

BRIDGING RURAL HOMELESSNESS AND WELL-BEING

2024 Well-being Insights: Community Perceptions of Homelessness & Related Service Provision

TECHNICAL REPORT



Report Authors: Jayme Jones (Faculty Researcher & Project Director), Jennifer Preston (Faculty Researcher & Outreach Lead), Leeza Perehudoff (Faculty Research Assistant), Zakeea Al-Hanafy (Outreach Intern), Mackenzie Fernquist-Kosteniuk (Outreach Intern)

Other Contributors from the Bridging Rural Homelessness & Well-being Team: Amber Streukens (Lived Experience Co-Researcher), Matthew Wheating (Lived Experience Co-Researcher)

Acknowledgements: While these authors prepared this report with support from the other listed contributors, the residents of Nelson, Castlegar, and Trail who shared their perspectives made this report possible. We thank you for your time and contributions. We would also like to thank our partners for the financial and in-kind support provided.

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On behalf of Selkirk College, we acknowledge that we operate and serve learners on the unceded traditional territories of the Sinixt (Lakes), the Syilx (Okanagan), the Ktunaxa, and the Secwépemc (Shuswap) peoples.

Introduction

Bridging Rural Homelessness and Well-being: A Sustainable and Collaborative Regional Response is a three-year social innovation project (2022-2025) by Selkirk Innovates, the applied research arm of Selkirk College. The project aims to improve the well-being of residents experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the rural communities of Nelson, Castlegar, and Trail, located in the West Kootenay region of British Columbia.

This community perceptions research builds on findings from the study [*2023 Well-being Insights: Voices of West Kootenay Service Users and Service Providers*](#), which explored the needs and opportunities identified by unhoused individuals and the service providers who support them. To broaden the understanding of diverse perspectives in the region and respond to emerging needs, the 2024 research focused on exploring and documenting public perceptions of homelessness.

In response, the *2024 Well-being Insights: Community Perceptions of Homelessness and Related Service Provision* survey was developed to inform service providers and decision-makers of the community's behaviours, attitudes, and beliefs, helping to shape services and initiatives that promote community engagement and support. Understanding community perceptions is important for informing better decisions that align policies with public sentiment, reducing resistance to supportive services and identifying barriers faced by those working with unhoused populations.^{1 2} Additionally, this study contributes to the current discourse on rural homelessness in Canada, where research remains limited.³

Methods

Community members from Nelson, Castlegar, and Trail were invited to participate in a voluntary online survey to share their perceptions of homelessness and related service provision in their respective communities (see **Appendix: Informed Consent and Questionnaire**). The survey was hosted through SurveyMonkey and open from July 1–August 19, 2024.

This technical report presents the quantitative survey results, using descriptive/summary statistics. Data are presented for all communities combined and by each community individually. The 'n' in the results represents the number of responses.

¹ McGinty, E. E., & Barry, C. L. (2020). Stigma reduction to combat the addiction crisis - developing an evidence base. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 382(14), 1291–1292. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMp2000227>

² Caruth, M. (2021). *Poverty and homelessness: History, contributing factors, modern reality and misconceptions, personal narratives, and community impact* (Publication No. 822) [Undergraduate project, Grand Valley State University]. ScholarWorks@GVSU. <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/honorsprojects/822>

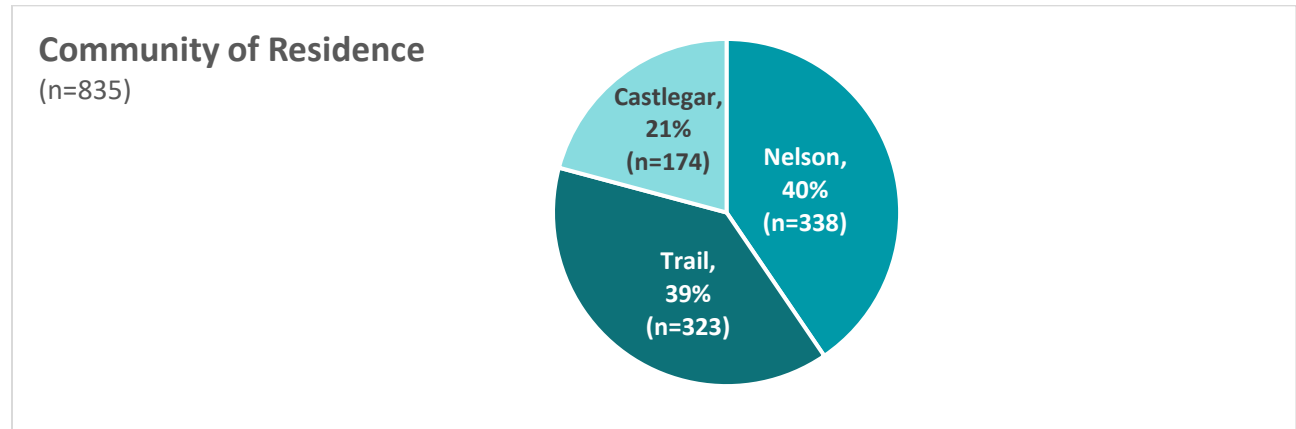
³ Schiff, R., Wilkinson, A., Kelford, T., Pelletier, S., & Waegemakers Schiff, J. (2022). Counting the undercounted: Enumerating rural homelessness in Canada. *International Journal on Homelessness*, 3(2), 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.5206/ijoh.2022.2.14633>

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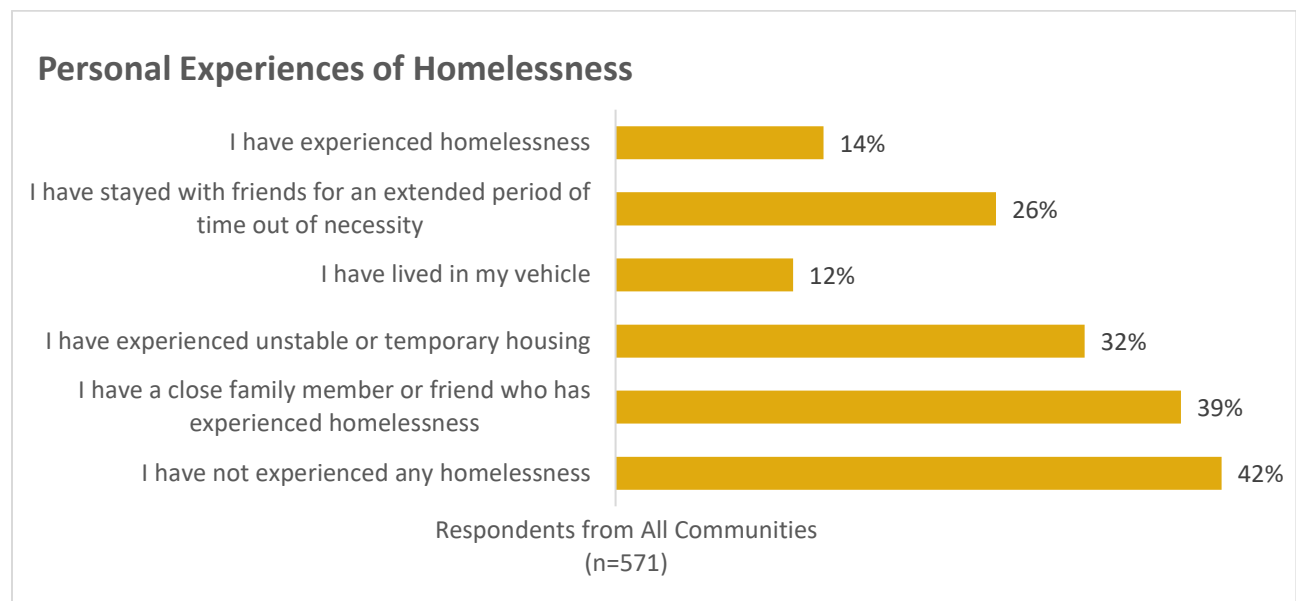
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1.0 ALL COMMUNITIES

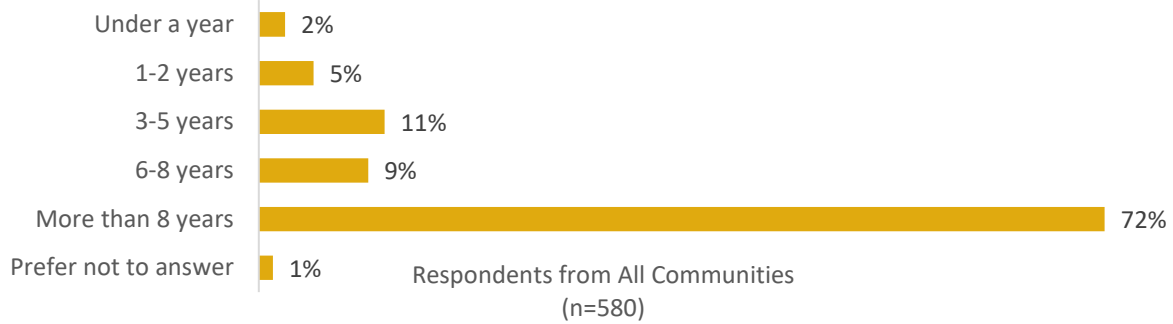
Data for “All communities” represent the combined results from Nelson, Castlegar, and Trail.



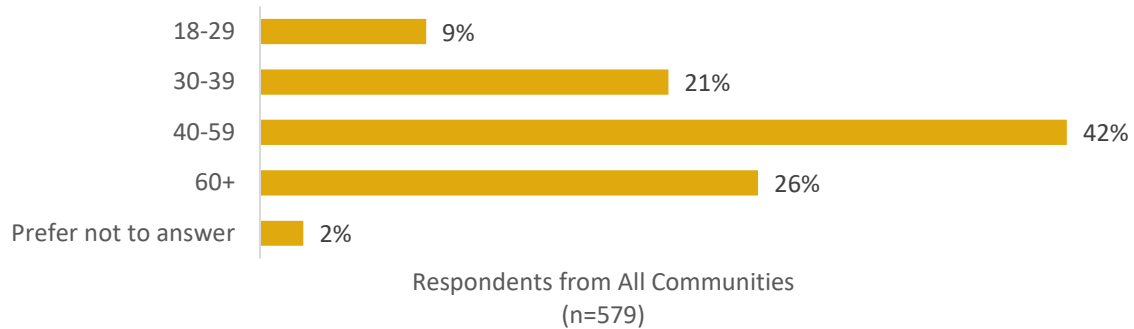
1.1 Demographics



Duration of Residence

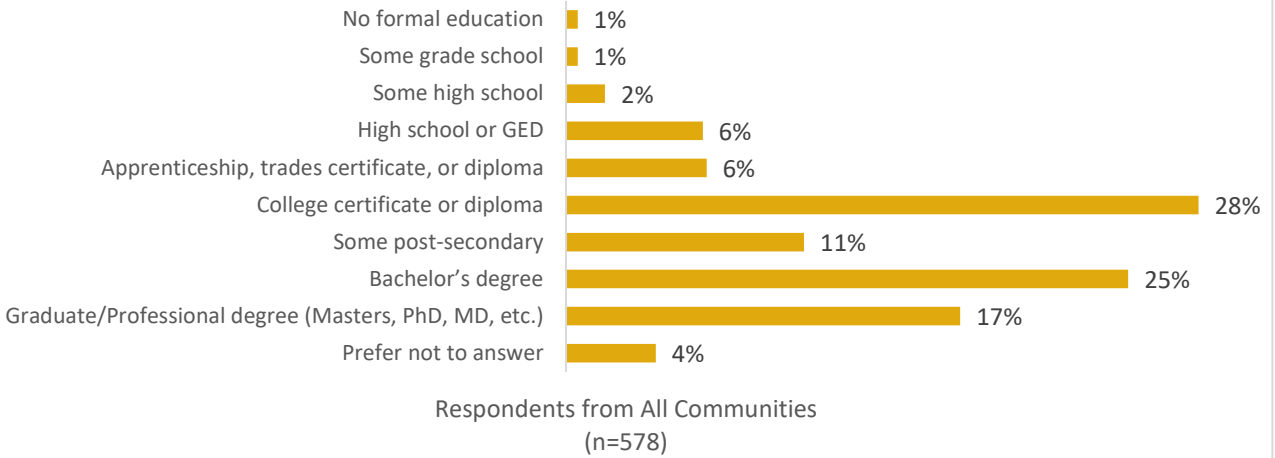


Age



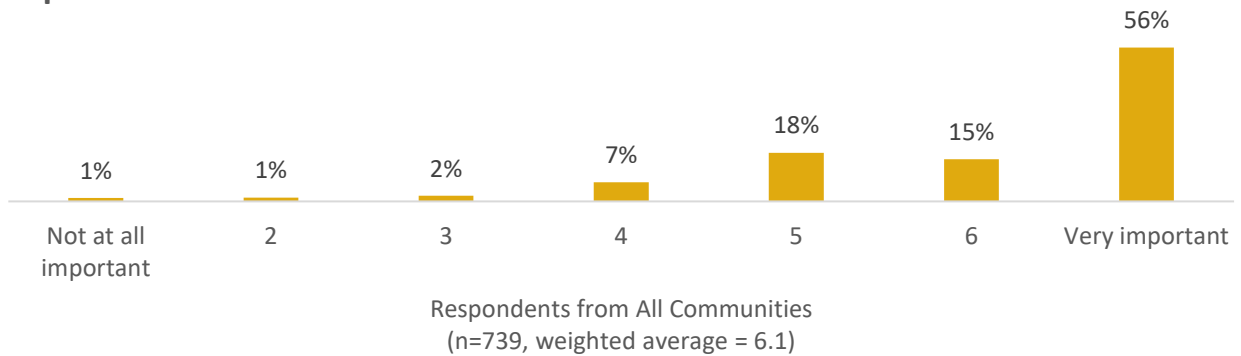
Gender	Respondents from All Communities (n=578)
Male	26%
Female	68%
Gender non-conforming (including non-binary and gender fluid)	1%
Prefer to self-describe	1%
Prefer to not answer	4%

Level of Education

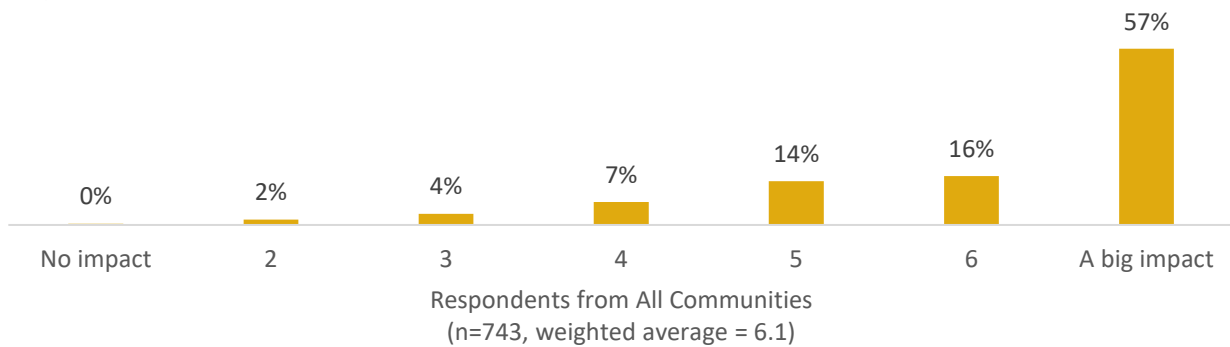


1.2 Community Conditions

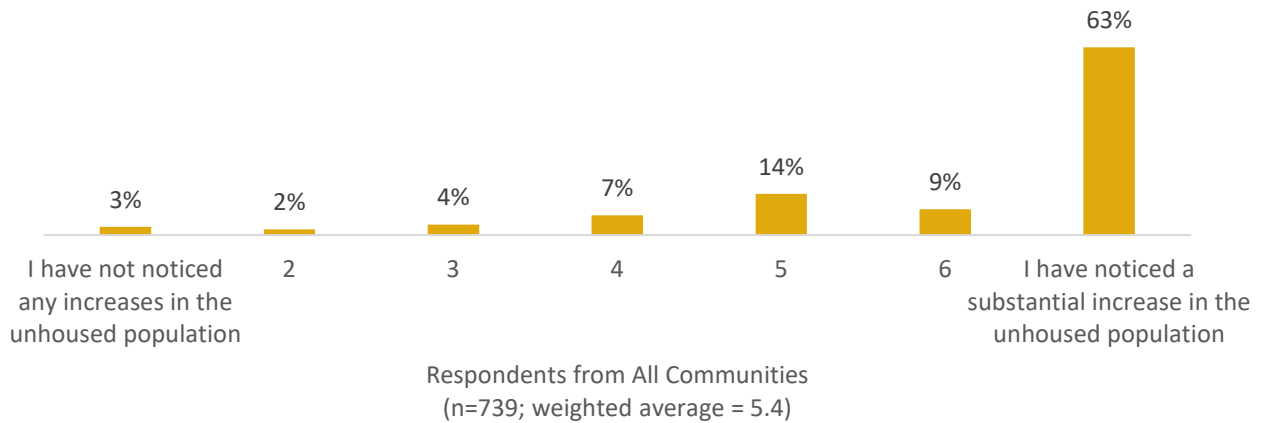
Importance of Homelessness



Impact of Homelessness

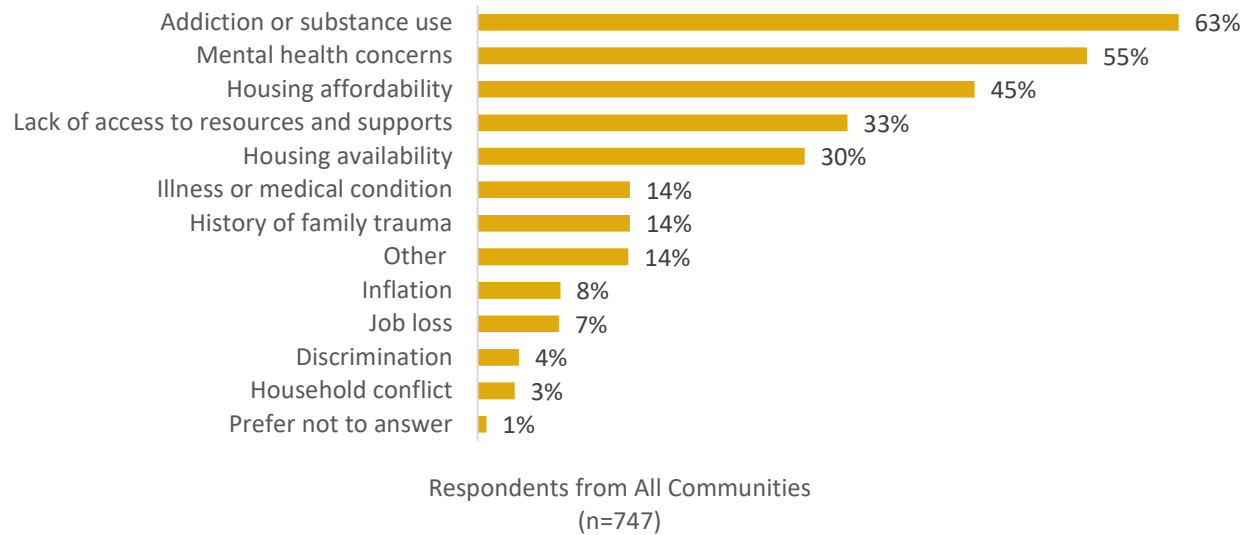


Increase in Unhoused Population Over Last Five Years



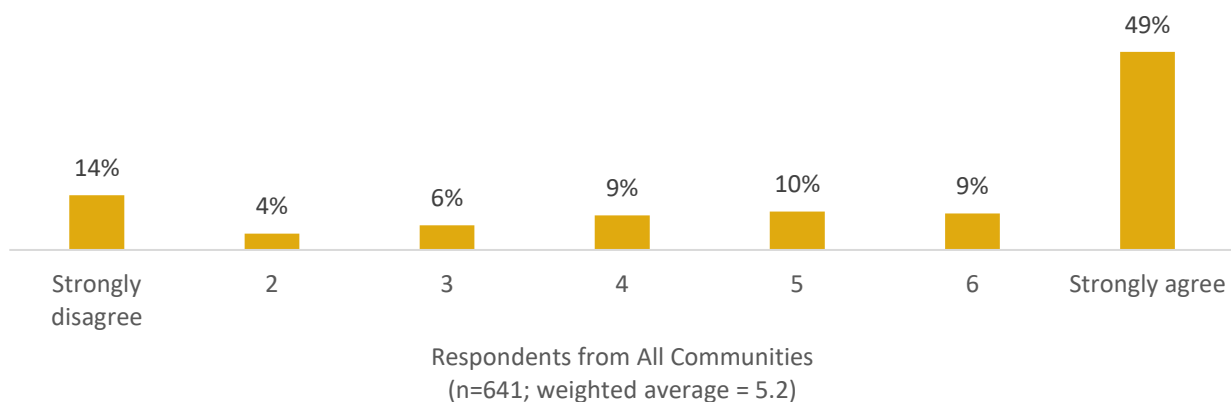
Causes of Homelessness

(From a Pre-Populated List)

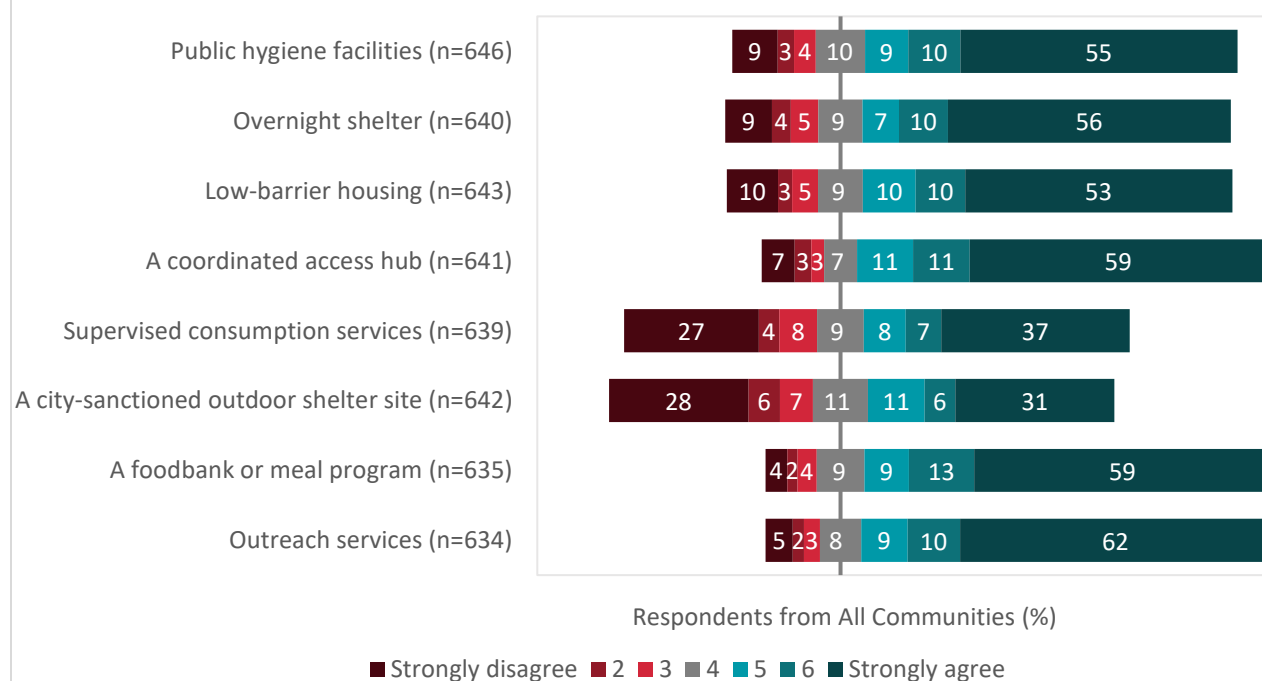


1.3 Service Provision

Local Government Advocacy for Funding



Support for Services Within City Limits



Effective Means of Support for the Unhoused

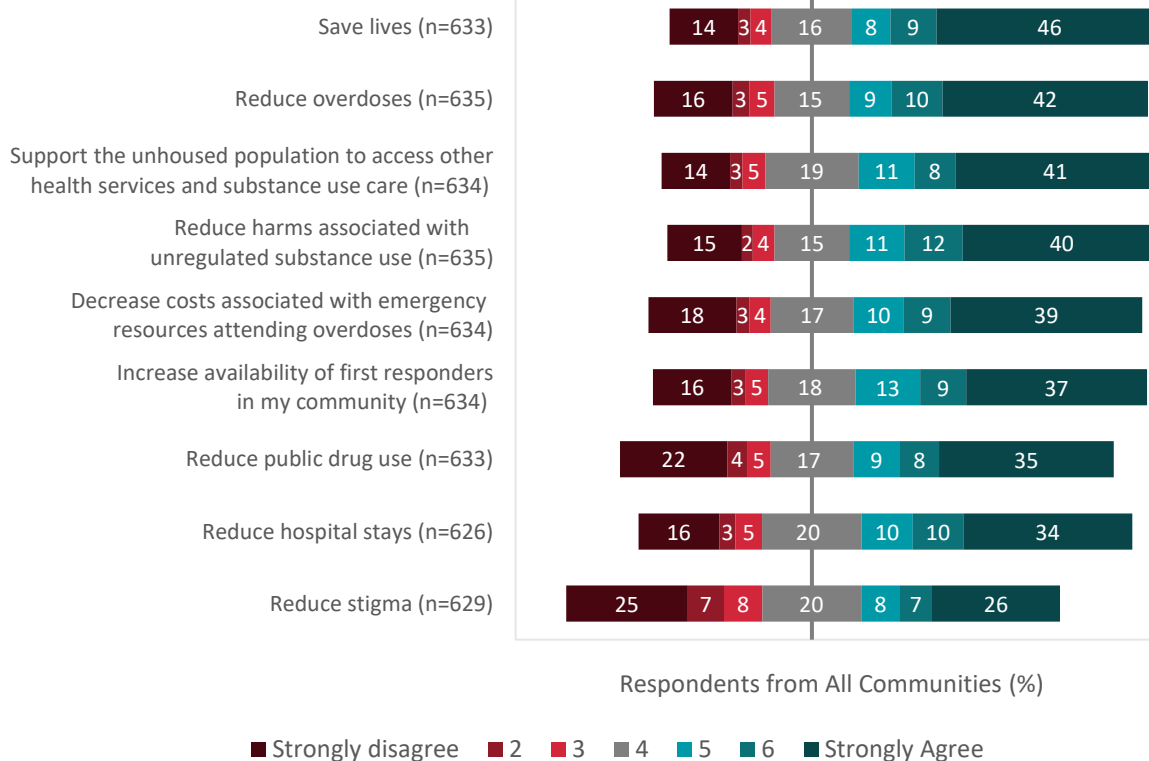
Ranking a list of options from most effective to least effective

*The closer the weighted average is to 12, the more effective

All Communities
Weighted Average*
(n=633)

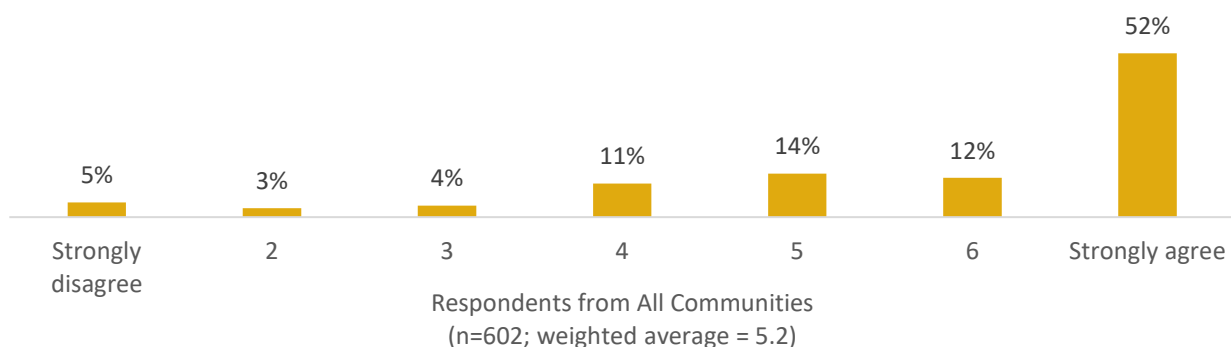
Overnight shelter or low-barrier housing	9.6
Food banks/lunch programs	9.1
Hygiene facilities	8.6
Mental health, harm reduction, and substance use supports	7.4
Appropriate clothing	6.7
Low-barrier access to healthcare	6.6
Inclusive employment programs	5.9
Community education about homelessness	5.3
Outreach services	5.2
Regional collaboration	4.8
Year-round drop-in centres (coordinated access)	4.5
Improved transportation options	4.3

Perceptions of Supervised Consumption Sites and Overdose Prevention Services



1.4 Well-being of Unhoused Population

Concern About the Well-being of the Unhoused Population



External Observations and Personal Attitudes Towards the Unhoused Population

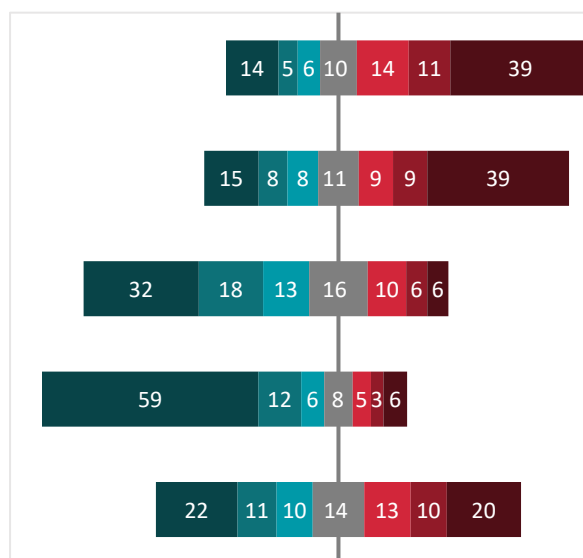
Negative attitudes are impacting the well-being of the unhoused population in my community (n=605)

I have witnessed discrimination of the unhoused population in my community (n=605)

I am unconsciously contributing to negative attitudes towards the unhoused population in my community (n=602)

I am consciously contributing to negative attitudes towards the unhoused population in my community (n=604)

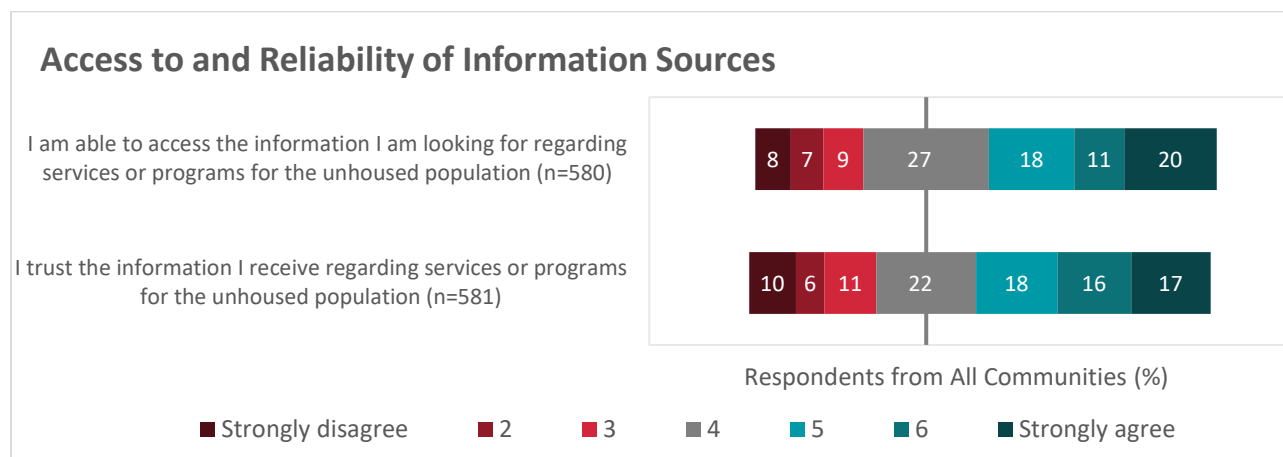
I avoid interacting with the unhoused population in my community (n=605)



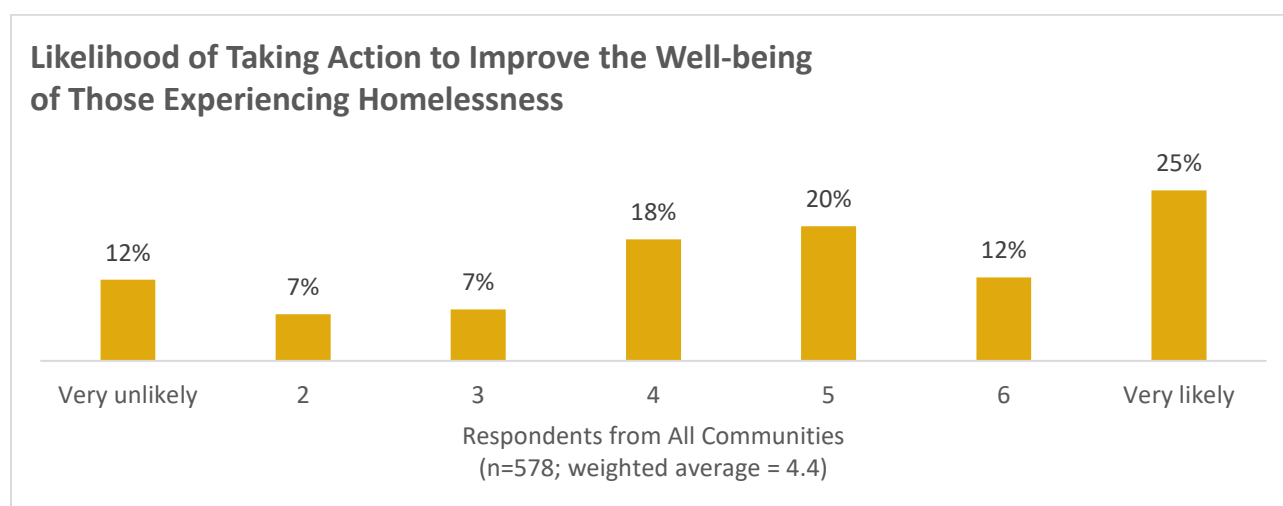
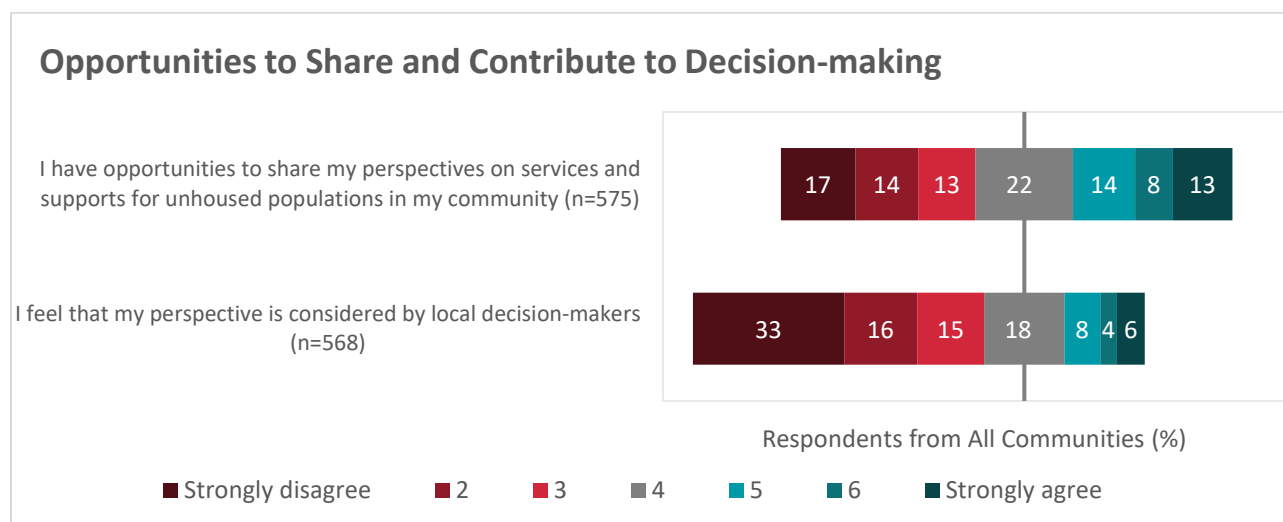
Respondents from All Communities (%)

Strongly disagree 2 3 4 5 6 Strongly Agree

1.5 Information Sources



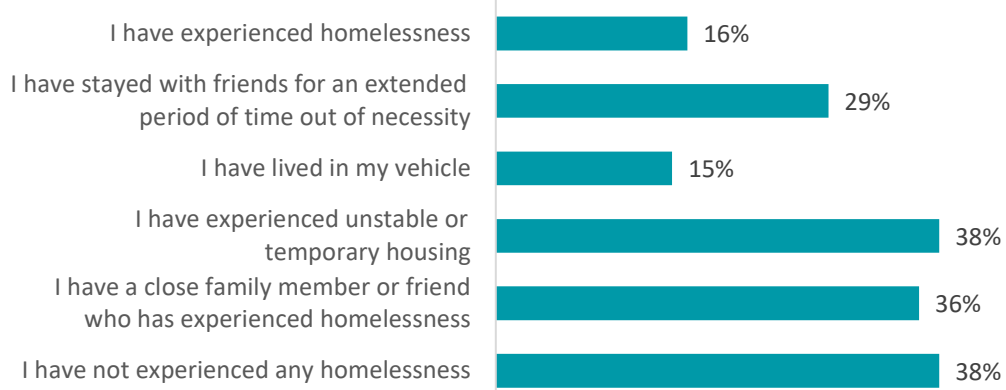
1.6 Community Engagement



2.0 NELSON

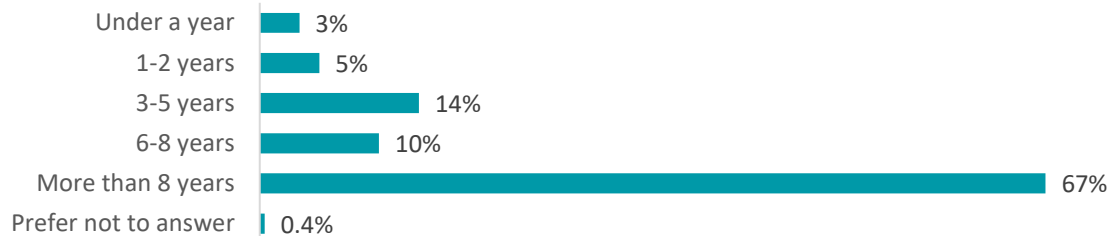
2.1. Demographics

Personal Experiences of Homelessness



Respondents from Nelson
(n=231)

Duration of Residence



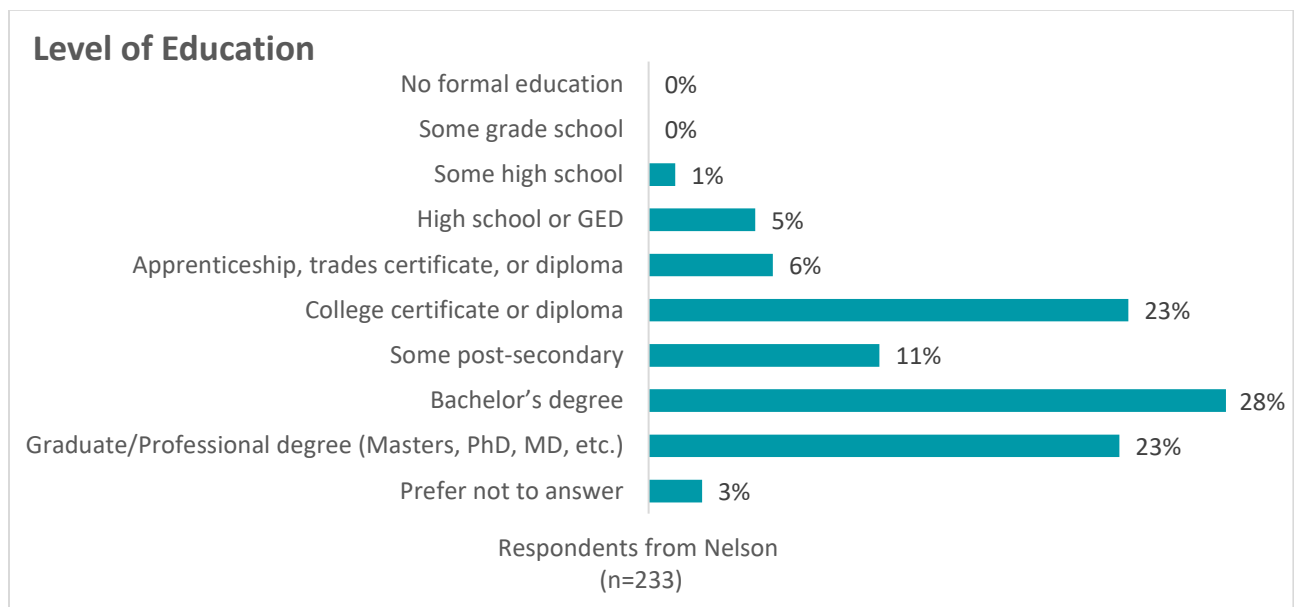
Respondents from Nelson
(n=235)

Age

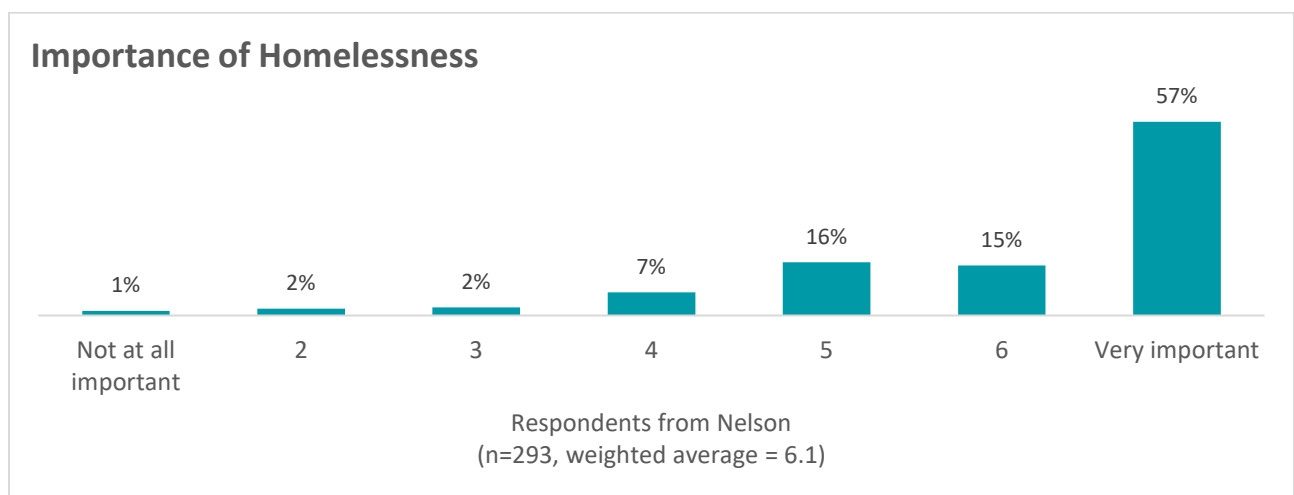


Respondents from Nelson
(n=234)

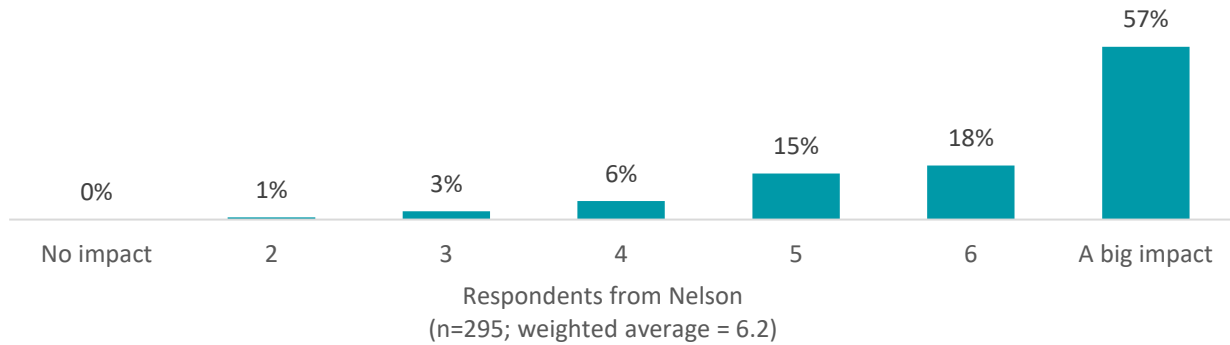
Gender	Respondents from Nelson (n=234)
Male	29%
Female	65%
Gender non-conforming (including non-binary and gender fluid)	1%
Prefer to self-describe	2%
Prefer to not answer	3%



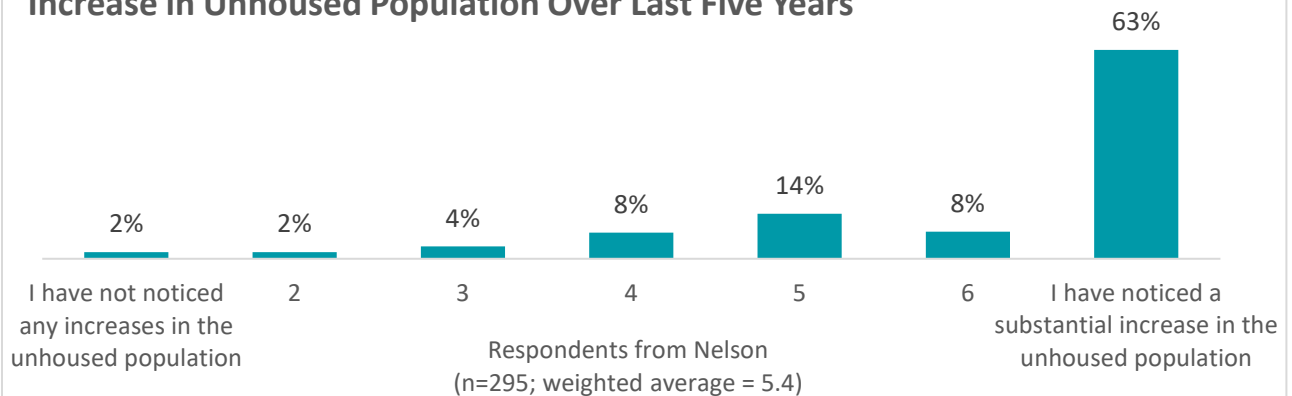
2.2 Community Conditions



Impact of Homelessness

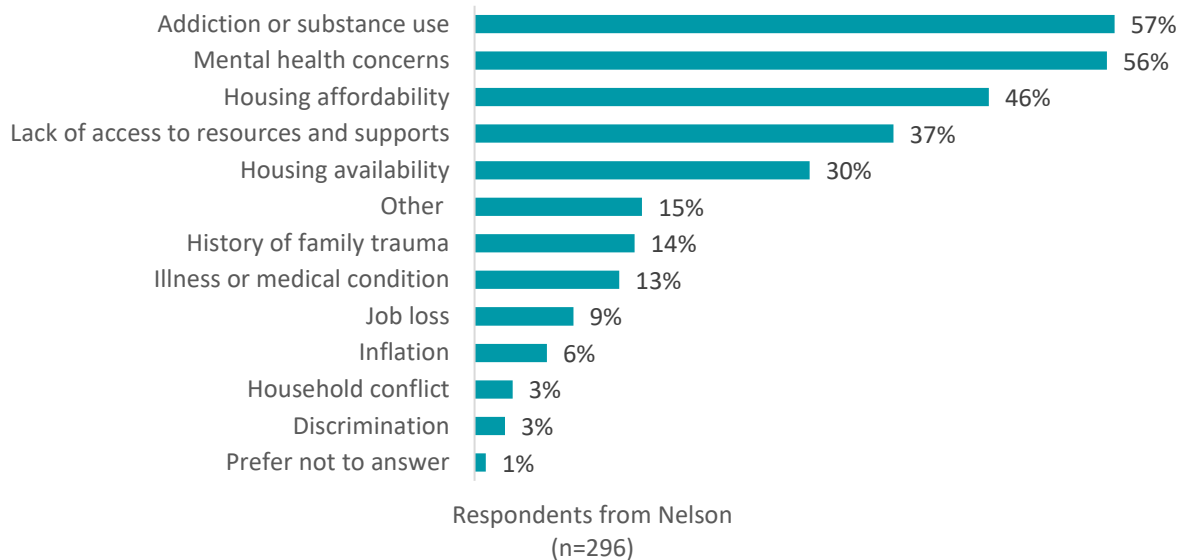


Increase in Unhoused Population Over Last Five Years



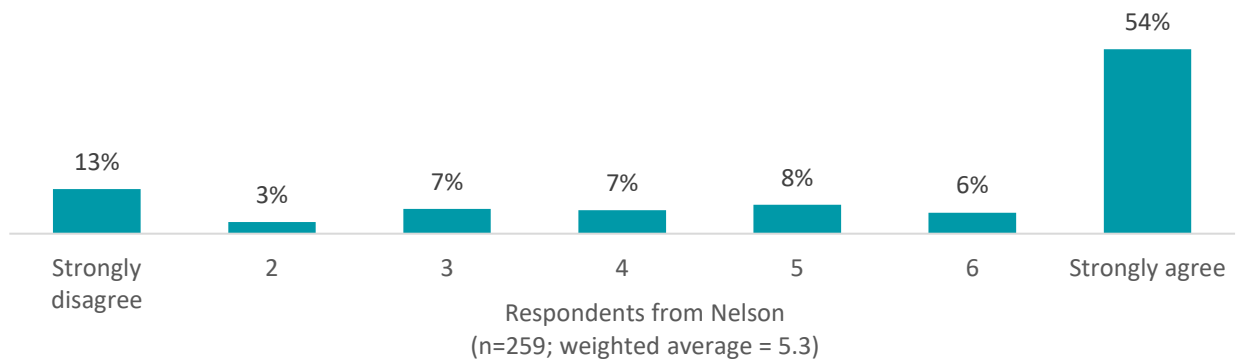
Causes of Homelessness

(From a Pre-Populated List)

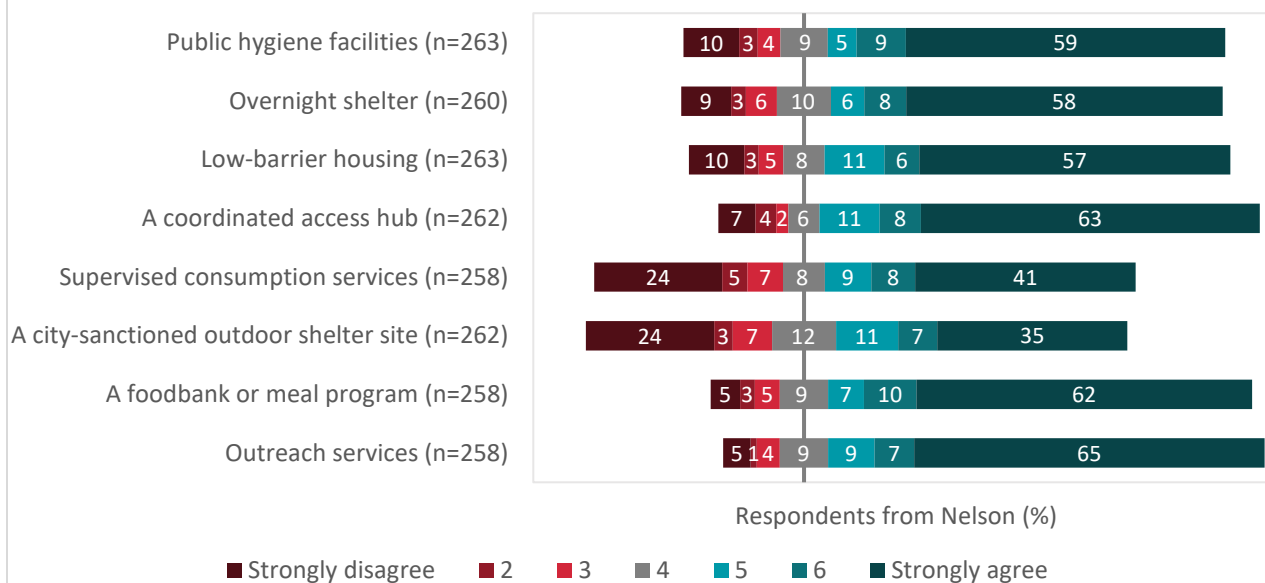


2.3 Service Provision

Local Government Advocacy for Funding



Support for Services within City Limits



Effective Means of Support for the Unhoused

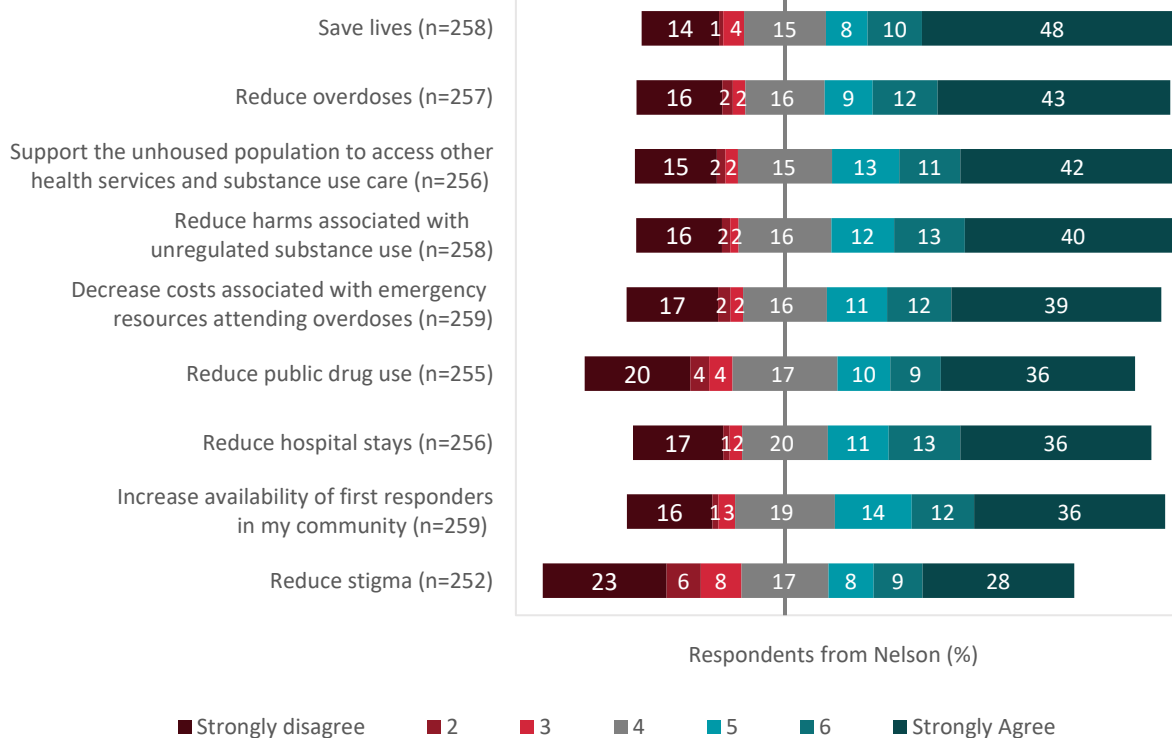
Ranking a list of options from most effective to least effective

*The closer the weighted average is to 12, the more effective

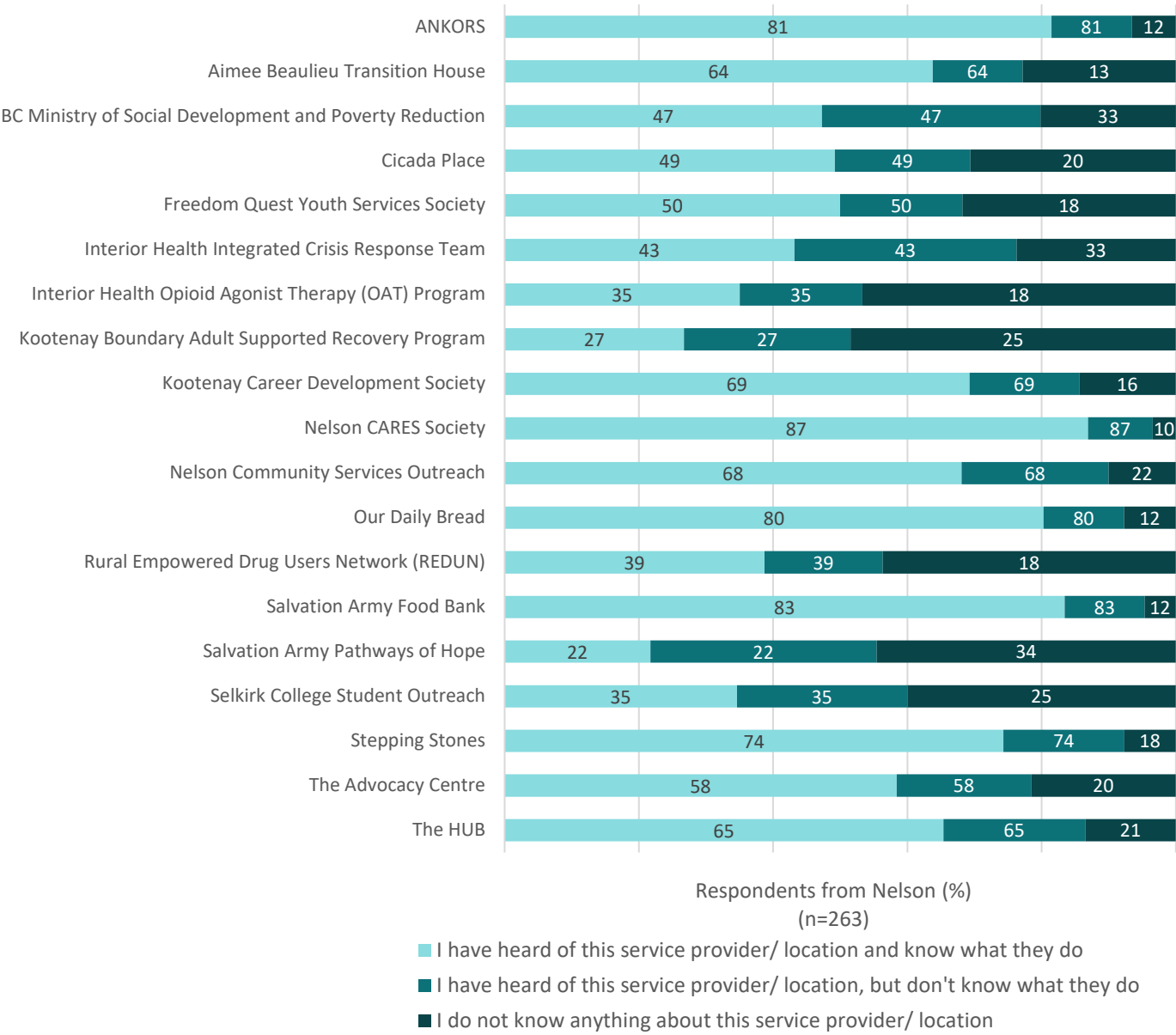
Nelson
Weighted Average*
(n=253)

Overnight shelter or low-barrier housing	9.9
Food banks/lunch programs	9.1
Hygiene facilities	8.4
Mental health, harm reduction, and substance use supports	7.5
Low-barrier access to healthcare	6.8
Appropriate clothing	6.5
Inclusive employment programs	5.8
Outreach services	5.1
Community education about homelessness	5.1
Regional collaboration	4.9
Year-round drop-in centres (coordinated access)	4.7
Improved transportation options	4.3

Perceptions of Supervised Consumption Sites and Overdose Prevention Services

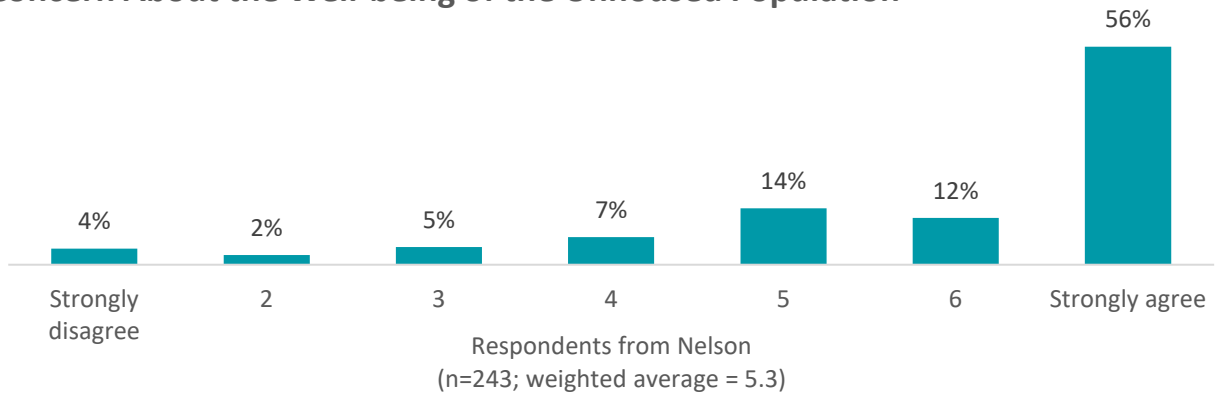


Awareness of Local Services

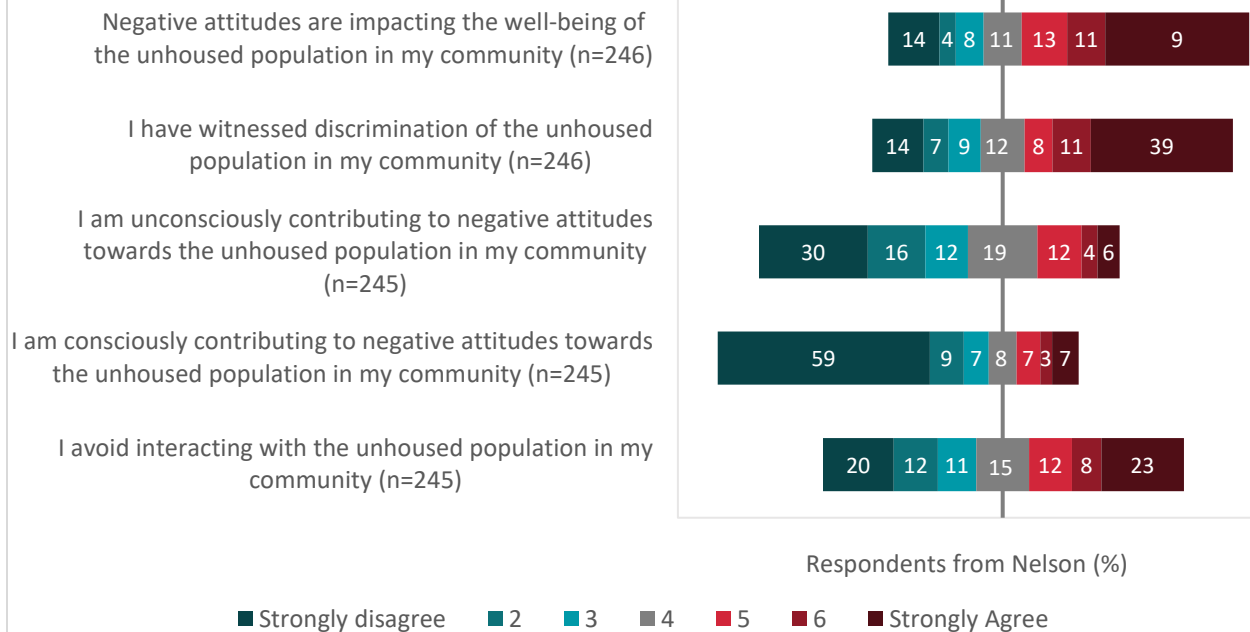


2.4 Well-being of Unhoused Population

Concern About the Well-being of the Unhoused Population



External Observations and Personal Attitudes Towards the Unhoused Population

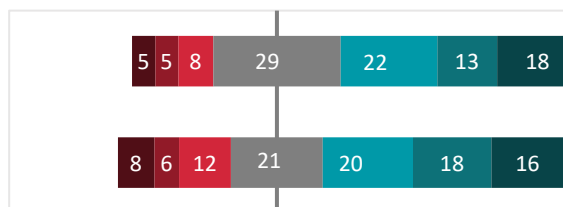


2.5 Information Sources

Access to and Reliability of Information Sources

I am able to access the information I am looking for regarding services or programs for the unhoused population (n=231)

I trust the information I receive regarding services or programs for the unhoused population (n=233)



Respondents from Nelson (%)

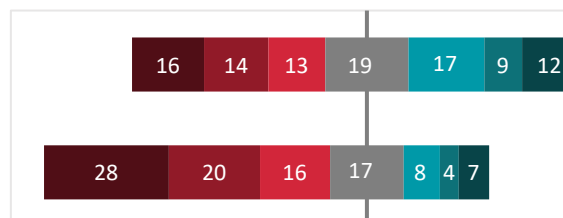
Strongly disagree 2 3 4 5 6 Strongly agree

2.6 Community Engagement

Opportunities to Share and Contribute to Decision-making

I have opportunities to share my perspectives on services and supports for unhoused populations in my community (n=235)

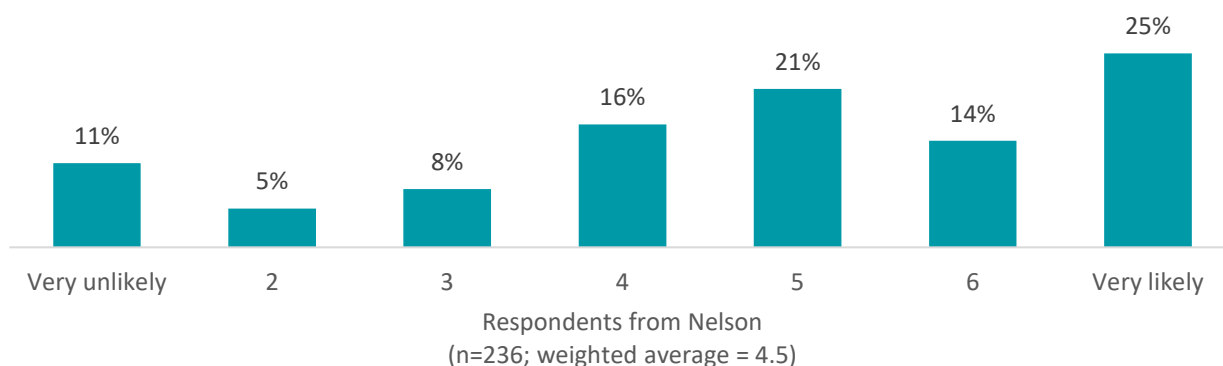
I feel that my perspective is considered by local decision-makers (n=235)



Respondents from Nelson (%)

Strongly disagree 2 3 4 5 6 Strongly agree

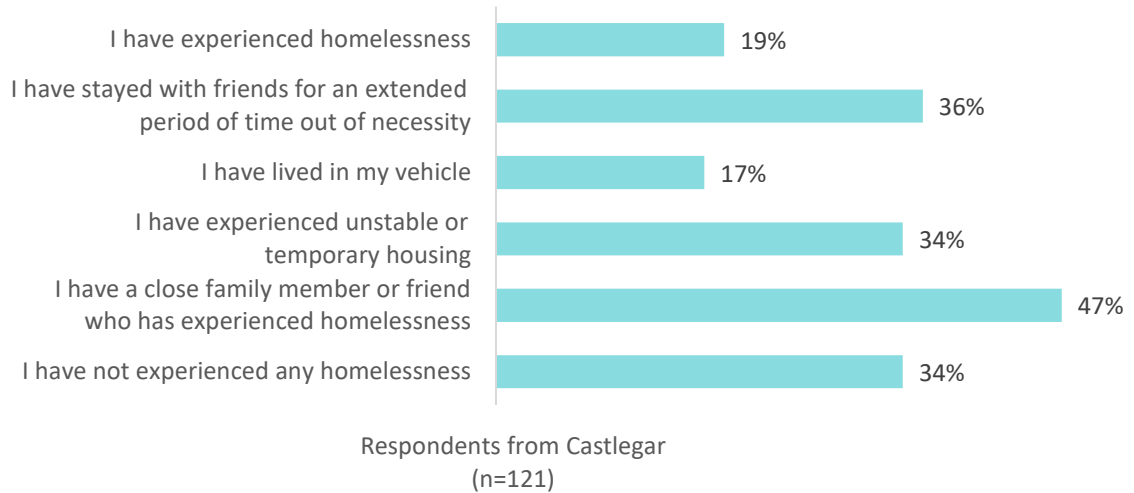
Likelihood of Taking Action to Improve the Well-being of Those Experiencing Homelessness



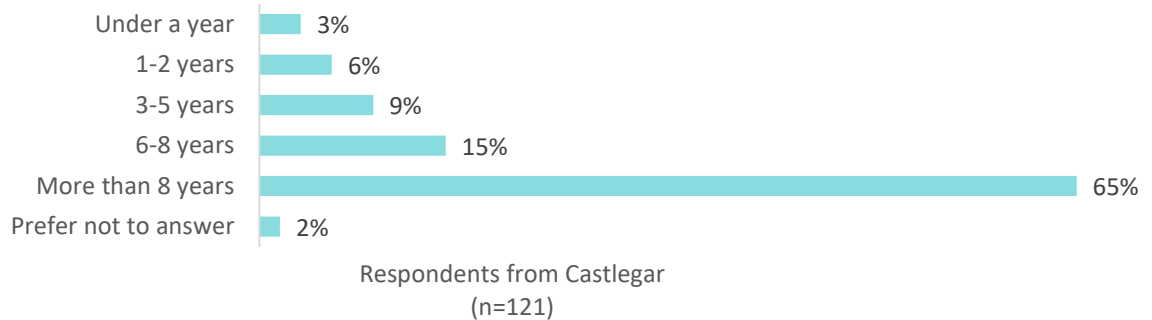
3.0 CASTLEGAR

3.1 Demographics

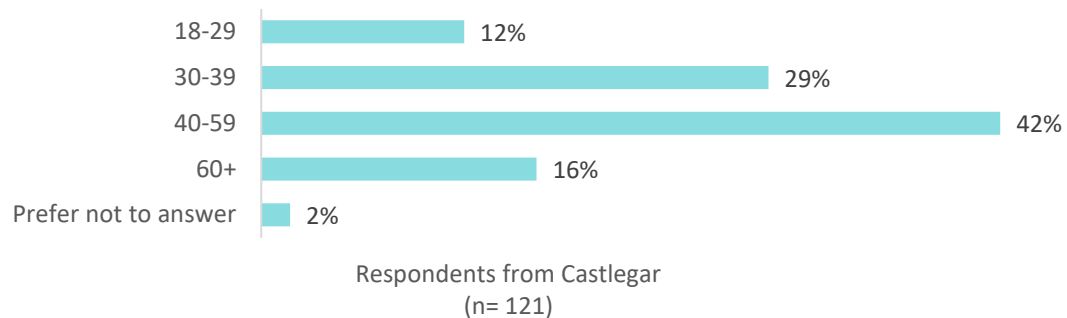
Personal Experiences of Homelessness



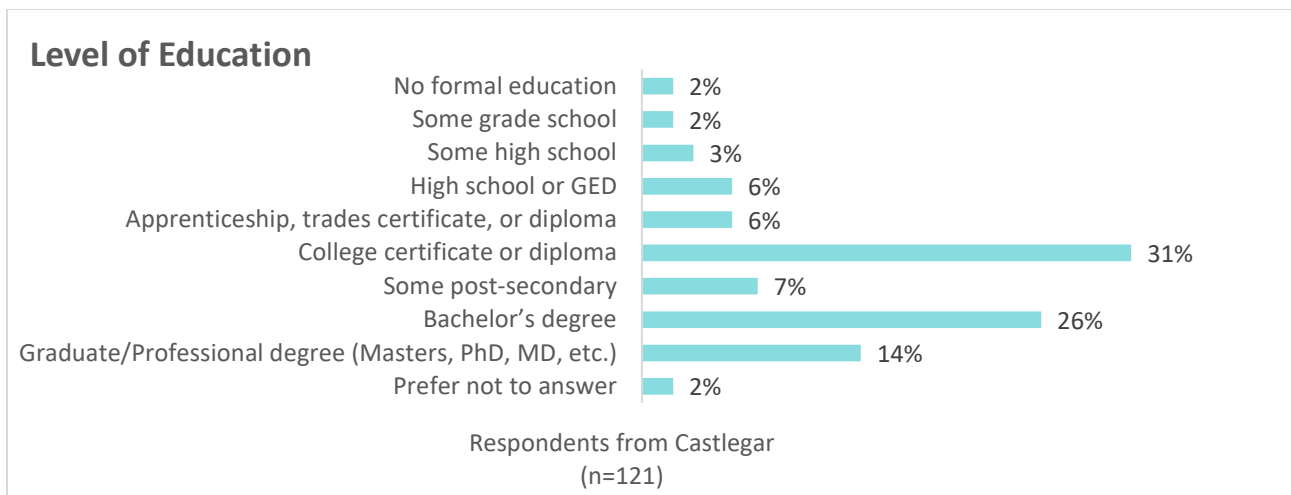
Duration of Residence



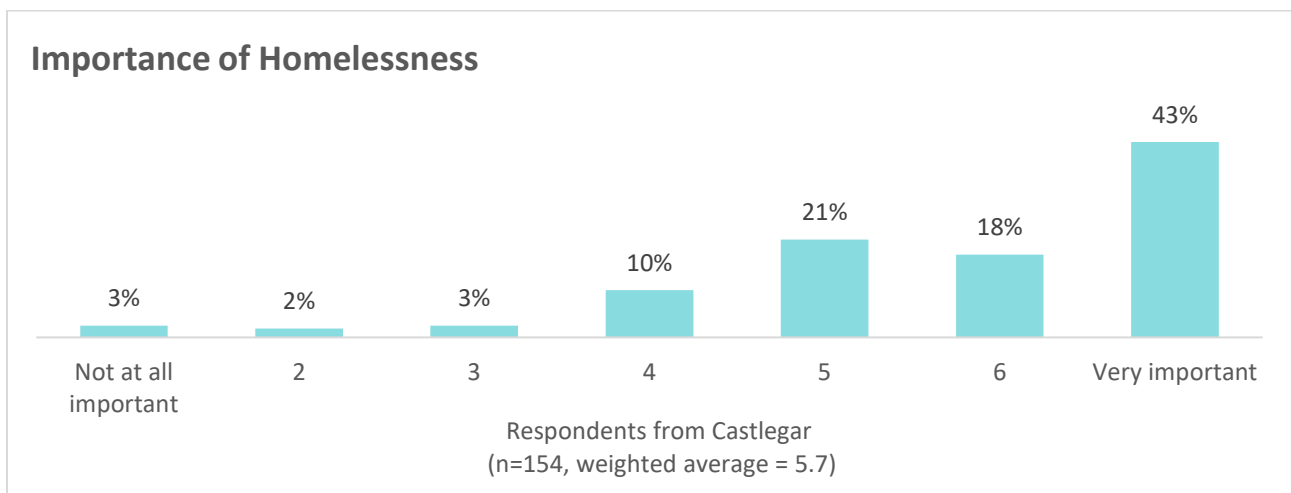
Age



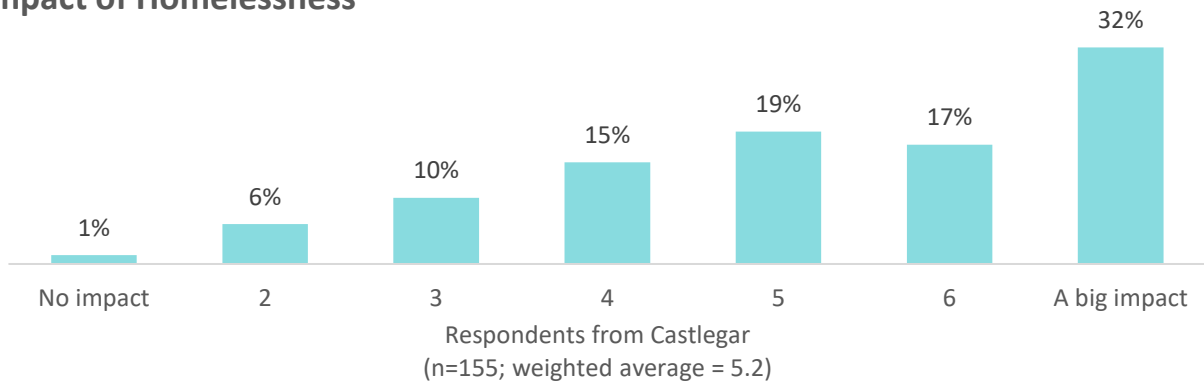
Respondents from Castlegar (n=121)	
Gender	
Male	23%
Female	73%
Gender non-conforming (including non-binary and gender fluid)	1%
Prefer to self-describe	0%
Prefer to not answer	3%



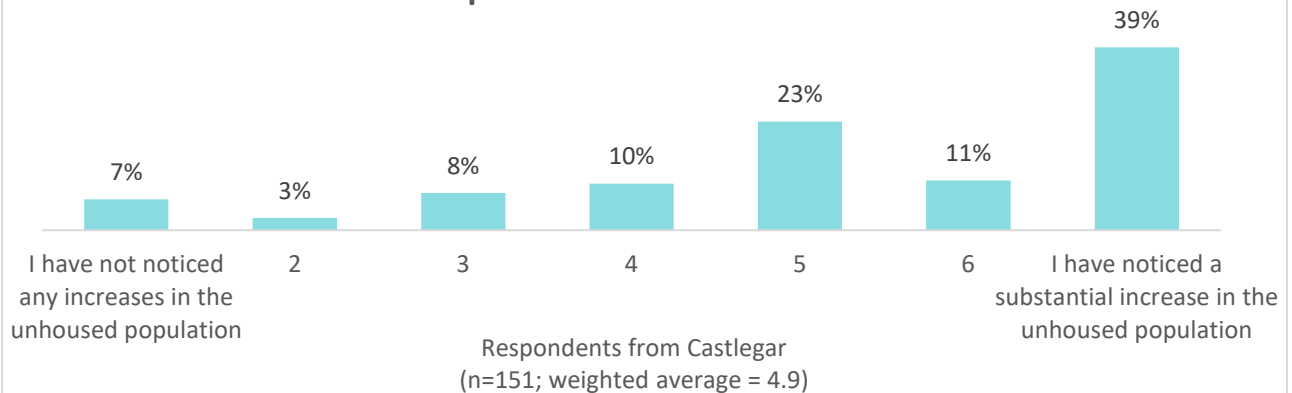
3.2 Community Conditions



Impact of Homelessness

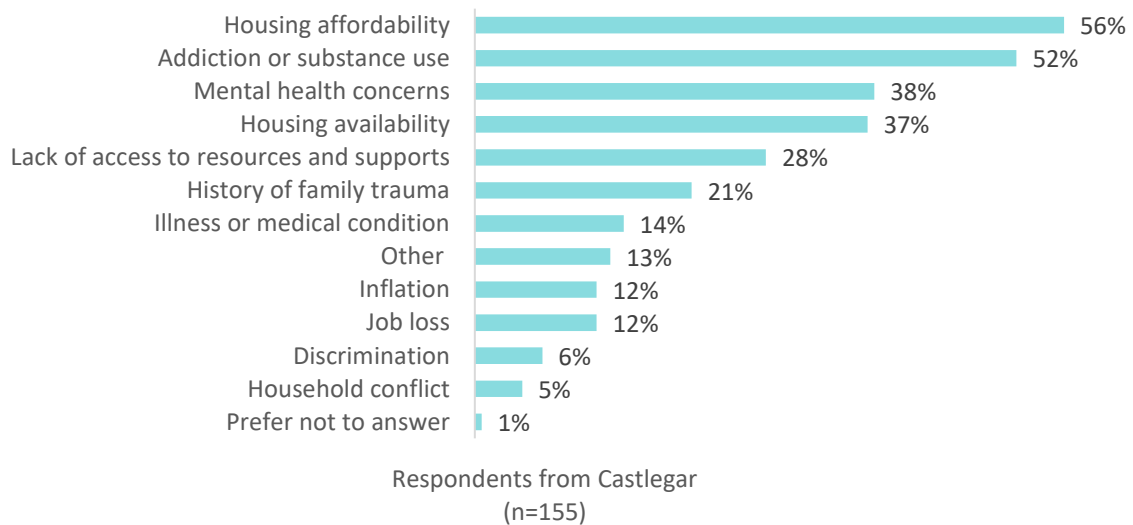


Increase in the Unhoused Population Over the Past Five Years



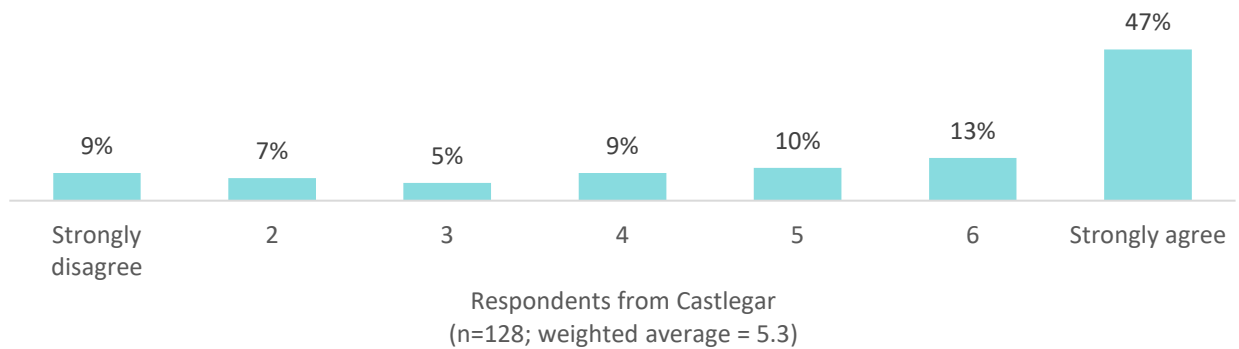
Causes of Homelessness

(From a Pre-Populated List)

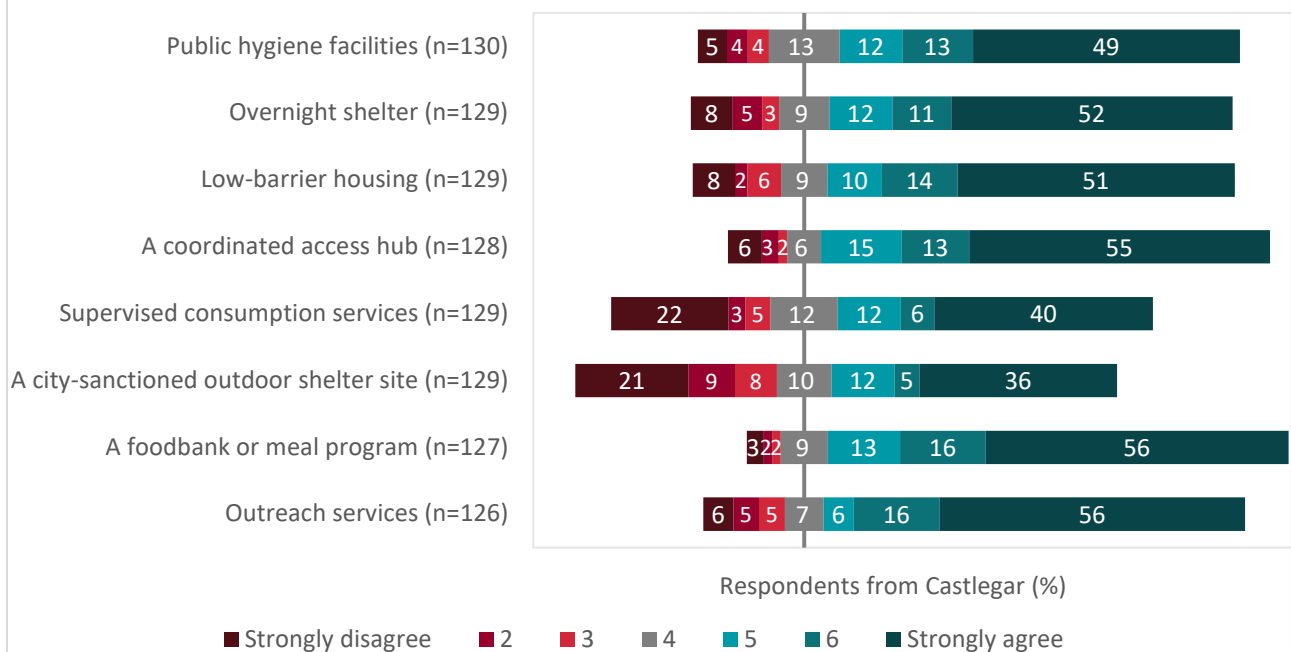


3.3 Service Provision

Local Government Advocacy for Funding



Support for Services within City Limits



Effective Means of Support for the Unhoused

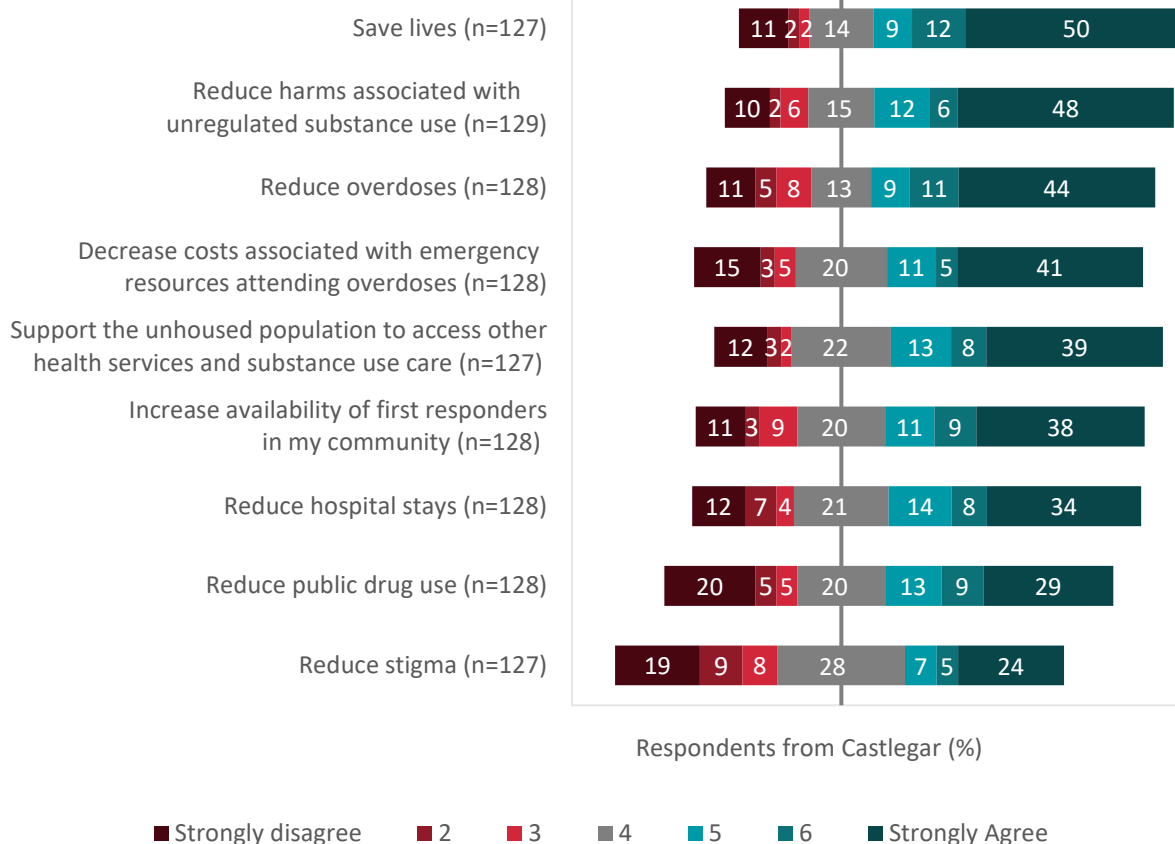
Ranking a list of options from most effective to least effective

*The closer the weighted average is to 12, the more effective

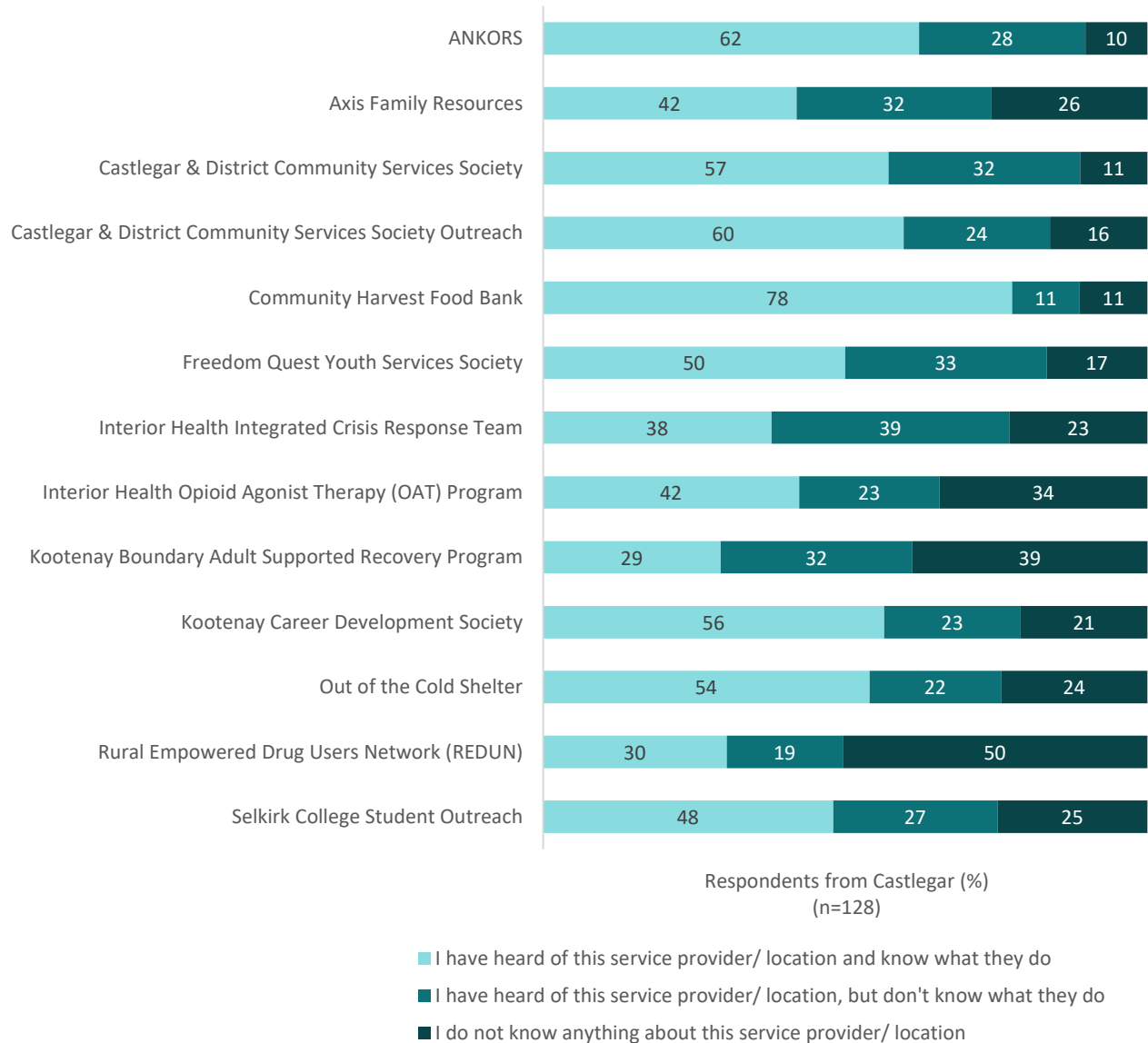
Castlegar
Weighted Average*
(n=130)

Overnight shelter or low-barrier housing	9.4
Food banks/lunch programs	9.1
Hygiene facilities	8.6
Appropriate clothing	7.1
Mental health, harm reduction, and substance use supports	7.0
Low-barrier access to healthcare	6.6
Inclusive employment programs	6.0
Community education about homelessness	5.8
Outreach services	5.2
Improved transportation options	4.6
Regional collaboration	4.5
Year-round drop-in centres (coordinated access)	4.2

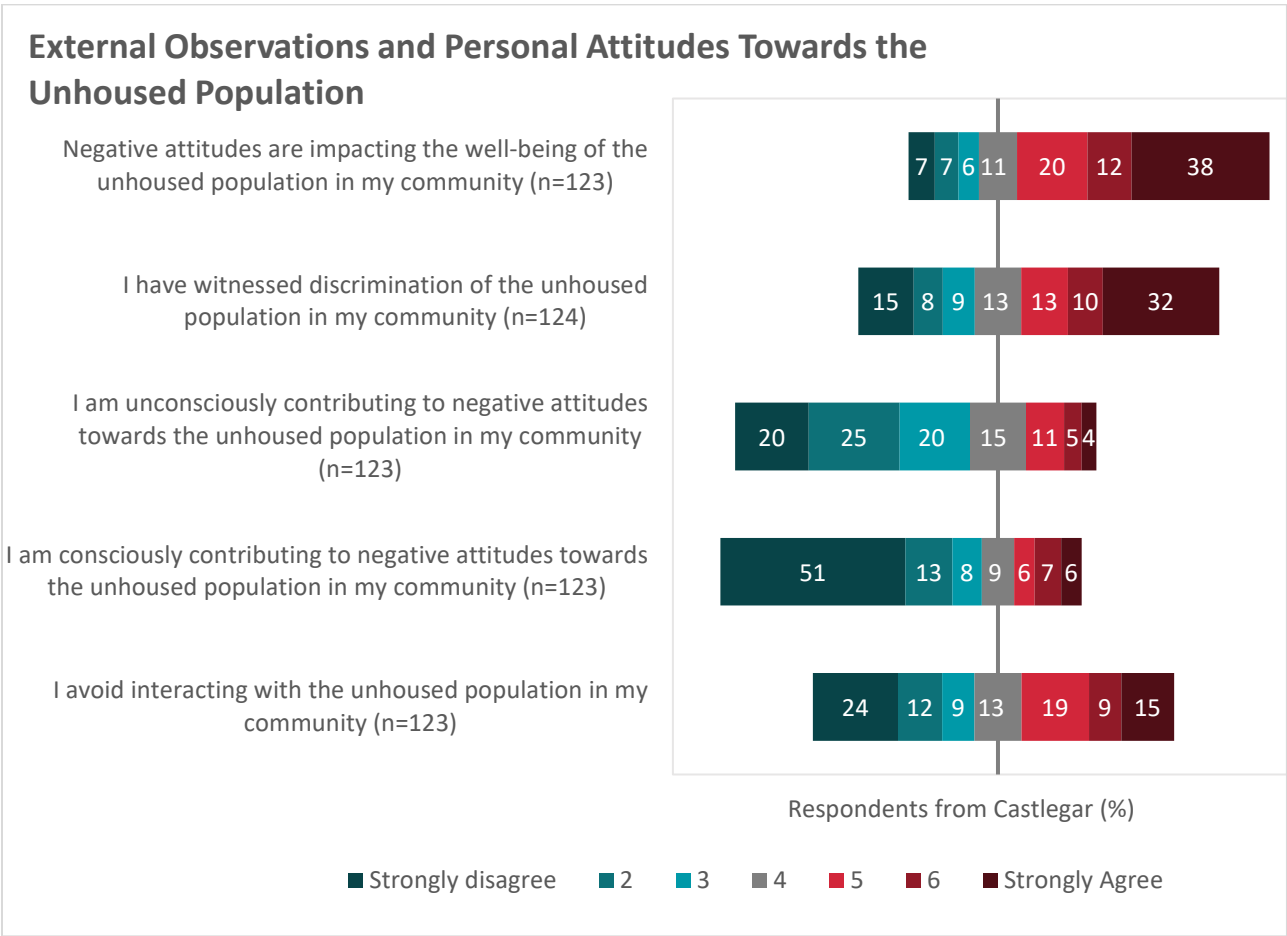
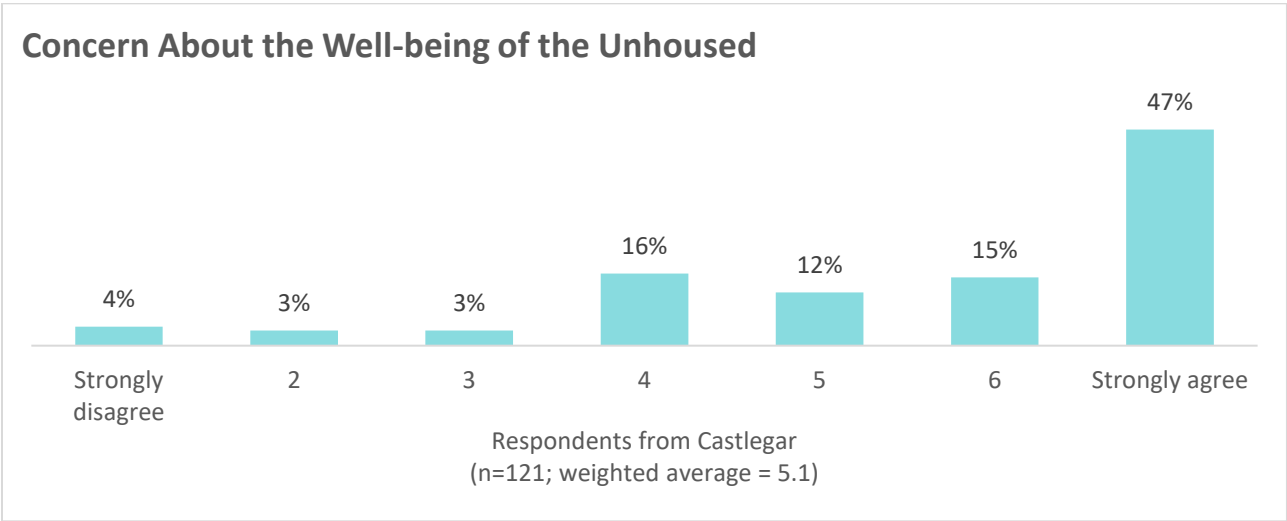
Perceptions of Supervised Consumption Sites and Overdose Prevention Services



Awareness of Local Services



3.4 Well-being of Unhoused Population

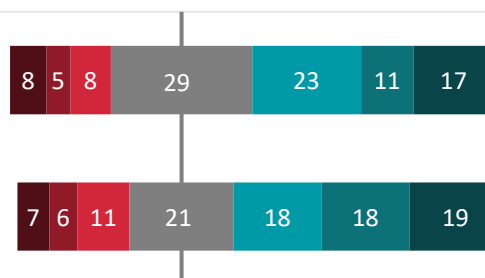


3.5 Information Sources

Access to and Reliability of Information Sources

I am able to access the information I am looking for regarding services or programs for the unhoused population (n=120)

I trust the information I receive regarding services for programs for the unhoused population (n=121)



Respondents from Castlegar (%)

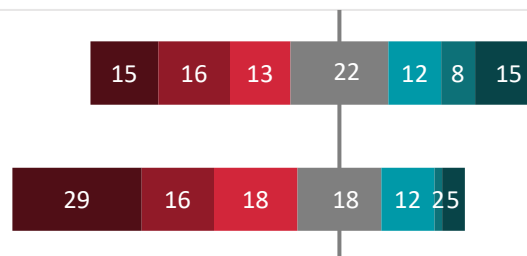
Strongly disagree 2 3 4 5 6 Strongly agree

3.6 Community Engagement

Opportunities to Share and Contribute to Decision-making

I have opportunities to share my perspectives on services and supports for unhoused populations in my community (n=120)

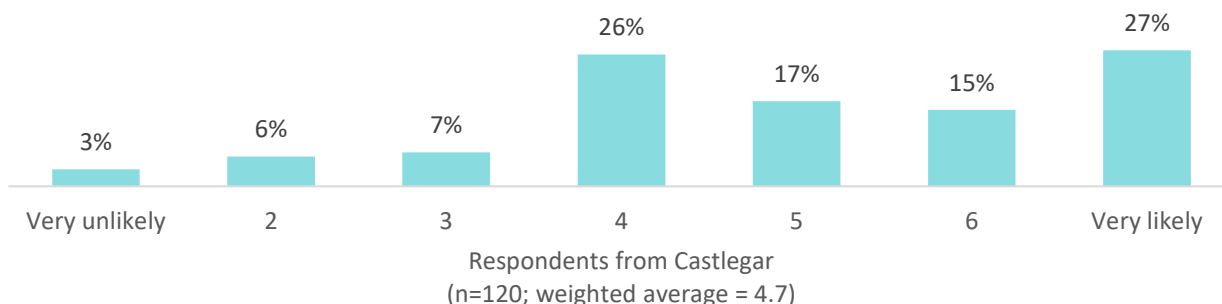
I feel that my perspective is considered by local decision-makers (n=119)



Respondents from Castlegar (%)

Strongly disagree 2 3 4 5 6 Strongly agree

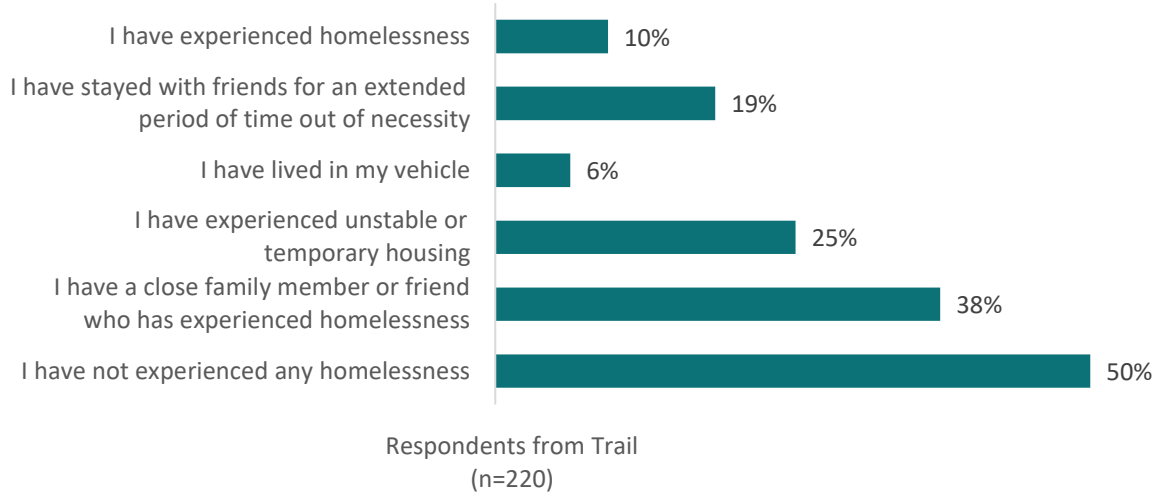
Likelihood of Taking Action to Improve the Well-being of Those Experiencing Homelessness



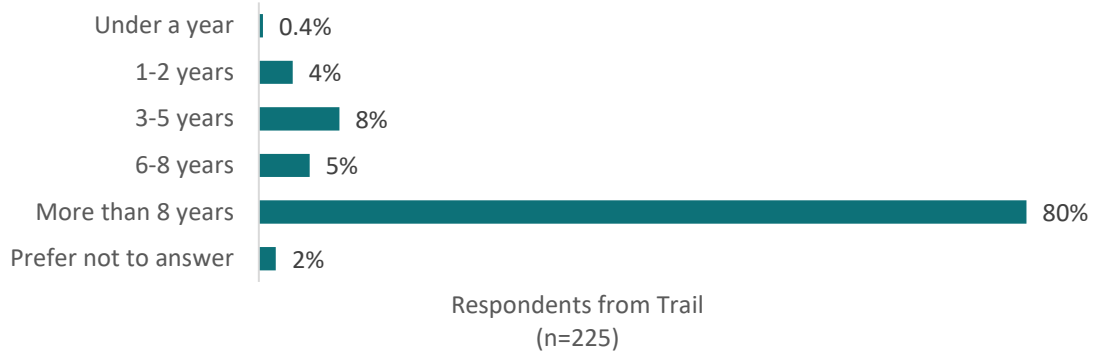
4.0 TRAIL

4.1 Demographics

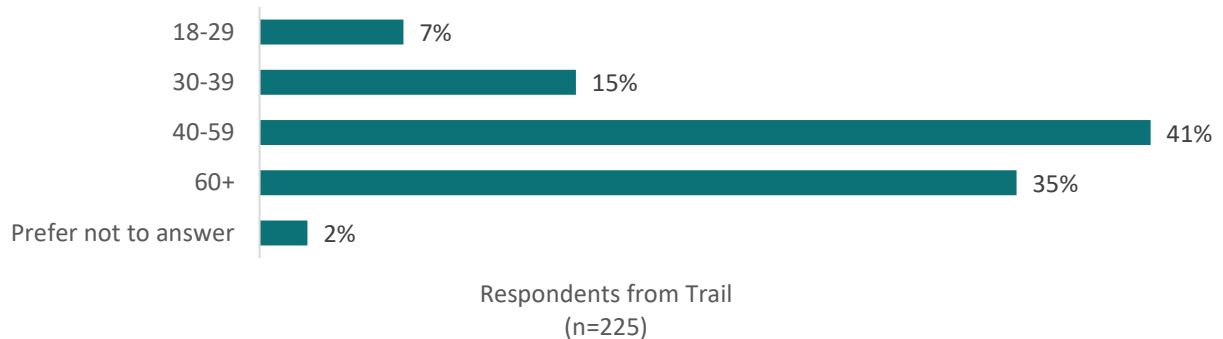
Personal Experiences of Homelessness



Duration of Residence

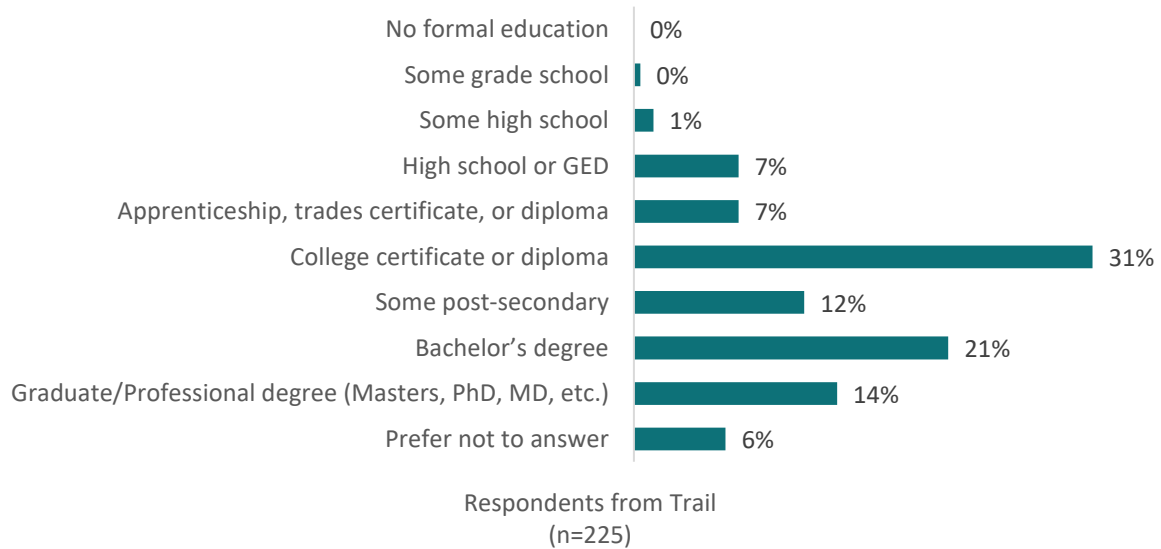


Age



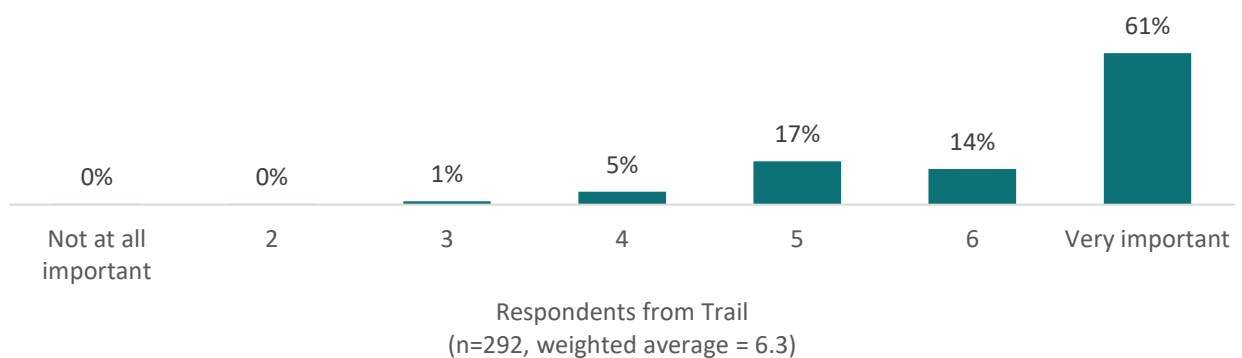
Gender	Respondents from Trail (n=224)
Male	24%
Female	69%
Gender non-conforming (including non-binary and gender fluid)	1%
Prefer to self-describe	1%
Prefer to not answer	5%

Level of Education

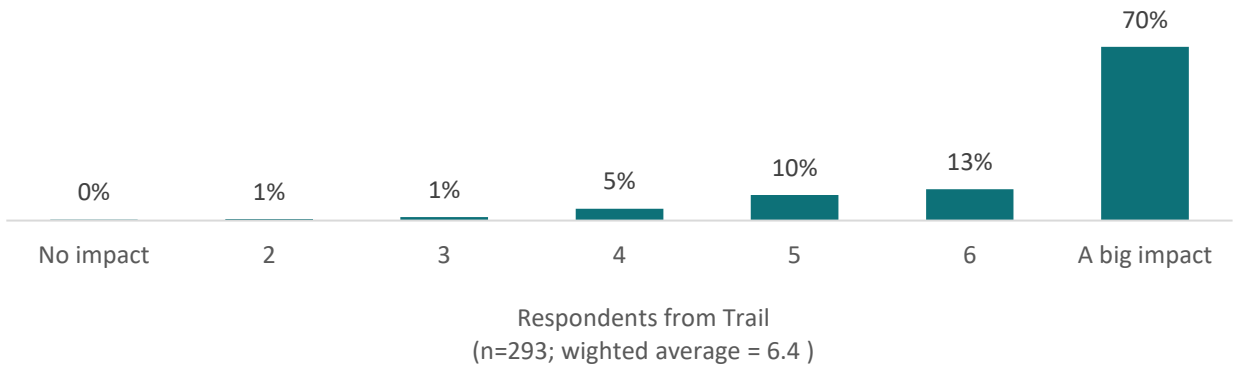


4.2 Community Conditions

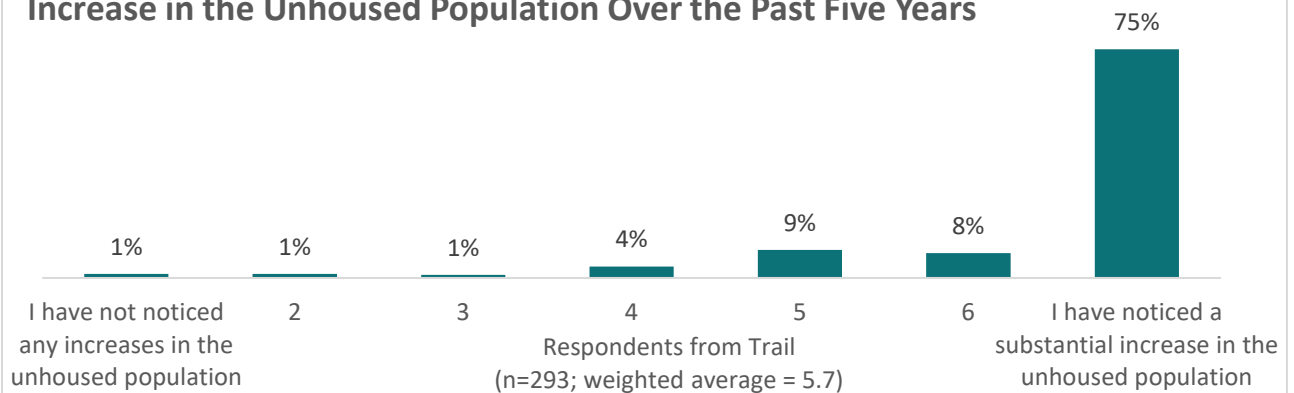
Importance of Homelessness



Impact of Homelessness

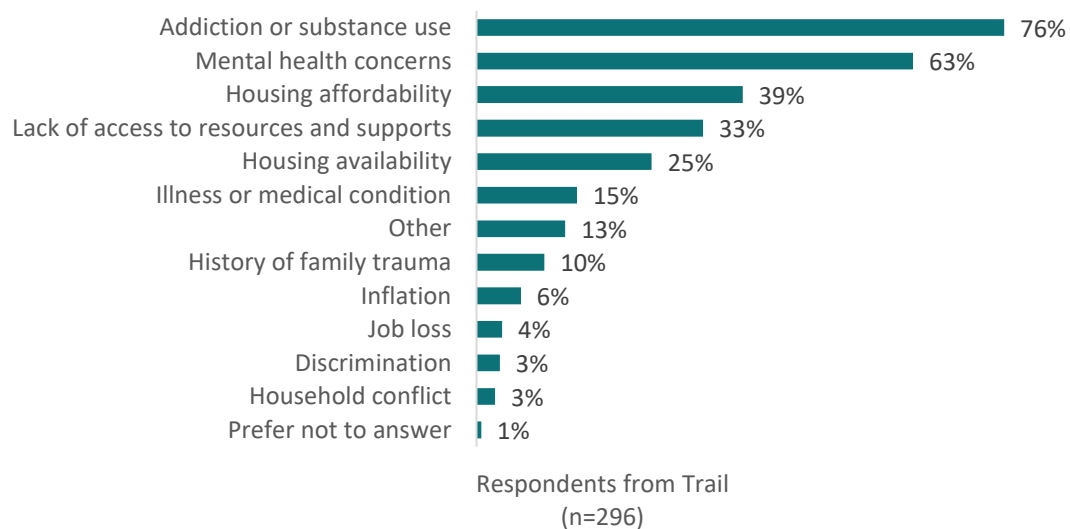


Increase in the Unhoused Population Over the Past Five Years



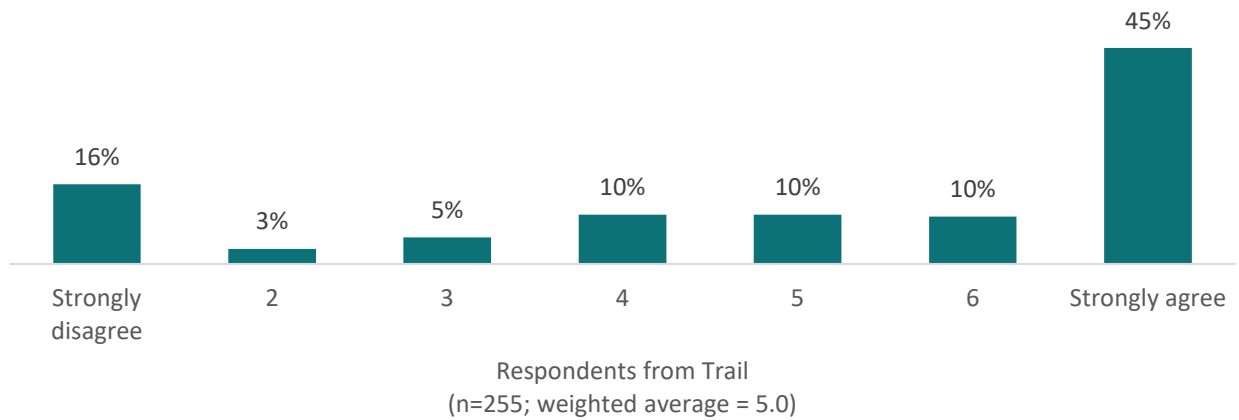
Causes of Homelessness

(From a Pre-Populated List)

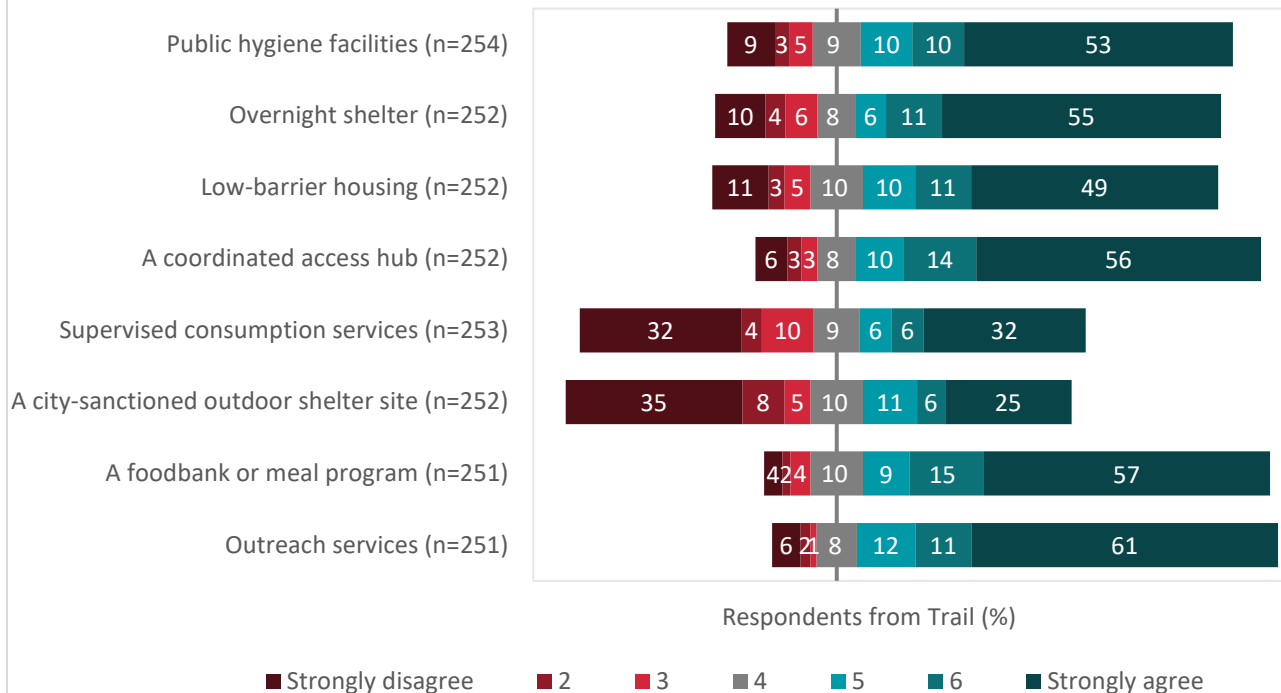


4.3 Service Provision

Local Government Advocacy for Funding



Support for Services within City Limits



Effective Means of Support for the Unhoused

Ranking a list of options from most effective to least effective

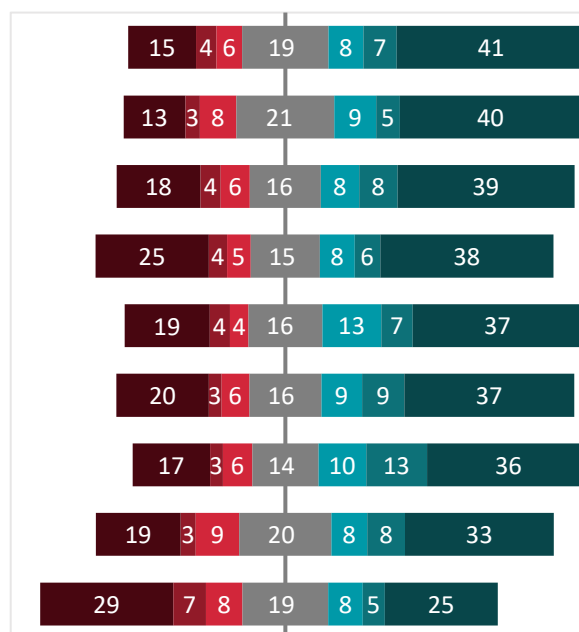
*The closer the weighted average is to 12, the more effective

Trail
Weighted Average*
(n=251)

Overnight shelter or low-barrier housing	9.4
Food banks/lunch programs	9.2
Hygiene facilities	8.9
Mental health, harm reduction, and substance use supports	7.5
Appropriate clothing	6.7
Low-barrier access to healthcare	6.4
Inclusive employment programs	5.8
Community education about homelessness	5.4
Outreach services	5.3
Regional collaboration	5.0
Year-round drop-in centres (coordinated access)	4.4
Improved transportation options	4.1

Perceptions of Supervised Consumption Sites and Overdose Prevention Services

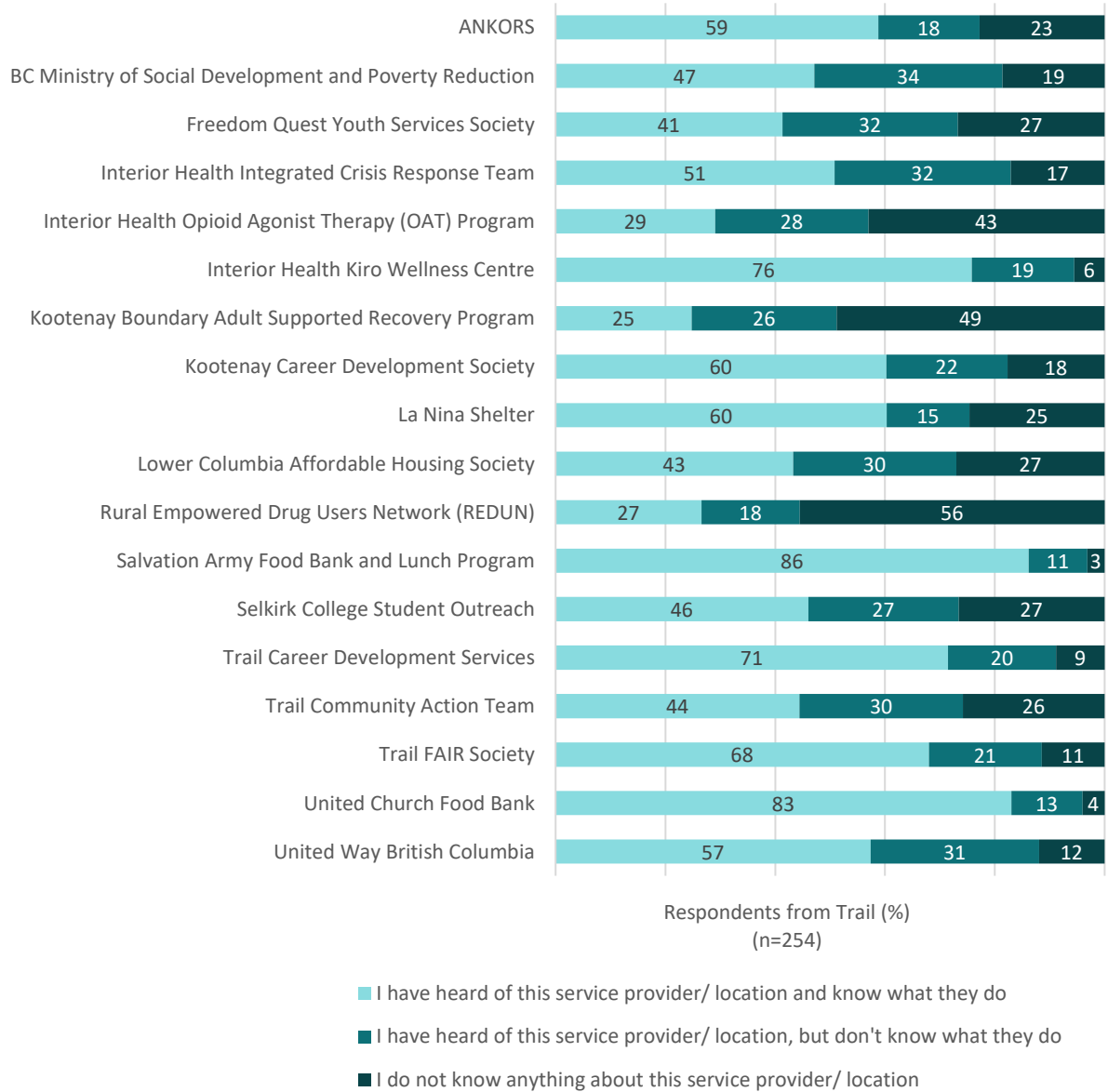
- Save lives (n=249)
- Support the unhoused population to access other health services and substance use care (n=252)
- Reduce overdoses (n=251)
- Reduce public drug use (n=251)
- Increase availability of first responders in my community (n=248)
- Decrease costs associated with emergency resources attending overdoses (n=248)
- Reduce harms associated with unregulated substance use (n=249)
- Reduce hospital stays (n=243)
- Reduce stigma (n=251)



Respondents from Trail (%)

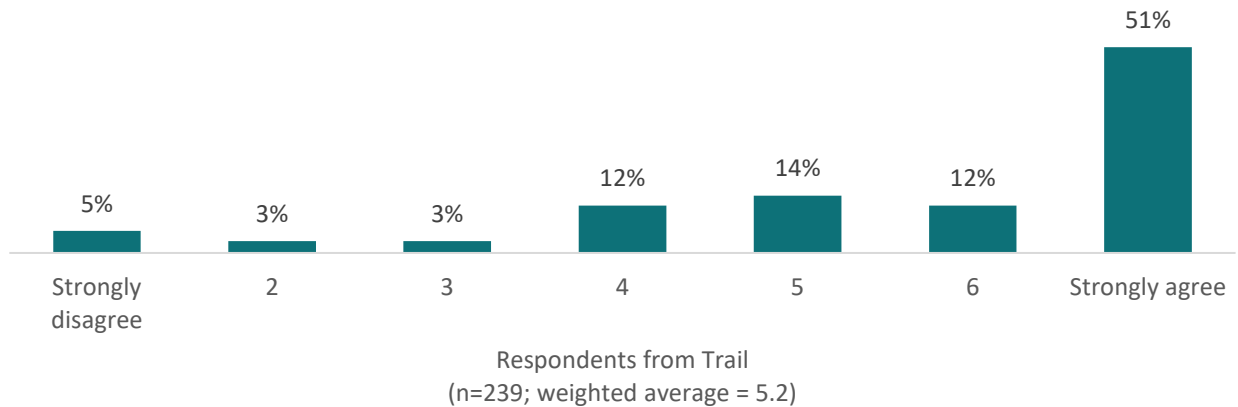
Strongly disagree 2 3 4 5 6 Strongly Agree

Awareness of Local Services

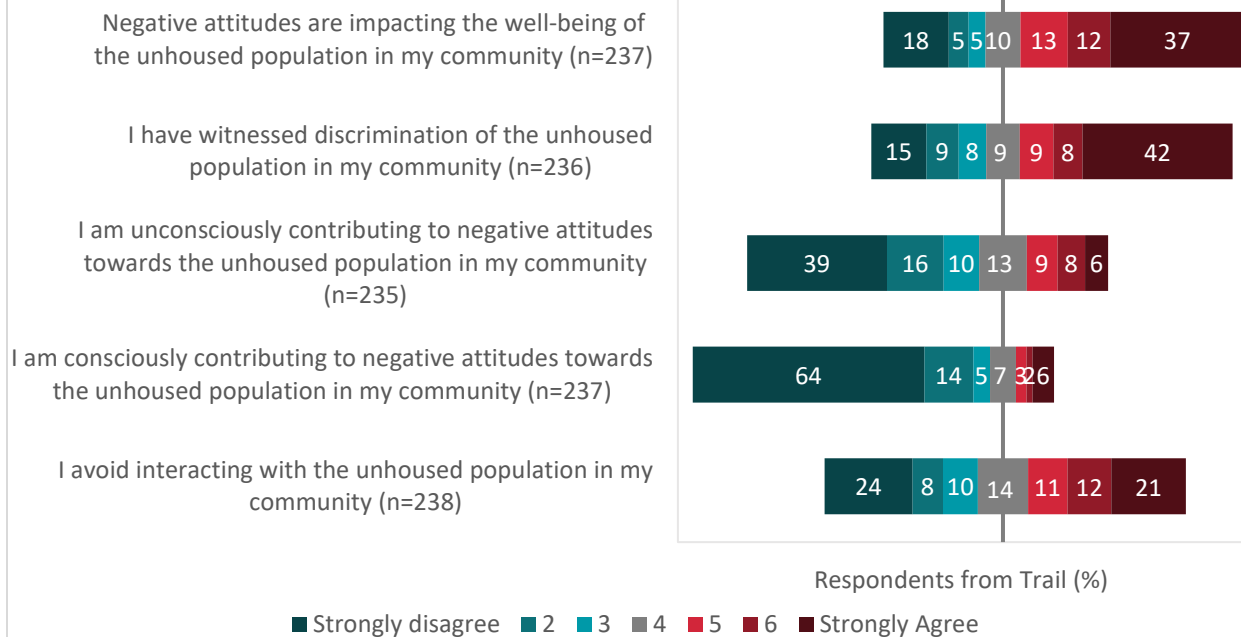


4.4 Well-being of Unhoused Population

Concern About the Well-being of the Unhoused



External Observations and Personal Attitudes Towards the Unhoused Population

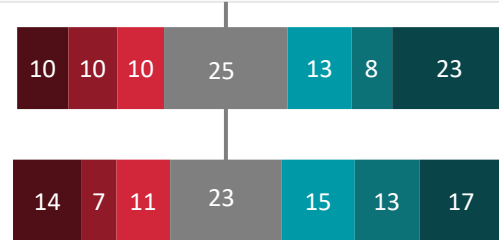


4.5 Information Sources

Access to and Reliability of Information Sources

I am able to access the information I am looking for regarding services or programs for the unhoused population (n=230)

I trust the information I receive regarding services or programs for the unhoused population (n=228)



Respondents from Trail (%)

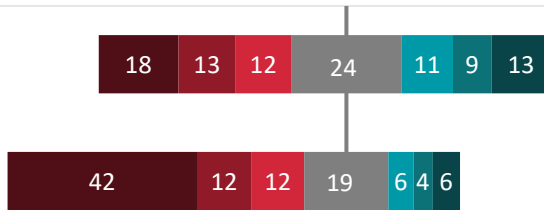
Strongly disagree 2 3 4 5 6 Strongly agree

4.6 Community Engagement

Opportunities to Share and Contribute to Decision-making

I have opportunities to share my perspectives on services and supports for unhoused populations in my community (n=221)

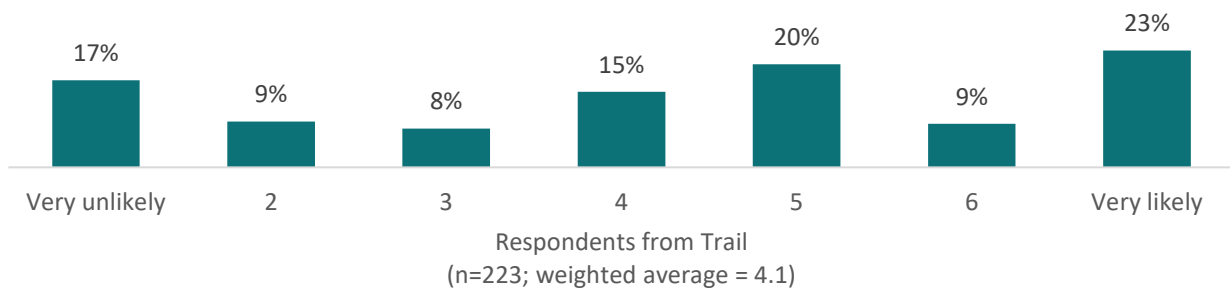
I feel that my perspective is considered by local decision-makers (n=215)



Respondents from Trail (%)

Strongly disagree 2 3 4 5 6 Strongly agree

Likelihood of Taking Action to Improve the Well-being of Those Experiencing Homelessness



APPENDIX: INFORMED CONSENT AND QUESTIONNAIRE

2024 Well-being Insights: Community Perceptions of Homelessness and Related Service Provision Informed Consent and Survey

This survey is an opportunity for you, a community member, to share your perspectives on homelessness in the communities of Trail, Castlegar, and Nelson.

This survey is part of the Selkirk College three-year applied research project *Bridging Rural Homelessness and Well-being: A Sustainable and Collaborative Regional Response*. This research is conducted by a team at Selkirk Innovates, the research and innovation division at Selkirk College. The aim of this project is to improve the well-being of those experiencing homelessness in Trail, Castlegar and Nelson.

This survey is being conducted to better understand community perceptions on homelessness. This includes understanding perceptions on current conditions, services that support the unhoused population, well-being of the unhoused, information sources, and community engagement. The data collected from this survey will be analyzed and compiled into a report to be shared with stakeholders. This report will be publicly shared through the Selkirk College website and other communications channels, such as social media. The information in this report will help inform local decision-makers about how to better support the unhoused population while also creating a safe and inclusive community for all.

This survey contains both closed-ended and open-ended questions. If you agree to fill out the survey it should take about 15 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary. You may quit the survey at any time. You may also skip a question if you do not wish to answer it.

This survey is confidential. There is an option to enter a prize draw after completing this survey. Contact information collected for this prize draw will be collected separate from survey responses. The prize is a \$100 gift certificate to a local business of your choice and a \$100 donation, on your behalf, to a social service organization in your community.

There is an additional option for you to be considered for a focus group. This focus group will dive deeper into community perceptions on homelessness based on these survey results. If you choose to be considered for this focus group, you will be prompted to leave your contact information. In this situation, your contact information will be attached to your survey results. Your results will not be anonymous to the Selkirk College research team. This will allow the research team to select focus group members with diverse perspectives. However, your responses remain confidential.

There are no known risks if you decide to participate in this survey. However, if emotional support is needed to help you process anything that comes up due to the questions, you can contact the Mental Health BC Hotline at 310-6789 (no area code needed).

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Jayme Jones, Faculty Researcher, at jjones1@selkirk.ca. The Selkirk College Research Ethics Board has approved this research study. If you have any ethical concerns, please contact reb@selkirk.ca.

We thank you for taking the time to complete this survey and sharing your perspectives with us.

Check *yes* to confirm that you understand the informed consent statement on this survey and agree to participate.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please use a ✓ or ✗ in the ☐ to select your answers.

Introduction

1. Are you 18 years of age or older?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

2. Which study area community do you live in? Or, if you live in a rural area outside of one of the study area communities, which community is closest to you?

- ☐ Nelson
☐ Castlegar
☐ Trail
☐ I do not live in one of the study area communities or a rural area immediately surrounding one of these communities

Community Conditions

3. How important is the issue of homelessness to you?

Not at all							Very important
Important	2	3	4	5	6		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Rate the impact of homelessness in your community.

No impact							A big impact
	2	3	4	5	6		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Please describe what the impact of homelessness looks like in your community:

6. To what extent have you noticed an increase in the unhoused population in your community over the past five years?

I have not noticed any increases in the unhoused population							I have noticed a substantial increase in the unhoused population
	2	3	4	5	6		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

7. What do you think are the top three causes of homelessness in your community? Select three from the list.

- ☐ Inflation
☐ Job loss
☐ Housing affordability
☐ Housing availability
☐ Household conflict
☐ Discrimination
☐ Lack of access to resources and supports
☐ History of family trauma
☐ Addiction or substance use
☐ Illness or medical condition
☐ Mental health concerns
☐ Other (please specify): _____

Service Provision

8. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Within the city limits of my community, I support...

	Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree
Publicly available hygiene facilities (i.e., washroom, shower)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
An overnight shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low-barrier housing (i.e., where financial and employment requirements are minimal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A coordinated access hub (i.e., centralized access to services, such as medical or social support services)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supervised consumption services (i.e., the injection or inhalation of unregulated substances)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A city-sanctioned outdoor shelter site (e.g., tenting)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A foodbank or meal program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outreach services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:

I think my local government should advocate to the provincial and federal governments to reallocate some funds to increase supports for the unhoused population in my community.

Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. What thoughts do you want share about having a shelter and/or social housing in your community? (i.e., subsidized housing owned and/or operated by the government or a non-profit organization)

11. Please navigate to the table for your community (skipping the other communities in this list) and indicate your level of awareness about the following service providers/service locations in your community. (Please note some services listed are no longer operational but were recently available in your community.)

NELSON

Service provider/ Service location	I have heard of this service provider/location and <u>know</u> what they do	I have heard of this service provider/location, but <u>don't know</u> what they do	<u>I do not know</u> <u>anything</u> about this service provider/ location
ANKORS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aimee Beaulieu Transition House	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cicada Place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freedom Quest Youth Services Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior Health Integrated Crisis Response Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior Health Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kootenay Boundary Adult Supported Recovery Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kootenay Career Development Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nelson CARES Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nelson Community Services Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our Daily Bread	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Empowered Drug Users Network (REDUN)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salvation Army Food Bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salvation Army Pathways of Hope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selkirk College Student Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stepping Stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Advocacy Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The HUB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CASTLEGAR

Service provider/ Service location	I have heard of this service provider/location and <u>know</u> what they do	I have heard of this service provider/location, but <u>don't know</u> what they do	<u>I do not know</u> <u>anything</u> about this service provider/ location
ANKORS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Axis Family Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Castlegar & District Community Services Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Castlegar & District Community Services Society Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Castlegar Community Connections Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Harvest Food Bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freedom Quest Youth Services Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior Health Integrated Crisis Response Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior Health Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kootenay Boundary Adult Supported Recovery Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kootenay Career Development Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Out of the Cold Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Empowered Drug Users Network (REDUN)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selkirk College Student Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TRAIL

Service provider/ Service location	I have heard of this service provider/location and <u>know</u> what they do	I have heard of this service provider/location, but <u>don't know</u> what they do	<u>I do not know</u> <u>anything</u> about this service provider/ location
ANKORS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freedom Quest Youth Services Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior Health Integrated Crisis Response Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior Health Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior Health Kiro Wellness Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kootenay Boundary Adult Supported Recovery Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kootenay Career Development Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
La Nina Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lower Columbia Affordable Housing Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Empowered Drug Users Network (REDUN)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salvation Army Food Bank and Lunch Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selkirk College Student Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trail Career Development Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trail Community Action Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trail FAIR Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
United Church Food Bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
United Way British Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. What are, in your opinion, the most effective means of support for the unhoused population? Please rank from 1 to 12, where 1 is the most effective and 12 is the least effective.

Access to appropriate clothing	
Access to food banks/lunch programs	
Access to hygiene facilities (i.e., washroom, shower)	
Access to overnight shelter or low-barrier housing with supports	
Community education about homelessness	
Improved transportation options	
Inclusive employment programs that support those who are experiencing substance use disorder and mental health concerns	
Low-barrier access to healthcare	
Low barrier access to mental health, harm reduction, and substance use supports	
Outreach services	
Regional collaboration between service providers and municipal governments	
Year-round drop-in centres (e.g., coordinated access locations, emergency weather facilities)	

13. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

I believe that supervised consumption and overdose prevention services...

	Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree
Decrease costs associated with emergency resources attending overdoses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase availability of first responders in my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce harms associated with unregulated substance use (e.g., drug poisoning or blood borne infections)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce hospital stays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce overdoses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce public drug use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce stigma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Save lives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support the unhoused population to access other health services and substance use care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Well-being of Unhoused Populations

14. Please indicate your agreement with the following statement:

I am concerned about the well-being of the unhoused population in my community.

Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Please indicate your agreement with the following statements:

	Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree
Negative attitudes are impacting the well-being of the unhoused population in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have witnessed discrimination of the unhoused population in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am unconsciously contributing to negative attitudes towards the unhoused population in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am consciously contributing to negative attitudes towards the unhoused population in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I avoid interacting with the unhoused population in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. In your opinion, what is the best way to reduce negative attitudes about the unhoused population in your community?

17. What ideas do you have to improve the well-being of the unhoused population in your community?

Information Sources

18. Please indicate your agreement with the following statements:

	Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree
I am able to access the information I am looking for regarding services or programs for the unhoused population.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I trust the information I receive regarding services or programs for the unhoused population.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. Where do you currently find information about services for the unhoused population in your community? Be as specific as you can.

Community Engagement

20. Please indicate your agreement with the following statement:

	Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree
I have opportunities to share my perspectives on services and supports for unhoused populations in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel that my perspective is considered by local decision-makers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. How likely are you to take action(s) that will improve the well-being of those experiencing homelessness in your community.

Very unlikely	2	3	4	5	6	Very likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

22. What would encourage you to become an active participant in the initiatives that improve the well-being of the unhoused population in your community?

23. How can you personally contribute to improving the well-being of the unhoused population in your community?

About You

24. What is your age?

- ☐ 18-29
☐ 30-39
☐ 40-59
☐ 60+
☐ Prefer to not answer

25. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Gender non-conforming (including non-binary and gender fluid)
☐ Prefer to self-describe:

☐ Prefer to not answer

26. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- ☐ No formal education
☐ Some grade school
☐ Some high school
☐ High school or GED
☐ Apprenticeship, trades certificate, or diploma
☐ College certificate or diploma
☐ Some post-secondary

- ☐ Bachelor's degree
☐ Graduate/Professional degree (Masters, PhD, MD, etc.)
☐ Prefer not to answer

27. How long have you lived in your present community?

- ☐ Under a year
☐ 1-2 years
☐ 3-5 years
☐ 6-8 years
☐ More than 8 years
☐ Prefer not to answer

28. Have you experienced any of the following in your life? Select all that apply.

- ☐ I have experienced homelessness
☐ I have stayed with friends for an extended period of time out of necessity
☐ I have lived in my vehicle
☐ I have experienced unstable or temporary housing
☐ I have a close family member or friend who has experienced homelessness
☐ I have not experienced any homelessness

Conclusion

29. Is there anything else you would like to share with the research team around any of the topics addressed in this survey?

30. Would you like to provide your contact information to be considered for a focus group discussion? This focus group will be approximately 1.5 hours (90 minutes) in length. Please enter all fields:

Name	Phone Number	Email Address