

2011 Surrey Homeless Count Backgrounder

About Homelessness in Surrey

The 2008 Metro Homeless Count revealed 402 people homeless in Surrey. This represented a 3% increase over the 2005 count.

Top Surrey findings included:

- Surrey had a relatively higher proportion of region's homeless females (20%) than homeless males (15%); 2:1 male to female split, lower than overall 3:1 average for the region
- 53 unaccompanied homeless youth, representing 20% of region's total
- 16% of region's homeless Aboriginals (108)
- 16% of region's homeless seniors (114) compared to 9% regional average
- 16% or 167 of region's long-term homeless (one year or more with own place)
- One of only five communities with a transgender homeless population

Source: *Homelessness in Metro Vancouver: A Comparative Community Profile*

Prepared by The Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness
March 2010

About the Metro Vancouver Homeless Count

The 2011 Homeless Count will be conducted across the Metro Vancouver region from midnight to midnight on March 16, 2011.

The Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH) and the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee (AHSC) provide oversight to the count methodology and are responsible for reporting out on the Count's findings.

Since 2002, homeless counts have been taking place across Metro Vancouver. The regional count occurs every three years (2002, 2005, 2008 and 2011). The methodology is refined with every count and is recognized by all levels of government and community agencies as the best approach to understand trends in the homeless population. Count numbers are understood as the minimum number of people homeless in the Metro Vancouver region.

Local Community Homeless Tables across the region are taking strong leadership roles in the count as they continue to address homelessness in local communities. The homeless count would not be possible without the assistance of hundreds of volunteers and organizers are grateful to all the homeless-serving agencies throughout the region, who lend their expertise and knowledge to the Count. This year it is anticipated there will be over 600 volunteers participating on Count Day.

The 2011 Homeless Count is made possible through funding from: United Way of the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Foundation, City of Vancouver, and the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund. TransLink has provided in-kind support.

What's New?

In 2011, people with No Fixed Address (NFA) will be included in the total homeless count numbers. Hospitals, jails, detention centres, addiction treatment facilities and other transitional facilities will provide data on people with NFA in their facilities on March 16.

The 2011 count will also include the first specialized youth implementation strategy in Canada, attempting to address undercount issues for youth who are homeless. A Youth Coordinator has been hired to develop and implement this strategy under the leadership of homeless youth-serving agencies across the region.

As in previous years, an Aboriginal Coordinator will implement the Count within the Aboriginal community throughout Metro Vancouver.

The Report

Data input, analysis and preparation for reporting out on findings is done independently by OrgCode Consulting, Inc. A targeted count of Aboriginal people who are homeless is conducted by In Focus Management Consulting. It is anticipated that preliminary results will be released in late April. The final report will follow in July.

About The Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force

The Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force unites the community of homeless-serving groups to reduce and prevent homelessness in Surrey by:

- Increased coordination and collaboration among service agencies
- Increased public awareness of the causes of, and solutions for, homelessness in Surrey
- Enhanced engagement of the business community in strategies addressing homelessness
- New programs and/or services involving partnerships among task force members
- New sources of revenues for ongoing coordination of the task force

Task Force Members

Atira Women's Resources Society
Canadian Mental Health Association
Coast Mental Health Society
Cwenengitel Society
First United Church White Rock
Kla How Eya Aboriginal Services
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Newton Advocacy Group Society
Nightshift Ministries
Options and Hyland House
Pacific Community Resources Society
Phoenix Centre
Progressive Intercultural Services
Salvation Army

Servants Anonymous Society of Surrey
South Fraser Community Services
South Fraser Women's Services
Surrey Food Bank
Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society
Surrey Urban Mission
YWCA
BC Housing
City of Surrey
Fraser Health Authority
Ministry of Housing and Social
Development
RCMP and Transit Police

Visit: www.pledgetoendhomelessness.org

About The Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH)

The (RSCH) was established in March 2000 to bring together a range of people and organizations operating and funding facilities, services or programs targeted to people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in the region. The RSCH now includes over 35 members representing service providers, community-based organizations, business and labour, and all levels of government.

Visit: www.stophomelessness.ca