

# Findings and Conclusions:

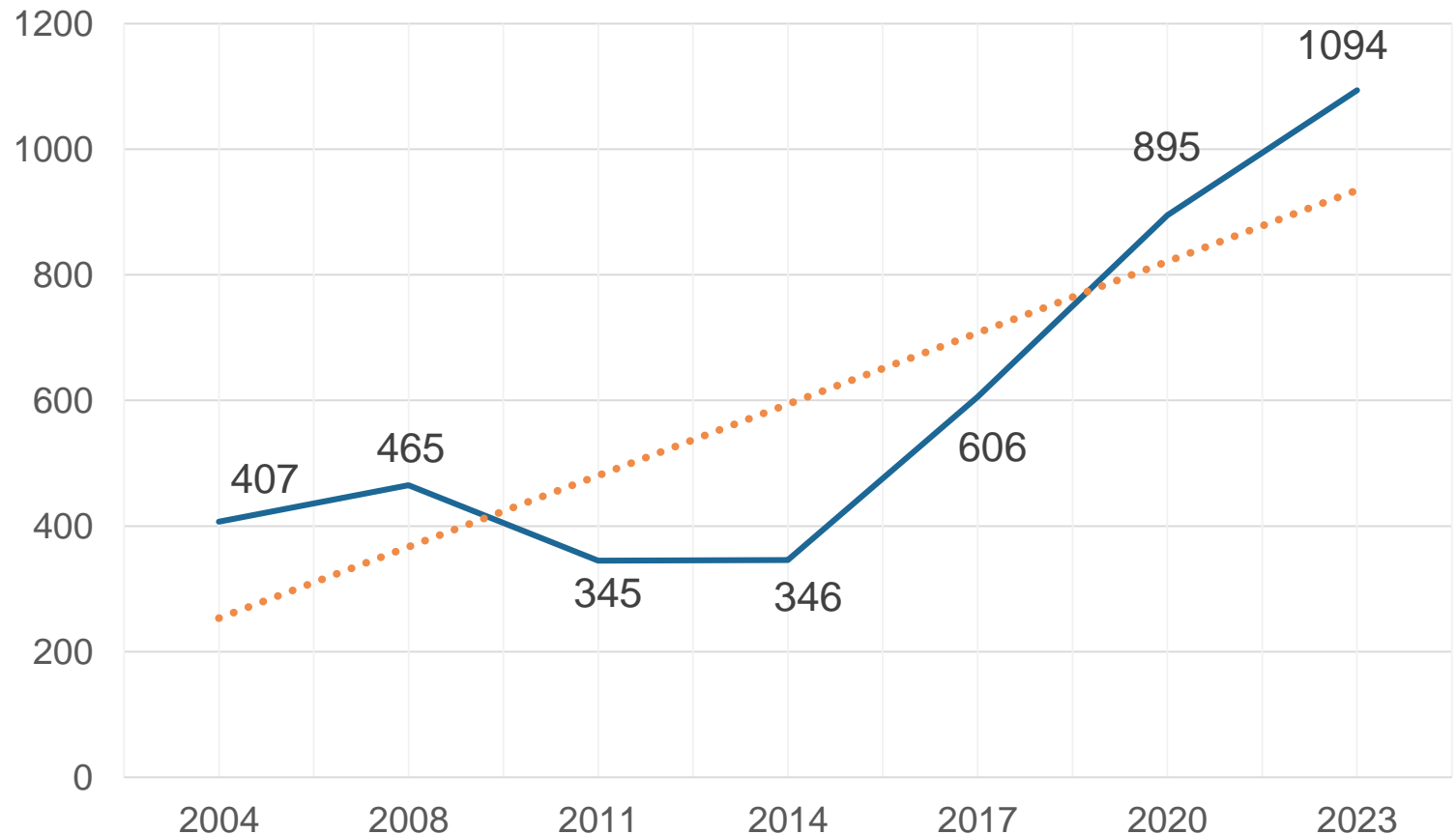
## 2023 FVRD Point-in-Time Homeless Count & Survey

Fraser Valley Regional District  
FVRD Board Meeting  
Dec 14, 2023

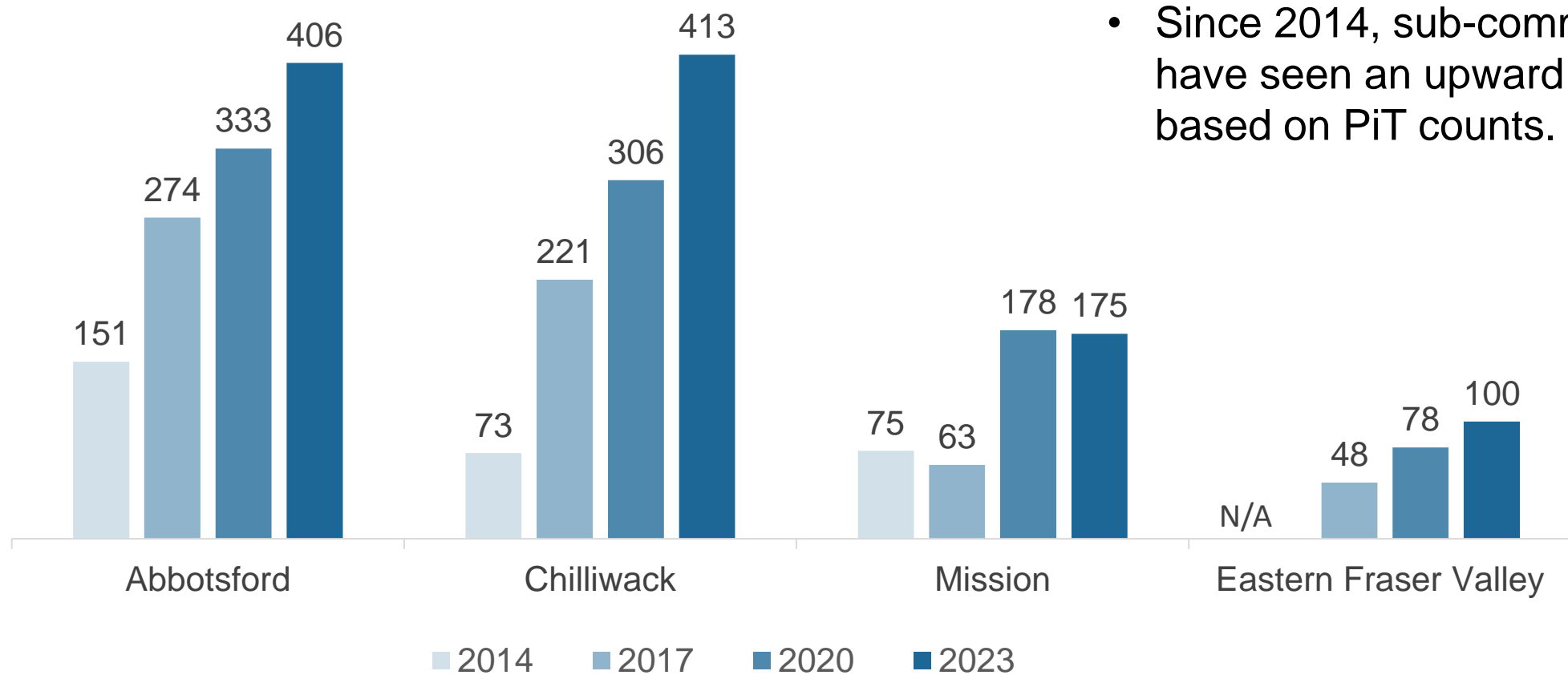


# PiT Count Totals: FVRD (2004-2023)

- **1,094** individuals experiencing homelessness were enumerated in 2023.
- An additional 199 people and a **22% increase** since previous count in 2020.
- Since 2014, the region has seen an upward trend based on PiT counts.



# PiT Count Totals: by Sub-Community (2014-2023)



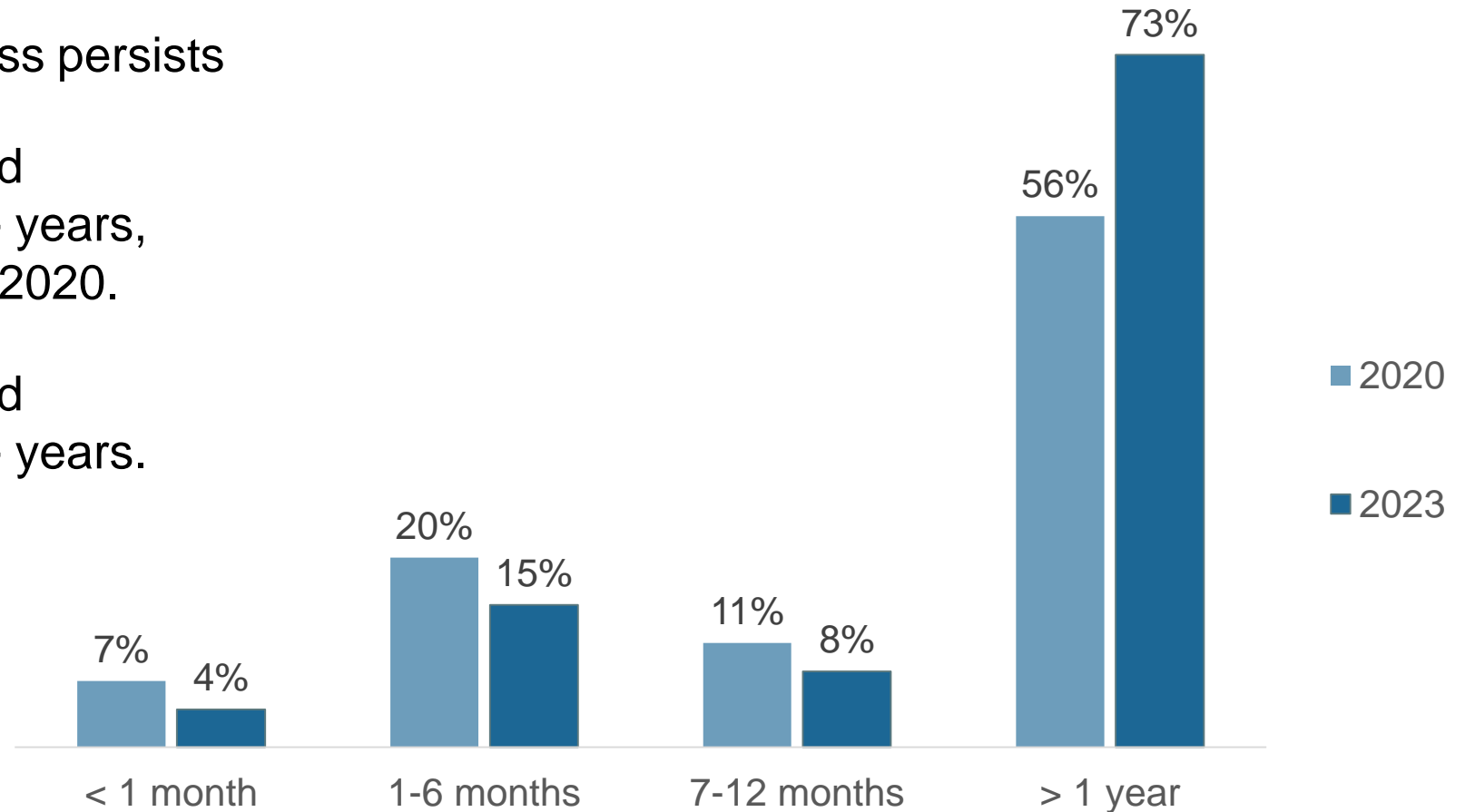
- Since 2014, sub-communities have seen an upward trend based on PiT counts.

# Causes of Homelessness FVRD (2023)

- Unaffordability of housing
- Inadequate supply of affordable, suitable and supportive housing
- Substance use issues (i.e. addiction)
- Mental Health Issues
- Other health issues
- Family/Relational breakdown

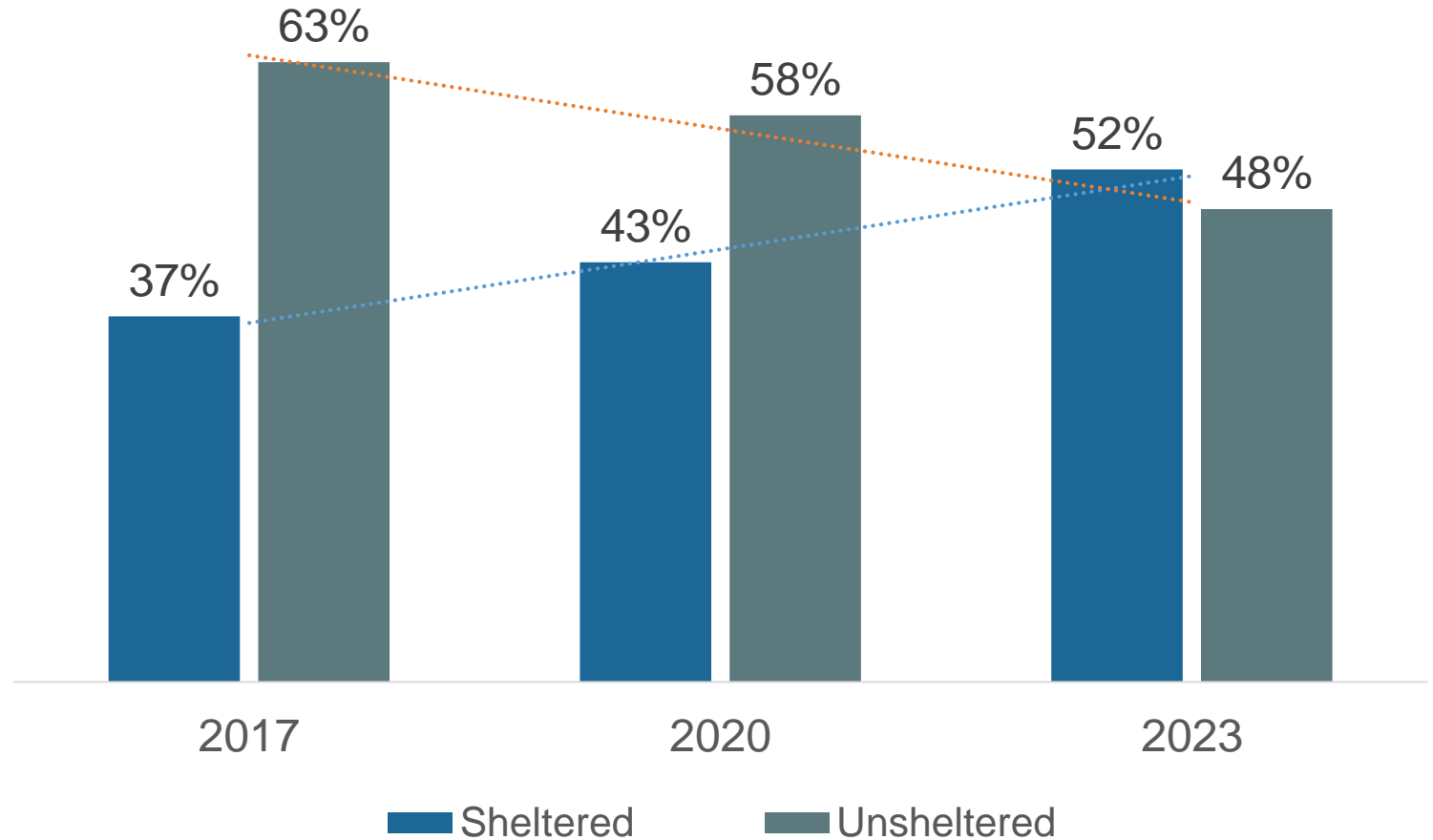
# Duration of Homelessness: FVRD (2023)

- Chronic homelessness persists
- 73% had experienced homelessness for 1+ years, compared to 56% in 2020.
- 40% had experienced homelessness for 2+ years.



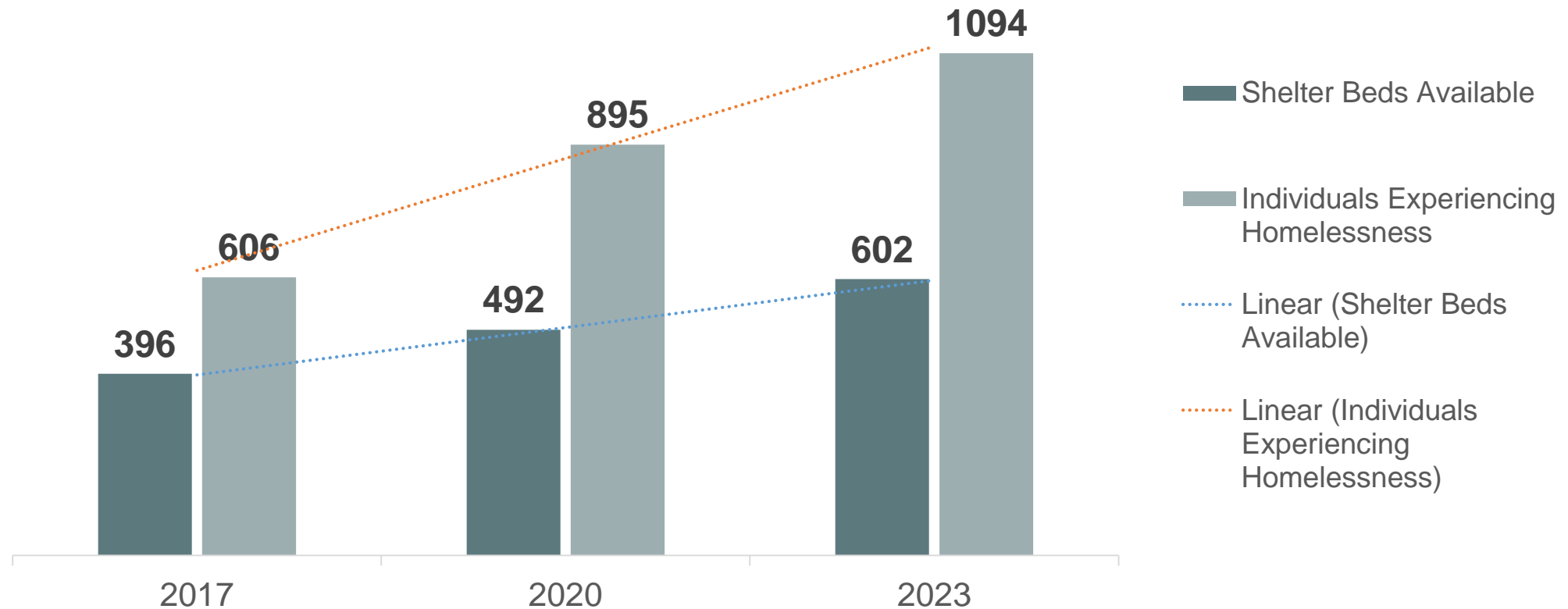
# Sheltered & Unsheltered Overnight Locations: FVRD (2017-2023)

- 2023 saw an increase in the portion of people who had stayed in a shelter on the night of the count compared to 2020 and 2017.
- This reflects an increase in the number of and utilization shelter beds in the region.



# Shelters Beds Compared to PiT Totals: FVRD (2017-2023)

- Shelter spaces can only provide accommodation to 55% of those enumerated in 2023.



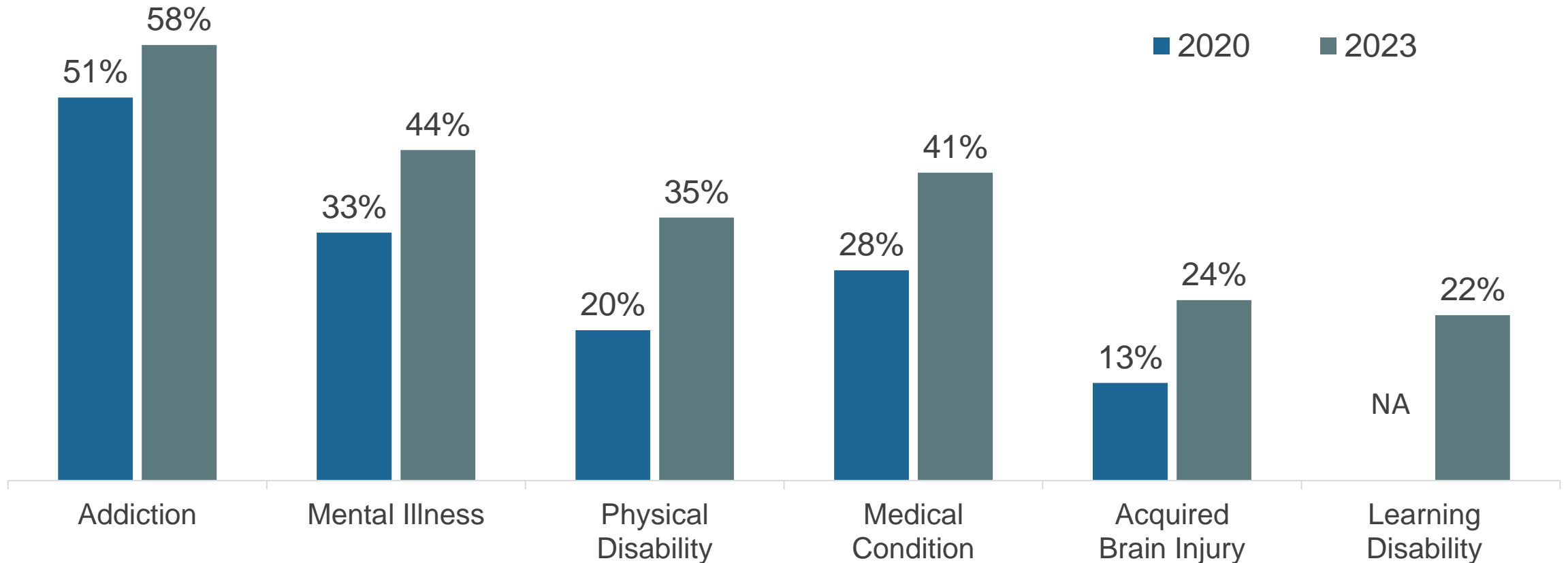
# Health Issues: FVRD (2023)

- 65% of survey respondents noted at least one health issue.
- 58% of survey respondents identified as currently experiencing addiction (of these, 12% receive treatment and 28% indicated seeking treatment).
- 54% of those experiencing addiction also reported mental health challenges, which is known as a concurrent disorder.



# Health Issues: FVRD (2020-2023)

Reports of various health issues increased from 2020 to 2023.



# Demographics: FVRD (2023)

- 48% were between ages 30-49, more significant than general population, while this age group makes up 26% of general population
- Persons age 60 and older continues to increase, while those 19 and younger has decreased
- Men continue to be more significantly represented

Women and youth are more likely to be experience hidden forms of homelessness, thus under-represented in PiT data.

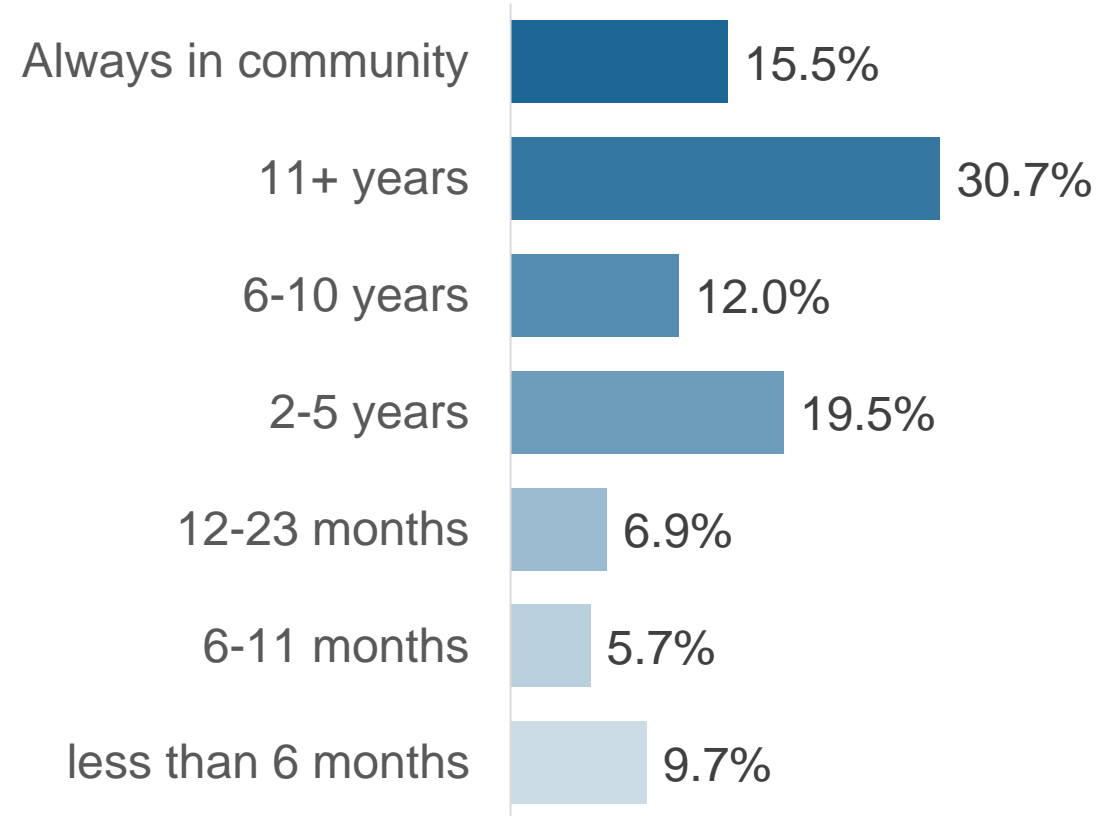
However, consistent application of PiT Count methodology can help identify trends associated with these populations.

# Overrepresentation of Populations: FVRD (2023)

- Indigenous persons made up 36% of respondents experiencing homelessness, compared to 7.6% of the general population.
- 31% had been in government care as children or youth. Comparatively, children and youth in government care make up 5.5% of BC's population aged 0-18.
- Although a small portion of those surveyed, representation of gender diverse and LGBTQ+ populations higher in comparison to general populations.

# Length of Time in Community: FVRD (2023)

- 58% had lived in their current community for 6 years or longer.
- 15% lived in their current community less than 1 year.
- 30% live in current community to be with/near family, friends, or loved ones.
- 9.5% said that a worker, counselor, officer, official sent or directed them to the FVRD or current community.



# Key Findings: FVRD (2023)

- Decade long upward trend in persons experiencing homelessness
- Increase in persons over age of sixty
- Twice as many people enumerated than shelter beds in the region
- People are experiencing homelessness for longer periods
- Health challenges are common, increasing, and complex
- Substance use issues (addiction) and mental health issues remain prevalent
- Housing costs, supply, and low income remain major factors re. homelessness
- Most persons are long-time residents
- Overrepresentation of Indigenous persons
- Many were in government care as children or youth

# Conclusions

- System-level changes are needed
- Health needs are housing needs, especially when they are complex
- Collaboration is needed to increase affordable housing supply
- A paradigm shift from emergency shelter to the provision of suitable housing, including supportive housing and care is needed
- Tailored research of rural and remote homelessness is needed

Shelters are intended to provide temporary accommodation in an emergency and are not a replacement for adequate housing.

Long-term housing solutions are needed to prevent and address homelessness.

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## Thank You!

