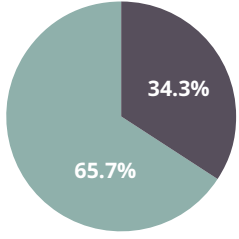
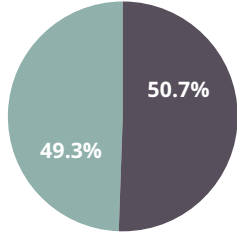


The BCSTH 24 Hour Census provides an unduplicated count of women, youth and children helped by transition housing programs in BC, and how many more were unable to be served, during just one day.

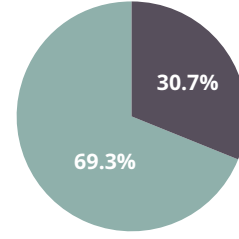
In just 24 hours, between November 29th-30th 2023, 138 transition housing programs in BC and two transition housing programs in the Yukon:



More than one third of programs were **at or over capacity** during the 24 hour period (34.3%).



More than half of shelters (50.7%) were **operating with just one staff** for between 10 and 24 hours during the census period.



Almost one third of programs reported **carrying waitlists** (30.7%). There were 1,227 women and their dependents waiting for services.

“A woman with family called and we are full so the woman said she will sleep on the floor of the living room with her kids, but she needs a place tonight.”

- Transition Housing Program Worker

The 2023 BCSTH survey demonstrates the **worsening housing crisis in BC**, combined with **key service gaps**, are **leaving women, youth and children fleeing violence and potential lethality with a lack of options and resources**, and transition housing programs are supporting **more women with more complex needs**.

“The housing crisis is so terrible. There is no housing for the women, no matter how hard they try. I dread taking crisis calls, because we have no space. The women all sound so desperate.”

- Transition Housing Program Worker

Supports Related to

Housing, Transportation and Childcare

were the **most common service requests that programs were unable to meet** due to a lack of staff and a lack of program funding.

Key Service Gaps

Key gaps impacting programs’ work with women, children and youth were predominantly related to the:

- **housing crisis** combined with a lack of transition housing programs.
- **lack of mental health supports** for women and children.
- **lack of treatment centres** and supports for women dealing with **substance use**.

Many women served (i.e., sheltered or supported in person) during the 24 hour period had disclosed being **threatened lethally:**

- **33** women had been threatened with a firearm.
- **36** women had disclosed non-fatal suffocation.
- **95** women had disclosed non-fatal strangulation.
- **108** women had been threatened with a weapon other than a firearm.

Many women sheltered during the 24 Hour period were known to be facing **health & wellness challenges:**

- **272** women were facing mental health challenges.
- **169** women were facing alcohol or substance use challenges.
- **113** women were facing physical health challenges.
- **64** women were known to have a traumatic-brain injury (TBI).
- **18** women were known to be pregnant.

Despite These Challenges

Everyday anti-violence workers develop innovative and resourceful ways to support and ensure the safety of women, youth and children who have experienced violence. BCSTH thanks the programs who took time out of their busy days to participate in the 24 Hour Census and we recognize the difference you are making in thousands of lives each day.

<p>“These services we provide are crucial in times of need for women: those who have left for the first time, those leaving for the twentieth time, it takes a large amount of pride and courage to reach out only to be denied services. Keep supporting us, so we can support them.”</p> <p>- Transition House Program Worker</p>	<p>“I have no family here. Now I am here and I feel that you are my family.</p> <p>You helped me!”</p> <p>- Program Participant</p>
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Transition Housing Programs & BCSTH are Grateful

For the valuable funding from BC Housing to serve women and their children fleeing violence. Still, much work remains to be done to ensure that every woman, youth and child in need has access to safe shelter and supports.