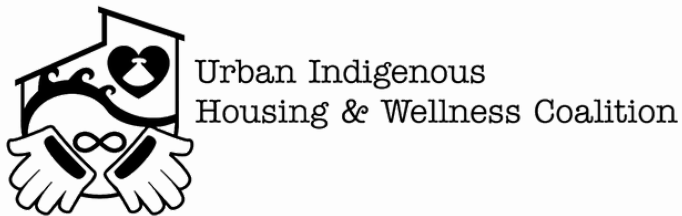




Collecting Stories of Where
You Live: A Strathcona
Regional District Housing &
Service Needs Estimation

Strathcona Regional District



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Report Disclaimer

This document is part of a larger housing and service needs project in the Strathcona Regional District called "Collecting Stories of Where You Live".

For more information on the project or to access the full report, please contact info@crhousing.net

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Objective Housing Situation

Survey participants were asked the following question: “Do you consider your housing situation to be unstable or feel you could easily lose your housing?” Respondents chose between “yes,” “no,” “I don’t know,” and “prefer not to answer.”

Of the 427 survey respondents, 171 indicated “yes” to being housing unstable, and 48 indicated “unsure.” Using the national definition, we were able to identify an additional 92 respondents experiencing housing instability at the time of the survey. A total of 311 survey respondents were found to be housing unstable.

An additional 304 dependents under the age of 18 and 311 adults were reported as living with survey respondents.

Based on survey results, we know that there were at least 801 people living in unstable housing situations in the entire region.

The top five reasons for housing instability were:

1. Inability to afford rent or mortgage payments
2. Low wages
3. Housing needs major repairs
4. Increasing rent prices
5. Illness or medical condition

Exploring the Spectrum of Homelessness in Strathcona Regional District

Knowing that homelessness is a complex term that refers to several housing situations across a spectrum, it is important to better understand what homelessness looks like in SRD. This knowledge can be achieved by exploring the experience of the 311 housing-unstable survey respondents across the homelessness spectrum. In order to accurately place respondents along the continuum, we used a series of measures to understand their situations, including their self-identified housing stability response, their current housing situation, and the amenities they lack in their current home.

For their current housing situation, respondents were able to choose all situations that applied to them from a variety of statements, including “I own the house I am currently in,” “I lived in supportive housing,” and “I slept in a public space.” To accurately present what a journey of homelessness might look like for respondents over the course of a year, we have included all responses.

Exploring the Spectrum of Homelessness in Strathcona Regional District

Table 1

Respondents Experience by Housing Situation in the Homelessness Spectrum

Place on the homelessness spectrum	# of experiences along the spectrum
Unsheltered	50
Emergency Sheltered	15
Provisionally Accommodated	97
At Risk of Homelessness	221
Not at Risk of Homelessness	138

Note. This table demonstrates the diversity of respondents' experiences with housing instability and outlines that homelessness presents itself in more ways than simply sleeping outside.

Housing And Service Needs Estimation Survey Population Overview

427 people responded to the SRD Housing and Service Needs Estimation survey. 318 (74.5%) respondents identified as female, 81 (19%) as male, three (0.7%) as trans-male, one (0.2%) as trans-female, nine (2%) as non-binary, and one (0.2%) as two-spirit. Two (0.4%) respondents indicated they were unsure of their gender identity, and 10 (2.3%) preferred not to answer.

329 (77%) respondents identified as straight, 10 (2.3%) as gay or lesbian, 30 (7%) as bisexual or pansexual, six (1.5%) as asexual, and 3 (0.7%) as queer. 36 respondents preferred not to answer and four people noted their sexual orientation was not listed in the options provided.

Housing And Service Needs Estimation Survey

Population Overview

Of those 427 respondents, four (1%) respondents indicated they were under the age of 18. We know from their unique identifier, which asks for digits from their birth year, as well as our ethical standards on the age of consent when administering the survey that these respondents were between 14 and 18 years old. 20 (4.5%) were between 18 and 25, 165 (38.5%) between 26 and 45, 142 (33%) between 46 and 65, and 96 (22%) are over 65.

86.5% (370) of survey respondents reported they were born in Canada, while 12.5% (53) reported immigrating to Canada, and 0.2% (one) came to Canada as a refugee.

73% (311) of survey respondents were white. While seven (1.5%) respondents identified as racialized, and an additional 25 (6%) identified as Indigenous only. 25 respondents preferred not to answer, and 15 respondents noted their racial identity was not listed in the options provided. Further, 71 (16.5%) of total respondents self-identified as Indigenous. Of the 71 Indigenous respondents, 38 (53%) identified as First Nations, two (3%) as Inuit, 19 (27%) as Métis, and 12 (17%) as having other Indigenous ancestry.

We also asked survey respondents to note if they have ever served in the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), or emergency services (EMS, police, fire department). Of the 427 respondents, seven indicated they serve(d) in the Canadian Armed Forces, two (0.46%) in the RCMP, and 31 (7.2%) in Emergency Services. Six (1.4%) respondents preferred not to answer.



Housing Stable versus Housing Unstable Population Overview

Table 2

Housing and Service Needs Estimation Survey Population Overview Comparison by Housing Stability

Demographic characteristic	Housing stable	Housing unstable
Number of survey respondents	116	311
Gender	Male: 29	Male: 52
	Female: 81	Female: 237
	Trans-male: 0	Trans-male: 3
	Trans-female: 1	Trans-female: 0
	Non-binary: 1	Non-binary: 8
	Two-spirit: 1	Two-spirit: 0
	Don't know: 1	Don't know: 1
Sexual orientation	Straight: 99	Straight: 230
	Gay/Lesbian: 2	Gay/Lesbian: 8
	Bisexual/Pansexual: 2	Bisexual/Pansexual: 28
	Asexual: 3	Asexual: 3
	Queer: 0	Queer: 3
Age	0-17 years old: 2	0-17 years old: 2
	18-25 years old: 0	18-25 years old: 20
	26-45 years old: 21	26-45 years old: 144
	46-65 years old: 44	46-65 years old: 98
	65+ years old: 49	65+ years old: 27
Immigration status	Born in Canada: 90	Born in Canada: 280
	Immigrant to Canada: 23	Immigrant to Canada: 30
	Refugee to Canada: 0	Refugee to Canada: 1
Racial Identity	White: 93	White: 218
	Visible minority: 2	Visible minority: 5
Indigenous Identity	First Nations: 2	First Nations: 36
	Métis: 3	Métis: 16
	Inuit: 0	Inuit: 2
	Other Indigenous ancestry: 4	Other Indigenous ancestry: 8
Served in Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, Emergency Services	Canadian Armed Forces: 1	Canadian Armed Forces: 6
	RCMP: 1	RCMP: 1
	Emergency services: 11	Emergency services: 20

Education, Employment, and Income Sources: Data Highlights

65% of housing-unstable respondents indicated they were employed. 60% of those employed were full-time, 25% part-time, and 7% were employed casually. 35 respondents selected “Not Listed” when asked about their employment type; they are either retired, self-employed, working on a temporary contract basis, working multiple part-time jobs, and/or are collecting employment insurance.

We also asked respondents to identify their approximate household income for the previous year. Responses varied widely as seen in Table 3.

Table 3

Respondents Household Income in 2021 by Stability

Total household income in 2021	# of housing stable respondents per income level	# of housing unstable respondents per income level
\$30,000 or less	13	146
Between \$30,001 and \$50,000	20	69
Between \$50,001 and \$70,000	18	33
Between \$70,001 and \$90,000	27	26
Between \$90,001 and \$110,000	13	16
More than \$110,001	21	14

Of those housing-unstable respondents, 47% reported a household annual income of less than \$30,000 despite 65% of respondents being employed.

Living Situation: Data Highlights

The top three amenities housing-unstable respondents are missing in their homes are air conditioning, home or property insurance, and sufficient and affordable heating.

Many respondents are not originally from the SRD, having moved here from their previous community. Respondents' top three motivations for moving to SRD are for the lifestyle the community offers, because they received a job in the area, or because they followed their families here.

Community Supports: Data Highlights

In an attempt to better understand service needs and gaps in the SRD, respondents were asked: “What support services do you access?” The main reasons housing unstable respondents access services are to help with health and wellness, basic needs, and financial support. These responses are fairly similar to the housing-stable respondents, who mainly access services for health and wellness support, family and parenting support, and basic needs.

Based on respondents' overall perceptions of service provision in the SRD, we were also able to generate an overall satisfaction score. Housing-stable respondents are 52% satisfied with service provision in their communities, while housing-unstable respondents were only 33% satisfied.

Survey Results Breakdown

Survey results can be broken down by region in order to further understand issues of homelessness in SRD. These regions were divided based on survey responses. Areas where we did not receive responses are not included in the results section. The regions are as follows:

- Campbell River, We Wai Kai (Quinsam), Wei Wai Kum First Nation, and SRD Area D
- Cortes Island and T'ooq (Klahoose First Nation)
- Quadra Island and the Outer Islands
- Gold River, Tahsis, and Tsaxana
- Sayward

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