



**FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT
2014 HOMELESSNESS SURVEY**

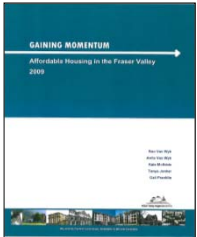
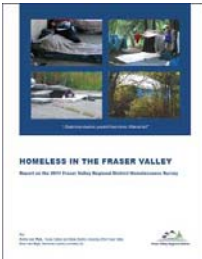



February 24, 2015

Addressing Housing 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 funded 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.
- 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.



2014 FVRD Homelessness Count Collaboration Across the Region

The count could not have been accomplished without community partners & volunteers

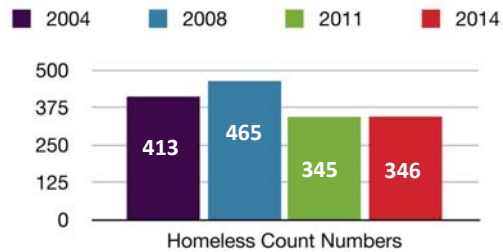
- **Partners**
 - **Funding:** Fraser Valley Regional District
 - **FVRD-wide Coordination, data capture, analysis & reporting:** MCC BC
 - **Abbotsford:** The 5and2 Ministry; Salvation Army, Abbotsford; Abbotsford Community Services (Foodbank); Cyrus Centre; Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley
 - **Mission:** Mission Friendship Centre; District of Mission; Mission Community Services Society; Women's Resources Society of the Fraser Valley; Youth Unlimited.
 - **Chilliwack:** Pacific Community Resources Society; Salvation Army Chilliwack (Emergency Shelter); Chilliwack Community Services (Youth Outreach); Ruth and Naomi's Mission Society; Ann Davis Transition Society
 - **Agassiz-Harrison:** Fraser-Cascade School District 78; Agassiz-Harrison Community Services
 - **Hope:** Hope and Area Transition Society; Boston Bar Enhancement Society
 - **Fraser Health**



2014 FVRD Homelessness Count Totals

- Total number of homeless in Region remained flat from 2011.
- Still well below the high of 465 homeless counted in 2008.

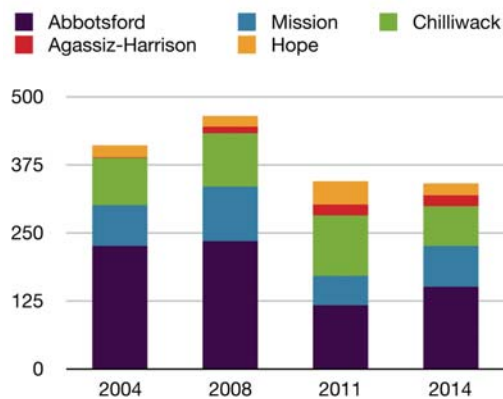
CHART 1: FVRD Homeless Count Totals 2004-2014



2014 FVRD Homelessness Count Municipal Change

- Abbotsford, Mission and Boston Bar have seen an increase.
- Chilliwack and Hope have seen a decline.
- Agassiz-Harrison is flat
- 346 Homeless in 2014:
 - Abbotsford 151
 - Mission 75
 - Chilliwack 73
 - Agassiz-Harrison 20
 - Hope 22
 - Boston Bar 5

CHART 2: Municipal Homeless Count Totals 2004-2014



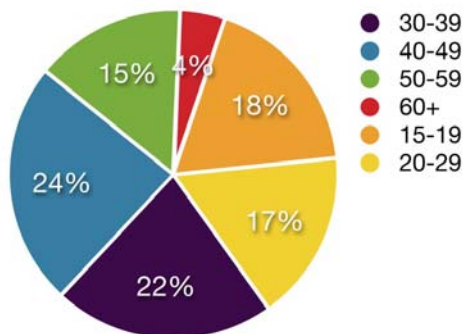
Reasons for Homelessness

Respondents could check off more than 1 answer

Reason Given	2014 n	2014%
Inadequate income	211	32.6
Rent too high	116	18.0
Family breakdown/abuse/conflict	89	13.7
Evicted	52	8.0
Health/Disability	11	1.7
Addictions	60	9.3
Criminal history	45	7.0
Poor housing conditions	42	6.5
Pets	8	1.2
Other	12	2.0
Total Response	646	100
No Response	42	
Total	688	

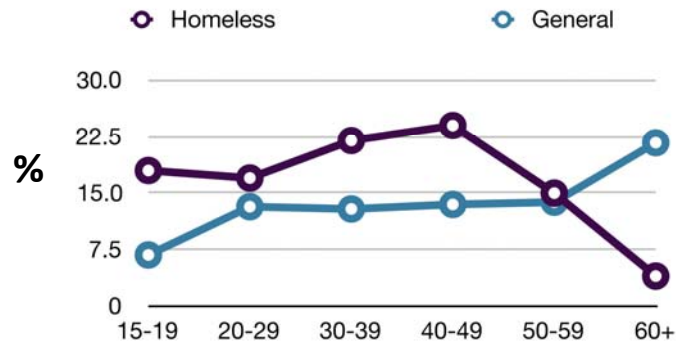
Age of Surveyed Respondents

GRAPH 8: Age of Surveyed Respondents



Age of Surveyed Respondents

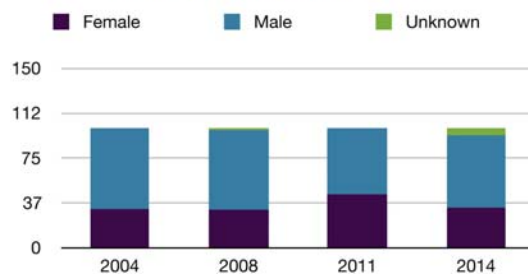
GRAPH 9: Age Distribution of Homeless in Relation to General Population



Gender of Surveyed Respondents

Gender	2014 n	2014%
Male	210	60.7
Female	117	33.8
Unknown	19	5.5
Total	346	100

CHART 4: Respondent Gender 2004-2014

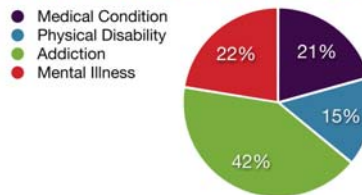


Prevalence of Medical Conditions

Respondents could check off more than 1 answer

Health Issue	2014 n	2014%
Medical condition	95	20.7
Physical disability	70	15.2
Addiction	192	41.7
Mental illness	103	22.4
Total Response	460	100
No Response	79	
Total	539	

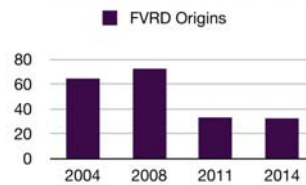
GRAPH 6: Percentage of Various Health Problems 2014



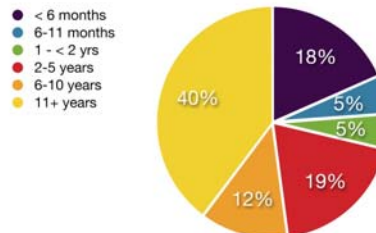
Length of Residency

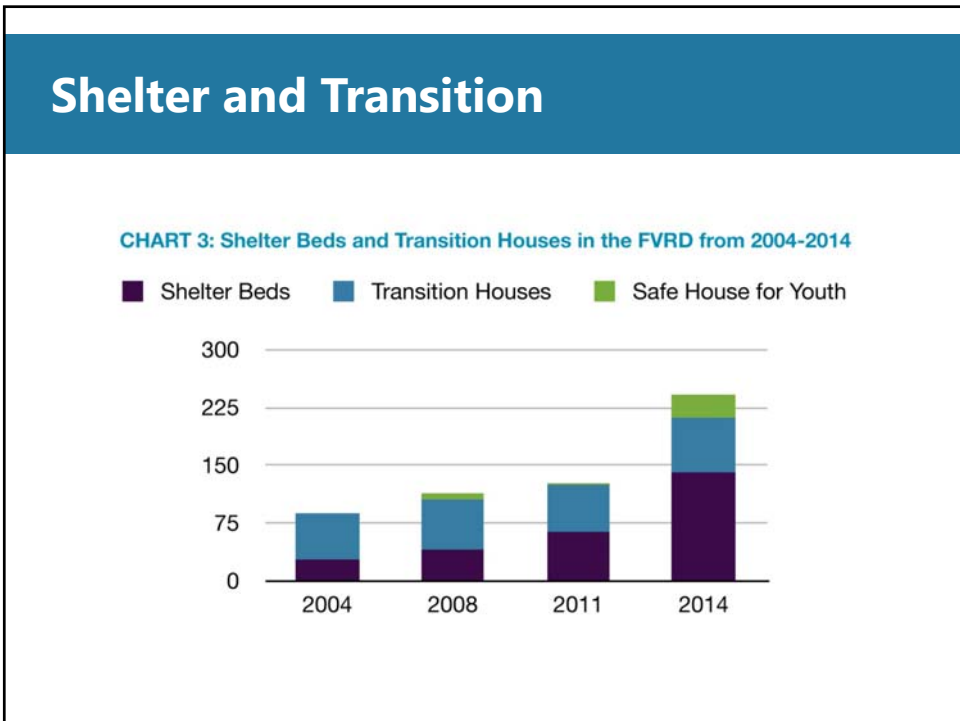
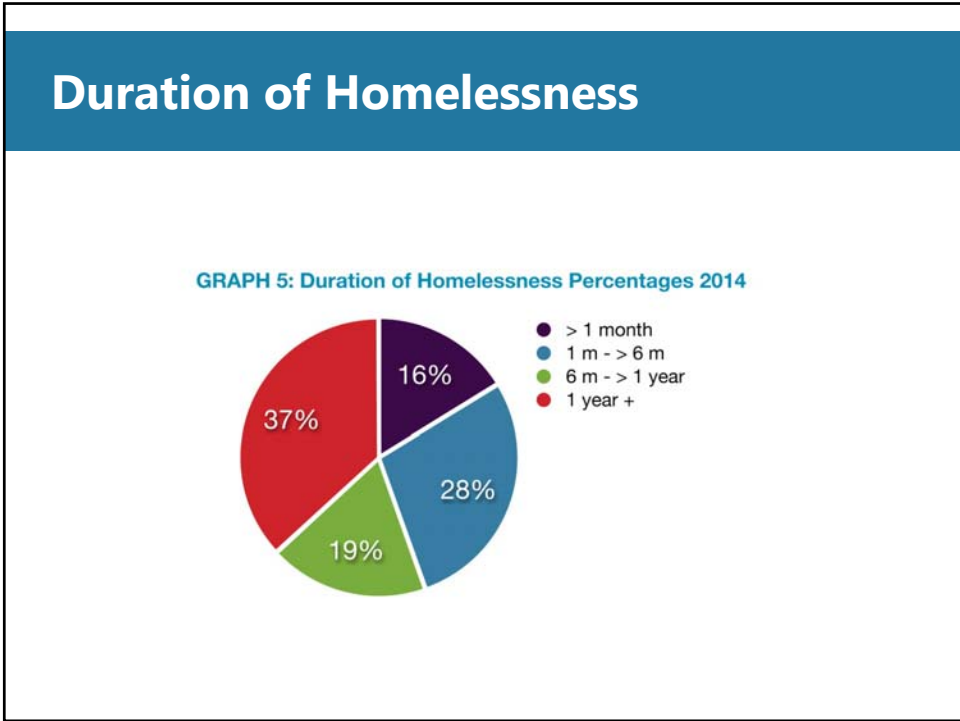
- Majority of homeless persons have come to the FVRD from elsewhere.
- 52% have lived in Region for over 6 years
- Not necessarily homeless for that length of time.

CHART 5: Percentage of Homeless Population with FVRD Origins from 2004 - 2014



GRAPH 11: How Long Have You Been Living in the Community?





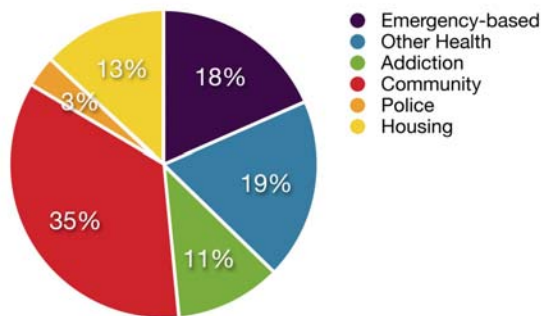
Major Initiatives: 2004 to 2014

- Abbotsford:**
 Firth Residence (31 beds); Christine Lamb Residence (41 units); George Schmidt Centre (30 units)
- Chilliwack:**
 Cyrus Centre; Ruth and Naomis Emergency shelter (15-20 beds); First and Second Stage Residence (26 beds); The Village (24 units); Health and Housing Centre (22 beds)
- Mission:**
 Haven in the Hollow (20 beds); Rivendell (44 beds)
- Hope:**
 Thunderbird Motel



Use of Services

GRAPH 12: Usage of Services by Category



What will End Homelessness for you?

Solution	2014 n	2014%
Affordable housing	108	45.2
Employment	36	15.1
Higher income	47	19.7
Overcoming addiction	11	4.6
Support/Advocacy	18	7.5
Other	19	7.9
Total Response	239	100
No Response	107	
Total	346	

Key Findings

- There remains a need for permanent supportive housing based on the Housing First approach;
- Transition (second-stage) housing is also needed for those coming out of treatment and those released from incarceration;
- The longer a person is homeless:
 - The greater likelihood that pre-existing and emergent health problems worsen (including mental health and addictions);
 - There is greater risk of criminal victimization, sexual exploitation and trauma; and
 - There is greater risk of involvement in the justice system.
- Supportive case management is indispensable to successful service delivery to people living homeless.

Key Recommendations

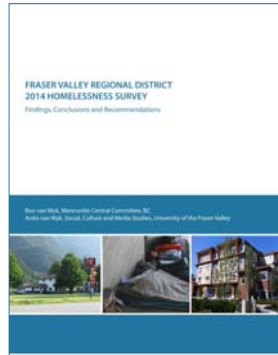
- Create a more adequate housing spectrum in FVRD communities through Housing First approach and more comprehensive and far-reaching mental health and addictions services.
- Implement Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams in FVRD communities.
- Partner with existing community agencies to expand the reach of Housing First options through a “scattered site” approach.
- Advocate for an increase in welfare shelter allowance and expansion and lengthening of rent subsidies as part of homelessness outreach and support funding from BC Housing.
- Advocate for federal housing funding for FVRD communities that fall between the significant gap in funding streams currently available for larger metropolitan areas and small rural communities.

Funding Challenge

- Local governments can't address this issue alone.
- Senior governments, health authorities and NGOs all have a role to play.
- Challenge in this region is getting support from senior governments – it shouldn't take a crisis situation to garner attention.

Reports available

- Consists of a main report and four municipal/sub-regional reports



- Will be posted on FVRD web site shortly.

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