



## LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY

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# people with health and activity limitations

Our research shows that there were 410,360 people with health and activity limitations in Metro Vancouver in 2006. This represents approximately 20% of the population.

In Surrey, there were 73,455 people with health and activity limitations accounting for 18% of all people with health and activity limitations in Metro Vancouver in 2006 and 19% of the population in Surrey.



**this** is a campaign to end poverty in Surrey.  
transportation / housing / income / support



In Surrey, there were 16,895 people with health and activity limitations living in poverty

## What we know from our research

### People with health and activity limitations in the work force

There were 67,705 people with health and activity limitations living in Surrey who were 15 years or older. Of these, 29,565 were part of the labour force while 38,145 were not. This translates into a participation rate of 44%. Our research also shows that there were 2,375 individuals with health and activity limitations looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census.

### The quality and nature of work opportunities

Our research shows that approximately 14,030 (42%) of those with health and activity limitations in the labour force worked for a full year, full time. There were an additional 14,585 (44%) who reported that they worked part-time. Of those who worked full-time, their average earnings were \$44,347 and median earnings were \$38,908. Among those who worked part-time, average earnings were \$21,010 while the median earnings were \$14,236.

### Average hourly wage for those with disabilities reporting full-time employment

Based on average earnings of \$44,347, the average hourly earnings among those who worked for a full-year, full-time were \$22.74 per hour assuming a 37.5 hour week and 52 weeks of employment while the median hourly earnings were \$19.95.

### Access to employment opportunities

Of the 27,225 people with health and activity limitations living in Surrey who were part of the labour force, 20,265 reported that they travel to a usual place of work. Of those who responded, 8,190 (40%) reported that they worked in Surrey while 12,075 (44%) worked elsewhere in Metro Vancouver. The remainder worked outside Metro Vancouver.

### Travel to work

There were approximately 24,905 people with health and activity limitations in Surrey who provided information on how they get to work. Of these approximately 3,280 (13%) reported that they take public transit to work while 17,975 (72%) reported that they drive to work and 2,370 (10%) travel to work as a passenger in a vehicle.

### Access to education and other opportunities

Approximately 22% of people with health and activity limitations (24 to 64) living in Surrey reported that they did not have a certificate, diploma or degree in 2006. There were an additional 28% who reported that they had at least high school or the equivalent. Approximately 50% of those with health and activity limitations (24 to 64) in Surrey had a certificate, diploma, or degree from a college, university, apprenticeship, or trades program. This includes approximately 39% who reported having a university degree.

**TABLE 1 PEOPLE WITH HEALTH AND ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS**

	People with Health and Activity Limitations		In Low Income (Before Tax)		In Low Income (After Tax)		Change (After vs Before Tax)
	#	%	#	%	#	#	
Metro Vancouver	406,505	28	113,821	21	85,366	-28,455	
<b>Surrey</b>	<b>73,150</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16,825</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12,436</b>	<b>-4,389</b>	
Burnaby	42,740	32	13,677	25	10,685	-2,992	
Coquitlam	21,590	28	6,045	21	4,534	-1,511	
Delta	17,985	17	3,057	12	2,158	-899	
Greater Vancouver A	1,260	43	542	36	454	-88	
Langley City	5,800	33	1,914	25	1,450	-464	
Langley District	16,760	13	2,179	9	1,508	-670	
Maple Ridge	13,575	20	2,715	15	2,036	-679	
New Westminster	12,955	31	4,016	24	3,109	-907	
North Vancouver City	9,055	29	2,626	22	1,992	-634	
North Vancouver District	13,215	17	2,247	13	1,718	-529	
Pitt Meadows	2,915	20	583	15	437	-146	
Port Coquitlam	9,215	25	2,304	20	1,843	-461	
Port Moody	4,100	18	738	16	656	-82	
Richmond	34,305	30	10,292	23	7,890	-2,401	
Vancouver	113,625	36	40,905	29	32,951	-7,954	
West Vancouver District	8,060	20	1,612	15	1,209	-403	
White Rock	5,010	19	952	12	601	-351	
Other*	1190	8	54	0	0	-54	

\*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

### Individuals with health and activity limitations living in poverty

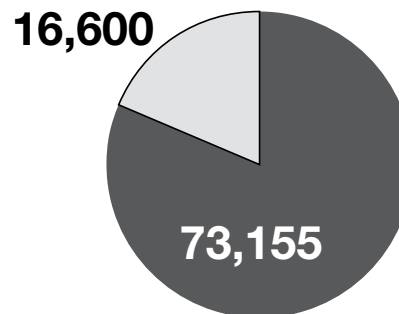
Our research shows that of the 410,360 individuals with health and activity limitations living in Metro Vancouver, approximately 114,900 were living in poverty in 2006. This translates into a poverty rate of 28%. In Surrey, there were 16,895 people with health and activity limitations living in poverty in 2006 or approximately 23% of all people with health and activity limitations who were living in Surrey.

## How does poverty affect people with disabilities?

GRAPH 1 Approximately 18% of persons with health and activity limitations are living with low income in Surrey.



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN LOW INCOME VS. NOT IN LOW INCOME (2006)



There are currently 271 individuals in Metro Vancouver on BC Housing's Applicant Registry who have applied for a wheelchair modified unit.

### Seniors with health and activity limitations living in poverty

There is significant diversity in the profile of people with health and activity limitations living in poverty in Surrey. Our research shows that of the 73,455 people with health and activity limitations, 23,565 (32%) were seniors 65 or older. Of these approximately 1 in 5 (4,240) were living in poverty.

### Families with health and activity limitations

Our research also shows that there were 56,225 individuals with health and activity limitations in Surrey living in a census family, while 16,940 were living in non-census family arrangements. This includes individuals living alone (10,205), living with relatives (4,360), and living with non-relatives (2,375). Of those who were living alone and who have health and activity limitations 5,220 (51%) were single senior-led households 65 or older.

### Aboriginal people with health and activity limitations

There were also 2,245 individuals living in Surrey who identified themselves as having health and activity limitations and who also reported Aboriginal ancestry. This represents approximately 30% of the 7,630 Aboriginal people living in Surrey.

### Housing needs among people with health and activity limitations

People with health and activity limitations often need modified housing. There are a range of different housing and support models, all of which provide different types of supports. Under previous social housing programs, there was a requirement that all new social housing developments should include a percentage of fully modified wheelchair-accessible units. There are currently 271 individuals in Metro Vancouver on BC Housing's Applicant Registry who have applied for a wheelchair modified unit, as well as 1,809 individuals who have some level of disability. In Surrey, there are 52 individuals requiring a fully modified unit and 240 individuals who have some type of disability.



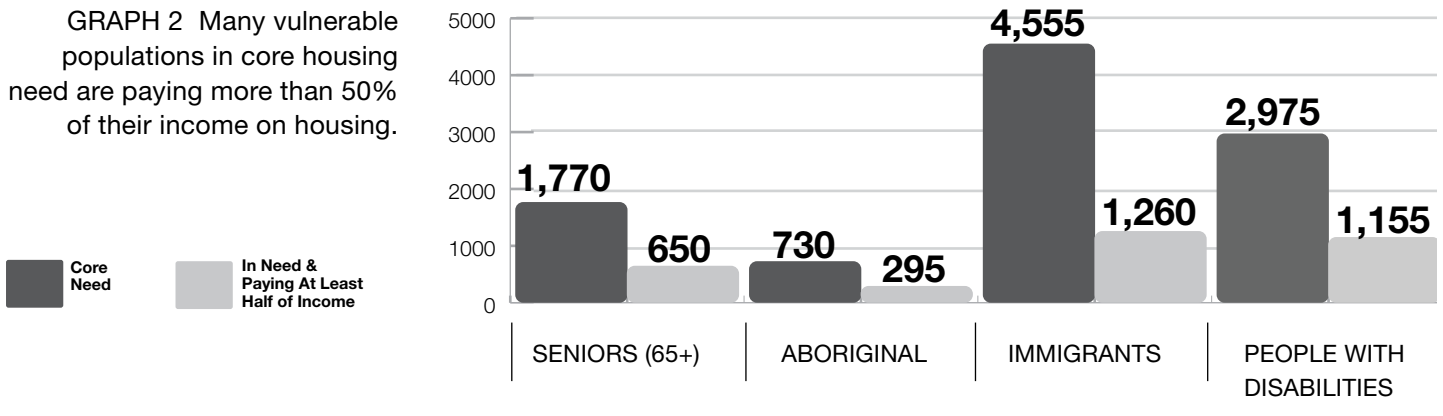
### Persons with persistent and multiple barriers (PPMB) and persons with disabilities

BC's current income assistance program makes provisions for individuals who have been determined to have persistent and multiple barriers as well as those with disabilities who are unable to work. A single person with persistent and multiple barriers receives \$658 per month to live on through BC's income assistance programs, while those with disabilities receive \$906 per month. This money must cover the cost of food, clothing, housing and other basic essentials. Monthly assistance of \$906 per month or \$10,877.04 annually represents less than 57% of the low income cut-off for a single person (\$19,144), an amount which represents the established poverty line for a single person in Surrey.

## Who is in core housing need in Surrey?

HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE NEED AND "WORST CASE" NEED

GRAPH 2 Many vulnerable populations in core housing need are paying more than 50% of their income on housing.



### Persons with disabilities in core housing need

Across Metro Vancouver in 2006, there were 79,365 renter households in core housing need. Of these, 20,230 (25%) were led by an individual reporting difficulty with daily activities and a reduction in their activities at home, work or school and in other areas. In Surrey, there were 2,975 renter households in core housing need led by an individual reporting difficulty with daily activities, representing 27% of all renter households in core housing need in Surrey.

### Households with health and activity limitations in "worst case" need

Of the 20,230 renter households in core housing need in Metro Vancouver led by an individual reporting difficulty with daily activities, there were 8,045 (40%) who were in need and spending at least half of their income on their housing costs. These households are considered to be in "worst case" need; that is, households where a change in their income or an



increase in their rent could push them deeper into poverty and homelessness. Of the 2,975 renter households in core housing need in Surrey in 2006 where the household maintainer reported difficulty with daily activities, 1,155 (39%) were in “worst case” need.

#### **Homelessness among people with health-related challenges**

There is a high incidence of health and activity limitations among those who are homeless. Of those individuals interviewed during the 24 hours of the 2011 homeless count, 70% identified at least one health condition, including a medical condition (41%), a physical condition (30%), and a mental illness (26%).