

# HOMELESS IN THE FRASER VALLEY

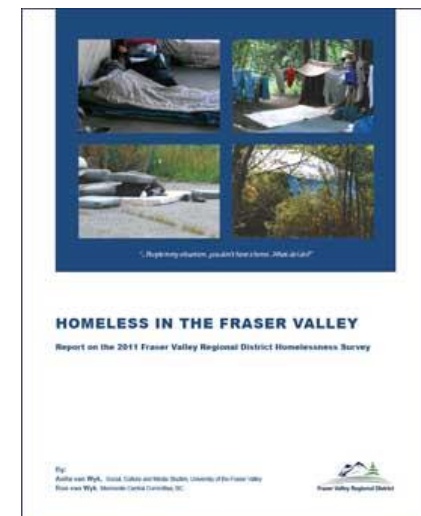
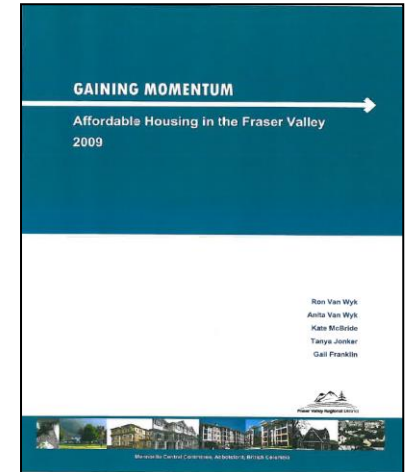
the continuing challenge



# Addressing Homelessness Issues in the FVRD

## Homelessness is not just a Metro Vancouver issue.

- The FVRD has been involved in addressing affordable housing and homelessness in the region through research, data and several housing forums.
- The FVRD has contributed funding to the last three homelessness counts.
- FVRD's collaboration with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has produced research, reports and inventories that have supported affordable housing and homelessness initiatives throughout the Region.



# 2014 FVRD Homelessness Count

- Purpose was to determine whether homelessness is increasing or decreasing in the Region.
- Teams of volunteers conducted a formal count of homeless people in the FVRD on March 11 and 12.
- Survey coordinated with similar process taking place at the same time in the Metro Vancouver region
- Is a "snapshot" of homelessness throughout the Fraser Valley, from Boston Bar to Abbotsford, and west through the Lower Mainland to Bowen Island.
- A similar survey in 2011 found 345 people in Fraser Valley living homeless.



# 2014 FVRD Homelessness Count

## Abbotsford

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- The count could not have been accomplished without community partners and volunteers.
- **Partners**
  - **Funding:** Fraser Valley Regional District
  - **Abbotsford Community partners:** The 5 and 2 Ministries; The Salvation Army; Abbotsford Community Services (Foodbank); Cyrus Centre; Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley; and United Way
- Approximately 20 individual volunteers also aided in the count.

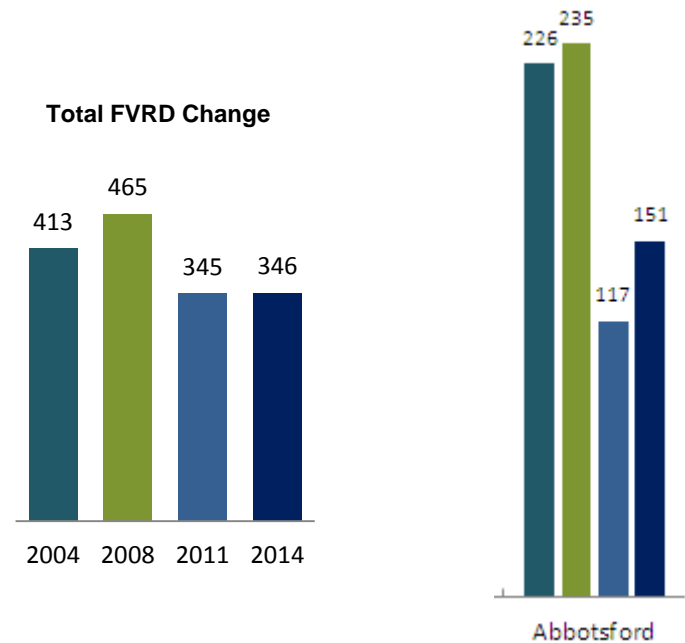


# 2014 FVRD Homelessness Count

## Preliminary Totals

**FVRD Homeless Count**  
Number surveyed 2004 to 2014

- Total number of homeless persons in Region remained flat from 2011 in the FVRD.
- In Abbotsford, the 2014 total is still well below the high of 235 homeless people counted in 2008.
- Abbotsford has seen the greatest increase within the FVRD since 2011 (29%).

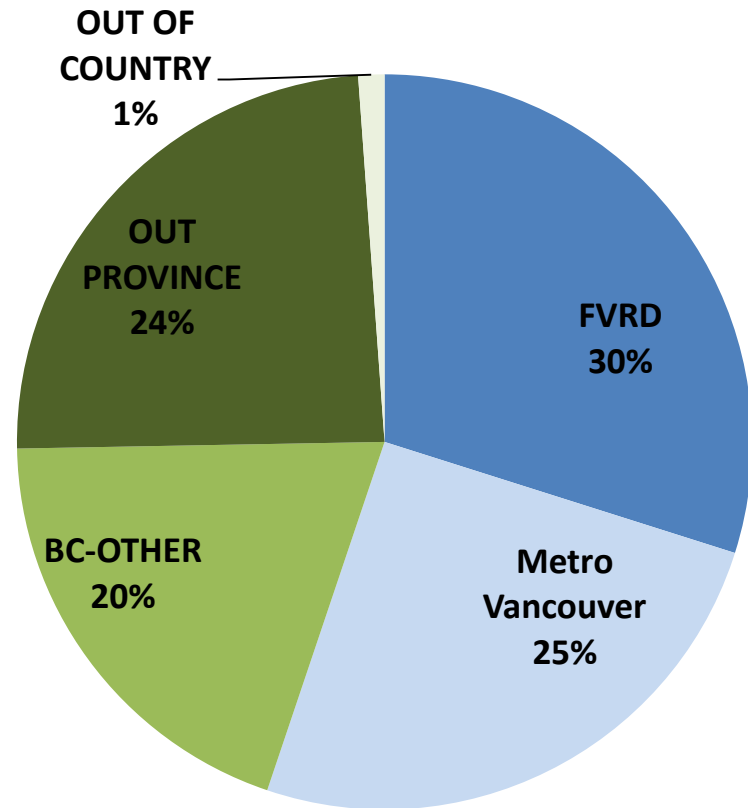


# 2014 Abbotsford Homelessness Count

## Preliminary Totals

- Consistent with 2011 count the majority of homeless persons (70%) have come to the FVRD from elsewhere.

2014 - Previous Community

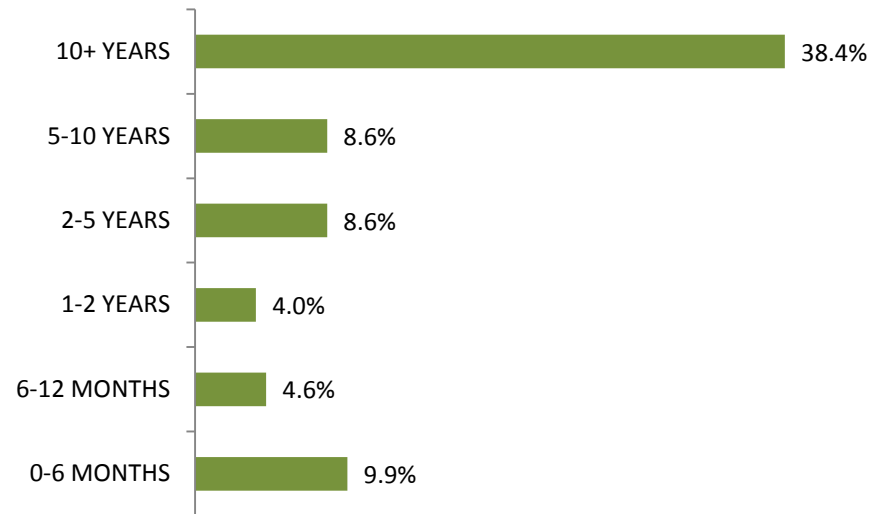


# 2014 Abbotsford Homelessness Count Preliminary Totals

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- Nearly 40% of homeless individuals in Abbotsford have lived here for over 10 years.
- Only 1 in 10 people who are homeless in Abbotsford have lived here for less than 6 months

**Length of Residency in Current City**

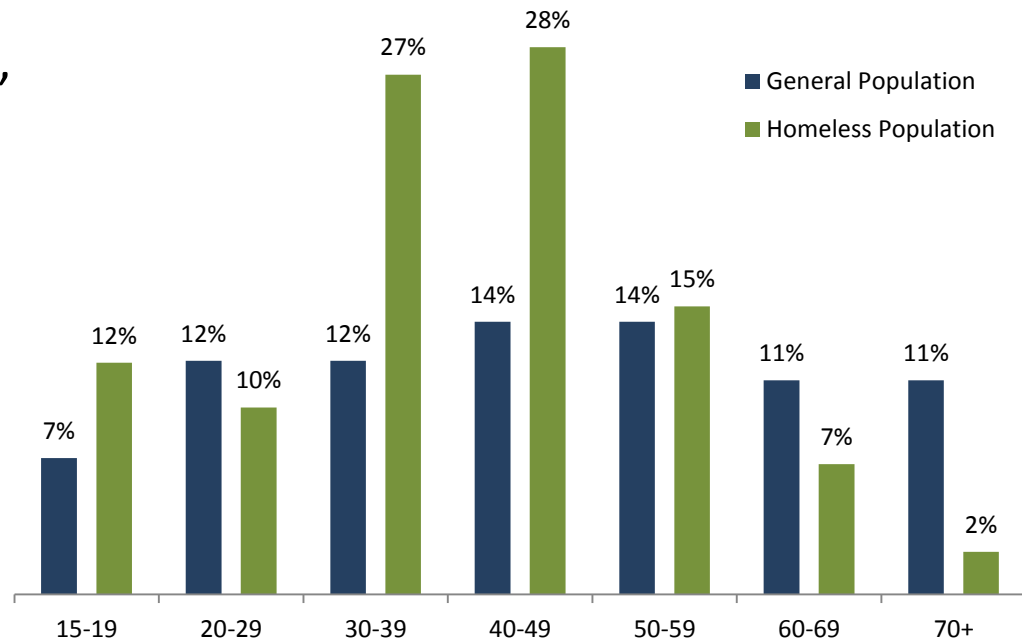


# 2014 Abbotsford Homelessness Count

## Preliminary Totals

- Disproportionate numbers of homeless persons are in the 15-19, 30-39, and 40-49, age cohorts.
- Youth homelessness, for those between the ages of 15-19, is a continuing concern.

Age Distribution



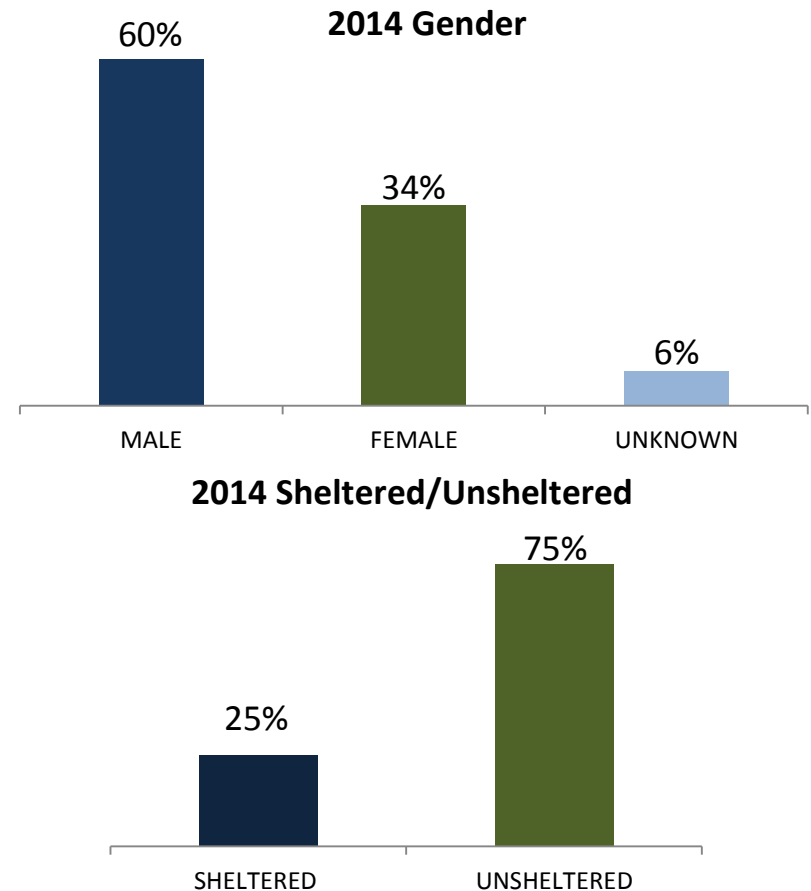


# 2014 Abbotsford Homelessness Count

## Preliminary Totals

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- More men than women are homeless.
- The general population has 50-50 gender split.
- Most people are living unsheltered.
- Sheltered: emergency shelter (youth and general) & transition house
- Unsheltered: outside, car/camper and couch surfing



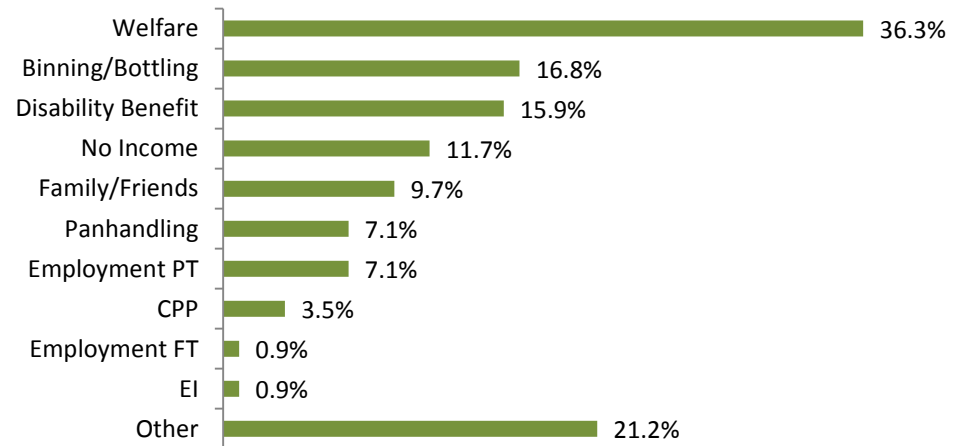
# 2014 Abbotsford Homelessness Count

## Preliminary Totals

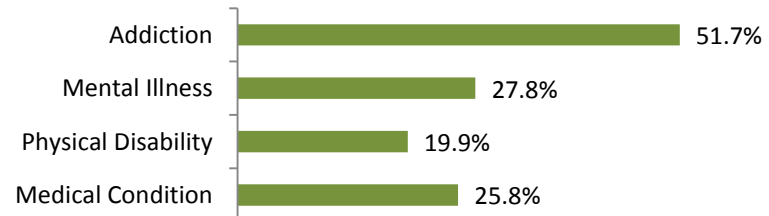
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- A significant proportion of homeless persons are on welfare.
- Just under 12% report no income and 9.7% rely on family and friends for assistance.
- Of those with health issues, many reported having multiple conditions.

**2014 Source of Income**



**2014 State of Health**



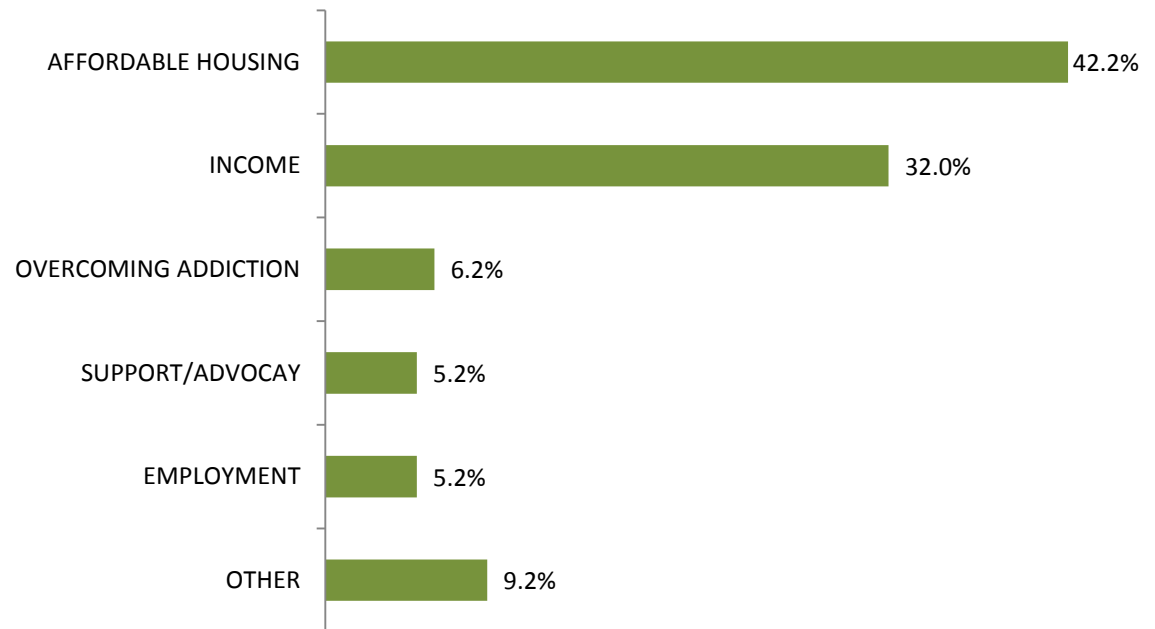
# 2014 Abbotsford Homelessness Count

## Preliminary Totals

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- Majority of homeless persons view the lack of affordable housing as a barrier to becoming permanently housed.

### What one thing would help end Homelessness for you?



# 2014 FVRD Homelessness Count

## Next Steps



- More detailed analysis of survey data
- Full Report later this year
- Review/identify funding gaps and opportunities
- Separate Project: Social Housing Inventory update
  - updating 2009 inventories for each community.

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