



Indicator Data & Sources 2021

September 2021

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IF GREATER VICTORIA WAS A VILLAGE OF 100

Based on the 2016 Census, if Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA) was made up of 100 people, there would be . . .

Gender

	Victoria	Canada
Male	48	49
Female	52	51

Note: In the 2016 Census, transgender, transsexual and intersex persons were given the option to indicate which of the two genders they most associated with, or to leave the question blank and provide reasons for not answering it.

Age Breakdown

	Victoria	Canada
0-14	13	17
15-24	12	12
25-64	54	54
65-74	12	10
75-84	6	5
85+	3	2
Median age	45	41

Marital Status

	Victoria	Canada
Single (never married)	27	28
Common-law	11	12
Married	45	46
Divorced	8	6
Widowed	6	6

*Does not add up to 100 due to rounding and exclusion of "separated"

Languages

Speak English most often at home: **94** (Canada: **67**)

Speak languages other than English and French most often at home: **6** (Canada: **12**)

Have knowledge of both official languages: **10** (Canada: **18**)

Individual Income

	Victoria	Canada
Under \$10,000	12	14
\$10,000 to \$29,999	29	31
\$30,000 to \$59,999	32	30
\$60,000 to \$99,999	20	17
\$100,000 and over	8	8
Median total income	\$37,481	\$34,204

*Total population (15 years and over) with income, 2015

*Does not add up to 100 due to rounding

Miscellaneous

	Victoria	Canada
Low Income	13	14
Employed	61	60
Post-secondary education	60	55
Aboriginal Identity	5	5
Visible Minority	14	22
Immigrant	18	22
Living Alone	33	28
Renter	37	32
Single Parent	15	16

Source (all): Statistics Canada. 2017. Canada [Country] and Victoria [Census metropolitan area], British Columbia (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

Life Expectancy:

Average life expectancy at birth, South Vancouver Island Health Service Delivery Area, 2015-2017: **83.3** years

Average life expectancy at birth, Canada, 2015-2017: **82.1** years

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 13-10-0389-01 Life expectancy, at birth and at age 65, by sex, three-year average, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions and peer groups](#)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were launched in 2015 after three years of negotiations between 193 countries and represent the world's collective vision for a thriving and sustainable planet.

The SDGs are universal and apply to all people and communities everywhere. Canada has signed on to achieving these goals at home and abroad. At the community level, the SDGs are an opportunity to focus and coordinate collective efforts to address problems beyond the community scale, such as climate change, poverty and inequality, which can only be addressed if communities and cities unite in common action. Please visit globalgoals.org for more details.

Under each Vital Signs® key issue area, we have placed icons next to indicators that support specific SDGs. These indicators are closely aligned with the formal SDG monitoring framework and include both United Nations-designated and Canadian-equivalent SDG indicators.

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



ARTS & CULTURE

Sustainable Development Targets



4.7: Acquire appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development

8.9: Promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

Library Use

In 2019, the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) reported the highest **circulation** per capita in Canada (17.5), among 34 Canadian urban library systems, significantly above the national median of 10. The GVPL had 7.6 **visits** per capita, compared to the national median of 5.6. Nearly half (49%) of the region's population were **registered borrowers**, compared to the national median of 43%.

Source: Canadian Urban Libraries Council. 2019 Canadian Public Library Statistics.
<http://culc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2019-CULC-Public-Library-Statistics.pdf>

Totals across the GVPL's 12 branches in 2019:

- Door Count: 2,417,146
- Virtual Visits: 3,890,520
- Events & Programs: 2,862
- Total Attendance: 88,567
- New Card Holders: 17,357
- Total Circulation: 5,611,017

Source: Greater Victoria Public Library. 2019 Annual Report.
<https://www.gvpl.ca/reports-plans/>



Arts Funding

In 2020, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Arts and Culture Support Service distributed \$2.5 million in grants to 89 unique arts organizations and artist-led partnerships in the region, of whom 13% were first time recipients.

In 2020, there were 3,377 CRD-funded events in the region and 472,120 participants took part in CRD-funded arts programming, with 96% of project grant audiences participating virtually. CRD-funded organizations provided at least 3,318 jobs across the region, including 2,608 paid artist positions and 166 full-time jobs.

Source: Capital Regional District. Arts and Culture Support Service Progress Report (2020).
https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/plans-reports/arts-culture/2020arts_and_culture_progress_report.pdf

In 2018, arts and culture contributed \$8 billion in GDP and 122,258 jobs in BC and \$744 million in GDP and 9,849 jobs in the capital region.

Source: Creative Cities Cultural Statistics Consortium, Economic Contribution of Culture to the Capital Regional District's Economy, based on Statistics Canada, Provincial and Territorial Culture Indicators, 2010-2018.

In 2019/2020, the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) awarded just under \$5 million to 131 recipients in the capital region, including 86 individuals, four groups, and 41 arts organizations. Grants ranged from \$1,000 to \$670,000. Individuals received an average grant of \$16,099 and the average arts organization grant was \$82,997. In 2019/20, the CCA awarded \$39 million to 1,156 artists, groups and arts organizations in 85 communities in BC.

Source: Canada Council for the Arts. Open Data. Accessed online: August 2, 2021
<https://canadacouncil.ca/research/data-tables>

COVID-19 Impacts on Arts Organizations

In a February 2021 follow-up survey of the continuing impacts of COVID-19 on CRD-funded arts and culture organizations, 88% of organizations were operating with modifications, while 12% were not operating but anticipated reopening.

Although 80% of organizations reported that COVID-19 had a negative effect on their overall budget, the financial losses were less severe than predicted in the initial June 2020 survey, with almost 40% reporting no financial loss due to COVID-19.

Roughly one in five (21%) organizations reported that they had laid off staff or anticipated doing so and 12% were unsure if they would have to. Nationally, one in four Canadian arts workers lost their job in 2020. Hours worked declined 37% in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector compared to 2019. This sector, along with accommodation and food services, was among the hardest hit economically in 2020.

Nearly 12% of local arts organizations reported being unable to retain their space through the pandemic, compared to 16% in the June 2020 survey. Uncertainty about the ability to retain space declined to 6% in February 2021 from 18% in the initial survey.

In 2020, nearly all arts organizations (96%) cancelled at least some programming, with nearly 10% cancelling all programming for the year. Overall, organizations cancelled more programming than was anticipated in the June 2020 survey.

In 2021, 24% of organizations remain unsure about programming for the year and another 8% expect to cancel all programming. Uncertainty remains high into 2022, with 47% expecting to cancel programming and another 49% unsure about cancellations.

Most arts organizations (84%) have found alternative means of delivering programming and engaging with their audiences and communities, relying heavily on digital and distanced formats.

Source: Capital Regional District. Arts and Culture Support Service. Ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on CRD funded arts organizations survey, February 22-March 3, 2021.

Film and Media

In 2020, film and media production in the South Island generated approximately \$55 million in direct spending from 571 filming days, up from \$19 million in 2019, for a total of \$138 million since 2015. In 2020, the capital region hosted 38 film productions, as well as documentaries, music videos and commercials, registered 2,117 film locations, and employed 850 crew.

Source: Vancouver Island South Film and Media Commission. Film and TV Production in Greater Victoria 2020 Year End Report.

In 2019, BC's creative industries generated \$4.85B in total GDP, excluding government investment, and 66,524 total jobs, including direct, indirect and induced jobs. The film industry, one of six categories of creative industries, generated \$2.4B in total GDP and 35,332 total jobs in 2019.

BC's film industry is a mature, full-service global motion picture hub – the largest in Canada and third-largest in North America. According to a 2019 labour market analysis, Vancouver Island experienced the highest increase in regional film labour spending in BC between 2012 and 2017. The South Island, in particular, is emerging as a secondary film hub outside the lower mainland.

Source: Creative BC. Impact Report 2019/20 and BC Motion Picture Industry: Below the Line Labour Market Study, 2019.

BELONGING & ENGAGEMENT

Sustainable Development Targets



5.1: End discrimination against all women and girls
5.5: Ensure women's full participation in leadership



16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, representative decision-making at all levels
16.B: Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Charitable Giving

In 2019, 22% of tax filers in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA) made charitable donations, on par with 2018, and higher than BC (18%) and Canada (19%) in 2019. The median donation in Greater Victoria was \$460 in 2019, higher than the previous year (\$450), and lower than BC (\$480) but well above the national median donation (\$310) in 2019.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0130-01, Summary of charitable donors.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1110013001>

Police-reported Hate Crimes



In 2020, there were 34 police-reported hate crimes in the Victoria CMA, a rate of 8.3 per 100,000 population, up from the region's 2019 rate (4.2), and lower than the rate for BC in 2019 (6.0) and Canada in 2020 (7.0).

In 2020, police-reported hate crime rates in the 35 CMAs ranged from zero (St. John's NL) to 19.4 (Peterborough) per 100,000 population. Victoria ranked 24th overall with a better rate than Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto but a worse rate than Abbotsford, Montreal and Halifax.

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 35-10-0191-01 Police-reported hate crime, number of incidents and rate per 100,000 population, Census Metropolitan Areas](#)

Note: A hate crime is defined as a criminal offence committed against a person or property, where there is evidence that the offence was motivated by hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or any other similar factor. Hate crimes can be violent or non-violent, affecting individual victims and their targeted communities. Police data depend on victims' willingness to report the crime to the police. The data is based on Criminal Code and definitional standards applied to incidents that have been substantiated through investigation.

Information on self-reported victimization is collected every five years by the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadian's Safety (Victimization). Information from the GSS is based upon the perceptions of individuals regarding whether or not a crime occurred and what may have been the motivation for the crime. Data on self-reported victimization provides information on incidents that may not have come to the attention of police. Self-reported incidents also include crimes that may not correspond to the legal definition of hate motivated crime.

Voter Turnout

Of the four federal ridings in the capital region, Saanich-Gulf Islands had the highest voter turnout for the 2019 federal election at **75%** of eligible voters, down from 79% in 2015, and higher than the average for BC (66%) and Canada (67%) in 2019. The Victoria riding had the lowest turnout at **60%** in 2019, down from 66% in 2015, and lower than BC and Canada in 2019. Voter turnout in the Cowichan-Malahat-Langford and Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke ridings was **70%** in 2019, down from 76% and 75%, respectively, in 2015 and higher than BC and Canada in 2019.

Source: Elections Canada

Equity Snapshot

Racism in Greater Victoria: A Community Report explores perceptions, experiences, and responses to racism in the region. Starting from the position that racism exists, the report looks at how racism manifests in the region, and what those who experience racism need to feel more included, safe and respected. Key findings of this online survey and community dialogue conducted in late 2020 include:

- 71% of people who identify as Indigenous, Black, Asian, or a Person of Colour (IBPoC) personally experienced racism in the past five years on a regular basis in Greater Victoria, either daily, weekly, or monthly, of whom 30% experienced racism from the police. Only 5% of IBPoC respondents said they had never experienced racism in the region.
- Forms of racism experienced by respondents included online violence, daily microaggressions in grocery stores and on public transit, overt and direct violence, and structural and systemic racism in schools, workplaces and with government services.
- 70% of people who identify as IBPoC feel undervalued, isolated, and unsafe in Greater Victoria because of their race or ethnicity. Just over half feel powerless and suffer from a loss of self-esteem, while 42% are depressed and lonely.
- 22% reported decreased physical health as a result of experiencing racism.
- 35% would sometimes respond to racism, 20% rarely, and 11% never, with only 17% responding usually.
- Only 12% knew where to go for help when experiencing racism and there was no significant difference between Canadian-born or immigrant IBPoC respondents.
- Being IBPoC matters more than being an immigrant or born in Canada when it comes to experiencing racism, reinforcing that racism might be the biggest barrier to full integration of racialized immigrants.

Source: Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria and Greater Victoria Local Immigration Partnership. 2021. *Racism in Greater Victoria: A Community Report*.

ECONOMY

Sustainable Development Targets



8.3: Support decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises

8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for everyone



Unemployment Rate

In 2020, the unemployment rate in Greater Victoria among people aged 15 and over was 8%, up from 3% in 2019, and lower than the rates for BC (9%) and Canada (9%) in 2020. The unemployment rate among women in the region in 2020 was the same as the general population (8%) and the rates for female unemployment in BC and Canada in 2020 were the same as the general population (9%).

% population (15 years +) who are unemployed

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Canada	7.0	6.3	5.8	5.7	9.4
BC	6.0	5.1	4.7	4.7	8.9
Victoria CMA	5.2	3.9	4.0	3.4	7.9

Source: [Statistics Canada. Table: 14-10-0385-01 \(CMA\), Table: 14-10-0327-01 \(Provinces\), Table: 14-10-0391-01 \(CA\)](#)



Employment Rate

In 2020, the employment rate in Greater Victoria among people aged 15 and over was 59%, down from 61% in 2019 and higher than the rates for BC (58%) and Canada (54%) in 2020. The employment rate among women in the region was 57% in 2020.

% population (15 years +) who are employed

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Canada	61.1	61.6	61.6	62.0	53.9
BC	60.5	62.0	61.8	62.5	57.9
Victoria CMA	60.0	61.8	62.1	60.8	58.6

Source: [Statistics Canada. Table: 14-10-0385-01 \(CMA\), Table: 14-10-0327-01 \(Provinces\), Table: 14-10-0391-01 \(CA\)](#)

Hotel Rooms

In 2020, the average hotel room occupancy rate in Greater Victoria was just over 36%, down from 74% in 2019. The average room rate was \$149, down from \$189 in 2019. The average revenue per available room, a measure of a hotel's ability to fill its available rooms at an average price, was \$54 in 2020, down from \$139 in 2019.

Source: Chemistry Consulting Group. Victoria Tourism Bulletin December 2020.
https://www.chemistryconsulting.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Victoria_Tourism_Bulletin_December_2020-V2.pdf

Impacts of COVID-19: Fear of losing job

As part of its crowdsourced data collection series on the impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians, Statistics Canada found that approximately 9% of survey respondents in Greater Victoria, surveyed in April-May 2020, strongly agreed or agreed with the statement: "I might lose my main job or main self-employment income source in the next four weeks," while 11% had lost their job, and 28% had not worked in the previous four weeks. Nearly half (46%) of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.

The fear of losing their job was lower among respondents in the region than in BC (11%) and Canada (12%). The share of respondents in Greater Victoria who lost their job was on par with BC (11%) and higher than Canada (8%). The share of people not working in the month before the survey was higher in the region than in BC (27%) and Canada (27%). More people in the region disagreed with the statement than in BC (42%) and Canada (44%).

Source: Statistics Canada. Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians - Your Mental Health, 2020. Custom Tabulation.

Equity Snapshot

Unraveling: Non-Profits, COVID-19 and the Fabric of BC Communities, a November-December 2020 survey of 936 BC non-profits and charities, found that:

- 48% were concerned about shutting down and those most at risk had operating budgets under \$1 million, were in the arts, culture, sports and recreation sector, and served racialized populations.
- 64% had decreased ability to deliver programs and services, with more time needing to be spent on workplace policies, planning, and wellness.
- 58% had increased demand for programs and services.
- 50% spent more time reporting to funders.
- 71% expected a budget shortfall in 2021 and 61% had less revenue from special events, 51% had less from earned income and 42% from individual donations.
- 37% had decreased staffing levels.
- 59% had a drop in volunteer involvement.

Source: Vantage Point, Vancouver Foundation and Victoria Foundation. 2021. Unraveling: Non-Profits, COVID-19 and the Fabric of BC Communities.

In a parallel study at the national level, Imagine Canada's *Sector Monitor: Ongoing Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic*, a survey of 1,000 Canadian charity leaders in November-December 2020, found that:

- At least a third (34%) of charities saw demand grow faster than their organizational capacity. Demand outpacing capacity was most common among charities delivering human services.
- With the upsurge in remote work, information technology became a key priority, a significant change from previous norms. Organizations increased efforts in marketing and communication, program design and financial management and spent less time on measurement, evaluation, and research.
- While innovation and experimentation were up sharply, most charities prioritized immediate challenges over measures to build organizational capacity over the longer term.
- Half of charities saw their staff's ability to maintain an appropriate work-life balance and avoid burnout decrease since the onset of the pandemic.
- Revenues were down for 55% of charities, with 75% seeing a drop in donations and 50% seeing declines in earned income. Government funding revenues rose, largely driven by federal and provincial support programs.
- About a third of charities had laid off paid staff and reduced working hours since the onset of the pandemic. Three in five saw their volunteer levels and hours decline. While some charities had been able to rehire staff since April 2020, attrition was high.
- About one in six charities believed they would not be able to operate for at least a year if conditions did not improve and another one in six were not sure how long they could continue their work.

Source: Imagine Canada. 2021. Sector Monitor: Ongoing Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable Development Targets



- 6.4: Increase water efficiency and ensure a sustainable supply of water
- 11.6: Reduce adverse environmental impact of cities
- 12.5: Reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction and recycling
- 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- 14.2: Manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts

Air Quality



Of all the air pollutants, fine particulate matter, PM_{2.5}, has the greatest impact on human health. Particulate matter refers to the mix of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. PM_{2.5} includes all microscopic particles that are 2.5 micrometres or smaller in diameter, which is about 1/30 the width of a human hair.

In 2020, the region's two monitoring stations, Victoria-Topaz and Colwood, recorded annual average concentrations of 8.0 and 7.3 micrograms per cubic metre (µgm³) respectively. The provincial benchmark is 8 µgm³.

Major sources of PM_{2.5} in B.C. include seasonal wildfires, residential wood combustion, prescribed burning, marine vessels, heavy-duty diesel vehicles, the pulp and paper sector, and the mining sector.

A record-breaking wildfire season in western United States caused severe impact on BC's air quality levels in 2020. Long range transport of dense smoke from massive wildfires in California, Oregon, and Washington caused days of elevated PM_{2.5} levels across most of the southern half of B.C. in September 2020. More than half of all reporting stations exceeded the 24-hour provincial air quality objective for PM_{2.5}.

BC's own wildfire season is constantly setting new records in both duration and severity.

Source: BC Lung Association. 2021 BC State of the Air Report.

https://bc.lung.ca/sites/default/files/1142-State%20of%20The%20Air%202021_Final_Web.pdf



Solid Waste Disposal

In 2020, the CRD's solid waste disposal rate was an estimated 395 kilograms per person, up from 382 in 2019 and well below the BC rate for 2018 (505), the most recent year for which provincial data is available. The BC solid waste disposal target, originally set for 2020, is 350 kilograms per person.

Source: Capital Regional District. 2020. Environmental Resource Management 2020 Progress Report and Environmental Reporting BC. 2019. Municipal Solid Waste Disposal in B.C. (1990-2018).

https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/plans-reports/landfill-recycling/2020-reports/crd-2020-solidwasteprogressreport.pdf?sfvrsn=27a741cd_6

<https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/soe/indicators/sustainability/municipal-solid-waste.html>



GHG Emissions Inventory

In 2020, the Capital Regional District (CRD) commissioned the development of a regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory to measure emissions related to stationary energy (e.g., buildings, construction, energy industry), transportation (including airport and marine emissions), waste, industrial process and product use, and agriculture, forestry, and other land use. The inventory establishes a 2007 baseline and 2018 profile of energy and GHG emissions at the CRD and municipal level.

According to the inventory, the capital region emits approximately 1.7 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually—a level largely unchanged from the 2007 baseline. Transportation and buildings account for nearly 80% of regional emissions. On-road vehicle travel and heating of buildings are the biggest opportunities for emissions reduction. Significant progress has been made on waste-related GHG emissions reduction since 2007, through initiatives such as landfill methane capture and the kitchen scraps ban.

The inventory notes that while the region's population grew by more than 14% between 2007 and 2018, emissions did not increase, demonstrating that per capita emissions have gone down. However, the region is not currently on track to meet the CRD's 2038 emission reduction target and significant additional reductions are required to achieve it.

Source: Capital Regional District. 2020. Capital Regional District 2018 GPC BASIC+ Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory Report and Capital Region District – Municipalities and Electoral Areas 2007 Base Year and 2018 Reporting Year Energy & GHG Emissions Inventory.

https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/climate-action-pdf/reports/crd-ghg-inventorystudy.pdf?sfvrsn=cb2f0bcc_6

https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/climate-action-pdf/reports/crd-ghgmembermunicipality200727.pdf?sfvrsn=28161ecc_2



Household Water Conservation

In 2017, 47% of households in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA) had a water meter, 64% had a low-flow shower head and 49% had a low-volume toilet, higher than the household average in BC for each device (32%, 59% and 47% respectively) and higher than the national average for water meters (42%) and low-flow shower heads (59%), and less for low-volume toilets (52%). Compared to 2013, there were slightly fewer households in the region in 2017 with a water meter (down from 48%), more with a low volume toilet (up from 44%) and no change in households with a low-flow shower head.

Source: Statistics Canada. Households and the Environment Survey. [Table 38-10-0102-01 \(formerly CANSIM 153-0104\) Indoor water conservation practices](#)



Southern Resident Killer Whale Population

The southern resident killer whales are a large extended family, comprised of three pods: J, K, and L. As of December 31, 2020, there were a total of 74 Orcas: J Pod=24, K Pod=17, and L Pod=33.

Within each pod, families form into sub-pods centered around older females, usually grandmothers or great-grandmothers. Both male and female offspring remain in close association with their mothers for life.

From spring through fall, the southern residents are most often seen in the protected inshore waters of the Salish Sea to feed on chinook salmon returning to the Fraser River. J Pod is the most frequently seen pod in the area, although their presence has been declining in recent years. In 2021, J Pod was not sighted in the salish Sea between April and July, and then only intermittently after July, unprecedented behaviour that highlights the dramatic decline in wild salmon stocks. The average whale needs to consume 18-25 adult salmon daily to meet its energy requirements. That is at least 1,400 salmon daily for the southern resident population.

Source: Center for Whale Research
<https://www.whaleresearch.com>

GETTING STARTED

Sustainable Development Targets



8.6: Reduce share of youth not in employment, education or training



16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence against children

Net Migration

Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, Greater Victoria had a total net migration of 6,273 people, of whom 28% (1,733) came from within BC, 52% (3,279) from other provinces, and 20% (1,261) from other countries. Net migration is down approximately 9% from the previous year (6,907) and the breakdown by source is different with more people coming from other provinces and fewer from outside Canada, compared to 2018/19.

Source: [Statistics Canada Table 17-10--0136-01 Components of population change by census metropolitan area and census agglomeration, 2016 boundaries, annual](#)

Youth Unemployment



In 2020, the unemployment rate for youth, 15-24 years, in Greater Victoria was 15%, up from 6% in 2019 and below the rates for BC (19%) and Canada (20%) in 2020. Among young women in the region, the unemployment rate in 2020 was 13%, below the rates for female youth in BC (18%) and Canada (19%).

% population (15-24 years) who are unemployed

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Canada	13.1	11.6	11.1	11.0	20.1
BC	10.3	8.6	8.1	9.2	18.6
Victoria CMA	9.7	6.9	6.4	6.4	14.6

Source: [Statistics Canada. Table: 14-10-0385-01 \(CMA\), Table: 14-10-0327-01 \(Provinces\), Table: 14-10-0391-01 \(CA\)](#)



Children & Youth in Care

In South Vancouver Island, there were 633 children and youth in care as of December 31, 2020, of whom 66% were Indigenous. In BC, there were 5,370 children and youth in care as of December 31, 2020, of whom 67% (3,616) were Indigenous. The rate of children and youth in care in BC was 6 per 1,000 population, aged 0-18 years. For Indigenous children and youth in BC, the rate was 38 per 1,000 population.

As of December 31, 2020, the care plan completion rate for children and youth in care was 80% in South Vancouver Island, down from 84% the previous year, and below the rate for BC (83%) in 2020. The 2020 care plan completion rate for Indigenous children and youth was 70% in South Vancouver Island and 80% in BC. This rate is based on children and youth who were in care for six months or longer.

In 2019/20, approximately 220 children and youth were admitted into care in South Vancouver Island, of whom 50% (111) were Indigenous. An additional 142 children and youth were given out-of-care orders (i.e. formal placements with extended family), of whom 58% (82) were Indigenous. In BC, 2,265 children and youth were admitted into care in 2019/20, of whom 55% were Indigenous, and 1,919 children and youth received out-of-care orders, of whom 67% were Indigenous.

Source: British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development. Reporting Portal. Child Protection Services.

<https://mcfcd.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/child-protection>

Childcare Spaces & Costs

In an average month in 2020/21, the Ministry of Children and Family Development provided operating funding for 13,703 licensed childcare spaces in group and family childcare facilities in South Vancouver Island, an increase of almost 4% over 2019/20, and enough spaces for 25% of the South Island's child population, aged 0-12 years.

In 2020/21, the median monthly parent fees for childcare in group facilities in South Vancouver Island were: \$1000 for infants (0-18 months); \$888 for toddlers (19-35 months) and \$850 for children (3-5 years). In family facilities, the median monthly fees were \$800 for infants, \$800 for toddlers and \$850 for children. For out-of-school care for children in full-day kindergarten, the fees were \$353 (group) and \$450 (family). Parent fees in South Vancouver Island were lower for toddlers in group facilities and out-of-school care for children in full-day kindergarten in both group and family facilities compared to the BC median.

Note: not all children may need a licensed childcare space as families may choose to use unlicensed childcare or family options. A childcare space may also be utilized by more than one child (at different times of the day).

Source: British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development. Reporting Portal. Early Years Services. (Fiscal 2020/21, YTD December 2020).

<https://mcfcd.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/early-years/case-data-and-trends>

Equity Snapshot

A legal needs survey of immigrant communities experience navigating serious legal problems in Greater Victoria and metropolitan Vancouver, found that immigrants' unfamiliarity with Canadian laws and rights, together with the uncertainty that comes with the first years living in a new country, affected their readiness to respond to serious legal problems. The qualitative study also found that:

- Legal problems newcomers experienced during the first five years in Canada were more often related to finding and maintaining housing and employment.
- Immigrants with a refugee background and family-sponsored immigrants experienced more serious legal issues than economic immigrants.
- Education levels were not a good predictor of being able to navigate legal issues in Canada. Most respondents had university educations and still struggled to understand the information they found or did not know where to go for help.
- With more complex legal issues, came more serious consequences. Experiencing multiple, serious legal problems, such as family and child custody issues, put immigrant women of colour at risk for housing and food insecurity and health and social consequences.
- Although discrimination was often associated with their legal problems, immigrants often did not consider challenging it.
- While many legal problems that ended up in court were resolved, the effects of facing legal struggles were long-term and many felt powerless throughout the process.

Note: Everyday serious legal problems can be defined as problems that arise out of peoples' normal activities that have a legal aspect and that could be resolved through the legal system but do not have to (Farrow et al., 2016).

Source: Verhage, Florentien. 2021 (forthcoming). Serious Legal Problems faced by Immigrants in Victoria and Vancouver. Victoria, BC: Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria and Pathways to Prosperity Partnership.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Sustainable Development Targets



3.4: Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health and wellbeing

3.5: Strengthen prevention and treatment of substance use problems

Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths



In 2020, there were 137 illicit drug toxicity deaths in South Vancouver Island, up from 74 in 2019. Of the 2020 deaths, 122 occurred in Victoria, up from 61 in 2019. Victoria was one of the top three cities in BC where drug toxicity deaths occurred in 2020 (after Vancouver and Surrey). The rate of illicit drug toxicity deaths per 100,000 people in South Vancouver Island was 31.8 deaths in 2020, up from 17.4 in 2019.

In BC, there were 1,728 drug toxicity deaths in 2020, up from 984 deaths in 2019. The rate of illicit drug toxicity deaths per 100,000 people in BC was 33.6 deaths in 2020. Of the drug toxicity deaths in BC in 2020, males accounted for 81%, adults aged 30-59 accounted for 70% (18% were among young adults aged 19-29 years), and 83% occurred indoors, of which 56% took place in a private residence. There were no deaths at supervised consumption or drug overdose prevention sites in 2020.

Fentanyl was detected (alone or in combination with other drugs) in 86% of illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2020. Carfentanil, one of the most toxic opioids currently known and 100 times more potent than fentanyl, was detected in 65 illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2020, compared to 132 in 2019. A review of completed cases from 2018-20 indicates that the top four detected drugs relevant to illicit drug toxicity deaths were fentanyl (87%), cocaine (49%), methamphetamine/amphetamine (39%), and other opioids (31%).

Note: Illicit drugs include street drugs (controlled and illegal drugs); medications not prescribed to the decedent but obtained/purchased on the street, from unknown means or where origin of the drug is unknown; and combinations of the above with prescribed medications.

Source: BC Coroners Service. Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths in BC, January 1, 2011 – May 31, 2021.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf>

Between January and June 2021, at least 1,011 people died from suspected illicit drug toxicity, the highest death toll recorded in the first six months of a calendar year. Illicit drug toxicity is now the leading cause of death for people aged 19 to 39 and remains the leading cause of unnatural death in BC. To date, more than 7,000 people have lost their lives since BC declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency in 2016.

Source: BC Coroners Service. Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths in BC, January 1, 2011 – June 30, 2021.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf>



Alcohol Consumption per Capita

In 2019, the estimated annual alcohol consumption per capita in the South Vancouver Island Health Service Delivery Area was 10.72 litres, the lowest in five years, and higher than estimates for BC (9.2L) in 2019 and Canada (8L) in 2018-19. Data are reported in litres of absolute alcohol—one litre of absolute alcohol equals 58.7 standard Canadian drinks.

In context, 9.2L means the average British Columbian drinker aged 15+ consumes 537 bottles of beer a year (5% alcohol by volume, 341 ml bottle), or just over 10 bottles per week, or 102 bottles of wine a year (12%, 750 mL bottles), or nearly two bottles per week.

Estimated annual per capita alcohol consumption (litres of absolute alcohol), calendar year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BC	9.25	9.38	9.39	9.36	9.16
VIHA	11.22	11.51	11.59	11.73	11.24
SVI-HSDA	10.82	11.01	11.12	11.24	10.72

Source: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research. Facts & Stats. Based on data from the BC Alcohol and Other Drug Monitoring Project.

<https://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/cisur/stats/alcohol/index.php>

Estimated annual per capita alcohol consumption (litres of absolute alcohol), fiscal year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Canada	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.0
BC	8.7	8.9	8.8	8.9	8.8

Source: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research. Facts & Stats. Based on data from Statistics Canada.

<https://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/cisur/stats/alcohol/index.php>



Tobacco Use

In 2017/18, 13% of people, aged 12 years and older, in South Vancouver Island reported that they were a daily or occasional smoker, down from 15% in 2015/16, and on par with BC and lower than the rate for Canada (16%) in 2017/18. Approximately 17% of men and 10% of women in South Vancouver Island reported that they were a daily or occasional smoker in 2017/18—a decrease of almost 3% for women from 2015/16.

Source: [Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0113-01](#)



Chronic Health Conditions

In 2018/19, the incidence rate, or newly diagnosed cases per 1,000 people at risk, for leading chronic conditions in South Vancouver Island was 25 cases for mood and anxiety disorders (BC: 21), 20 for hypertension (BC: 23), 8 for osteoarthritis (BC: 7), 6 for ischemic heart disease (BC: 7), 6 for diabetes (BC: 7), and 5 for asthma (BC: 6).

The share of the South Vancouver Island population living with a chronic condition in 2018/19, or prevalence rate, was 35% for mood and anxiety disorders (BC: 31%), 21% for hypertension (BC: 23%), 13% for asthma (BC: 13%), 9% for osteoarthritis (BC: 9%), 7% for diabetes (BC: 8%), and 6% for ischemic heart disease (BC: 7%).

Source: BC Centre for Disease Control. Chronic Disease Dashboard. Accessed online: August 7, 2021.
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/data-reports/chronic-disease-dashboard>



Access to Healthcare Providers

In 2019, the rate of physicians per 100,000 people in South Vancouver Island was 325.2, up from 301.4 in 2015, and higher than the rates for BC (249.6) and Canada (241.1) in 2019.

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2020. Supply, Distribution and Migration of Physicians in Canada, 2019—Historical Data. Ottawa, ON: CIHI.

In 2017/18, 76% of people, aged 12 and over, in South Vancouver Island reported having a regular healthcare provider, down from 82% in 2015/16, and lower than the rates for BC (82%) and Canada (85%) in 2017/18.

Source: [Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0113-01](#)

Organ Donation and Transplants

As of December 31, 2020, 396 people in South Vancouver Island were alive due to an organ transplant and 33 people were waiting for a transplant. In BC, there were 5,491 living transplant recipients and 737 waitlisted individuals as of this date.

In 2020, in South Vancouver Island, there were 14 deceased organ donors, approximately five living organ donors and 25 people who received organ transplants.

More than 1.5 million British Columbians were registered organ donors as of December 31, 2020, including 144,740 people in South Vancouver Island.

Source: BC Transplant
<http://www.transplant.bc.ca/health-info/organ-donation-transplant-statistics>

Impacts of COVID-19: Self-assessed mental health

As part of its crowdsourced data collection series on the impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians, Statistics Canada found that approximately 52% of survey respondents in Greater Victoria, surveyed in April-May 2020, perceived their mental health as somewhat or much worse than before physical distancing began, while 9% reported feeling somewhat or much better, and 38% felt the same.

Respondents in Greater Victoria reported similar results as those in BC and Canada. Approximately 53% of respondents in BC and 52% in Canada felt worse, while 9% in BC and Canada felt better, and 38% in BC and 39% in Canada felt the same in 2020, compared to before the start of physical distancing.

Source: Statistics Canada. Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians - Your Mental Health, 2020. Custom Tabulation.

Equity Snapshot

In June 2020, claims surfaced about a “Price is Right” game allegedly being played in some BC hospital emergency departments in which health care workers were guessing blood alcohol levels of Indigenous patients.

Hon. Dr. M.E. Turpel-Lafond (Aki-Kwe) was appointed by B.C.’s Minister of Health to investigate these allegations and conduct a review of Indigenous-specific racism in the provincial health care system. While the review did not find evidence of this game occurring in B.C. hospitals, it did find extensive profiling of Indigenous patients based on stereotypes about addictions.

The review found widespread, systemic racism against Indigenous peoples in B.C.’s health care system and that this racism has long been known and is widely acknowledged by many within the health care system, including those in positions of authority.

The review’s findings describe the magnitude of Indigenous-specific stereotyping, racism, and discrimination in the health care system, with significant negative impacts for Indigenous patients, women and girls, and health care workers. The findings also explore the limits of the health care system’s current efforts to address Indigenous-specific racism and support Indigenous human rights.

The review found that Indigenous-specific racism limits access to medical treatment and contributes to inequitable health outcomes, especially in the context of public health emergencies such as COVID-19 and the overdose crisis that magnify racism and vulnerabilities and disproportionately impact Indigenous peoples.

The review made 24 recommendations designed to confront the legacy of colonialism and establish a renewed foundation for Indigenous peoples’ access, interaction, and treatment by the health care system. The recommendations cover systems change, behaviours, beliefs, and implementation to help eliminate Indigenous-specific racism and create substantive equity in health care experiences, services, and outcomes.

Source: In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care. Summary Report, November 2020.

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/613/2020/11/In-Plain-Sight-Summary-Report.pdf>

HOUSING

Sustainable Development Targets



11.1: Access to adequate, safe and affordable housing for all

Housing Sales and Prices

In May 2021, 1,049 properties sold in Greater Victoria, 130% more than in May 2020. The ratio of sales to active listings was 72% in May 2021, making Greater Victoria a seller's market, with significant upward pressure on prices reflecting high demand and record low inventory. In May 2021, the median sale price for a single-family home topped \$1 million, up from \$837,500 the previous year. For a townhouse, the median sale price was \$730,000, up from \$555,000 in May 2020. For a condo, the median sale price rose to \$478,000 from \$390,000 in May 2020.

Sales Price Trends in Greater Victoria by Average and Median Sale Price and Benchmark Price

	May 2017	May 2018	May 2019	May 2020	May 2021
Properties Sold	1,006	755	848	457	1,049
Single-Family Home					
Average sale price	\$876,910	\$921,046	\$856,061	\$875,938	\$1,173,701
Median sale price	\$770,000	\$825,000	\$775,000	\$837,500	\$1,011,000
Benchmark price	\$681,800	\$738,500	\$756,000	\$780,500	\$943,000
Townhouse					
Average sale price	\$582,527	\$581,761	\$633,751	\$572,711	\$752,313
Median sale price	\$510,000	\$550,000	\$586,000	\$555,000	\$730,000
Benchmark price	\$553,800	\$592,300	\$595,900	\$595,300	\$670,200
Condominium					
Average sale price	\$422,402	\$464,506	\$470,311	\$453,060	\$536,068
Median sale price	\$365,000	\$407,000	\$428,950	\$390,000	\$478,000
Benchmark price	\$417,500	\$485,600	\$507,300	\$519,600	\$521,000

Source: Victoria Real Estate Board

<https://www.vreb.org/current-statistics>

Rents and Rental Vacancy

In October 2020, the average vacancy rate for purpose-built rental apartments (i.e., the primary rental market) in Greater Victoria rose to 2.2% from 1.0% in 2019. Three+ bedroom apartments had the lowest vacancy rate in 2020 at 0.9%. The average apartment rent for all unit types in 2020 was \$1,275, up 3.3% from \$1,221 in 2019. Average rents ranged from \$1,015 for a bachelor to \$1,758 for a three+ bedroom unit.

Average rents, vacancy rates and number of units in private apartment rental universe, Victoria CMA

	October	2019			October	2020		
Bedroom Types	Rent (\$)	Vacancy (%)	Units (#)	Gain/Loss	Rent (\$)	Vacancy (%)	Units (#)	Gain/Loss
Bachelor	965	1.1	3,034	82+	1,015	2.1	3,284	250+
1 Bedroom	1,127	0.9	14,361	147+	1,185	2.1	15,126	765+
2 Bedroom	1,448	1.1	8,208	318+	1,507	2.4	8,569	361+
3 Bedroom	1,740	1.2	517	36+	1,758	0.9	520	3+
Total - Victoria CMA	1,221	1.0	26,120	583	1,275	2.2	27,499	1,379

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Housing Market Information Portal. Primary Rental Market Statistics – Victoria. Accessed online:

<https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en#Profile/2440/3/Victoria>

A person working 35 hours a week at BC's minimum hourly wage of \$15.20 would need to spend **44%** of their gross monthly income to rent a bachelor apartment (\$1,015) in Greater Victoria, based on 52 weeks per year. To *affordably* rent this apartment (i.e., spend no more than 30% of household income on rent), a person would need to work **51** hours a week at minimum wage.

Housing Starts and Completions

In 2020, there were 3,209 total housing starts and 4,044 total housing completions in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA). Among all housing starts, 694 were single-detached units, 110 were semi-detached units, 334 were row units, and 2071 were apartment and other unit types. Among all housing completions, 661 were single-detached units, 78 were semi-detached units, 242 were row units, and 3063 were apartment and other unit types.

Source: [Statistics Canada. Table: 34-10-0134 \(CMAs\); Table: 34-10-0126-01 \(Canada & Provinces\); Table: 34-10-0125-01 \(other Areas\)](#)

Housing Needs

In March 2020, approximately 854 people, or 56% of the total people enumerated in the 2020 Point in Time Homeless Count, participated in a housing needs survey.

As noted in 2020 Vital Signs, the overwhelming majority (92%) of respondents want permanent housing, but the top three obstacles are high rents, low income and lack of options. Nearly all respondents (94%) had at least one source of income, with the most common being social assistance (37%), disability benefits (36%), employment (17%) and informal sources (16%).

Nearly two thirds (63%) of respondents were male and 70% were aged 25 to 55 years, with 10% under 25. While 85% identified as heterosexual, the proportion who identified as LGBTQ2S+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, two-spirit and more) rose from 12% overall to 30% of youth respondents.

One in two respondents first experienced homelessness as a youth under 25. Just over one third (35%) were in government care as a child or youth, of whom 30% became homeless within a month of leaving care.

One third (35%) identified as Indigenous, compared to 5% in the general population. Of the Indigenous participants, 44% were women, 59% first experienced homelessness as a youth, 55% have experiences with foster care and 62% have personal or close family history of attending residential school.

More than a third of Indigenous respondents identified the need for services that relate to intergenerational trauma (37.2%) and Indigenous treatment (33.6%). Over a fifth (21.3%) of Indigenous respondents identified the need for culturally sensitive services.

Thirty respondents had children with them, of whom 18 were single mothers, 12 were Indigenous and 7 were youth under age 25. Of the 42 children or dependents, 28% were unsheltered or slept in cars.

Ninety percent had at least one health challenge, with the most common being a substance use issue (67%), mental health issue (59%), illness or medical condition (45%), physical disability (40%) and acquired brain injury (29%). The top three needed services among respondents are primary care, substance use services and mental health supports.

Source: Capital Regional District, in partnership with Community Social Planning Council and Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. July 2020. Everyone Counts: 2020 Greater Victoria Point in Time Homeless Count and Needs Survey, Community Report.

https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/housing-pdf/housing-planning-and-programs/crd-pit-count-2020-community-report-2020-07-31.pdf?sfvrsn=8d3b1dcc_2

In a 2018 survey conducted by the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness, "Health and Well-Being: Our Voices, Our Vision":

- 77% of Indigenous respondents reported being released back onto the streets directly from the hospital.
- Reported high usage of emergency room.
- 65% of respondents indicated substance use as their biggest health challenge outside of physical health, 59% identified emotional health, and 56% indicated spiritual health as their biggest health challenges.

Source: Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://acehsociety.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Health-and-Wellness-Report-March-2019-comp.pdf>

Equity Snapshot

The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness is developing a dual model of care which integrates culturally supportive housing within a decolonized harm reduction framework to create pathways to healing and recovery for Indigenous people. Recently launched projects include: The Lighthouse (February 2021) which offers inclusive housing to 20 youth ages 17-24 and features youth-directed programming and employment in collaboration with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness; Speqəŋéutxw (SPAKEN) House (August 2020) which offers culturally supportive housing and services to 22 Indigenous women experiencing homelessness, with priority given to those fleeing violence; and The Culturally Supportive House (March 2020) which offers culturally supportive housing and Indigenous alcohol harm reduction services to 10 members of the Indigenous Street Community in the downtown core.

Source: Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness and Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

LEARNING

Sustainable Development Targets



4.5: Eliminate discrimination in education

4.7: Education for sustainable development and global citizenship



11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

High School Non-Completion



In 2020, nearly 11% of the Greater Victoria population, aged 15 years and older, had not completed high school, below the 2020 rates for BC (12%) and Canada (15%).

% of population 15 years and older who have not completed high school

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Canada	18.7	18.2	17.8	17.1	16.4	16.0	15.1
BC	14.8	14.3	14.2	13.6	13.0	12.9	12.0
Victoria CMA	12.0	11.2	10.2	10.1	10.2	10.1	10.6

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0118-01, Labour force characteristics by educational degree, annual (x 1000) (Canada and BC), and Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation (Victoria CMA).

Post-Secondary Educational Attainment



In 2020, 64% of the Greater Victoria population, aged 15 years and older, had completed some form of post-secondary education (e.g., post-secondary certificate or diploma and university degree), higher than the previous year (63%), and above the 2020 rates for BC (61%) and Canada (59%).

% of Population 15 Years and Older Who Have Completed Post-Secondary Education

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Canada	54.2	55.3	56.2	56.7	57.5	58.8	59.4
BC	53.7	54.3	55.1	56.1	56.6	59.2	60.6
Victoria CMA	56.0	58.0	59.5	58.5	59.9	62.9	63.9

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0118-01, Labour force characteristics by educational degree, annual (x 1000) (Canada and BC), and Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation (Victoria CMA).

Undergraduate Tuition

In 2020/21, the average undergraduate tuition fees in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA) were \$6142, up from \$5,591 five years earlier, and higher than the provincial average (\$6055) and lower than the national average (\$6580) in 2020/21.

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 37-10-0120-01 Undergraduate tuition fees, Canadian students, by selected standard geographic areas and by field of study](#)

Impacts of COVID-19: Parental assistance in child's education

As part of its crowdsourced data collection on the impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians, Statistics Canada found that approximately 25% of survey respondents in Greater Victoria, surveyed in April-May 2020, reported that they, or someone in their home, spent between five and 10 hours a week helping their children engage in schooling-related learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 22% spending 10 or more hours a week, and 20% spending no time helping their children. Approximately 11% spent less than two hours a week assisting in their children's education.

Respondents in the region reported similar results as those in BC and Canada with some exceptions: fewer respondents at the national level (19%) spent 10 or more hours a week helping their children, and more respondents in BC (13%) and Canada (14%) spent less than two hours a week helping, compared to those in Greater Victoria.

Source: Statistics Canada. Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians - Your Mental Health, 2020. Custom Tabulation.

Equity Snapshot

The Salish Sea Hub is Canada's Knowledge for Change (K4C) training hub, a multi-sector partnership of the University of Victoria, the Victoria Foundation and Victoria Native Friendship Centre. It is one of 13 global hubs in the international K4C network, an initiative of the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, co-led by UVic and the Society for Participatory Research in Asia. The K4C hubs facilitate knowledge co-creation for action addressing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

The Salish Sea Hub has a particular focus on building community-based research capacity and action towards decolonization, racial and gender equality, and climate action. The hub launched a new Community-Based Participatory Research course at UVic in 2020, partnering with five community organizations where students and community partners co-design and facilitate projects on a range of topics such as addressing systemic racism, developing online resources for the trans and non-binary community, and assessing the impacts of COVID-19 on Elders/seniors in the region.

Source: University of Victoria and Community-Based Research Canada
<https://www.communityresearchcanada.ca/post/building-community-based-research-capacity-and-action-towards-decolonization>

SAFETY

Sustainable Development Targets



5.2: Eliminate violence against women and girls

16.1: Reduce all forms of violence and related deaths

Police-Reported Family Violence



Child and Youth Victims

In 2019, there were 169 child and youth victims of police-reported family violence in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA), 103 females and 66 males, for an overall rate of 274 victims per 100,000 people, aged 17 years and younger, higher than the rate of 210 in 2018, and lower than the rates for BC (291) and Canada (311) in 2019.

Child and youth victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim, per 100,000, 2019

	Total	Female	Male
Canada	311	383	242
BC	291	374	213
Victoria CMA	274	339	212

Source: Conroy, Shana. 2021. "Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00001-eng.pdf>

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law).

Senior Victims

In 2019, there were 52 senior victims of police-reported family violence in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA), 28 females and 24 males, for an overall rate of 64 victims per 100,000 people, aged 65 to 89 years, higher than the rate in 2018 (44), and lower than the rates for BC (82) and Canada (72) in 2019.

Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim, per 100,000, 2019

	Total	Female	Male
Canada	72	79	65
BC	82	93	70
Victoria CMA	64	64	64

Source: Conroy, Shana. 2021. "Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00001-eng.pdf>

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws).



Police-Reported Intimate Partner Violence

In 2019, there were 870 victims of police-reported intimate partner violence in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA), 677 females and 193 males, for an overall rate of 251 victims per 100,000 people, higher than the rate in 2018 (246) and lower than the rates for BC (333) and Canada (347) in 2019.

In 2019, in Canada, 30% of victims of police-reported violent crime had been victimized by an intimate partner. Of these victims, 79% were women, making intimate partner violence the leading type of violence (45%) experienced by women, aged 15 to 89.

The most common type of intimate partner violence was physical assault (75% of victims), followed by other offences involving violence or the threat of violence (68%) and sexual assault (17%). Overall, intimate partner violence rates peaked for victims aged 25 to 34 and this applied to both women and men. Intimate partner violence victims aged 15 to 24 had the highest rate of sexual assault.

The rate of intimate partner violence was 1.8 times higher in rural areas than urban areas and this pattern was the same for women and men. In rural areas, women had a rate of intimate partner violence that was 3.5 times higher than men.

Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim, per 100,000 population, 2019

	Total	Female	Male
Canada	347	541	150
BC	333	510	152
Victoria CMA	251	381	114

Source: Conroy, Shana. 2021. "Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00001-eng.pdf>

Note: Intimate partner violence refers to police-reported violent *Criminal Code* offences committed against victims, aged 15 years and older, within an intimate relationship, including violence against spouses and dating partners in current and former relationships. Spouses are defined as current or former legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners, while dating relationships include current or former boyfriends and girlfriends as well as "other" intimate relationships (sexual relationships or situations involving mutual sexual attraction which were not considered to be dating relationships).

Overall Crime Rate

In 2019, there were 7,082 crimes per 100,000 individuals in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA), lower than the rate for BC (9,647) and higher than the rate for Canada (6,487). The overall crime rate is down 23% from 2009.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 (formerly CANSIM 252-0051) Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations.



Violent Crimes

In 2019, there were 1,350 violent crimes per 100,000 individuals in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA), lower than the rate for BC (1,574) and higher than the rate for Canada (1,277). The violent crime rate is down 7% percent from 2009.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 (formerly CANSIM 252-0051) Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations.



Sexual Assault

In 2019, there were 82 sexual assaults (level 1, 2 and 3) per 100,000 individuals in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA), on par with the rates for BC (82) and Canada (82). The sexual assault rate is up 74% from 2009.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 (formerly CANSIM 252-0051) Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations.



Intentional Homicides

In 2019, there were 0.5 intentional homicides per 100,000 individuals in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA), lower than the rates for BC (1.8) and Canada (1.8). The intentional homicide rate is down 42% from 2009.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 (formerly CANSIM 252-0051) Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations.

Youth Crime

In 2019, there were 1,292 youth charged with criminal violations per 100,000 youth in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA), higher than the rate for BC (899) and lower than the national rate (1,605). The youth crime rate is down 66% from 2009.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 (formerly CANSIM 252-0051) Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations.

Equity Snapshot

In August 2020, over 35,000 Canadians took part in a crowdsourcing initiative by Statistics Canada that included questions about their experiences of discrimination during the pandemic.

Over one-quarter (28%) of participants reported that they had experienced discrimination or had been treated unfairly by others since the beginning of the pandemic.

Gender diverse participants (i.e., did not report their gender as exclusively female or male) were almost three times more likely than males to report that they had experienced discrimination during the pandemic. Women were also slightly more likely than men to report that they had experienced discrimination.

Young participants aged 15 to 24 were twice as likely as seniors (aged 65 and older) to report that they had experienced discrimination. Among youth, women were particularly more likely than their male counterparts to report that they had experienced discrimination (45% versus 32%).

Chinese, Korean, Southeast Asian, and Black participants were more than twice as likely as White participants to report that they had experienced discrimination.

Recent immigrants (i.e., arrived in Canada within the last 10 years) were more likely than established immigrants and Canadian-born participants to report that they had experienced discrimination.

Both Indigenous men and women were more likely than their non-Indigenous counterparts to report that they had experienced discrimination, but the difference was particularly large among Indigenous women participants.

Sexual minority participants (i.e., gay lesbian, bisexual, and other sexual minority participants) were also more likely than heterosexual participants to report that they had experienced discrimination. This was particularly the case among women.

Participants who identified themselves as having a disability were twice as likely as participants without a disability to report that they had experienced discrimination. Similar results were found for both men and women.

The most common form of discrimination experienced during the pandemic was based on race or skin colour (34%), followed by discrimination based on age (30%), physical appearance (26%), ethnicity and culture (25%), and sex (22%).

Approximately 36% of participants said they had experienced discrimination in a store, bank, or restaurant. One-third experienced it while using public areas, almost one-third experienced it online, and slightly more than 3 in 10 experienced it in the workplace or when applying for a job.

Source: Statistics Canada. Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians: Experiences of Discrimination.

SPORTS & RECREATION

“Sport is an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.” (Declaration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)

Sport and COVID-19

In January/February 2021, KidSport Greater Victoria surveyed local sport organizations and families about their experiences during the COVID-19.

Local Sports Organizations

For 64% of local sport organizations, registration or participation fell by at least 10% in 2020 compared to previous years, with just over 21% reporting a greater than 50% decline. For one third of organizations, participation remained the same. For 38% of the organizations, participation in 2021 was anticipated to be the same as a typical year, although 48% expected a decline of 10%-50%.

Over half (56%) of organizations serving both boys and girls experienced either a slight (20%) or significant (36%) decline. The lowered participation rate was greater for girls than for boys. Participation among lower income youth diminished slightly (17%) or significantly (26%).

The main financial impact of COVID-19 was decreased revenue from registration/participation fees (78%), fundraising (75%), sponsorships (46%) and grants (35%), with these losses expected to continue for up to a year for an average of 25% of organizations and through to the end of 2021 for 23% of organizations.

Specific operational impacts included: temporarily closing or suspending activities (69%), introducing cost saving modifications (44%), reducing staff (41%), raising fees to implement COVID-19 Return to Sport protocols (33%), cutting back facility bookings (26%), reducing resources to families in need (13%).

Families

Approximately 65% of parents indicated that their children participated in organized sport a little less (16%) or much less (49%) in 2020 compared to previous years, while 18.5% remained much the same. Nearly three quarters of parents (72%) thought their children’s level of physical activity in 2020 was a little lower (26%) or much lower (46%) than previous years.

Given these levels of engagement in sport or physical activity, almost 86% of parents noted their children’s screen time increased significantly (58%) or somewhat (28%). Parents felt that more screen time meant significantly (51%) or somewhat (16%) less time spent with friends or other family members in person and more

time engaging with them virtually (58%). Parents felt that their children's feelings of stress and/or anxiety rose significantly (33%) or somewhat (35%) over the pandemic.

Over half of families (55%) reported that their children's sleep and healthy eating habits mostly stayed the same, while these declined for 33% and 27% of families, respectively.

Nearly all parents described negative consequences of their children's absence from sport and physical activity, notably experiencing anxiety/depression, restlessness, lethargy, feelings of disconnectedness, and missing the joy of movement.

At the time of the survey, 52% of parents indicated that their children were currently participating in organized sport. Of the 48% of parents whose children were not participating, the most common reasons included that the sport of choice was unavailable, COVID-19 safety concerns, dearth of sports to play due to COVID-19 restrictions and financial barriers.

Source: KidSport Greater Victoria

COVID-19 Impacts on Children and Youth with Disabilities

In 2020, researchers from the National Physical Activity Measurement (NPAM) Study conducted baseline and follow-up surveys among parents of children with a disability in Canada to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their children's movement behaviours (i.e., physical activity, sedentary behaviour, and sleep) and overall health.

Baseline results showed that in comparison to before the pandemic and related restrictions, 60% of children engaged in less outdoor physical activity (62% at follow-up), 44% engaged in less walking, wheeling or biking (39%), and 84% engaged in more recreational screen time (77%).

Over half (57%) of children experienced the same quality of sleep (64% at follow-up), 55% experienced a decline in the appropriate balance of their movement behaviours (49%), and 17% experienced a decline in their health, including mental health challenges and joint and muscle pain (24%).

Compared to before the pandemic and its restrictions, (55%) of parents encouraged their children more often to do physical activity or sport (46% at follow-up), 47% did a physical activity or sport more often with their children (40%), 61% encouraged their children more often to do chores around the house (54%), 59% encouraged their children more often to take breaks from screens (54%), and 34% encouraged their children more often to get enough sleep (26%).

Source: Canadian Disability Participation Project

<https://cdpp.ca/resources-and-publications/impact-covid-19-pandemic-movement-behaviours-canadian-children-and-youth>

Equity Snapshot

Few things are as prominently Canadian as hockey. According to a February 2021 public opinion survey, 93% of Canadians say hockey provides a sense of identity and community, while 87% say it teaches good qualities such as hard work and dedication. Six in 10 (62%) Canadians have at least one connection to youth hockey, whether playing themselves, someone close to them playing, or watching games at the community level.

However, 56% of those closest to the game –players, coaches, or friends and family members of participants – say hockey at the amateur and recreational level in Canada has culture problems.

More than half (56%) of those who have played or coached youth hockey perceive the treatment of women and girls by young male hockey players as misogynistic or disrespectful. This climbs to 63% among non-players who have spent time around the game cheering on a close friend, family member, or partner.

Half of Canadians say that hockey also has a problem with racism, with 58% of those who identify as a visible minority, compared to 49% of Caucasian respondents, saying there is a problem within hockey culture, along with 58% of people with personal proximity to community hockey.

Nearly two thirds (64%) of Canadians who coached or played youth hockey say the game culture has a problem with players bullying kids outside of the rink.

The vast majority (88%) of Canadians say that organized hockey is too expensive for lower-income people to play.

Source: Angus Reid Institute. February 2021. *Game Misconduct: Canadians may love their hockey, but they also see serious problems with its culture.*

STANDARD OF LIVING

Sustainable Development Targets



1.2: Reduce national poverty by 50%

2.1: End hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food

8.5: Achieve full, productive employment, decent work for all and equal pay for work of equal value

Median Census Family Income

In 2018, the median census family income, after tax, was \$57,550 in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA), higher than the median for BC (\$53,480) and Canada (\$53,440).

Source: [Statistics Canada, Table: 11-10-0017-01](#)

Poverty Rates

In 2018, the poverty rates in Greater Victoria were 14% overall, 31% for lone parent families, 15% (8,690 children) for children, and 11% for seniors, as measured by Statistics Canada's Census Family Low Income Measure after tax.

Overall

In 2018, nearly 14% of the population in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA) were living in poverty, on par with 2017, and lower than the rate for BC (18%) and Canada (17%) in 2018.

Lone Parent Families

In 2018, 31% of all lone parent families in Greater Victoria were living in poverty, on par with 2017, and lower than BC (37%) and Canada (36%) in 2018.

Children

In 2018, nearly 15% of children under 18 years of age, or **8,690** children, were living in poverty in Greater Victoria, on par with 2017, and lower than BC (19%) and Canada (18%) in 2018.

Seniors

In 2018, almost 11% of seniors, aged 65 years and older, in Greater Victoria, were living in poverty, on par with 2017, and lower than BC (18%) and Canada (15%) in 2018.

Source (all poverty rates): Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0018-01, After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependants based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family type composition.

Cost of Nutritious Food Basket



In 2017, the average monthly cost of a nutritious food basket for a family of four (two parents and two children) in South Vancouver Island was \$1,057, compared to \$1,043 in the Island Health region and \$1,019 in BC. From 2015 to 2017, the cost of a nutritious food basket increased by \$78 per month in the health region and \$45 in BC. A nutritious food basket contains food items that are minimally processed, require preparation, and are commonly eaten in amounts that support a nutritionally adequate and balanced diet.

Source: BC Centre for Disease Control. 2018. Food Costing in BC 2017: Assessing the affordability of healthy eating. Vancouver, B.C.: BC Centre for Disease Control, Population and Public Health Program.

The 2021 Canada's Food Price Report predicts a 3% to 5% total increase in overall food prices in Canada in 2021, with meat and vegetables having the highest anticipated increase at 4.5% to 6.5%. BC is expected to experience higher than average food price increases compared to other provinces.

The annual food expenditure of a reference family of four (two adults and two children) is predicted to be \$13,907 in 2021, an increase of \$695 (5%) compared to 2020. The food inflation rate in 2021 is likely to outpace the general inflation rate. The report's authors note that we can expect to feel the continued effect of COVID-19 on our agri-food chain and global food systems, in addition to the growing impact of climate change.

Source: Dalhousie University and the University of Guelph. 2021. Canada's Food Price Report 2021, 11th edition.



BC Minimum Wage

General minimum hourly wage in BC

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
\$11.35	\$12.65	\$13.85	\$14.60	\$15.20

BC's current minimum wage is \$15.20 an hour, meaning that a full-time minimum wage worker earns \$27,664 annually, **\$2,809** above the national 2019 poverty line for a single person. However, if that worker is a single parent of one child, their minimum wage income is **\$7,486** below the estimated 2019 poverty line for a two-person household.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0232-01, Low income measure (LIM) thresholds by income source and household size.

Note: Full-time, full-year work is 35 hours of paid work for 52 weeks. The poverty line is based on Statistics Canada's 2019 Low Income Measure (LIM) for market income in 2019 constant dollars for a one-person household (\$24,855) and a two-person household (\$35,150) in Canada.

Equity Snapshot

In 2019, over 50% of women in BC were employed in industries and occupations that were most affected by public health measures designed to limit the spread of COVID-19. These sectors include healthcare, retail, education, and accommodation and food services—all characterized as having a higher risk of social interaction during a time where physical and social distancing was encouraged to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus.

Concentration of employment in these sectors led to women in BC losing 60% more jobs in March 2020 than men, increasing the effective unemployment rate of women in the province to 26.5% in March 2020, and 28% in April. Effective unemployment takes into consideration both the decrease in work hours and the propensity of those not employed to postpone searching for new work given current market conditions. As the pandemic measures remained in place, the unemployment rates for women remained higher, even as organizations adapted their workplace policies.

Before the pandemic, an estimated 30% of women in BC supported people who have long-term illnesses, disabilities, or are aging. The closing of schools and child-care centres due to public health protocols placed a heavy burden on families, forcing parents to shift their focus to caring for their children full time. Women were more affected with working mothers in BC, aged 24 to 55, losing 26% of their work hours in April 2020 for family and health reasons, compared with 14% lost by working fathers. Women also attributed six times more of these lost work hours each week to family responsibilities than men.

When COVID-19 pandemic measures began, the delicate balancing act that women maintain between work and family responsibilities was no longer sustainable. For many with school-aged children, responsibilities included supervising remote schooling during regular work hours. Social distancing measures meant that extended family members, who may have provided informal or emergency caregiving, had to keep their distance.

COVID-19 has placed greater burden on women as primary caregivers of their children and families. Looking beyond the pandemic, this not only disrupts the income and careers of women but threatens to set back decades of advancement in gender equity.

Source: BC Women's Health Foundation. 2020. Unmasking Gender Inequity: Revealing the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on women's health.

<https://www.unmaskgenderinequity.ca/>

TRANSPORTATION

Sustainable Development Targets



11.2: Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all



Cycling Infrastructure

As of January 1, 2021, there were approximately 905 km of bike ways the Capital Region District (CRD), of which 41% were multi-use trails, like the Galloping Goose, and 59% were bike lanes on the road, including standard bike lanes (89%), buffered (6%) and protected bike lanes (4%).

	As of Jan 1, 2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Infrastructure Type	Total	Added	Added	Added	Added	Added
Multi-Use Trail	375.38	2.93	0.00	32.04	1.29	1.10
Buffered Bike Lane	32.67	5.88	1.11	1.70	3.02	3.49
Standard Bike Lane	471.67	1.91	2.65	8.31	10.44	6.41
Protected Bike Lane	22.49	4.64	2.88	2.60	3.13	0.79
Time Restricted Bike Lane	2.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Km	904.78	15.36	6.64	44.65	17.88	11.79

Source: Capital Regional District. Regional Planning Services.

Note: Time Restricted Bike Lane is a standard bike lane during the day that reverts to parking in the evening.

In 2019, the CRD revised its mapping of cycling infrastructure, resulting in the loss of some previously counted lanes as they were no longer considered bike lanes, and the conversion of other lanes to a more protected designation.

The CRD counts “bi-directional” length of cycling infrastructure, so that 1km of the Galloping Goose is 2km of multi-use trail. A one-way trail would only be counted in one direction. For bike lanes on the road, if 1km of road has a buffered bike lane on the left and no bike lane on the right, this is counted as 1 km of buffered bike lane. If there were buffered bike lanes on both sides, it would count as 2km.



Transit Use

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a major shift in rider behaviour with only one-third (34%) of residents in BC Transit's operating areas using their local public bus system in the past year.

In Greater Victoria, 49% of residents used local transit in 2020/21, down sharply from 62% the year before. Only one in 10 (10%) residents had used local transit in the past 24 hours, compared to 20% in 2019/20.

In 2020/21, Greater Victoria residents made an average of 0.5 one-way trips per week, with 2% being heavy riders, 4% medium riders, 5% light riders, and 39% occasional riders. All types of ridership were down significantly from 2019/20.

Only 8% of Greater Victoria transit riders said they used transit more often in 2020/21 compared to a year ago, while 56% used it less often, and 35% said their usage was about the same, down from 59% the previous year.

Two-thirds (67%) of Greater Victoria residents were satisfied with the measures that BC Transit put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. The main reasons for dissatisfaction with safety measures included lack of COVID safety standards (38%), safety concerns (21%), and overcrowding (21%).

Source: BC Transit. 2021. Customer Satisfaction Tracking Research Annual Report 2020-2021.
<https://www.bctransit.com/corporate-reports/customer-tracking-surveys>

Electric Vehicles

In 2016, there were an estimated 1,900 electric-only vehicles in Greater Victoria, 0.7% of all vehicles by fuel type, up from just 100 electric vehicles in 2011.

While electric vehicles represented 1% (or less) of vehicles in most municipalities in 2016, the exceptions were North Saanich (2%) and the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area (4%).

Single-detached households represented the largest number of dwelling types in the region with an electric vehicle in 2016 (1,300), followed by apartment/ condo (300), and row/townhouses (200).

Electric vehicle ownership in BC has continued to climb since 2016, with 4,670 sold in BC in 2017 and the first quarter of 2018, compared to approximately 5,000 sold over the four-year period (2013-2016). On a per capita basis, BC had more electric vehicle sales than Ontario or Quebec in 2018, the two largest electric vehicle markets in Canada.

In 2018, the capital region had 120 public charging stations for a rate of approximately 31 stations per 100,000 people. Almost all municipalities in the region provide publicly accessible EV charging stations. Common locations for publicly managed stations in the region include libraries, municipal halls, community or recreation centres, park and ride facilities, and public parkades.

Source: Capital Regional District. 2018. Capital Region Local Government Electric Vehicle (EV) + Electric Bike (E-Bike) Infrastructure Backgrounder.

https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/climate-action-pdf/reports/electric-vehicle-and-e-bike-infrastructure-backgrounder-sept-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=a067c5ca_2

Air and Ferry Passenger Volume

In 2020, BC Ferries reported a 53% drop in passenger traffic, 35% drop in vehicle traffic, and 90% drop in bus traffic on the Tsawwassen - Swartz Bay route, compared to 2019.

Victoria International Airport reported a 70% drop in flight passenger volume in 2020, down from approximately 1.9 million passengers to 575,000 passengers, compared to the previous year.

Source: Chemistry Consulting Group. Victoria Tourism Bulletin December 2020.

https://www.chemistryconsulting.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Victoria_Tourism_Bulletin_December_2020-V2.pdf