



April 2022 Newsletter

If you have questions, would like to share ideas, or are interested in partnering with or joining our team, please email us at ask.khrc@ubc.ca – we look forward to connecting with you! You can also check out our [website](#) for more information on our work. If you aren't already on our mailing list, subscribe now and you'll receive periodic updates on our activities, research opportunities, and events!

Follow us on social media for more regular updates on our activities as well as other items in and around homelessness prevention and support!



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Data Scan: Youth Precarity in the Okanagan

This KHRC 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.

- [Data on Youth Homelessness, Resilience, and School Engagement in the Okanagan](#) (March 2022)

Any feedback or suggestions for further additions to this report, or any requests for future data scans can be submitted to: ask.khrc@ubc.ca

Data Scan: Migration & Homelessness

The goal of this project was 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 in 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 in the full report, followed by a discussion section.

- [Migration & Homelessness in Canadian Communities: A Summary of Evidence](#) (March 2022)

Report: Complex Needs & Complex Care Housing

The inclusion of additional funding for Complex Care Housing (CCH) sites across the province within BC's 2022 Budget offers both a new model and new resources to communities seeking to address homelessness across the province, including tools to meet the needs and goals identified in Kelowna's Journey Home Strategy. The discussion paper summarizes what is known regarding CCH based on public announcements and last year's Complex Needs Advocacy Paper, and discusses how this model might be applied to support three "key populations" identified within the Journey Home Strategy: Youth, Seniors, and Indigenous community members.

- [Complex Care Housing in the Okanagan: Gaps & Opportunities for Key Populations](#) (March 2022)

Case Study: The Lived Experience Circle & COVID-19

"The case details how the community of Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada strove to embed the voice of lived experience individuals into every aspect of their plan to functionally end homelessness. The case discusses how the LECOH team was formed and how the structure evolved and developed, and identifies the key elements that led to successes for the group. It discusses how group norms were created and maintained and how they intended to continue to build those norms with the future members. Now Joyal and the remaining LECOH members must devise a way to have the voice of lived experience continue to drive the system change forward during a time when those experiencing homelessness or those individuals on the cusp of homelessness are most at risk. Their team has never been more necessary, nor more vulnerable."

- Myrah, K. & Rempel, K. (2022). Change in the Time of COVID: Determining How a Lived Experience Circle on Homelessness Adapts Their Team Development Model. In *SAGE Business Cases*. SAGE Publications, Ltd. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781529794960>

Kelowna & the CAEH 2021 National Homelessness Conference

Last November, policy makers, funders, researchers, advocates, community leaders, front line workers, and people with Lived Experience of homelessness from across Canada participated in the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness' virtual 2021 National Conference on Ending Homelessness. CAEH has released the presentation recordings to their YouTube channel, including four presentations on local topics by teams within the Kelowna area.

1. **Embedding Authentic Allyship into the Research Process**
Kyleen Myrah, Kerry Rempel, Stephanie Laing, Sherry Landry, Dorothy Goodeye
 - Presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oreENNfnyEI>
2. **Addressing Homelessness in Kelowna: Establishing Participatory Action Research Priorities**
Kerry Rempel, Stephanie Laing, Sherry Landry, Dorothy Goodeye
 - Presentation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIGQbB_cUuY
3. **Lived Experience Site Visits, Learnings and Benefits**
Sherry Landry, Stephanie Krehbiel, Dorothy Goodeye, Elaine McMurray
 - Presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqLAIf991Eo&t=58s>
4. **Upstream Canada – A Local Adaptation: West Coast Pilot, Kelowna BC**
Philippa Putlitz
 - Presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Da0cUHqOEow>

Publication: COVID-19 and Kelowna's Homelessness Support Sector

This exploratory study sought to uncover service provider perspectives on the early response to COVID-19 in a small community in an advanced industrialized country - the homelessness support sector of the Central Okanagan, British Columbia. Following a case study approach, snowball sampling was utilized in May and June 2020 to achieve a sample size of 30 through a mix of one-on-one interviews and open-ended surveys. Qualitative thematic analysis was used to uncover commonalities among interview responses. Common themes are discussed in relation to three areas of questioning including challenges, successes, and mitigations/areas for future support. While the community came together to support the response, there were challenges and concerns regarding safety and personal protective equipment supplies, social distancing and knowledge transmission within the homeless community, access to food and water, and lack of space for isolating positive cases. The findings illustrate possible research, practice, public health policy, and emergency planning considerations within smaller communities.

- Babando, J., Woodmass, K., & Graham, J.R. (2022). COVID-19 and the Homelessness Support Sector: Perspectives on a Small Community's Early Response to a Public Health Crisis. *International Journal on Homelessness*, 2(1), 1–16. <https://ojs.lib.uwo.ca/index.php/ijoh/article/view/13830>

BC Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy

This Report outlines a 10-Year 'Urban, Rural, and Northern Housing Strategy' to address the housing needs of off-reserve Indigenous people in BC. The Report has been commissioned by the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) and reflects extensive engagement and input from existing Indigenous housing and service providers in BC, as well as tenants, stakeholders, government agencies, and Indigenous organizations. It is informed by a thorough desktop review of historical and existing housing programs, statistical data, and demographic trends. The Housing Strategy includes a Vision Statement, four key Objectives, nine Principles, and thirteen Strategic Actions. It also includes an Implementation Plan that identifies the funding, resources, and activities required to implement the Strategic Actions.

- [British Columbia Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy \(2022\)](#)

ICYMI: Homelessness Data Integration Project

In March of this year, BC Housing issued a [news bulletin](#) providing an update on two of their ongoing homelessness enumeration projects:

- The [BC Housing 2020/2021 Point in Time Count Summary Report](#)
- The [Preventing and Reducing Homelessness Integrated Data Project](#)

The data integration project includes four phases; the Phase 1 report is now complete:

- *Phase 1: Use integrated data to provide an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness in B.C. (Homeless Cohort)*
 - [Phase 1 Report](#)
- *Phase 2: Examine how people use homelessness services*
- *Phase 3: Investigate how people move into and out of homelessness*
- *Phase 4: Predict demand and evaluate programs*

ICYMI: Kelowna's Community Safety Plan

Kelowna City Council has approved the city's first [Community Safety Plan](#) (CSP):

The CSP is a five-year action plan focused on proactive actions to reduce risk, vulnerability and harm in our community. Through the engagement of local systems leaders, including First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Kelowna RCMP, Interior Health, the Ministry of Children & Family Development, the Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction, and School District #23, the CSP reflects a shared vision and collective commitment to actions that will improve community safety and sense of safety.

The Community Safety Plan will advance five key priorities:

1. Crime Prevention, Intervention & Sense of Safety
2. Domestic Violence & Intimate Partner Violence
3. Housing & Homelessness
4. Mental Health & Problematic Substance Use
5. Racism & Discrimination

ICYMI: Webinars, Podcasts, & Media

- Spotify Link: [On the Way Home](#) (CAEH / Blue Door) is a podcast that brings together the voices and issues involved in ending homelessness in Canada
- Spotify Link: [Homelessness in Kelowna](#) is now available on Spotify, with recent guests including Dave Krysko and Dustin Seidler
- City of Kelowna's [Kelowna Talks podcast](#), with episodes to date overviewing the Official Community Plan, Climate Action, transportation planning, protecting citizen data, and more
- The Canadian Housing Evidence Collaborative [Best Evidence Podcast](#), with recent topics on Rent Control, LGBTQ2 Vulnerability, Basic Income, and preventing Evictions
- BC Housing Podcast: [Let's Talk Housing](#)

Research / Policy Roundup

➤ [The Municipal Role in Housing](#) (April 2022)

The housing affordability crisis that increasingly affects city-regions across Canada is at the centre of the policy debate for all orders of government. Municipalities, provinces, and the federal government have produced plans and strategies to address the crisis, highlighting the need to ensure proper coordination across governments. The four papers in this report – written by academics, including legal and planning scholars, and practitioners from non-profit development – look at affordable housing, rental housing, social housing, and homelessness. They identify the ideal role of municipalities in housing policy, where municipalities currently face constraints, how other orders of government can support municipalities, and where intergovernmental cooperation is needed.

- **Backgrounder: Municipalities and Housing Policy**
- **Affordable Housing: Increase Federal and Provincial Funding to Support Municipal Action**
- **Non-Profit Rental Housing: Streamline Approvals Process to Accelerate Construction**
- **Social Housing: Strong City Roles Need Regional and Federal-Provincial Partnerships**

- The Regional District of Central Okanagan has two ongoing Strategy Development projects. Project and projected timelines for each can be accessed through the RDCO site:
 - [Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy \(COPAWS\)](#)
 - [Regional Housing Strategy](#)
- BC's 2022 Provincial Budget materials:
 - [Budget 2022, Stronger Together](#)
- Canada's 2022 Federal Budget materials:
 - [Budget 2022: A Plan to Grow Our Economy and Make Life More Affordable](#)
- [Housing and Homelessness Sector: First Nations Homelessness Action Plan](#)

In order to advance the mandate established by Resolution 79/2019 to conduct research and engagement to inform the development of a national First Nations Homelessness Action Plan, the AFN commissioned three research projects on First Nations homelessness, including a literature review, environmental scan, and systems map of existing programs and services across Canada, to better understand the impact of homelessness on First Nations and identify opportunities for improved service delivery and coordination to meet the needs of First Nations people experiencing homelessness. The following summary provides an overview of the conclusions and recommendations from all three research reports.
- [Understanding Systems: The 2021 report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty](#)

In our first annual report, the National Advisory Council on Poverty provided a broad understanding of poverty in Canada. We also reported on progress made toward the Government's poverty reduction targets and made a number of recommendations to the Government of Canada. This year, in addition to reporting on the Government's progress, we have also sought a deeper understanding of the systems, programs and supports that exist and the role they may play in creating, sustaining and perpetuating poverty.
- [BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel: A Review of Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths \(March 2022\)](#)

On December 15, 2021, the British Columbia Coroners Service (BCCS) convened a second death review panel into illicit drug toxicity deaths. Four years after the first panel, which reviewed 1,854 deaths between January 1, 2016 and July 31, 2017, the death toll continues to climb with 6,000 more British Columbians dying – almost six persons each day.

For weekly posts on homelessness research in Canada and around the world, check out the Homeless Hub's [Research Matters Blog](#).

If you would like to continue to receive updates on our activities, research opportunities, and events, please [subscribe](#) to our mailing list, and if you have any questions email us at ask.khrc@ubc.ca

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