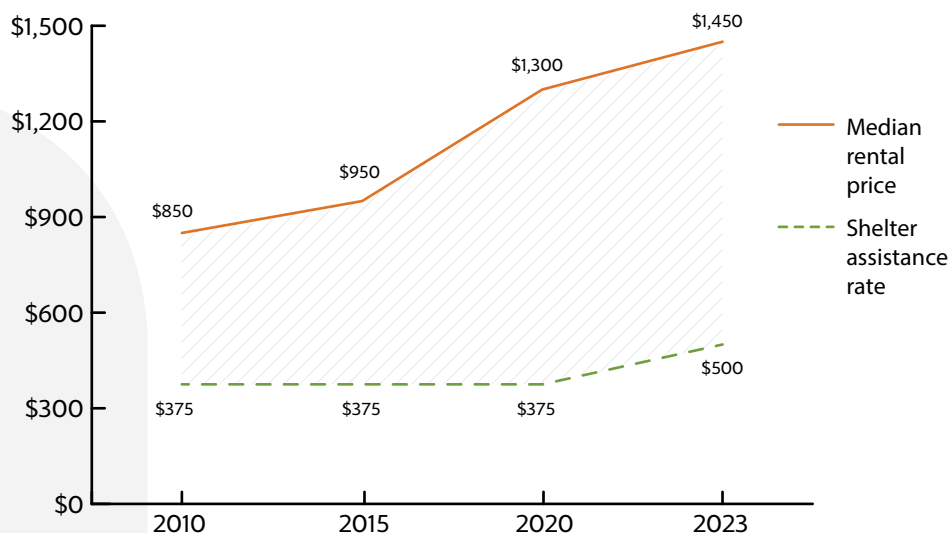


Inequities in housing

Everyone has the right to **adequate housing** that is safe, affordable, accessible, culturally appropriate, secure and in good condition.

Median rent vs. shelter assistance, 2010–2023



For those on social assistance, the amount provided to assist with housing costs is only about one-third of the median rental price.

B.C. has the highest rate of unaffordable housing in Canada.

Rental prices are increasing faster than wages.

In 2021...



more than **one**
in **five** B.C.
households...



...spent more than
30% of their income
on shelter.



about **one** in **10**
people living in
B.C....



...did not earn enough
income to access
acceptable housing in
their community.

Homelessness is more common than what we see on the streets.

31% more people in
B.C. experienced
homelessness in 2023
than in 2020/21.

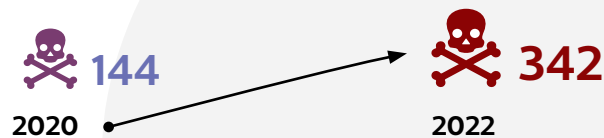


Hidden homelessness (where people avoid living on the street by accepting housing that is poor quality, unsafe or exploitative) is **five times** more common than visible homelessness.

Homelessness increases poor health, risk of violence and death.



Young women without homes are at high risk of violence of all kinds: 63% have been assaulted and 37% have been sexually assaulted.



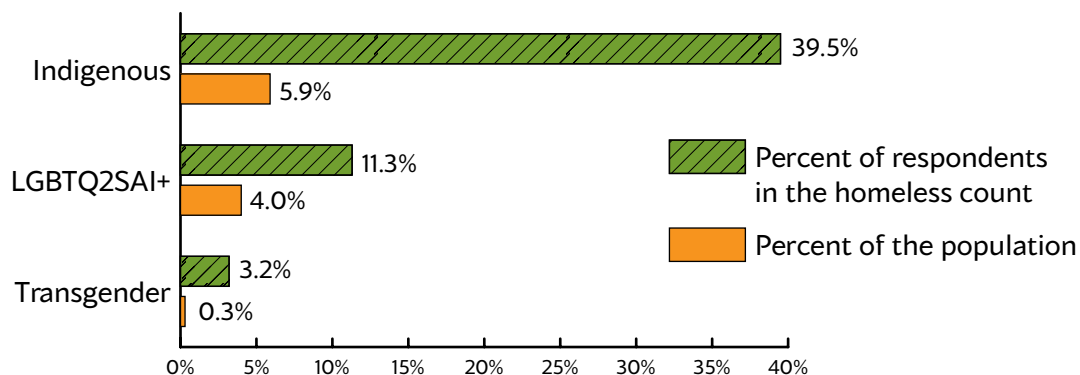
Deaths among people experiencing homelessness in B.C. have sharply increased, rising from 144 in 2020 to 342 in 2022.

Impact on marginalized groups

Lack of affordable housing disproportionately impacts marginalized groups, including people with disabilities, Indigenous people and queer and transgender people and women.

- Violence against women is a leading cause of homelessness for women.
- Queer and trans youth face higher rates of homelessness.

Overrepresentation in homeless counts in B.C., 2023



- Indigenous people make up 40% of the population of homeless individuals in B.C. despite making up only 6% of the population.

About BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner

Under B.C.'s *Human Rights Code*, B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner is responsible for promoting and protecting human rights in the province. Learn more about our Office at bchumanrights.ca

10 key systems impacting human rights in B.C.

This fact sheet is based on the Commissioner's 2024 report, *Rights in Focus: Lived Realities in B.C.*, which highlights significant inequities and injustices affecting B.C. residents across 10 key systems. These include inequities in housing, the social safety net, health care, education, employment, child welfare, criminal justice, public spaces and the family sphere, as well as in the effects of the environmental crisis. Exploring these systems is an important way to determine the state of human rights in British Columbia.



baseline.bchumanrights.ca/in-focus