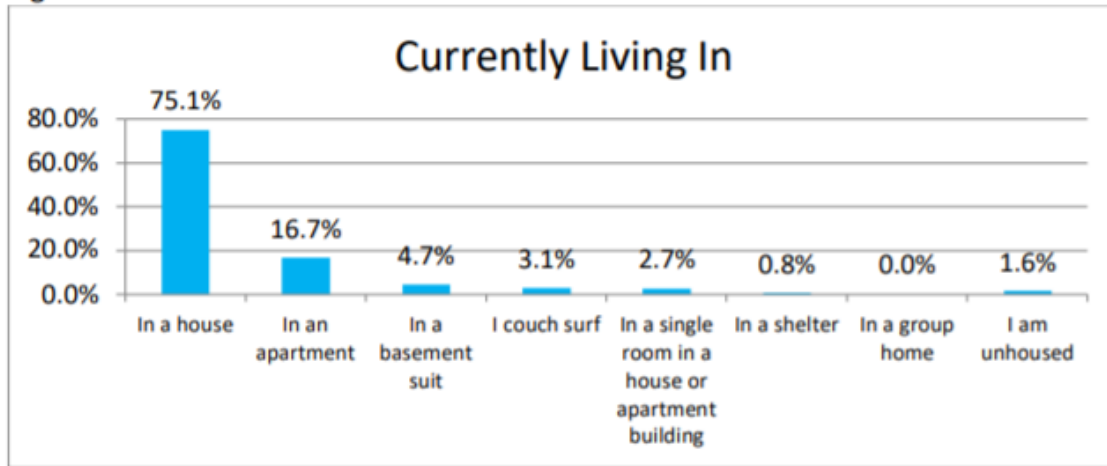


Figure 8 (PDF p.112):

Figure 8

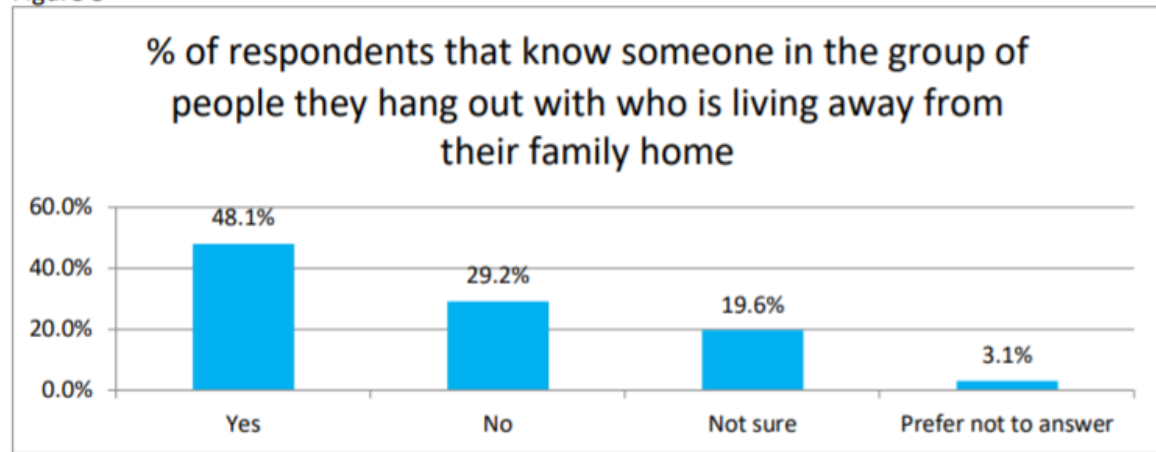


Figure 9/10 (PDF p.113):

Figure 9

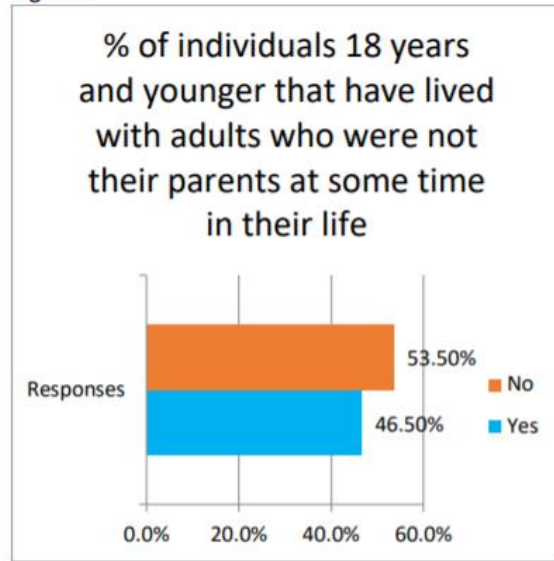


Figure 10

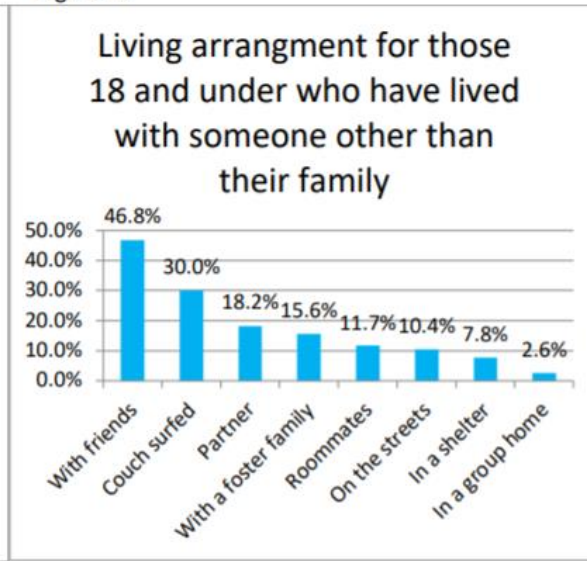


Figure 11 (PDF p.113):

Figure 11

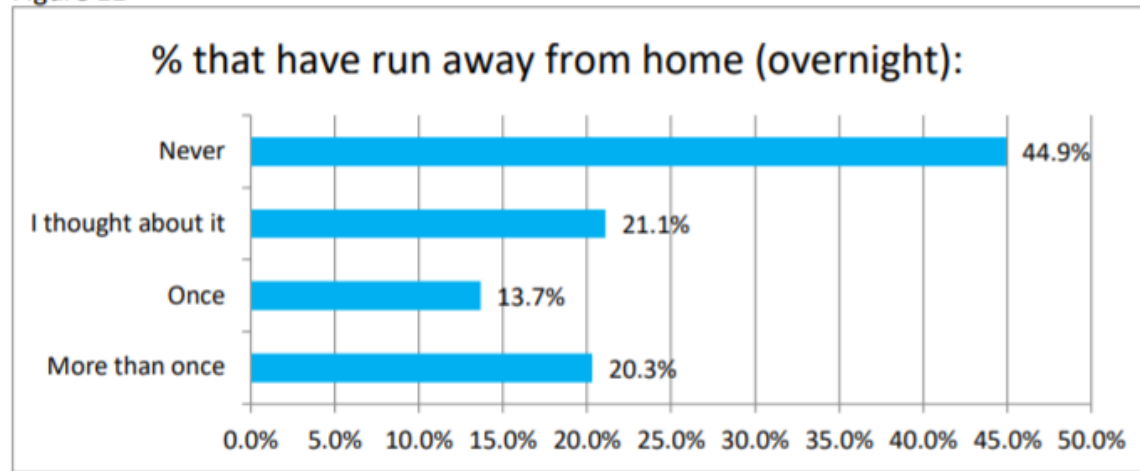
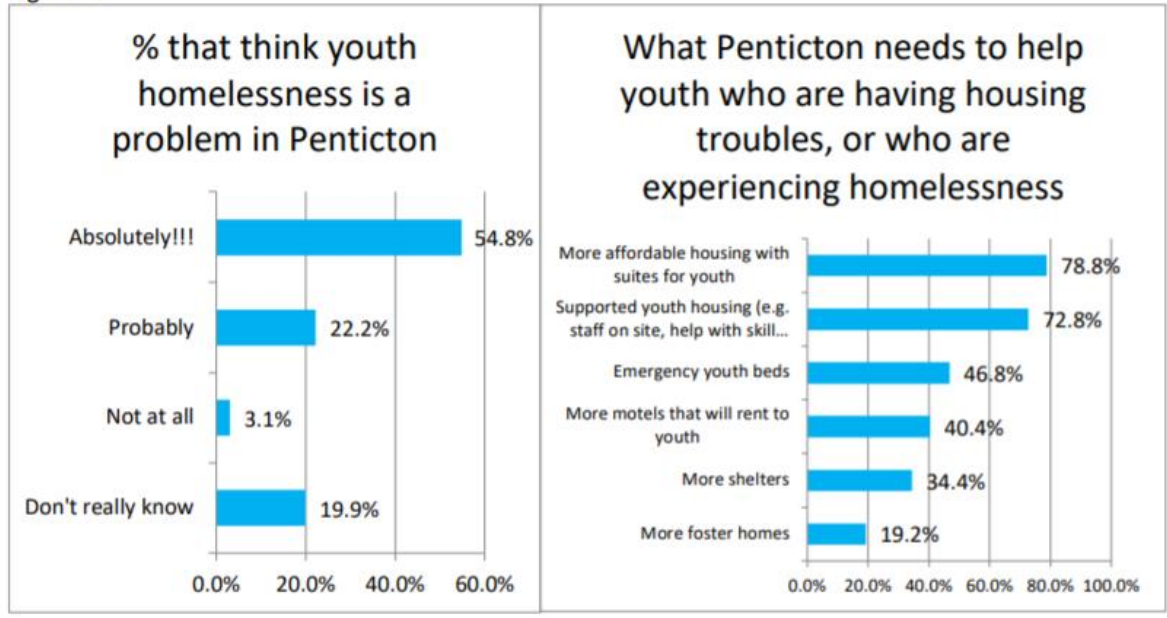


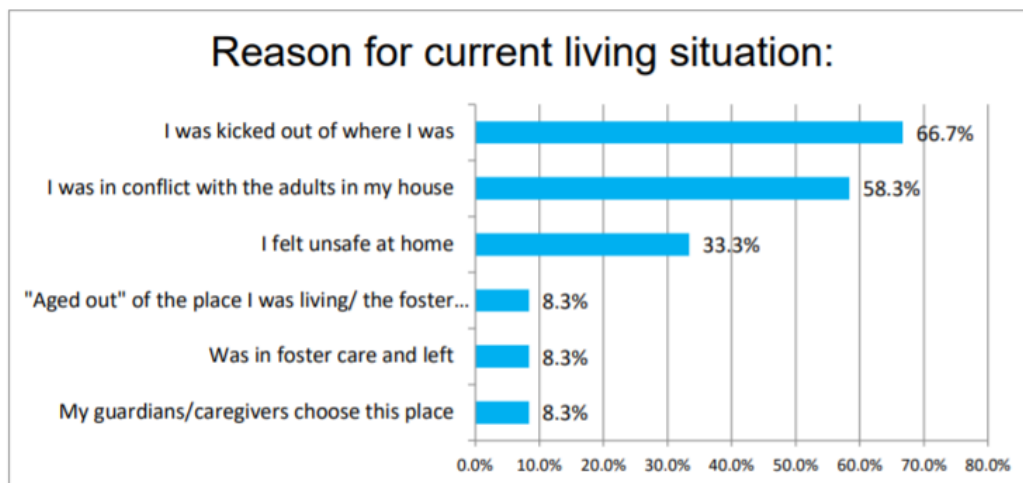
Figure 15 (PDF p.115):

Figure 15



(PDF p.116):

Compared to all youth surveyed, youth that were homeless or precariously housed were twice as likely to be male (58.3% compared to 24.7% for the overall sample) or trans male (8.3% compared to 4.6% for the overall sample). Youth were also nearly twice as likely to identify as Indigenous (50% compared to 27.2% in the overall sample). All youth identified themselves as Canadian citizens. On average, youth had been living in this situation for 3 months, with a range of 1 to 8 months.



The majority of youth indicated that their current living situation was because they were kicked out of where they were or were in conflict with the adults they were living with. One in three indicated not feeling safe at home.

Crime Rates Related to Youth & Families

In their 2017 “Statistical Profile” of family violence in Canada, the authors note that rates of family violence against children and youth was lower were reported as being low in Kelowna compared to other CMAs.

[Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2017](#). Burczycka, Marta; Conroy, Shana; Savage, Laura. Juristat: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; Ottawa (Dec 5, 2018): 1.

- *The rate of family violence against children and youth was lower in Canada's largest cities-referred to as census metropolitan areas or CMAs-than it was in non-CMAs (194 versus 382 per 100,000 population). More specifically, among the CMAs, rates of family violence were highest in Saguenay and Trois-Rivieres (445 and 427 per 100,000, respectively) and lowest in Ottawa, Kelowna and Barrie (107, 126 and 127 per 100,000, respectively). (page 5)*
- *Rates of violence were higher for female victims in every CMA. The difference between females and males was largest in Kelowna (190 versus 64 per 100,000) and Guelph (217 versus 81 per 100,000). (page 5).*

Within [annual Statistics Canada data](#), youth crime statistics were suppressed for Kelowna, but based on available data for BC overall, the rates of youth crime appear to have stayed relatively flat over time.

Geography ^{3, 7}	British Columbia [59] ^{8, 9} (map)				
Statistics	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Index				
Youth crime severity index ^{10, 11, 12}	35.97	37.35	33.89	38.83	28.22
	Percent				
Percent change in youth crime severity index ¹³	-7.41	3.84	-9.26	14.58	-27.32
	Index				
Youth violent crime severity index ^{12, 14}	37.02	41.79	38.61	50.49	38.96
	Percent				
Percent change in youth violent crime severity index ¹³	-7.82	12.88	-7.61	30.77	-22.84

However, the [2019 profile](#) did not suppress crimes data at the Kelowna CMA level, and both family and non-family violence rates were near or above CMA rates overall (see Table below, p.27).

Table 2.5
Child and youth victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and census metropolitan area, 2019

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ^{1,2}	Family violence						Non-family violence					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
St. John's	38	208	46	238	84	224	97	532	97	503	194	517
Halifax	127	340	107	273	234	306	311	833	238	608	549	718
Moncton	68	458	40	260	108	357	146	984	152	988	298	986
Saint John ³	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saguenay	92	648	49	333	141	488	153	1,078	113	768	266	920
Québec	217	309	160	220	377	263	495	704	376	516	871	608
Sherbrooke	55	310	42	222	97	265	127	716	70	370	197	537
Trois-Rivières	63	506	44	333	107	417	114	916	76	576	190	741
Montréal	1,685	416	1,237	294	2,922	354	2,435	601	2,244	533	4,679	566
Gatineau ⁴	113	326	97	268	210	296	267	770	219	604	486	685
Ottawa ⁵	161	154	95	89	256	121	511	489	437	410	948	449
Kingston	39	274	14	93	53	181	91	639	53	353	144	492
Belleville ⁶	51	495	27	252	78	371	115	1,117	66	616	181	861
Peterborough	39	364	17	152	56	255	61	569	33	294	94	429
Toronto ⁷	1,130	216	889	162	2,019	188	2,439	466	3,090	562	5,529	515
Hamilton ⁸	148	277	118	211	266	243	373	698	334	597	707	646
St. Catharines–Niagara	105	257	52	121	157	187	227	555	150	350	377	450
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	294	499	174	284	468	389	517	877	453	740	970	807
Brantford	54	376	35	234	89	304	132	920	78	522	210	717
Guelph	20	145	10	69	30	106	91	661	53	367	144	510
London	105	203	76	142	181	172	226	437	214	399	440	418
Windsor	83	273	42	134	125	202	154	507	125	397	279	451
Barrie	55	206	33	121	88	163	144	540	109	398	253	468
Greater Sudbury	66	444	39	251	105	345	125	841	83	534	208	684
Thunder Bay	41	389	12	111	53	249	70	664	45	418	115	540
Winnipeg	223	274	117	139	340	205	719	883	470	556	1,189	717
Regina	88	311	40	137	128	223	235	831	149	512	384	669
Saskatoon	162	448	87	230	249	336	325	899	211	557	536	724
Lethbridge ⁶	55	410	36	258	91	333	84	626	89	638	173	632
Calgary	465	289	348	206	813	247	821	511	872	517	1,693	514
Edmonton	446	293	226	144	672	217	999	656	766	487	1,765	570
Kelowna	54	312	28	157	82	234	106	613	103	579	209	596
Abbotsford–Mission	78	383	48	221	126	299	105	516	112	515	217	515
Vancouver	561	255	361	155	922	204	1,265	575	1,214	522	2,479	548
Victoria	103	339	66	212	169	274	184	605	153	491	337	547
CMA total⁹	7,286	290	4,947	189	12,233	239	14,812	590	13,658	522	28,470	555
Non-CMA total	6,162	616	3,904	374	10,066	492	11,311	1,131	7,511	719	18,822	921
Canada	13,448	383	8,851	242	22,299	311	26,123	745	21,169	578	47,292	659

See notes at the end of the table.

It should also be noted that other reporting has suggested an increase in domestic violence and other sources of harm for youth and families:

- The Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC) at the University of British Columbia is hoping students approve a budget increase as calls and visits to the centre have reportedly doubled since the start of the pandemic. ([CBC – Feb 22, 2022](#))

- Concern regarding rising rates of child abuse and suicide attempts among Canada's youth, per a report from Children First Canada as well as order reporting based on metrics such as eating disorder hospital admission data ([Global News – Sept 1, 2021](#))
- Including “significant” increases in social disorder calls, assaults, domestic violence, files related to uttering threats, and overdose files specific to the Kelowna region ([Kelowna Now – Feb 26, 2022](#))

Youth & Government Care

Provincial data related to youth within government care in British Columbia is available at:

1. [BC Data Catalogue](#)
2. [MCFD Reporting Portal](#)

Information is available down to an “Okanagan” level on various metrics for youth in care, including discharges into permanency and the number in care ([MCFD – Children and Youth in Care](#)).

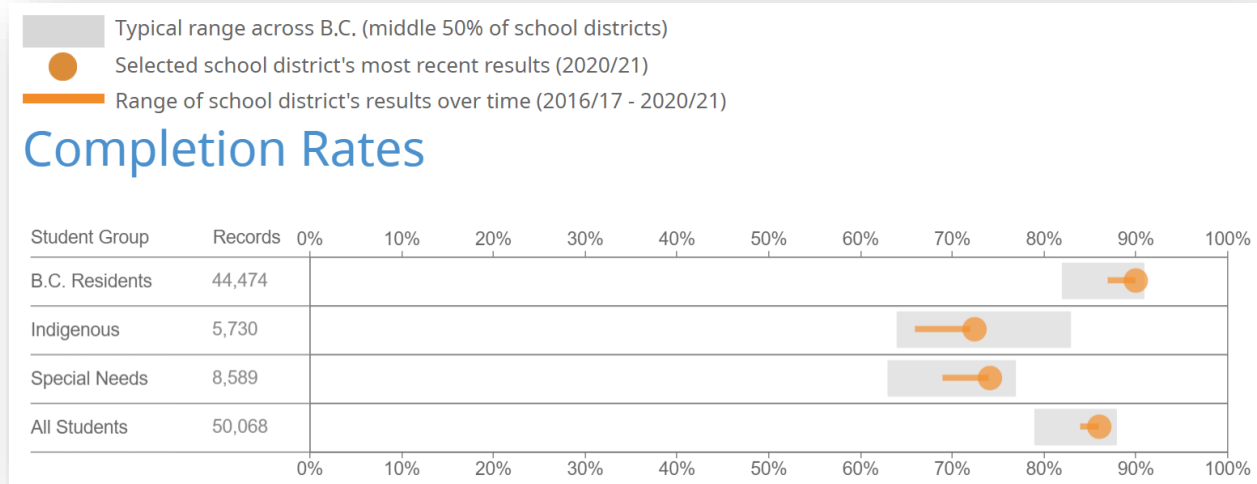
Discharges from Care to Permanency¹

As at March 31, 2019

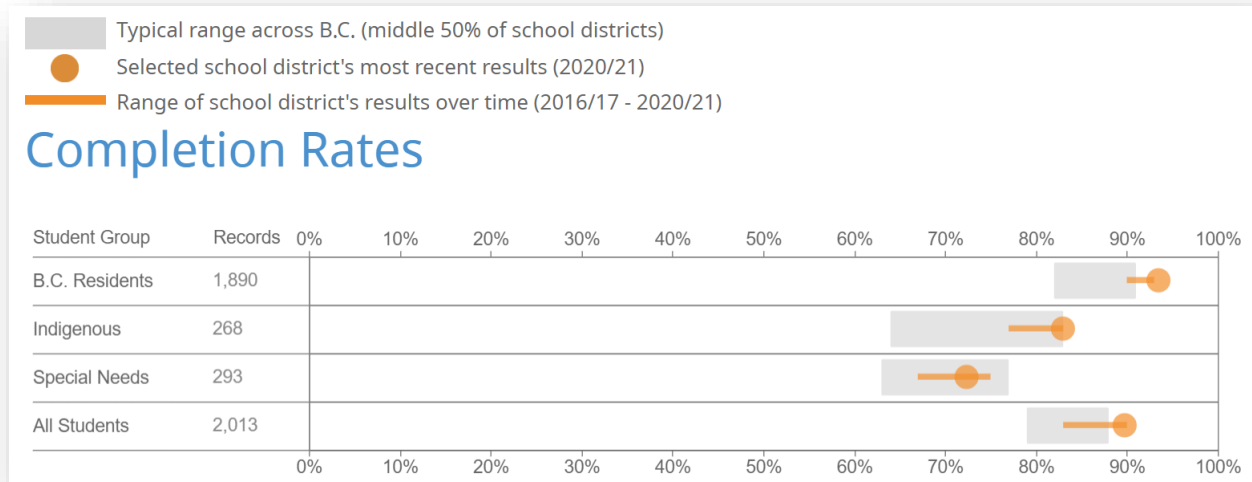
Service Delivery Area	In Care for More Than Two Months on March 31, 2018	Exited from Care between April 2018 and March 2019 for Reasons Other Than Aging Out	Exited to Permanency (%): All	Exited to Permanency (%): Indigenous	Exited to Permanency (%): Non-Indigenous
Coast/North Shore	170	37	21.8%	20.2%	24.2%
Delegated Aboriginal Agencies	1,974	199	10.1%	10.1%	-
East Fraser	292	80	27.4%	22.4%	28.4%
Kootenays	103	34	33.0%	40.0%	27.6%
North Central	345	73	21.2%	23.6%	13.4%
North Fraser	363	95	26.2%	19.1%	30.4%
North Vancouver Island	633	187	29.5%	29.4%	29.7%
Northeast	99	45	45.5%	42.9%	50.0%
Northwest	172	38	22.1%	22.2%	21.4%
Okanagan	452	88	19.5%	21.5%	17.7%
South Fraser	627	135	21.5%	20.1%	22.7%
South Vancouver Island	490	102	20.8%	23.9%	18.0%
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	358	106	29.6%	27.2%	31.3%
Vancouver/Richmond	304	59	19.4%	17.7%	19.8%
British Columbia	6,382	1,278	20.0%	17.5%	24.5%

School Completion Rates

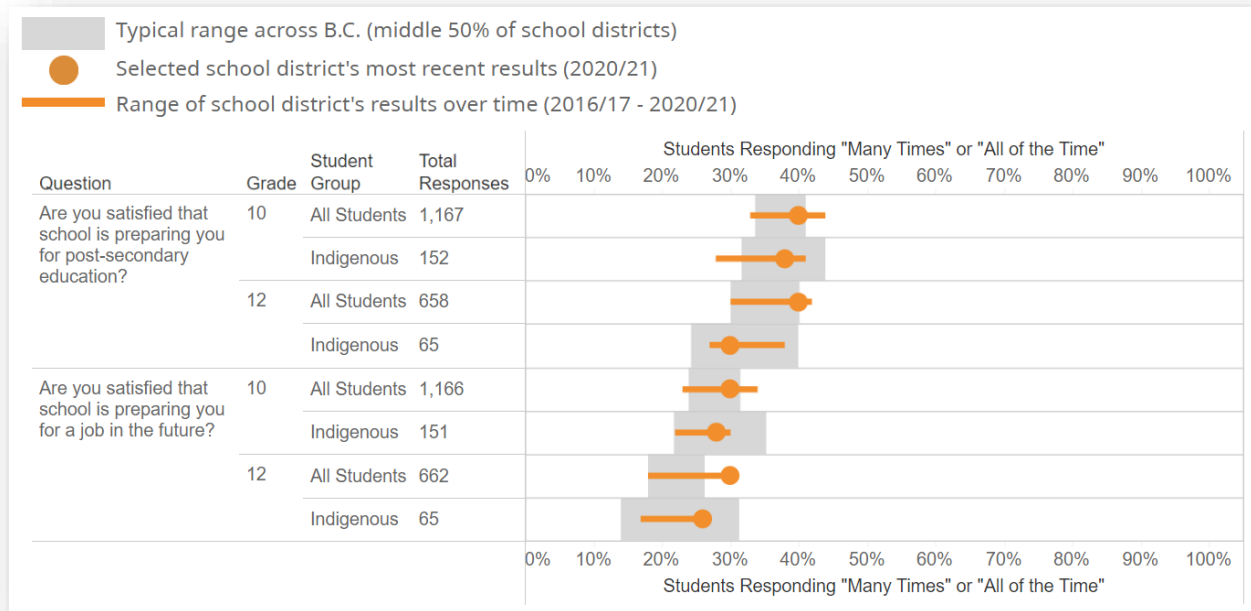
Data on school completion rates for “BC Residents”, “Indigenous” students, “Special Needs” students, and “All Students” are available for both the [province overall](#) (showing increasing completion rates over time for all tracked student groups):



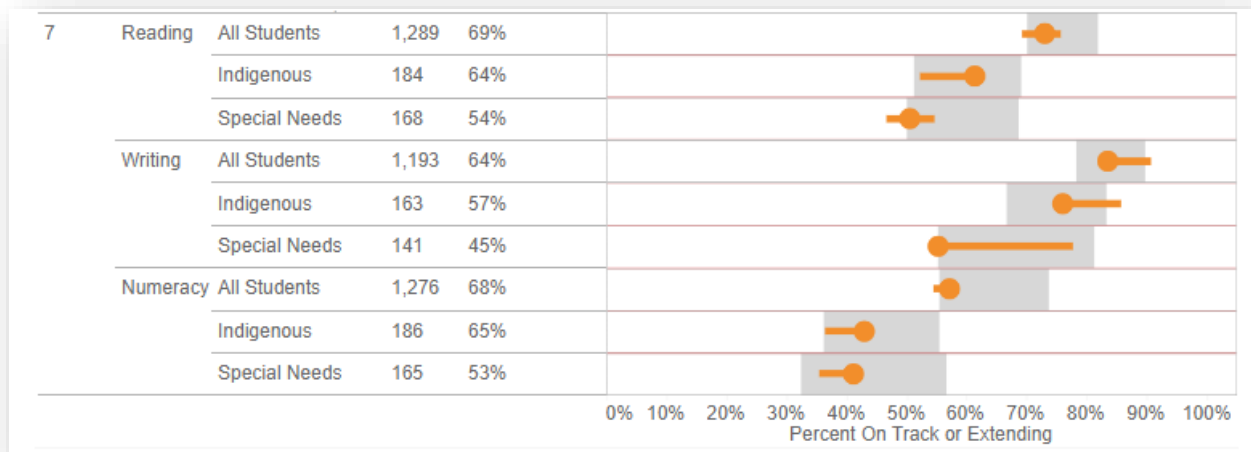
It also has similar information specific to [SD23 / Central Okanagan](#) (showing progress and outperformance in completion rates other than for those with Special Needs):



Based on that portal for local data, SD23 appears to be in the top range for Indigenous students' and overall students' school completion. Students also report relatively high satisfaction (comparatively speaking – it's still low as a percentage).



However, writing skills in particular appear to have declined during the COVID-19 pandemic for students with Special Needs.



Upstream Kelowna

<https://www.bgco.ca/tag/upstream-kelowna/>

Kelowna is one of two cities in Canada that are involved in a pilot program that shifts the focus from a crisis-driven response to youth homelessness to one of early-intervention and prevention. Upstream Kelowna is a preventative approach to youth homelessness and school disengagement. The initiative in Kelowna is led by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada in partnership with A Way Home Kelowna, and a number of other partners.

- BGCO Upstream [YouTube Playlist](#)

Upstream Kelowna uses a locally adapted, universal screening tool to identify school aged youth who may be flying under the radar. The confidential Student Needs Assessment identifies risk before crisis hits. The student and their family are then connected to a variety of supports based on their needs and aimed at building resilience and overall well-being.

- [Upstream Canada: Preventing Youth Homelessness and School Disengagement through Early Intervention \(2020\)](#)

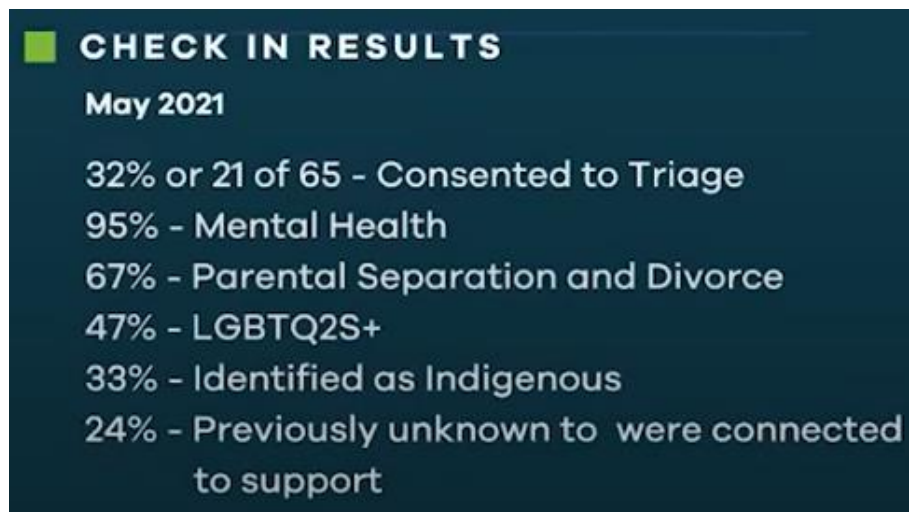
An update on the progress to date

- Upstream Canada – A Local Adaptation: West Coast Pilot, Kelowna BC (AWH1 – 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Da0cUHqOEow> (CAEH Conference 2021)

The first implementation of the Student Needs Assessment took place in February 2021, with results released the following month:



The subsequent wave of “check-ins” yielded the following summary of demographic information and identified challenges:



Case management services began in June 2021:

SERVICES OFFERED

May 2021 - October 2021

- Access to recreation, cultural engagement
- Mental health services, counselling
- Drug and alcohol counselling
- Homework and employment support
- Conflict and family mediation
- Access to food, clothing, school supplies
- Community funded music lessons
- Income assistance support
- Life skills and strengths building support

Additional metrics on other BGCO Youth programming can be found within the [BGCO annual reports](#):

Early Years Stream

1,797
Children
Served

We provide **35** Early Years programs supporting Okanagan families within **14** different communities.

249 children attended Preschool Programs in 2019.

Family Stream

1,062
Individuals
Served

183 Okanagan families received counselling support increasing positive family functioning.

We have **7** Family Development Programs serving communities across the Okanagan.

Middle Years Stream

2,695
Children
Served

We have **22** After School Care Programs in **11** communities.

Our Child & Youth with Special Needs Programs are run in **5** different communities, and provide support to **126** members.

592 children attend our licensed afterschool spaces **daily**.

Youth Stream

2,614
Youth
Served

176 youth accessed social and emotional learning programming in our To Be Honest Program **726** times.

Restorative Justice worked with **109** youth and their families to heal conflict in the community.

In the last year, **48** youth were diverted from our shelter into safe housing.