



2017 Homeless Count in Ridge Meadows

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
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows-Katzie Nation Housing Table

The Ridge Meadows Homeless Count Brief contains findings from the 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver pertaining to the cities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. The Count does not include on-reserve activities.

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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2017 partners:



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 municipalities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows – further referred to as Ridge Meadows.

The Homeless Count informs local government and decision-makers, advocates and service providers about the dimensions of homelessness in Ridge Meadows 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).

Survey Participation in Ridge Meadows

Out of a total of 124 individuals, a total of 91 individuals participated in the survey and provided more detailed data.

Information on sheltered respondents was collected from six facilities: two shelter programs, one Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelter program, one women’s transition house, the Ridge Meadows Hospital and the Ridge Meadows RCMP (jail). One shelter was opened for the winter only, as EWR shelters only operate under extreme weather conditions. Across all facilities Ridge Meadows had a 69% response rate (62 out of 90).¹

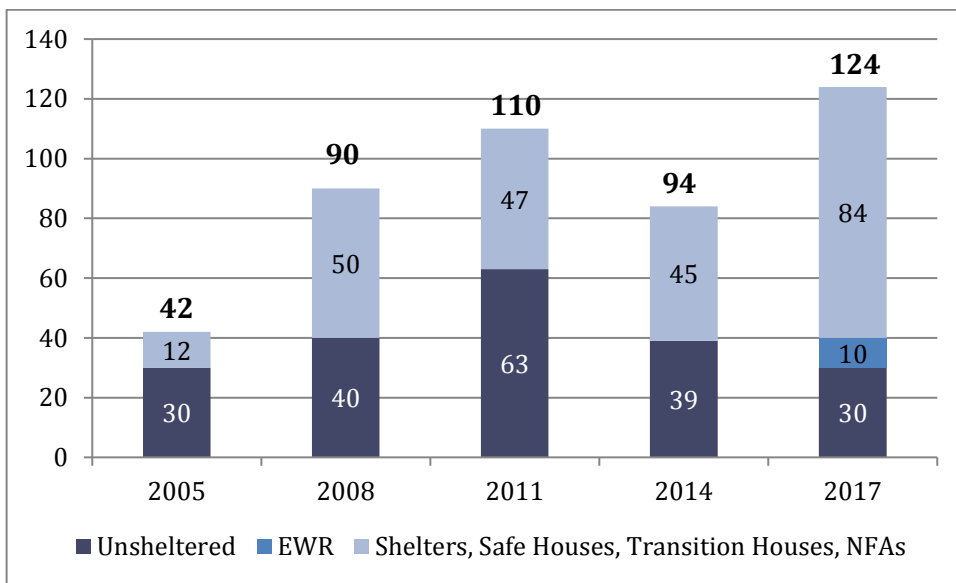
¹ Children accompanied by their parents were not interviewed and therefore are counted as homeless, but not used in calculating the shelter response rate. Of the 94 sheltered individuals, 90 were adults or unaccompanied youth.

1. Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Ridge Meadows

The total population enumerated on March 8, 2017 in the Homeless Count in Ridge Meadows was 124 individuals; 94 were in one of the six facilities and 30 were unsheltered — staying on the streets, in vehicles or couch surfing.

Since 2005 the homeless population counted in Ridge Meadows has risen from 44 individuals to 124 individuals, an increase of 182%. Between 2011 and 2016 the population of Ridge Meadows increased by 10%.² Since 2014 the homeless population has increased by 48%.

Figure 1: Ridge Meadows Homeless Population, Unsheltered and Sheltered, 2005-2017



² This figure used the combined populations of Maple Ridge District Municipality and the City of Pitt Meadows from 2011 and 2016, according to the 2016 Statistics Canada Census.

2. Key Findings from the Homeless Count in Maple Ridge³

The following is an extract of key findings from the 2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver pertaining to the community of Ridge Meadows in relation to regional data. Data tables for Ridge Meadows are provided in the appendix. While a total of 124 people were counted as homeless, all demographic data is derived from the 91 people who also participated in the survey.



Women represent 33% of Ridge Meadows respondents, compared to 27% in the region. The vast majority of people who are counted as homeless identify as men in Ridge Meadows.



With 7% compared to 16% in Metro Vancouver, relatively fewer youth (under 25) were counted in Ridge Meadows. Comparatively, youth represent nearly a third (32%) of the total Ridge Meadows population who do not experience homelessness.⁴ While seniors (over the age of 55 years) represent 19% of the total homeless population in Ridge Meadows, they make up 21% at the regional homeless population.



A lower proportion of respondents responded that they identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal — only 26% compared with 34% region-wide. Only 2% of the total population in Metro Vancouver as a whole identifies as Aboriginal.



A higher proportion of respondents compared to the region reported to have one health condition (34%) or two or more health conditions (61%).



All four health conditions — addiction, medical condition, mental illness and physical disability — were reported at a higher rate in Ridge Meadows than in Metro Vancouver: 62% reported an addiction (compared with 53% regionally); 51% reported a mental illness (compared with 38%); 49% reported a medical condition (compared with 44%); and 38% reported a physical disability (compared with 33%).



57% of Ridge Meadows' respondents reported to have been homeless for a year or more, compared with 51% of Metro Vancouver respondents.



Most of Ridge Meadows' homeless are local to their community; 60% have lived in their community for either 10 years or more (38%) or all their lives (22%), compared with 50% of Metro Vancouver respondents having lived in their communities more than 10 years.

³ The data set used to derive findings for communities like Ridge Meadows is small. Comparative results are not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

⁴ Accompanied children are with a parent or guardian and under the age of 19.



More Ridge Meadows respondents reported income assistance as a source of income than in Metro Vancouver (63% vs. 42%), while a lower proportion reported employment as a source (11% vs. 21%).

Ridge Meadows respondents more often reported an informal income source such as binning (26% vs. 15%) or friends or family (16% vs. 9%) than Metro Vancouver respondents.



The top five services used that were reported by Ridge Meadows respondents are the emergency room, meal programs, addictions services, ambulance and outreach.



The top three barriers to housing reported by respondents are low incomes, high rents and the lack of available housing that suits respondents' needs.

3. Profile of Homelessness in Ridge Meadows

Percentages are derived based on the number of respondents

	Sheltered	EWR	Unsheltered	Total
Ridge Meadows	84	10	30	124
Metro Vancouver	2,317	256	1,032	3,605

	Ridge Meadows		Metro Vancouver		Metro Vancouver Population	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	61	67%	1,688	72%	1,202,175	49%
Female	30	33%	628	27%	1,261,255	51%
Another gender identity	0	0%	25	1%	n/a	n/a
Total Respondents	91	100%	2,341	100%	2,463,430	100%

	Ridge Meadows		Metro Vancouver		Metro Vancouver Residents	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 25 Years ⁵	7	7%	386	16%	671,665	27%
25-34 Years	27	28%	437	18%	362,565	15%
35-44 Years	16	17%	522	22%	336,330	14%
45-54 Years	27	28%	550	23%	375,655	15%
55-64 Years	15	16%	395	16%	329,900	13%
65+ Years	3	3%	123	5%	387,315	16%
Total Respondents	95	100%	2,413	100%	2,463,430	100%

	Ridge Meadows		Metro Vancouver		Metro Vancouver Population	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous/Aboriginal	23	26%	746	34%	64,945	3%
Non-Indigenous/Aboriginal	66	74%	1,453	66%	2,215,755	97%
Total Respondents	89	100%	2,199	100%	2,280,700	100%

⁵ Four of Ridge Meadows' seven youth were under 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian; three were 19-24; 201 of Metro Vancouver youth were under 19, while 185 were 19-24.

	Ridge Meadows		Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%
LGBTQ2+ or questioning	2	2%	171	8%
Not LGBTQ2+ or questioning	86	98%	1924	91%
Other	0		25	1%
Total Respondents	88	100%	2,120	100%

	Ridge Meadows		Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%
No health conditions	4	4%	384	17%
One health condition	31	34%	673	30%
Two or more health conditions	55	61%	1,164	52%
Total Respondents	90	100%	2,221	100% ⁶

	Ridge Meadows		Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%
Addiction	56	62%	1,172	53%
Medical condition/illness	44	49%	967	44%
Mental illness	46	51%	848	38%
Physical disability	34	38%	742	33%
Total Respondents	90		2,221	

	Ridge Meadows		Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%
Less than 1 week	2	2%	47	2%
1 week to under 1 month	7	8%	143	6%
1 month to under 6 months	19	21%	588	26%
6 months to under 1 year	11	12%	331	15%
1 year or more	52	57%	1,153	51%
Total Respondents	91	100%	2,262	100%

⁶ Due to rounding these three figures do not visually total to 100%.

	Ridge Meadows		Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%
Less than 1 week	1	1%	43	2%
1 week to under 1 month	0	0%	81	4%
1 month to under 6 months	7	8%	237	10%
6 months to under 1 year	4	4%	135	6%
1 year to under 5 years	13	14%	401	18%
5 years to under 10 years	13	14%	227	10%
10 years or more	35	38%	773	34%
Always lived here	20	22%	365	16%
Total Respondents	93	100%	2,262	100%

	Ridge Meadows		Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%
Government Transfers				
Income assistance	57	63%	927	42%
Disability benefit	24	26%	615	28%
OAS/GIS	4	4%	80	4%
CPP or other pension	3	3%	165	7%
Employment Insurance	0	0%	26	1%
Youth Agreement	0	0%	8	0%
Employment			468	21%
Part-time employment	9	10%	346	16%
Full-time employment	1	1%	122	6%
Other Sources				
Binning, bottle collecting, etc.	24	26%	339	15%
Panhandling	7	8%	232	11%
Friends/family	15	16%	189	9%
Honoraria	1	1%	39	2%
Vending	8	9%	153	7%
Other	11	12%	178	8%
No income	7	8%	208	9%
Total Respondents	91		2,209	

	Ridge Meadows		Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%
Meal programs/soup kitchens	45	49%	1,014	47%
Emergency room	49	54%	1,089	50%
Drop-in	25	27%	810	37%
Health clinic	31	34%	843	39%
Outreach	37	41%	726	33%
Hospital (non-emergency)	29	32%	870	40%
Food banks	18	20%	565	26%
Ambulance	38	42%	845	39%
Total addiction services	39	43%	593	27%
Addiction services (supervised injection site) ⁷	5	5%	217	10%
Addiction services (all other addiction services)	22	24%	381	18%
Employment/job help	20	22%	457	21%
Dental	14	15%	383	18%
Mental health	20	22%	468	22%
Legal	15	16%	302	14%
Housing help/eviction prevention	6	7%	337	16%
Transitional housing	7	8%	244	11%
Parole/services for ex-offenders	11	12%	150	7%
Budgeting/trusteeship	1	1%	67	3%
Newcomer services	1	1%	52	2%
Faith-based/spiritual services	7	8%	356	16%
Other	7	8%	83	4%
None	0	0%	58	3%
Total Respondents	91		2,169	

⁷ Ridge Meadows does not have a safe injection site. Individuals may access services across communities.

Table 12: Barriers to Housing– Ridge Meadows/Metro Respondents (2017)

	Ridge Meadows		Metro Vancouver	
Income too low	46	52%	1054	49%
Evicted	12	13%	196	9%
No income/no income assistance	14	16%	320	15%
Addiction	24	27%	417	19%
Rent too high	51	57%	1073	50%
Poor housing conditions	22	25%	400	18%
No housing available that suits my needs	38	43%	648	30%
Mental health issues	5	6%	225	10%
Family breakdown/abuse/conflict	9	10%	299	14%
Conflict with law	6	7%	128	6%
Pets	8	9%	112	5%
Discrimination	23	26%	327	15%
Other	19	21%	530	24%
Total Respondents	89		2,164	