
EVERYONE COUNTS 2024 NANAIMO POINT-IN-TIME (PiT) COUNT

KEY FINDINGS & TRENDS



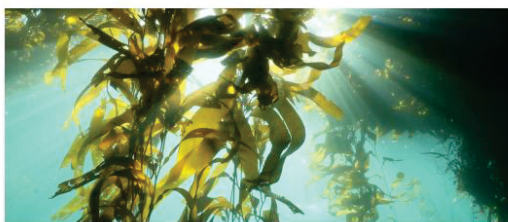
This project is funded by
the Government of Canada.



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Snuneymuxw First Nation
July 21st 2025*

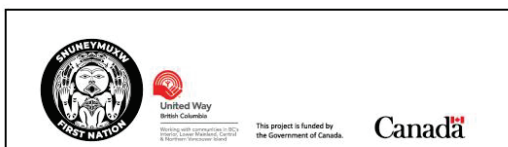
NANAIMO COMMUNITY REPORT

Everyone Counts: 2024 Point-in-Time Count
Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy

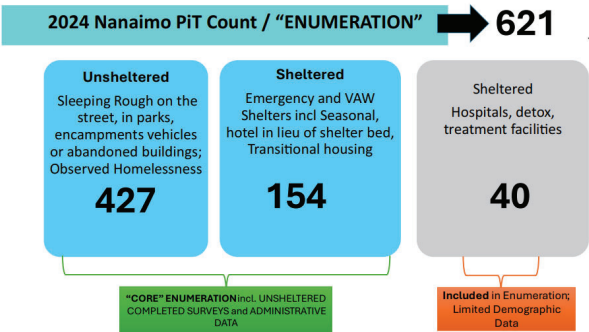


November 2024

- The 2024 PiT Count was led by Snuneymuxw First Nation with work grounded in teachings of interdependence
- Count conducted entirely on Snuneymuxw territory with Nation-led outreach teams and community partners
- Commitment to culturally safe data and responses
- This PiT count was unique in that we had Snuneymuxw leadership who shaped every stage of the count, ensuring voices often missed were heard



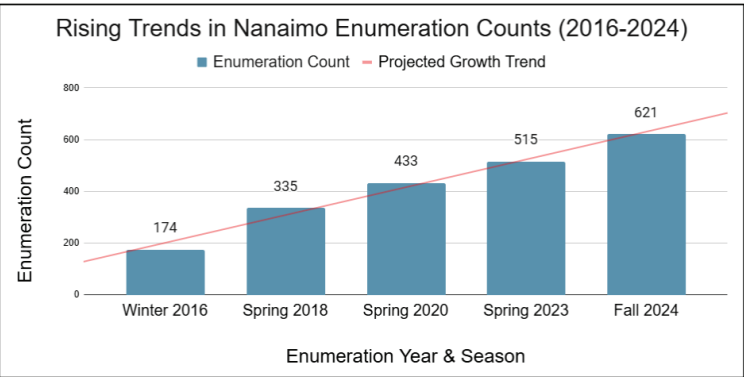
Total Enumeration - November 26th 2024



Location	2023	2024
Unsheltered: vacant building, makeshift shelter, tent, or shack, other unsheltered location unfit for human habitation, public spaces, or a vehicle, Encampments	399	320
Sheltered: (Transitional Shelter / Housing, Emergency Shelter, Domestic Violence Against Women Shelter, Hotel Paid by City Program)	26	117
Jail, Prison, Hospital	3	5
'Hidden' Homeless (e.g. Staying at someone else's place)	21	30
Unsure	4	2
TOTAL	453	474

Even with the surge of new shelter and transitional beds that pulled 91 more people indoors than last year, nearly 7 in 10 respondents were still sleeping rough or in institutions, and the overall count kept rising

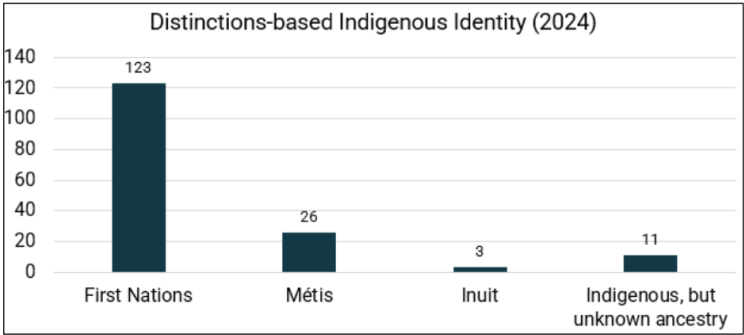
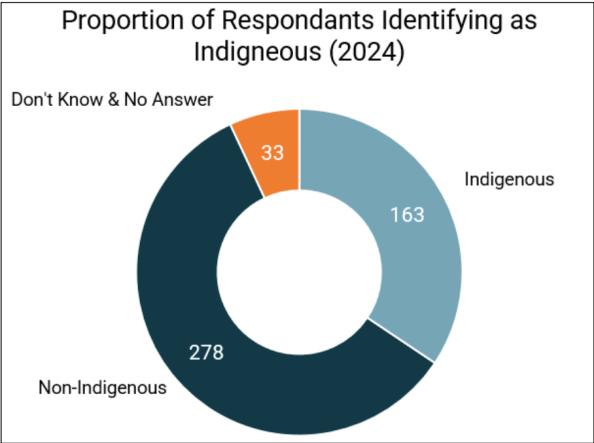
Eight-Year Surge: 174 ➔ 621



- Trend line shows counts rising every cycle since 2016
- Growth resumed pre-pandemic trajectory after 2020 plateau

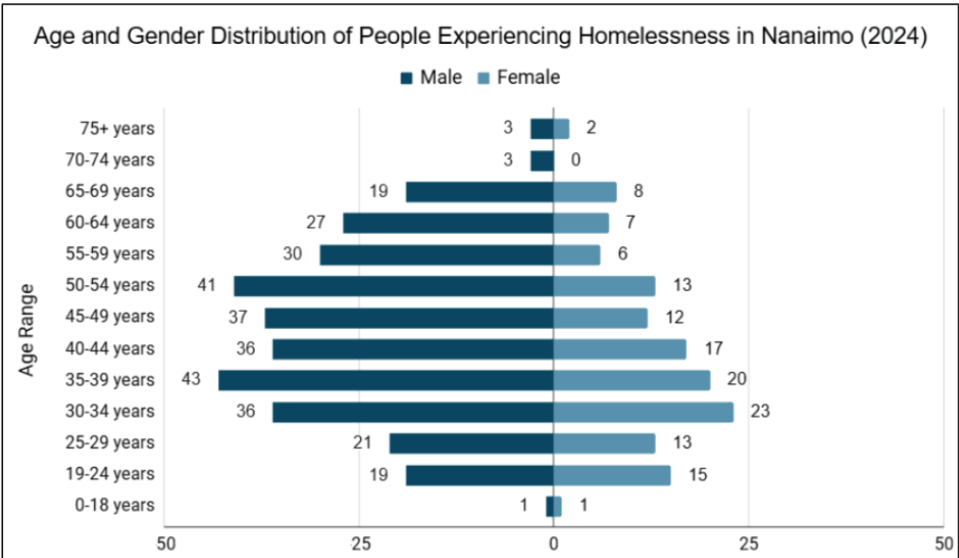
Each year's total becomes the new baseline minimum number of homelessness in Nanaimo.

Indigenous Homelessness



The chart shows how the aftershocks of colonization still push our people onto the streets. Indigenous residents make up over a third of everyone counted, yet just 8% of the city’s population.

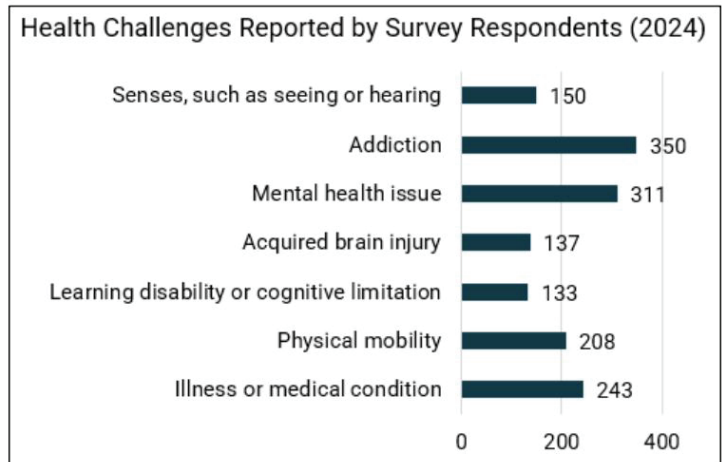
Age & Gender



Middle-aged men dominate the street view, but elders and young people are quietly expanding risk groups.

Health, Mental Health & Substance Use

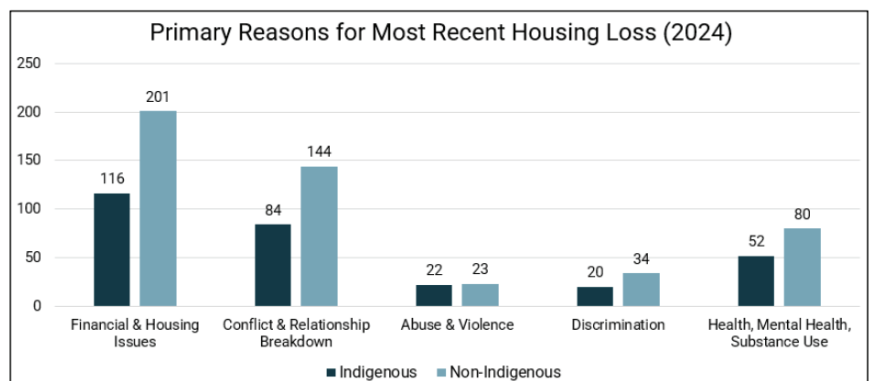
- 350 (74%) report addiction challenges
- 311 (66%) report mental-health condition
- Over half live with a chronic medical condition
- Co-occurrence of multiple conditions is the norm, not the exception



Without Indigenous-led, culturally safe housing that embeds primary care, harm-reduction, and mental-wellness supports, people will keep cycling between the sidewalk, the ER, and the morgue, and the problems will only compound.

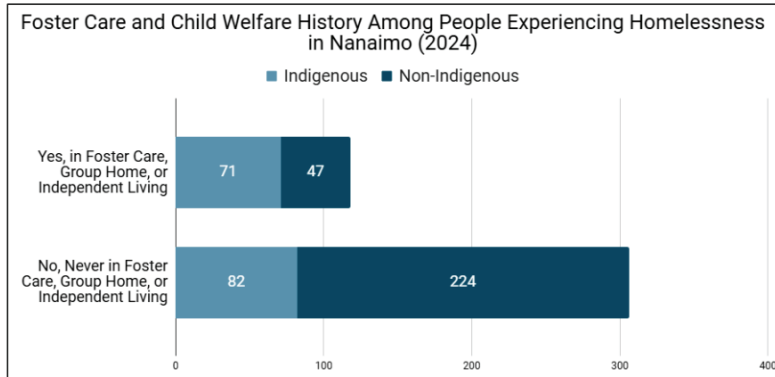
Why Housing Was Lost

- **Financial gap:** 207 residents (44 %) said rising costs forced the move-out
- **Household conflict:** 246 evicted after landlord, partner, or family disputes
- **Abuse & violence:** 45 fled unsafe homes; almost half were Indigenous, when only 35% of responses were Indigenous
- **Discrimination:** 54 lost housing through racism or other bias—two-thirds Indigenous
- **Untreated health:** 115 exits tied to mental-health or substance-use crises



Housing is lost not through a single doorway but at the intersection of high rents, personal upheaval, discrimination, and unmet health needs.

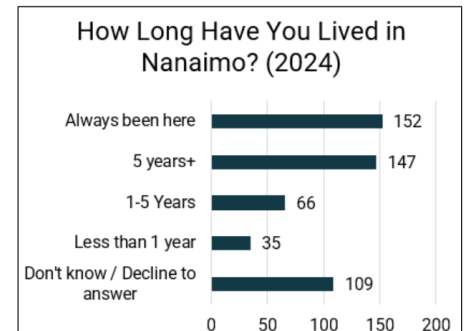
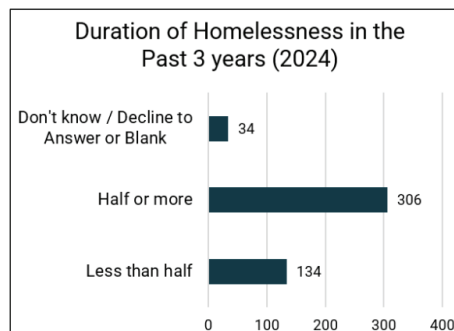
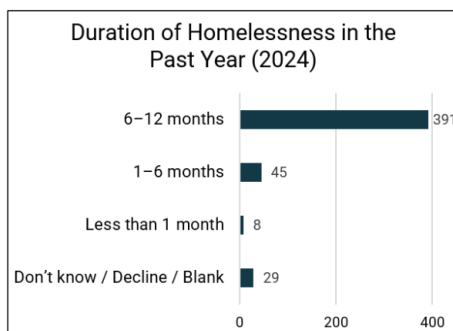
Foster Care & First Homelessness



- 118 people (24 %) had lived in foster care/group homes
- Among them, 60% are Indigenous
- 31% became homeless before age 25
- Early-age chart shows steady pipeline from youth systems to street (p. 32)
- Preventing youth exits to homelessness is critical, especially for Indigenous youth

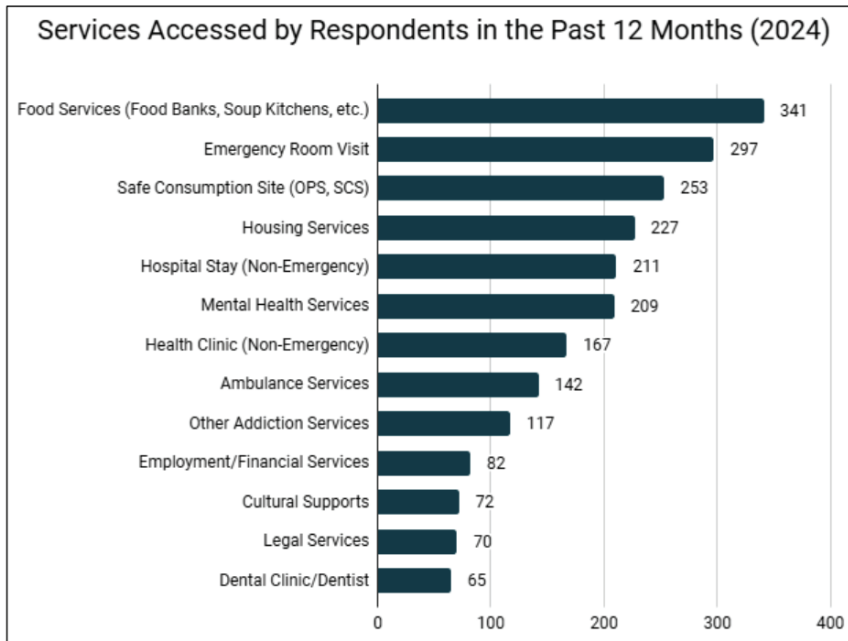
The child-welfare-to-homelessness pipeline is alive; stopping it could flatten future counts.

Chronicity: Months & Years Without Home



- Long durations compound physical decline and service costs
- Chronicity stable since 2023, showing little movement out of homelessness

Which Services Reach People – And Which Don't



- **Survival first:** food banks & soup kitchens showed the most accessed services
- **Emergency care:** 297 ER trips vs 167 clinic visits;
- **Harm-reduction over treatment:** safe-consumption sites drew 253 uses which is over double other addiction programs
- **Housing help under-reaches:** only 227 people connected to housing services
- **Rights-based supports absent:** cultural (72) and legal (70) services barely show, underscoring the need for more accessible, culturally safe treatment options

Strength in Collaboration

- The total PiT Count grew to 621 people, up 20 percent from 2023 and roughly 2.5 times the 2016 figure
- 35 percent of those counted are Indigenous, though Indigenous residents make up a much smaller (~8%) of Nanaimo's population
- Homelessness is tied to severe health needs: three-quarters report addiction challenges and two-thirds report mental-health conditions, driving heavy ER use
- The main drivers remain structural and local: rent inflation, household conflict, discrimination, and service gaps; most people counted have lived in Nanaimo for years

Huy tseep q'u