

HOMELESSNESS FACT SHEET

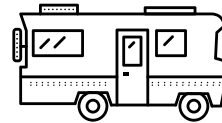
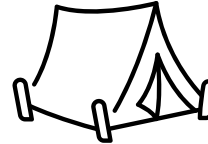


Overview

Homelessness is an issue that affects people all across BC and Canada.

Homelessness is when an individual or family does not have stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate ability to acquire it.

People experiencing homelessness may be couch-surfing or staying with friends, sleeping in cars, accessing emergency shelters, or sleeping outside in the bush, encampments, or other public spaces.



Reasons for Homelessness

Homelessness can happen to anyone at any age.

The reasons for homelessness vary, and often include overlapping factors like:

- Economic shifts both nationally (e.g., inflation) and locally (e.g., job market)
- Shortage of safe, affordable housing
- Lack of adequate income
- Personal circumstances like rental eviction, job loss, or health crisis
- Family and domestic violence
- Difficult transitions out of the child welfare system
- Lengthy stays in hospital, corrections or treatment facilities
- Mental health and/or substance use challenges (self or family members)

Homelessness in qathet

According to the 2023 Report on Homeless Counts in BC, 11,352 people were identified as experiencing homelessness in BC in 2023.

The qathet Region's first Point in Time Homeless Count in April 2023 identified 126 people experiencing homelessness in our community.

This is the number of people who were identified in a 20-hour period, and does not include people who are in financially unstable, unfit or unsafe housing, or at risk of homelessness.

Although not representative of everyone in need of housing in the qathet Region, this number provides a snapshot of the housing needs in the community.

Barriers to housing in qathet

A lack of available, affordable housing is contributing to homelessness in the qathet Region.

According to the 2021 qathet Regional Housing Needs Report, available rental housing meets less than 40% of demand.

The 2021 qathet Regional Housing Needs Report found that average rent increased by 49% between 2016 and 2021.

42% of respondents were spending more than 30% of monthly income on rent (the threshold for affordability, according to BC Housing). People with disabilities were spending closer to 80% of their monthly income on rent, with very few accessible housing options.

How to help

We need more affordable and low-barrier housing for individuals, families, youth, and seniors in the qathet Region.

Consider writing to your local municipal, Regional, or provincial government in support of additional housing resources in our community.

Subscribe to our newsletter for updates on homelessness and other community issues in qathet: liftcommunityservices.org/subscribe



Learn more about what we do at
www.liftcommunityservices.org