



2017 Homeless Count in Burnaby

Data Brief

Prepared by
BC Non-Profit Housing Association and M. Thomson Consulting
in partnership with the Metro Vancouver Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity

For
The Society To End Homelessness In Burnaby



The Burnaby Homeless Count Brief contains findings from the 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver pertaining to the city of Burnaby.

This report can be found on the Metro Vancouver Community Entity website, along with other reports generated from the 2017 Homeless Count and previous regional Homeless Counts:

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/resources/Pages/default.aspx>

For further information and data, contact: HPSCE-MV@metrovancouver.org

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We would like to acknowledge the **tireless contribution of our local coordinator** Wanda Mulholland for conducting a successful count in Burnaby. Further, a big thank you for the support of members of the Society To End Homelessness In Burnaby in the planning and implementation of the count.

2017 partners:



1. Introduction

On March 8, 2017 the 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver took place across the region. The purpose of the count was to estimate the number of people who are homeless in the region, obtain a demographic profile of the population, and identify trends compared to previous counts. This profile provides data from the 2017 Homeless Count specific to the municipality of Burnaby. It informs local government and decision-makers, advocates and service providers about the dimensions of homelessness in Burnaby in 2017 in relation to the region at large.

The Homeless Count informs local government and decision-makers, advocates and service providers about the dimensions of homelessness in Burnaby in 2017 in relation to the region at large and in comparison to past Counts. This information is intended to ensure that resources can be made available to address the issue through adequate, appropriate and affordable housing and support services.

The report contains local count findings, focusing on demographic cross-tabulations.

Limitations

Point-in-Time homeless counts estimate the number of people who are homeless during a 24-hour period only. The Homeless Count methodology is most effective at counting one segment of the homeless population that is sometimes referred to as the “**visible**” **homeless**, which tend to access homeless supports and services. Using the metaphor of an iceberg, the visible homeless represent just the tip of the iceberg. It is estimated that a large proportion of the **total** homeless population is not enumerated during the Count. For more information on the methodology, its limitations and regional findings please review the full report (see above).

2. Homeless Count Participation in Burnaby

Of the 69 people counted at facilities and on the street, a total of 60 people also participated in the voluntary survey and provided more details about their health, sources of income and other personal information.¹

- Information on **sheltered respondents** was collected from four facilities: the Burnaby Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelter², one short-stay temporary housing program, a women’s transition house and the Burnaby Hospital.
- The **EWR Shelter** was coincidentally opened during the Homeless Count. With shelters across the region operating at capacity, those staying in EWR shelters would likely have been counted on the street were the EWRs not operating. Burnaby does not have an emergency shelter facility for people who are homeless.

¹ Across all facilities, Burnaby had an 87% response rate (13 out of 15 adults and unaccompanied youth). Children accompanied by their parents are counted as homeless, but were not interviewed and are therefore not included in calculating the shelter response rate. Of the 20 sheltered individuals, 15 were adults or unaccompanied youth. Five were accompanied children.

² EWR shelters are temporary sheltering facilities open when people experiencing homelessness are at high health risk due to extreme winter weather conditions.

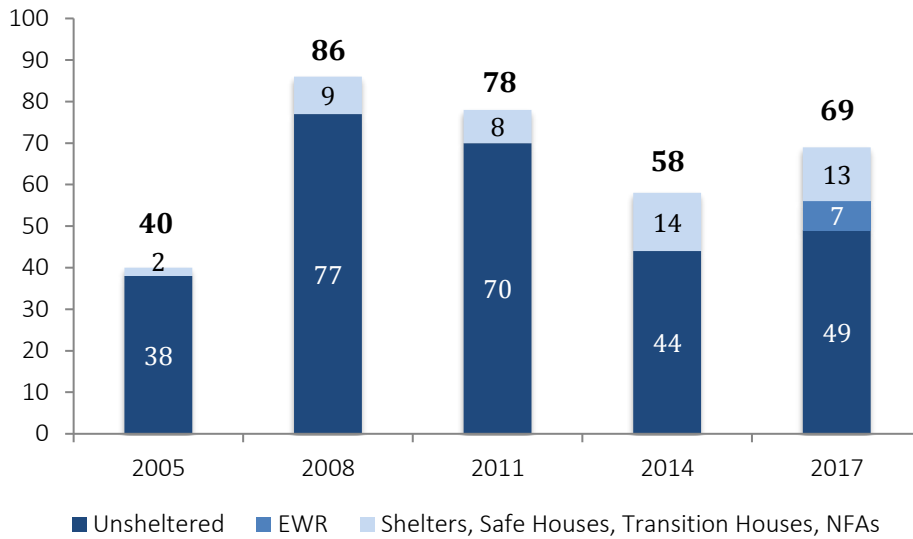
3. Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Burnaby

The total population of people who were identified in the Homeless Count as experiencing homelessness in Burnaby on March 8, 2017 was 69 individuals. Twenty people were counted as staying in shelters and 49 were unsheltered – staying on the streets, in vehicles or couch surfing.

Overall, the community saw an increase in homelessness of 64% since 2005, but with a high point in 2008. The number of people counted has increased by 19% since 2014.


By comparison, between 2011 and 2016, Burnaby’s population has increased by 10.1% as per the 2011 and 2016 censuses.


Figure 1: Burnaby Homeless Population, Sheltered and Unsheltered (2005-2017)




4. Key Findings³


The following is an extract of key findings from the 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver pertaining to the city of Burnaby in relation to regional data. Data tables for the city of Burnaby are provided in the appendix. While a total of 69 people were counted as homeless, all demographic data is derived from the 60 people who also participated in the survey.


 28% of individuals who are homeless in Burnaby identify as women, 70% as men, and 2% as another gender identity, compared with 27%, 72% and 1% respectively for all Metro Vancouver respondents.


 27% of Burnaby respondents reported to be youth (under 25) who are experiencing homelessness. Out of 12 communities, this is the 5th largest youth population in Metro Vancouver. In Metro Vancouver as a whole 16% were youth. This includes unaccompanied children (under 19) and youth (19-25), as well as five children (under 19) who were with a parent or guardian.


In Burnaby a proportion of 32% of respondents were seniors (55+). Across Metro Vancouver 21% were over 55 years; at the total population across the region seniors represent 16%.

 25% of respondents in Burnaby identify as Aboriginal/Indigenous compared to 34% in the region as a whole. Only 2% of the total population in Metro Vancouver as a whole identifies as Aboriginal (as per 2011 Census).

 Sexual orientation can be a key driver of homelessness, particularly for youth. Eleven percent of Burnaby respondents identify as LGBTQ2+.

 55% of respondents have two or more health conditions in Burnaby. 43% of respondents indicated an addiction. Medical conditions, mental illness and physical disabilities were reported by 45%, 42% and 47% respectively.

 42% of Burnaby respondents reported being homeless for more than one year. 51% of respondents across Metro Vancouver were homeless for more than one year.

 Most Burnaby respondents are long-time residents (10+ years) of the City. Fifty-seven percent (57%) reported that they have always lived here or lived here for 10 years or more. Similarly, 50% of respondents in Metro Vancouver reported to have lived in their community for 10 years or more.

³ The data set used to derive findings for communities like Burnaby is small. Results that compare the situation in Burnaby to the region are not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level and can only be understood indicatively.



Thirty-two percent of Burnaby respondents reported income assistance as a source of income. Informal sources of income were more often reported than across the region – this includes binning (27% vs. 15%), panhandling (18% vs. 11%), friends/family (15% vs. 9%) and other (15% vs. 8%).



The top five services individuals experiencing homelessness in Burnaby were likely to use were ambulances, a health clinic, the emergency room, meal programs/soup kitchens and outreach.

5. Profile of Homelessness in Burnaby and Metro Vancouver

Percentages are derived based on the number of respondents

	Sheltered ⁴	EWR	Unsheltered	Total
Burnaby	13	7	49	69
Metro Vancouver	2,317	256	1,032	3,605

	Burnaby Respondents		Metro Vancouver Respondents		Metro Vancouver Residents ⁵	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	42	70%	1,688	72%	1,202,175	49%
Female	17	28%	628	27%	1,261,255	51%
Another gender identity	1	2%	25	1%	n/a	n/a
Total Respondents	60	100%	2,341	100%	2,463,430	100%

	Burnaby Respondents		Metro Vancouver Respondents		Metro Vancouver Residents ⁶	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 25 Years ⁷	17	27%	386	16%	671,665	27%
25-34 Years	9	15%	437	18%	362,565	15%
35-44 Years	6	10%	522	22%	336,330	14%
45-54 Years	12	19%	550	23%	375,655	15%
55-64 Years	12	19%	395	16%	329,900	13%
65+ Years	6	10%	123	5%	387,315	16%
Total Respondents	62	100%	2,413	100%	2,463,430	100%

⁴ Information on sheltered respondents was collected from four facilities: the Burnaby Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelter, one short-stay temporary housing program, a women's transition house and the Burnaby Hospital. Burnaby does not have an emergency shelter facility for people who are homeless.

⁵ 2016 Census

⁶ 2016 Census

⁷ Five of Burnaby's 12 youth were unaccompanied and under 19, five were accompanied by a parent or guardian and under 19, and seven were 19-24; 201 of Metro Vancouver youth were under 19, while 185 were 19-24.

	Burnaby Respondents		Metro Vancouver Respondents		Metro Vancouver Population	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous/Aboriginal	14	25%	746	34%	64,945	3%
Non-Indigenous/Aboriginal	42	75%	1,453	66%	2,215,755	97%
Total Respondents	56	100%	2,199	100%	2,280,700	100%

	Burnaby Respondents		Metro Vancouver Respondents	
	#	%	#	%
LGBTQ2+ or questioning	6	11%	171	8%
Not LGBTQ2+ or questioning	49	89%	1,924	91%
Other	0		25	1%
Total Respondents	55	100%	2,120	100%

	Burnaby Respondents		Metro Vancouver Respondents	
	#	%	#	%
No health conditions	11	18%	384	17%
One health condition	16	27%	673	30%
Two or more health conditions	33	55%	1,164	52%
Total Respondents	60	100%	2,221	100%

	Burnaby Respondents		Metro Vancouver Respondents	
	#	%	#	%
Addiction	26	43%	1,172	53%
Medical condition/illness	27	45%	967	44%
Mental illness	25	42%	848	38%
Physical disability	28	47%	742	33%
Total Respondents	60	100%	2,221	100%

	Burnaby Respondents		Metro Vancouver Respondents	
	#	%	#	%
Less than 1 week	3	5%	47	2%
1 week to under 1 month	2	3%	143	6%
1 month to under 6 months	26	43%	588	26%
6 months to under 1 year	4	7%	331	15%
1 year or more	25	42%	1,153	51%
Total Respondents	60	100%	2,262	100%

	Burnaby Respondents		Metro Vancouver Respondents	
	#	%	#	%
Less than 1 week	3	5%	43	2%
1 week to under 1 month	1	2%	81	4%
1 month to under 6 months	5	8%	237	10%
6 months to under 1 year	3	5%	135	6%
1 year to under 5 years	7	12%	401	18%
5 years to under 10 years	7	12%	227	10%
10 years or more	25	42%	773	34%
Always lived here	9	15%	365	16%
Total Respondents	60	100%	2,262	100%

Table 10: Source of income – Burnaby/Metro Respondents (2017)

	Burnaby Respondents		Metro Vancouver Respondents	
	#	%	#	%
Government Transfers				
Income assistance	19	32%	927	42%
Disability benefit	16	27%	615	28%
OAS/GIS	2	3%	80	4%
CPP or other pension	4	7%	165	7%
Employment insurance	1	2%	26	1%
Youth agreement	1	2%	8	0%
Employment	12	20%	468	21%
Part-time employment	10	17%	346	16%
Full-time employment	2	3%	122	6%
Other Sources				
Binning, bottle collecting, etc.	16	27%	339	15%
Panhandling	11	18%	232	11%
Friends/family	9	15%	189	9%
Honoraria	0	0%	39	2%
Vending	2	3%	153	7%
Other	9	15%	178	8%
No income	7	12%	208	9%
Total Respondents	60		2,209	

Table 11: Services used – Burnaby/Metro Respondents (2017)

	Burnaby Respondents		Metro Vancouver Respondents	
	#	%	#	%
Meal programs/soup kitchens	21	36%	1,014	47%
Emergency room	24	41%	1,089	50%
Drop-in	14	24%	810	37%
Health clinic	26	44%	843	39%
Outreach	21	36%	726	33%
Hospital (non-emergency)	20	34%	870	40%
Food banks	19	32%	565	26%
Ambulance	40	68%	845	39%
Total addiction services	7	12%	593	27%
Addiction services (supervised injection site) ⁸	2	3%	217	10%
Addiction services (all other addiction services)	5	8%	381	18%
Employment/job help	8	14%	457	21%
Dental	8	14%	383	18%
Mental health	8	14%	468	22%
Legal	10	17%	302	14%
Housing help/eviction prevention	8	14%	337	16%
Transitional housing	7	12%	244	11%
Parole/services for ex-offenders	4	7%	150	7%
Budgeting/trusteeship	1	2%	67	3%
Newcomer services	0	0%	52	2%
Faith-based/spiritual services	4	7%	356	16%
Other	5	8%	83	4%
None	1	2%	58	3%
Total Respondents	59		2,169	

⁸ Burnaby does not have a safe injection site. Individuals may access services across communities.