

Metro Vancouver Homeless Count Figures 2008
Preliminary Numbers
April 8, 2008

- The 2008 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count enumerated 2,592 homeless persons during a 24-hour period on March 11, 2008
 - 1,547 people were found during the daytime count on the street and at service locations throughout the region
 - 1,045 people were counted who stayed in an emergency shelter, safe house or transition house on count night
- Almost 75% of the homeless counted were found on the City of Vancouver and Surrey (including Delta/White Rock).

Table 1: Street/Service and Sheltered Homeless Populations in Metro Vancouver by Sub-Region (2008)*

Municipality or sub-region	2008 Street/Service Homeless	2008 Sheltered Homeless	2008 Total Homeless
Vancouver	786	761	1,547
North Shore	67	46	113
Tri-Cities	77	18	95
Richmond	35	19	54
Burnaby	77	9	86
New Westminster	72	52	124
Maple Ridge	40	50	90
Langleys	74	6	80
Surrey	308	78	386
Delta	11	6	17
Total	1,547	1,045	2,592

*These numbers include accompanied children

- The total number of homeless people counted in Metro Vancouver increased by 19% between 2005 and 2008
- There has been significant growth in the number of homeless people found who slept outdoors or sofa surfed since the last count, increasing by 37% or 420 persons since 2005
 - While this is a significant increase, it is not as large as the doubling that was recorded between 2002 and 2005
 - Since 2002, the number of street/service homeless people counted throughout the region during a 24-hour period has more than tripled
- The number of sheltered homeless in 2008 is virtually the same as in 2005, as the number of spaces has remained relatively stable since then
 - Some night-time facilities have not yet reported

Table 2: Changes in Street/Service and Sheltered Homeless Populations in Metro Vancouver (2002, 2005, 2008)

	2002	2005	2008	% Change 2002 to 2008	% Change 2005 to 2008
Sheltered Homeless	788	1,047	1,045	33%	0%*
Street/service Homeless	333	1,127	1,547	364%	37%
Total Homeless	1,121	2,174	2,592	131%	19%

*We are still waiting for some facilities to return their count forms.

- Every municipality in Metro Vancouver saw a significant increase in the number of homeless people counted at street and service locations between 2005 and 2008
 - The street/service homeless populations counted in the North Shore, Tri-Cities, Burnaby and Delta more than doubled between 2005 and 2008
- In 2008, the largest numerical increase in the street/service homeless population counted occurred in Vancouver, the Tri-Cities and the North shore

Table 3: Changes in the Street/Service Homeless Population by sub-region in Metro Vancouver (2005 and 2008)*

	Street/Service 2005	Street/Service 2008	Actual Change 2005 to 2008	% Change 2005 to 2008
Vancouver	591	781	190	32%
North Shore	27	67	40	148%
Tri-Cities	30	77	47	157%
Richmond	24	32	8	33%
Burnaby	38	77	39	103%
New Westminister	47	72	25	53%
Maple Ridge	30	40	10	33%
Langleys	52	74	22	42%
Surrey	263	301	38	15%
Delta	3	11	8	267%
Total	1,105	1,532	427	39%

*These numbers do not include accompanied children

- There were an additional 398 people found on count day that were perceived to be homeless, although they were not interviewed because they refused to be interviewed or were sleeping
 - ***These people are not included in the total number homeless, as we are not sure if they were interviewed later in the day or even definitely homeless***
 - This number helps to highlight that the homeless count process is an undercount