



Indicator Data & Sources 2024

September 2024

CONTENTS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	4
ARTS & CULTURE	5
Library Use	5
Arts Funding	6
Employment in the Arts	7
Community in Focus.....	7
BELONGING & ENGAGEMENT.....	8
Charitable Giving	8
Police-reported Hate Crimes.....	8
Belonging, Engagement and Wellbeing in Canada	9
Community in Focus.....	10
ECONOMY.....	11
Unemployment Rate.....	11
Employment Rate.....	11
Hotel Rooms.....	12
Air and Ferry Passenger Volume	12
Community in Focus.....	12
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.....	13
Air Quality	13
Solid Waste Disposal	14
Southern Resident Killer Whales.....	14
Community in Focus.....	15
GETTING STARTED	16
Net Migration.....	16
Youth Unemployment.....	16
Children & Youth in Care.....	17
Child Vulnerability	17
Childcare Spaces.....	17
HEALTH & WELLNESS.....	18
Unregulated Drug Deaths	18
Access to Healthcare Providers.....	18
Walk-in Clinic Wait Times.....	19
Living with Disability.....	19
Community in Focus.....	20

HOUSING	21
Housing Sales and Prices	21
Rents and Rental Vacancy	21
Seniors Rental Housing Precarity	22
Community in Focus.....	22
LEARNING	23
High School Non-Completion.....	23
Post-Secondary Educational Attainment	23
Education in the Trades	24
Foundational Skills Assessment	24
Community in Focus.....	24
SAFETY	26
Selected Crime Rates	26
Police-Reported Family Violence	27
Police-Reported Intimate Partner Violence	27
Workplace Safety	28
Community in Focus.....	28
SPORTS & RECREATION	29
State of Local Sport for Kids	29
JumpStart State of Play Report	29
Rallying for Girls’ Mental Health	30
Community in Focus.....	31
STANDARD OF LIVING.....	32
Median Family Income.....	32
Median Individual Income.....	32
Poverty Rates	32
Living Wage	33
BC Minimum Wage	33
Community in Focus.....	34
TRANSPORTATION	35
Household Travel Characteristics.....	35
Transit Use	36

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were launched in 2015 after three years of negotiations between 193 member countries and represent the world's collective vision for a thriving and sustainable planet. They include 17 goals and 169 targets.

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.

Under each Vital Signs key issue area, we have placed icons next to indicators that support specific SDG targets. These indicators are closely aligned with the Canadian Indicator Framework, a set of nationally relevant, objective, and comprehensive indicators to track progress in implementing the SDGs, which itself is aligned with the Global Indicator Framework designed to measure progress at the global level.

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



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



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

Library Use

In 2023, the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) reported the following visits, circulation and engagement across its 12 branches in the region:

- 3.3 million total visits, of which 1.7 million were in-person.
- 5.9 million total circulation, 3.8 million physical items and 2.1 million digital items.
- 22,000 new cardholders (16% of total cardholders as of Dec. 31, 2023).
- 137,000 public computer logins.
- 28,000 total program participation.

Source: Greater Victoria Public Library, personal communication

https://gvpl.ent.sirsiidynix.net/client/en_US/default

In 2022 (most recent year of data), the GVPL ranked first among 17 reporting urban library systems in Canada for total circulation, 3rd for in-person visits, and 8th for total number of cardholders per capita.

Source: Canadian Urban Libraries Council

<https://culc.ca/projects/key-performance-indicators/>

The Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) serves Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, and the Central Coast. It operates 39 branches, including two in the capital region: Sidney/North Saanich and Sooke.

In 2023, the two branches combined recorded:

- 363,000 total circulation, 252,000 physical items and 111,000 digital items.
- 16,000 total cardholders (20% new applicants).
- 34% of Sidney/North Saanich residents have a library card.
- 39% of Sooke residents have a library card.

Since opening in 2022, the Sooke library has become a go-to community consultation space for all levels of government. In 2023, the Sidney/North Saanich library worked with municipal partners to establish an on-site bike repair station that loans repair kits and started loaning board games and puzzles with huge success.

Source: Vancouver Island Regional Library

<https://virl.bc.ca/>

Arts Funding



Regional funding

In 2023, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Arts and Culture Support Service distributed **\$2.6** million to **93** local non-profit arts organizations and artist-led partnerships, of whom **13** were first-time recipients.

CRD grant recipients hosted over **9,460** events and performances in the region, with over **929,000** participants and audience members.

In 2023, **5,297** arts workers were employed by grant recipients, including artists and full- and part-time staff.

Source: Capital Regional District. Arts and Culture Support Service 2023 Impact Report

https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/plans-reports/arts-culture/crd-arts-culture-2023-impact-report.pdf?sfvrsn=9ba68cce_6

Federal funding

In 2022/2023, the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) awarded **\$6.1** million to **147** recipients in the Victoria CMA, including **99** individuals, **3** groups, and **45** arts organizations. Grants ranged from **\$1,000** to **\$670,000**. Individuals received an average grant of **\$19,007** and the average arts organization grant was **\$93,436**.

The CCA awarded **\$57** million to **1,500** artists, groups, and arts organizations in **106** communities in BC in 2022/23.

Source: Canada Council for the Arts Open Data

<https://canadacouncil.ca/research/data-tables>



Employment in the Arts

In 2023, approximately 8,500 people in Greater Victoria worked in arts, culture, recreation and sports occupations, except management, continuing an upward trend from 2019.

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0419-01 Employment by occupation, census metropolitan areas, annual](#)

Community in Focus

UVic's Inaugural Indigenous Storyteller-In-Residence

Award-winning Tłı̨chǫ Dene author Richard Van Camp was named the University of Victoria's inaugural Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence.

Van Camp, an alumnus of UVic's creative writing program, began his residency in September, where he is offering two online courses called 'Recovering Family Medicine Through Story' in the English and Continuing Studies departments. He is also offering one-on-one writing workshops to students, and an on-campus graduate seminar in 2025.

The new Storyteller-in-Residence program is part of UVic's commitment to ʔetal nəwəl — which means relationships with the lands, waters, and all living beings — by welcoming students and community members to explore the healing power of stories.

Source: University of Victoria

BELONGING & ENGAGEMENT

Sustainable Development Targets



16.3: Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms

Charitable Giving

In 2022, 21% of tax filers in Greater Victoria made charitable donations, down slightly from 22% in 2021, and higher than BC (18%) and Canada (17%) in 2022. The median donation in Greater Victoria was \$520 in 2022, up from \$500 in 2021, and below BC's median (\$550) and well above Canada's median donation (\$380) in 2022.

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 11-10-0130-01 Summary of charitable donors](#)

Police-reported Hate Crimes



In 2023, there were 52 police-reported hate crimes in the Victoria CMA, a rate of 12 per 100,000 population, up from the region's 2022 rate (9.3), and on par with BC's rate and lower than the rate across all CMAs (14) in 2023. The region's hate crime rate doubled from 4.2 in 2019 to 8.5 in 2020 and has risen steadily since then.

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, including profession or political beliefs. Hate crimes can be violent or non-violent, affecting individual victims and their targeted communities.

Police data on hate crimes reflect only those incidents that come to the attention of police and that are subsequently classified as hate crimes. Fluctuations in the number of reported incidents may be attributable to a true change in the volume of hate crimes, but also to changes in reporting by the public because of increased community outreach by police or heightened sensitivity after high-profile events.

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

Belonging, Engagement and Wellbeing in Canada

In 2023, Community Foundation of Canada released its national Vital Signs report, *Reconnecting Communities*, drawing on results of the 2022 Social Capital in Canada Study, conducted by Environics Institute for Survey Research. According to the national report:

People's feelings of belonging are going down

- Since 2013, a strong sense of belonging has dropped 12%.
- 29% of people do not have close friends in their community, while 8% of people have no close family and 12% have no close friends at all.
- 50% of two-parent families feel like they live in a close-knit community, but only 32% of lone-parent families feel the same.
- 22% of people who have experienced high levels of discrimination do not have someone they can depend on, compared to 8% of people who have experienced no discrimination.
- 31% of people who are financially insecure do not have someone they can depend on, compared to 8% of people who are financially secure.

People are less engaged in their communities

- Since 2013, the proportion of people engaging in community groups has declined by 19%, and the proportion of people volunteering has declined by 12%.

Despite years of the pandemic, people are resilient

- 63% have a high wellbeing score and 59% are satisfied with their lives.

Source: Community Foundations of Canada

<https://communityfoundations.ca/reconnecting-communities-a-national-vital-signs-report/>

Community in Focus

BC Non-Profits Under Pressure

BC's non-profits are grappling with soaring demand, skyrocketing costs, and fixed capacity, according to the latest State of BC's Non-Profit Sector Report, a survey of 558 BC non-profits, including 67 in the region. In 2024, the sector reported decreases in all revenue sources, except government funding, which remained stable, and spending increases across the board.

Over the previous 12 months:

- 84% of respondents reported higher overall expenses.
- 75% reported increased spending on salaries and benefits, 66% on programs and services, and 68% on administration.
- 76% reported increased demand for services and support from clients and communities.
- 39% reported capacity to deliver programs and services stayed the same.
- 29% reported decreased volunteer involvement.

The State of the Sector report series is a collaboration between Vantage Point, Vancouver Foundation, Victoria Foundation, and the City of Vancouver. Vancity Community Foundation and United Way BC joined in 2023.

Source: Vantage Point, Vancouver Foundation, Victoria Foundation, City of Vancouver, United Way British Columbia, Vancity Community Foundation

<https://thevantagepoint.ca/sector-reports/>

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

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



9.1: Develop sustainable, resilient, and inclusive infrastructures

Unemployment Rate



In 2023, the unemployment rate in Greater Victoria was just under 4% among people aged 15 years and over, similar to 2022, and lower than the rates for BC (5%) and Canada (5%) in 2023. The unemployment rate among women in the region in 2023 was 3%, lower than the rate for men (4%).

% Population (15 years +) who are unemployed

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Canada	5.7	9.7	7.5	5.3	5.4
BC	4.8	9.1	6.6	4.6	5.2
Victoria CMA	3.5	7.8	4.9	3.8	3.7

Source: Statistics Canada

[Table 14-10-0385-01 Labour force characteristics, annual](#)

[Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual](#)

Employment Rate



In 2023, the employment rate in Greater Victoria was 61% among people aged 15 years and over, on par with 2022 (61%), and lower than the rate for BC (62%) and Canada (62%) in 2023. The employment rate among women in the region in 2023 was 59%, lower than the rate for men (64%).

% Population (15 years +) who are employed

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Canada	62.3	58.1	60.5	62.0	62.1
BC	63.1	58.4	61.2	62.1	61.8
Victoria CMA	61.8	58.9	60.2	60.8	61.4

Source: Statistics Canada

[Table 14-10-0385-01 Labour force characteristics, annual](#)

[Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual](#)

Hotel Rooms

In 2023, the average hotel room occupancy rate in Greater Victoria was 70%, up from 69% in 2022. The average daily room rate in 2023 was \$247, up from \$236 in 2022. The average revenue per available room, a measure of a hotel's ability to fill its available rooms at an average price, was \$173 in 2023, up from \$163 in 2022.

The Victoria Conference Centre recorded a nearly 4% decrease in delegate days in 2023, with 84,000 days compared to 87,300 in 2022.

Source: Chemistry Consulting Group. Victoria Tourism Bulletin December 2023.
<https://www.chemistryconsulting.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Victoria-Tourism-Bulletin-December-2023.pdf>

Air and Ferry Passenger Volume



In 2023, BC Ferries reported a 10% increase in passenger traffic, 1% increase in vehicle traffic, and a 30% jump in bus traffic on the Tsawwassen - Swartz Bay route, compared to 2022.

Victoria International Airport reported a 17% increase in flight passenger volume in 2023, with 1.7 million total passengers compared to 1.5 million in 2022.

Source: Chemistry Consulting Group. Victoria Tourism Bulletin December 2023.
<https://www.chemistryconsulting.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Victoria-Tourism-Bulletin-December-2023.pdf>

Community in Focus

Economic Impact of Region's Tech Sector

In 2023, the total economic impact of the technology sector in Greater Victoria was an estimated \$7.9 billion, up 51% from \$5.2 billion in 2017. The 2023 total economic impact includes \$5.9 billion in direct impact (i.e., revenues of tech firms and self-employment income) and \$2 billion in indirect impact (i.e., economic activity generated by businesses that supply goods and services to tech firms).

In 2023, an estimated 20,000 employees were directly employed in the region's tech sector, up from 16,775 in 2017. Of this total, tech firms employed 17,900 individuals and 2,110 were self-employed within the sector.

Source: Victoria Innovation, Advanced Technology and Entrepreneurship Council (VIATEC)
<https://www.viatec.ca/tech-industry-studies-reports/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable Development Targets



11.6: Reduce adverse environmental impact of cities

12.5: Reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, and recycling

14.2: Manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts

Air Quality



In 2022, the region's two monitoring stations, Victoria-Topaz and Colwood, recorded annual average concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) of 6.6 and 5.6 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}\text{m}^3$) respectively, below the provincial annual benchmark of 8 $\mu\text{g}\text{m}^3$.

PM_{2.5} levels exceeded the provincial 24-hour benchmark of 25 $\mu\text{g}\text{m}^3$ for two days at the Victoria-Topaz station and for three days at the Colwood station in 2022, due largely to particles from wildfire smoke.

Of all the air pollutants, PM_{2.5} has the greatest impact on human health. Major sources of PM_{2.5} in BC include seasonal wildfires, residential wood combustion, prescribed burning, marine vessels, heavy-duty diesel vehicles, and the mining and pulp and paper sectors.

Source: BC Lung Foundation

<https://bclung.ca/sota2023>

Last year (2023) was the most destructive wildfire season on record in BC, with over 2.8 million hectares of forest and land burned, tens of thousands of people forced to evacuate, and hundreds of homes and structures lost or damaged. Six wildland firefighters lost their lives.

Source: BC Wildfire Service

<https://ww2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/wildfire-statistics>

Solid Waste Disposal



In 2023, the CRD's solid waste disposal rate was an estimated 382 kilograms (kg) per person, a decrease from 405 kg in 2022, and below the BC rate for 2021 (506 kg), the most recent year for which provincial data is available. The BC solid waste disposal target is 350 kg per person.

Source: Capital Regional District. 2024. Environmental Resource Management 2023 Solid Waste Management Plan Progress Report.

https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/plans-reports/landfill-recycling/2023-reports/2023-solid-waste-management-plan-progress-report.pdf?sfvrsn=ff0dbdce_1

Southern Resident Killer Whales



The Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) that frequent the Salish Sea are an extended family comprised of three pods: J, K, and L. The current population is estimated at 74 whales. During 2023, there was one birth in J pod, one death in K pod, and two births in L pod.

Total population: 74

- J population: 25
- K population: 15
- L population: 34

Source: Center for Whale Research

<https://www.whaleresearch.com/orca-population>

New research shows that SRKW are experiencing “bright extinction”, the precipitous decline toward extinction that happens in full view, despite rich data on why and how to stop it. SRKW have been listed as a species at risk in Canada since 2005. The study estimates the population will decline by one whale per year for the next generation, and then accelerate rapidly toward extinction. Preventing this is possible, but with greater sacrifices in regional ocean use, urban development, and land use practices than if mitigation had started a decade earlier.

Source: Communications Earth & Environment (2024) 5:173

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-024-01327-5>

Community in Focus

Kelp Forest Recovery

Working closely with coastal First Nations, researchers led by the University of Victoria and Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre are regrowing kelp forests decimated by ocean heat waves and over-grazing by sea urchins. The goal is to develop an open-access roadmap for kelp recovery and add to the science for scaling-up kelp reforestation.

In the second year of a four-year project, researchers are testing culturing and out-planting methods for two canopy-forming kelp species and measuring their hardiness in different conditions. In kelp nurseries planted off Barkley Sound and Hornby Island, researchers are studying growth rates, temperature tolerance, and biomass size, among other characteristics.

The project is supported by a research grant from Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund.

Source: University of Victoria

<https://www.uvic.ca/news/topics/2024+kelp-restoration+news>

GETTING STARTED

Sustainable Development Targets



4.2: Ensure equal access to quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education

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, 2022 and June 30, 2023, Greater Victoria had a total net migration of **9,160** people, of whom **72%** (6,610) came from other countries, **20%** (1,796) from within BC, and **8%** (754) from other provinces. Net migration was lower than the previous year (10,611), with larger shares coming from other countries (72% vs 56%) and within BC (20% vs 11%) and a smaller share from other provinces (8% vs 34%), compared to 2021/22.

In 2022/23, **467** young people, aged 20-34 years, came to Greater Victoria from other provinces, well down from 1,721 the year before, and **796** young people came here from other parts of BC, on par with 2021/22.

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

Youth Unemployment



In 2023, the unemployment rate for youth, aged 15-24 years, in Greater Victoria was 7%, similar to 2022 and below the rates for BC (9%) and Canada (11%) in 2023.

% Population (15-24 years) who are unemployed

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Canada	10.7	20.1	13.5	10.1	10.8
BC	9.2	18.8	12.3	8.8	9.3
Victoria CMA	6.5	14.3	7.8	7.5	7.3

Source: Statistics Canada

[Table 14-10-0385-01 Labour force characteristics, annual](#)

[Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual](#)



Children & Youth in Care

Between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023, **207** children and youth were admitted into care in South Vancouver Island, of whom 44% (91) were Indigenous children and youth. Provincially, 55% of admissions were Indigenous children and youth.

During that period, **39** youth aged out of care (i.e., turned 19 years old) in the South Island, of whom 54% (21) were Indigenous youth, and **24%** (74) of children and youth left care for permanency (i.e., family reunification, adoption, or permanent transfer of custody), compared to 17% of their BC counterparts. Among Indigenous children and youth in care in the South Island, 29% left care for permanency in 2022/23, compared to 21% of non-Indigenous kids in care. The median time children and youth spent in care before discharge to permanency was **26** months in the South Island in 2022/23, compared to the BC median of 24 months.

Source: BC Ministry of Children and Family Development. Reporting Portal. Child Protection Services
<https://mcfcd.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/child-protection>



Child Vulnerability

From 2019 to 2022 (Wave 8), 31% of kindergarten children in South Vancouver Island were vulnerable on one or more scales of the Early Development Instrument (EDI), compared to 33% for BC, while 47% of South Island children were on track for development and 22% were in flux. The South Island's overall child vulnerability rate has increased steadily from 24% in 2007-2009 (Wave 3). The five EDI scales are: social competence, emotional maturity, physical health and well-being, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge.

Source: University of British Columbia Human Early Learning Partnership
<https://dashboard.earlylearning.ubc.ca/>

Childcare Spaces

As of January 1, 2024, there were a total of 14,789 licensed childcare spaces across the region's 13 municipalities, including group childcare (under 36 months, 30 months to school entry, and kindergarten to age 12), preschool, multi-age, in-home multi-age, and family childcare. Highlands (57) had the lowest number of licensed childcare spaces and Saanich (4,630) had the highest. Sooke (413) and Sidney (410) had a similar number of spaces, despite Sooke having a higher number and proportion of children, aged 0-14 years, than Sidney (16% and 9% respectively), based on the 2021 Census.

Source: Victoria Child Care Resource and Referral and Statistics Canada
<https://www.childcarevictoria.org/resources/>
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Sustainable Development Targets



3.5: Strengthen prevention and treatment of substance use problems

3.8: Achieve access to quality essential healthcare services for all

Unregulated Drug Deaths



In 2023, there were 175 unregulated drug deaths in South Vancouver Island, similar to 2022. Of the 2023 deaths, 170 occurred in Greater Victoria, down from 172 in 2022. Greater Victoria was one of the top three BC cities for unregulated drug deaths in 2023, after Vancouver and Surrey. The rate of unregulated drug deaths per 100,000 people in South Vancouver Island was 38.3 deaths in 2023, down from 39.7 in 2022.

In BC, there were 2,558 unregulated drug deaths in 2023, up from 2,388 deaths in 2022, for an average rate of 46.3 deaths per 100,000 people in 2023, up from 44.6 in 2022. Fentanyl was detected in 85% of BC's unregulated drug deaths in 2023 and benzodiazepines were detected in 43%, up from 29% in 2022. These sedative-type of drugs do not respond to naloxone and create life-saving challenges for first responders.

Between 2019 and 2023, 126 youth under 19 years of age died from unregulated drug toxicity in BC, the leading cause of unnatural death among youth during this period. Over half (51%) of the youth were female and 60% were between 17-18 years of age. Two thirds (66%) of the youth had experience with child protective services, while 67% had a mental health diagnosis.

Note: BC Coroners Service works in a real-time database environment and statistics are updated retroactively as investigations are completed. These statistics are current to May 31, 2024.

Source: BC Coroners Service

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/death/coroners-service/statistical-reports>

Access to Healthcare Providers



Family Physicians

In 2022, there were **819** family physicians in South Vancouver Island, for a rate of **186** per 100,000 population, up from 783 family physicians and a rate of 181 per 100,000 population in 2021, and higher than the rates for BC (141) and Canada (124) in 2022. Family physicians include general practitioners, family medicine specialists, and emergency family medicine specialists certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Psychiatrists

In 2022, there were **106** psychiatrists in South Vancouver Island, for a rate of **24** per 100,000 population, up from 97 psychiatrists and a rate of 23 per 100,000 population in 2021, and higher than the rates for BC (16) and Canada (15) in 2022. Psychiatrists are certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and/or Collège des Médecins du Québec.

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information. Canadian Institute for Health Information. Supply, Distribution and Migration of Physicians in Canada, 2022 — Data Tables. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2023.

Walk-in Clinic Wait Times

In 2023, the average wait time for a walk-in clinic in Greater Victoria was 107 minutes, down from 137 minutes in 2022. The national average wait time in 2023 was 68 minutes, up from 37 minutes in 2022.

British Columbia experienced the longest wait time in the country at 93 minutes, up from 79 minutes in 2022 and up from 41 minutes in 2019. Manitoba had the lowest average wait time in 2023 at 45 minutes, while Ontario had the largest increase, going from 25 minutes in 2022 to 59 minutes in 2023.

Approximately 70% of walk-in clinics across Canada use Medimap to share their wait times. Wait times are updated by clinic staff every 30 minutes on average. Medimap currently operates in the following provinces: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia.

Source: Medimap
<https://medimap.ca/en/wait-time-index-2024/>

Living with Disability

In 2022, 27% of Canadians aged 15 and older, or 8 million people, had at least one disability, up from 22% in 2017. In BC, the 2022 prevalence rate was 29%, up from 25% in 2017. New regional data was not available as of publication, however, in 2017, 29% (89,250) of people aged 15 and older in the Victoria CMA had a disability.

From 2017 to 2022, the largest increases were in disabilities related to mental health, pain, and seeing conditions. Among those with disabilities in Canada, 39% had mental health-related disabilities in 2022, up from 33% in 2017. The growth of Canada's senior population between 2017 and 2022 contributed to the overall increase in the disability rate. Regardless of age, women+ are more likely than men to have a disability.

Source: Statistics Canada. 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/231201/dq231201b-eng.htm>
[Table 13-10-0750-01 Persons with and without disabilities aged 15 years and over, census metropolitan areas](#)

Community in Focus

Victoria Native Friendship Centre's new Indigenous Primary Care Clinic

In March 2024, the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) opened a new primary care clinic in the region, in the Gorge-Tillicum neighbourhood, for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis community members to access primary care services, including mental health and addiction supports, and complex care for seniors.

The clinic ensures culturally safe, equitable, and inclusive services for up to 4,500 Indigenous patients, and provides residents with better continuity of care from nurses, physicians and other wellness providers. The clinic aims to staff 20 full-time healthcare professionals by September 2024.

The clinic is a partnership with VNFC, the Victoria Primary Care Network, and the BC Ministry of Health. The provincial government is providing around \$2 million in annual funding.

Source: Victoria Native Friendship Centre and Province of British Columbia

<https://vnfc.ca/health-and-wellness/#vnfc-primary>

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024HLTH0061-000718>

HOUSING

Sustainable Development Targets



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

Housing Sales and Prices

In May 2024, 763 properties sold in Greater Victoria, down 1.5% from May 2023. The ratio of residential sales to active residential listings was 28% in May 2024, making Greater Victoria a seller's market, with upward pressure on prices reflecting growing demand coupled with ongoing lack of inventory. The median sale price for a single-family home in May 2024 was **\$1,191,000**, up 1% from \$1,174,950 the previous year. For a townhouse in May 2024, the median sale price was **\$789,574**, up less than 1% from \$785,000 in May 2023. For a condo, the median sale price was **\$547,450** in May 2024, down 2% from \$560,000 in 2023. May is typically when Greater Victoria is at or near peak activity in the property market.

Source: Victoria Real Estate Board

<https://www.vreb.org/historical-statistics#gsc.tab=0>

Rents and Rental Vacancy

In October 2023, the average vacancy rate for all purpose-built rental apartments (i.e., units built as long-term rental housing) in Greater Victoria was **1.6%**, similar to 2022 (1.5%). Two-bedroom units had the highest vacancy rate in 2023 at 1.6%, while three+ bedroom units had the lowest vacancy rate at 1.1%.

The average apartment rent for all unit types in 2023 was **\$1,571**, a 7.8% increase from \$1467 in 2022. Average rents ranged from **\$1,222** for a bachelor to **\$2,123** for a three+ bedroom unit. The supply of purpose-built rentals grew by **1,490** units in 2023, compared to 1,328 units in 2022, with most of the new supply in Victoria and the Westshore in 2023.

Source(s): Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Housing Market Information Portal.

Primary Rental Market Statistics – Victoria.

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

A person working 35 hours a week at B.C.'s minimum hourly wage of \$17.40 would need to spend **46%** of their gross monthly income to rent a bachelor apartment (\$1,222) 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 **54** hours a week at minimum wage.



Seniors Rental Housing Precarity

In 2021, seniors aged 65 years and older accounted for 19% of renter households in the capital region. Approximately, **53%** of senior renters spent over 30% of their monthly income on rent and utilities, making their housing unaffordable, and **21%** spent over 50% of income on rent and utilities, putting them at heightened risk of homelessness. These spending rates are higher than for BC senior renters (49% and 19% respectively) and highest among other age groups in the region, with young renters, aged 15-29 years, close behind at 46% and 19% respectively.

Source: B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association. 2023. Canadian Rental Housing Index.
<https://bcnpha.ca/policy/policy-research/rental-housing-index/>

Community in Focus

BC Municipal Housing Targets

In 2023, the Province began setting five-year housing targets for priority municipalities across BC. Targets were established for Victoria, Saanich, and Oak Bay in 2023, and for Central Saanich, Colwood, Esquimalt, North Saanich, Sidney, and View Royal in 2024. Municipalities report progress at six months and then annually. At the six-month mark, Victoria had exceeded its year-one target, Saanich was close on the overall number, and Oak Bay was behind.

Contributing to the region's targets, the University of Victoria has identified 50 acres for development, including the Ian Stewart Complex and Queenswood Campus in Saanich and the Cedar Hill Corner Property in Oak Bay. UVic will use these lands to build a connected community, deliver new housing, and diversify revenue.

Source: Province of British Columbia and University of Victoria
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/local-governments-and-housing/housing-targets>
<https://www.uvic.ca/about-uvic/university-district/index.php>

LEARNING

Sustainable Development Targets



4.1: Ensure all complete primary and secondary education

4.6: Achieve literacy and numeracy

High School Non-Completion



In 2023, 9% of the Greater Victoria population, aged 15 years and older, had not completed high school, lower than the previous year (10%), and lower than the 2023 rates for BC (12%) and Canada (14%).

% Population 15 years and older who have not completed high school

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Canada	16.0	15.1	14.4	14.3	13.9
BC	12.9	12.0	11.4	11.5	11.5
Victoria CMA	10.1	10.6	9.4	9.7	8.9

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0118-01 Labour force characteristics by educational degree, annual](#) (custom order Victoria CMA)

Post-Secondary Educational Attainment



In 2023, 66% 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 (64%), and above the 2023 rates for BC (62%) and Canada (62%).

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

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Canada	58.8	59.4	60.6	61.3	61.9
BC	59.2	60.6	61.9	61.4	62.2
Victoria CMA	62.9	63.9	63.6	63.9	65.7

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0118-01 Labour force characteristics by educational degree, annual](#) (custom order Victoria CMA)

Education in the Trades



In 2021, 7% of the region's population, aged 15 years and older, had an apprenticeship certificate, including a Certificate or Diploma of Apprenticeship, Certificate of Qualification, or Journeyperson's designation, compared to 8% for BC and 6% for Canada. In the region, 12% of men+ (11% of immigrant men) and 3% of women+ (4% of immigrant women) had an apprenticeship certificate in 2021.

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 98-10-0398-01 Apprenticeship certificate by selected sociocultural characteristics: Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions and census subdivisions](#)

Foundational Skills Assessment



In 2022, nearly 700,000 15-year-old students from 81 OECD countries participated in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) to assess their knowledge and skills in math, science, and reading. Results show the OECD average dropped by an unprecedented 15 points in math, 10 points in reading, and remained stable in science. The sharp declines point to the shock effects of COVID-19.

In 2022, Canadian students achieved average performance scores of 497 in math (OECD: 472), 507 in reading (OECD: 476), and 515 in science (OECD: 485), a 15-, 13-, and 3-point drop, respectively, from 2018 scores, and part of a downward 10-year performance trend (2012-2022). In BC, the mean performance scores in 2022 were 496 for math, 511 for reading, and 519 for science.

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/pisa-2022-results-volume-i_53f23881-en.html

Community in Focus

Micro-credential for the Homelessness Serving Sector

Working effectively with people experiencing or at risk of homelessness requires specialized knowledge and skills. *Fundamentals for the Homelessness Serving Sector* (FHSS) consists of six online courses co-created with housing providers and peers to facilitate coordinated service delivery and standardized best practices. Offered through the University of Victoria's Continuing Studies Division, FHSS aims to develop critical competencies for paid or volunteer roles. Individuals completing all courses receive a professional development micro-certificate.

- Supporting Others, Caring for Yourself
- Mental Health and Substance Use
- Homelessness and Housing First Principles
- Person-centered Procedures

- Decolonization and Cultural Safety
- Gender and Sexuality

The University of Victoria's Continuing Studies Division and Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region would like to acknowledge funding from the Government of Canada's Reaching Home Program, administered by the Capital Regional District.

Source: Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region and University of Victoria

<https://victoriahomelessness.ca/>

<https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/health-wellness-and-safety/topics/professional-development-for-health-practitioners/>

SAFETY

Sustainable Development Targets



5.2: Eliminate violence against women and girls



16.1: Reduce all forms of violence and related deaths

Selected Crime Rates

Overall Crime Rate

In 2023, there were 6,155 total criminal violations (Criminal Code and Federal Statute violations) per 100,000 population in Victoria CMA, up from 6,103 in 2022, and lower than the rates for BC (7,986) and Canada (6,302) in 2023.

Violent Crime Rate



In 2023, there were 1,451 violent crimes per 100,000 population in Victoria CMA, down from 1,466 in 2022, and lower than the rate for BC (1,562) and higher than the rate for Canada (1,428) in 2023.

Sexual Assault Rate



In 2023, there were 73 sexual assaults (level 1, 2 and 3) per 100,000 population in Victoria CMA, down from 104 in 2022, and lower than the rates for BC (81) and Canada (91) in 2023.

Youth Crime Rate

In 2023, there were 894 youth, aged 12-17 years, charged with criminal violations per 100,000 youth population in Victoria CMA, up from 794 in 2022, and higher than the rate for BC (779) and lower than the national rate (1,388) in 2023.

Source(all): Statistics Canada. [Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas](#)



Police-Reported Family Violence

In 2022, there were **945** victims of police-reported family violence in Victoria CMA, **628** females and **313** males, for an overall rate of **223** victims per 100,000 population, down from 2021 (233) and below the region's 2019 rate (225), and lower than the rates for BC (273) and Canada (338) in 2022.

Rate of victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim, per 100,000 population, 2022

	Total	Female	Male
Canada	338	456	216
BC	273	375	169
Victoria CMA	223	289	152

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (married, separated, divorced, common-law, current and former dating partners who lived together at time of incident), parents (biological, step, adoptive, foster), children (biological, step, adopted, foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted, foster), and extended family (grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws).

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 35-10-0200-01 Family and non-family victims of police-reported violent crime and traffic offences causing bodily harm or death, by victim age and gender, provinces, territories and census metropolitan areas](#)



Police-Reported Intimate Partner Violence

In 2022, there were **931** victims of police-reported intimate partner violence in Victoria CMA, **722** females and **204** males, for an overall rate of **244** victims per 100,000 population, down from 2021 (274) and below the region's 2019 rate (247), and lower than the rates for BC (293) and Canada (347) in 2022.

Rate of victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim, per 100,000 population, 2022

	Total	Female	Male
Canada	347	538	151
BC	293	453	127
Victoria CMA	244	366	110

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 married, separated, divorced and common-law partners. Dating relationships include current or former boyfriends and girlfriends and "other" intimate relationships (sexual relationships or situations involving mutual sexual attraction which were not considered to be dating relationships).

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 35-10-0202-01 Intimate partner and non-intimate partner victims of police-reported violent crime and traffic offences causing bodily harm or death, by victim age and gender, provinces, territories and census metropolitan areas](#)

Workplace Safety

In 2022, there were **5,425** claims in the capital region for short-term disability, long-term disability, and work-related death (**8%** of all claims in BC). Province-wide, in 2022, there were 150,370 reported injuries, 57,780 short term disability claims, and 181 work-related death claims. Almost **4 million** days of work were missed due to work-related incidents and diseases.

Of BC's injured workers in 2022:

- 54% were male and 46% were female.
- 11% were aged 15-24 years.
- 22% were aged 55 years and over.
- Average age of workers injured on the job was 42 years.

Industry subsectors in BC with the highest number of injuries (all claim types) in 2022:

- Health care and social services (21%).
- General construction (13%).
- Retail (9%).
- Accommodation, food and leisure services (8%).
- Transportation and related services (7%).
- Education (6%).
- Other, not specified (8%).

Source: WorkSafeBC

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/shared-data/facts-and-figures>

Community in Focus

Working Toward a Safe Community Where Everyone Belongs

The Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria is developing a new Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. The plan aims to ensure all residents feel safe, have a sense of belonging, and can meet their needs for education, healthcare, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression. Phase one includes community-based research and engagement overseen by an advisory committee comprised of individuals that experience marginalization, criminalization, and racial inequity, as well as the organizations and service providers who work with them. The group will share best practices, identify safety and wellbeing priorities, and review research data. Phase two will engage the broader community through solution-oriented collaborative sessions, with a focus on additional safety and wellbeing topics.

Source: Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria

<https://communitycouncil.ca/community-innovation/cswp/>

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)

State of Local Sport for Kids

Across BC, children are being left on the sidelines because they do not have the resources to play sports. KidSport provides funding for kids from families who need financial help to cover the cost of sport registration. For the past two decades, KidSport Greater Victoria has provided over \$4.3 million in season of sport registration grants to support over 16,500 children and youth living in financial need in the region. As the cost of sport continues to rise, the total disbursements and average funding per child increases year over year.

In 2023, KidsSport Greater Victoria funded 1,114 children, up 33% from 2022, with 42% of athletes identifying as Indigenous (17%), newcomer (19%), or having a disability (6%). Greater Victoria athletes participated in 33 different sports, including the top sports of soccer, gymnastics, and lacrosse.

That same year, KidSport BC funded 7,742 kids from 210 communities (those without a KidSport chapter), the largest single-year funding distribution in the program’s history. In 2023, provincially funded kids participated in 53 different sports, with soccer as the top sport.

Source: KidSport Greater Victoria

<https://kidsportcanada.ca/british-columbia/greater-victoria/>

JumpStart State of Play Report

In 2022, over 2700 Canadian students, grades 3-12, were surveyed about their sport participation, sport preferences, motivations to play, access to sports, and student-coach experiences.

- 65% of youth played sports the same or more than before the pandemic, with 23% playing less, and 4% not playing anymore.
- 69% of youth play sports at school on a team, 64% at a local club, 45% at a recreation centre, and 33% at an afterschool program.
- Most popular sports overall played in the past three years:
 - Soccer (62%), swimming (44%), basketball (43%), biking (37%), and hockey (30%).

Youth with disabilities ranked swimming the most popular. For females, the top five excluded hockey, but included volleyball, and soccer was the most popular, same as for males. Some traditionally male-dominated sports were played more frequently by females than males, and fewer females than males gave up sports as they aged.

- Top three reasons overall why youth enjoy playing sports:
 - Play with friends (55%), have fun (38%), exercise to stay healthy (33%)

Playing with friends is the number one reason across all demographic groups. For youth with disabilities, the top three reasons include making new friends; for Black youth, it's learning new skills; and for high school males, it's playing sports to compete.

- Top three reasons overall why youth do not play sports very often:
 - Sports are too expensive (47%), no time to play due to schoolwork (28%), youth feel they are not good enough to play (18%)

Source: Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities

<https://kidsportcanada.ca/british-columbia/greater-victoria/>

Rallying for Girls' Mental Health

In 2022, over 4,500 Canadian women, girls, and gender-diverse youth and 350 women sport leaders were asked how they experience sport. When it comes to the mental health benefits of sport participation:

- 78% of girls who participate in sport report positive mental health (compared to 68% of those who do not participate).
- 76% of girls said that sport participation enhances their mental and emotional health.
- 76% of girls said that sport participation builds confidence.

Coaches and decision-makers play a critical role in enabling girls' full participation in sport. They also have a responsibility to support girls' mental health, yet only:

- 41% of sport leaders feel well equipped to talk about mental health with girls. Even fewer sport leaders feel comfortable discussing mental illness.
- 1 in 10 girls are comfortable speaking to their coaches about their mental health and wellbeing.

Source: Canadian Women & Sport and Canadian Tire JumpStart Charities.

<https://womenandsport.ca/rally-report-2022/>

Community in Focus

Engaging Newcomer Youth in Recreation

Each summer, the Inter-cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA) provides newcomer youth with priority access to recreational opportunities that serve as platforms for cultural exchange, community engagement, and youth empowerment.

Opportunities range from sports to camping to cultural events, at minimal or no cost for participants thanks to funding and facility and equipment support from local governments and partner agencies in the region.

In ICA's experience, the best way to support newcomer youth is to prioritize fun, accommodate different abilities and interests, provide safe community spaces to gather, and encourage youth-led activities. In 2023, this mindset helped ICA implement a climbing activity, with passes made available to a local climbing gym, and opportunities to try yoga at a downtown studio.

Source: Inter-cultural Association of Greater Victoria and Sport for Life

<https://www.icavictoria.org/>

<https://sportforlife.ca/blog/engaging-newcomer-youth-stories-of-summer-programs-from-across-canada/>

STANDARD OF LIVING

Sustainable Development Targets



1.2: Reduce national poverty by 50%

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

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

Median Family Income



In 2022, the median census family income after-tax in Victoria CMA was \$66,620, up from \$64,980 in 2021, and higher than the median for BC (\$61,720) and Canada (\$60,800) in 2022.

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 11-10-0017-01 Census families by family type and family composition including before and after-tax median income of the family](#)

Median Individual Income



In 2022, the median income in Victoria CMA was \$49,750, up from \$48,050 in 2021, and higher than the medians for BC (\$43,170) and Canada (\$43,090) in 2022. For women in the region, the 2022 median income was \$44,420, compared to \$56,600 for men.

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 11-10-0008-01 Tax filers and dependants with income by total income, sex and age](#)

Poverty Rates



In 2022, the poverty rates in Greater Victoria were 13% overall, 27% for lone parent families, 13% for children, and 11% for seniors, as measured by Statistics Canada's Census Family Low Income Measure after tax.

Overall

In 2022, 13% of the population in Victoria CMA were living in poverty, up from 12% in 2021, and lower than the rate for BC (18%) and Canada (17%) in 2022.

Lone Parent Families

In 2022, 27% of lone parent families in Victoria CMA were living in poverty, up from 25% in 2021, and lower than the rates for BC (34%) and Canada (35%) in 2022.

Children

In 2022, 13% of children under 18 years of age, or **7,670** children, were living in poverty in Victoria CMA, up from 11% in 2021, and lower than the rates for BC (17%) and Canada (18%) in 2022.

Seniors

In 2022, 11% of seniors, aged 65 years and older, in Victoria CMA were living in poverty, up from 10% in 2021, and lower than the rates for BC (19%) and Canada (16%) in 2022.

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](#)

Living Wage



In 2023, the hourly wage required to maintain an adequate quality of life in the capital region was **\$25.40**, up from \$24.29 in 2022 and \$8 higher than the current minimum wage (\$17.40). Food, shelter, and childcare make up the largest portion of annual household expenses. The largest dollar increase was in shelter costs and food costs were up considerably. Childcare costs were down due to the \$10 a Day ChildCare BC Program. The living wage is the hourly wage required for two working parents with two young children to meet their basic expenses, including rent, child-care, medical needs, food, and transportation. This figure accounts for government taxes, credits, deductions, and subsidies, based on a 35-hour work week.

Source: Community Social Planning Council. 2023. Greater Victoria Living Wage Annual Report 2023. <https://communitycouncil.ca/greater-victoria-living-wage-2023/>

BC Minimum Wage



General minimum hourly wage in BC

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$14.60	\$15.20	\$15.65	\$16.75	\$17.40

Source: Province of British Columbia

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/employment-standards-advice/employment-standards/wages/minimum-wage>

At BC's 2024 minimum hourly wage, a full-time minimum wage worker earns \$31,668 pre-tax annually, **\$3,154** *above* the national 2022 poverty line for a single person. If that worker is a single parent living with one child, their minimum wage income is **\$8,657** *below* the national 2022 poverty line for a two-person household.

Full-time, full-year work is 35 hours of paid work for 52 weeks. The poverty line is based on Statistics Canada's 2022 Low Income Measure (LIM) threshold for market income in 2022 constant dollars for a one-person household (\$28,514) and a two-person household (\$40,325) in Canada.

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

App-Based Gig Workers

In 2024, BC established an inflation-adjusted minimum wage and protections for people working in app-based gigs, such as ride-hailing and delivery services. These workers must receive **\$20.88** an hour from the time they accept an assignment to the time it is completed ("engaged time"). The pay standards are not applied to time spent waiting between gigs, which accounts for the 20% higher minimum wage.

Source: Province of British Columbia
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024LBR0011-000900>

Community in Focus

Food Bank Usage

In March 2023, Canada's 2,388 food banks reported 2 million visits and distributed 4 million meals. Food bank usage was up 32% from March 2022 and up 79% from March 2019. Of food bank users in 2023, one third (642,000) were children, 44% were single adults, 42% were on social assistance or disability support, 27% were newcomers to Canada, and 12% were Indigenous people. Top reasons people accessed a food bank were food costs, housing costs, and low wages or not enough hours of work. In BC, 127 food banks, including four in Greater Victoria, reported 196,000 visits (32% by children) and provided 225,000 meals in 2023, with food bank usage up 20% from 2022 and up 57% from 2019.

Source: Food Banks Canada. 2023. HungerCount Report 2023.
<https://foodbankscanada.ca/hunger-in-canada/>

TRANSPORTATION

Sustainable Development Targets



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

Household Travel Characteristics

The CRD Origin-Destination Household Travel Survey profiles residents' 24-hour travel patterns on a typical fall weekday. Conducted every 5+ years, the 2022 survey reported significant reductions in total trips and average trip rates and shifts in trip purpose and travel mode from 2017, reflecting the pandemic's lingering effects.

Trip volumes

- 10% drop in daily trip volumes from 2017 to 2022.
- 17% reduction in average daily trips per person from 2017 to 2022.

Trip purpose

In 2022, 59% of daily trips were to destinations outside the home and 41% were return-home trips. The top purposes for trips to a destination:

- 20% commuting to work and school.
- 17% shopping, household maintenance and personal business.
- 14% recreational, restaurant dining, and social activities.

Travel mode share

In 2022:

- 69% of daily trips were made by auto. Of these, 54% were made as the driver, with almost three-quarters made by the driver travelling alone and another 15% with one or more passengers.
- 6% of trips were made by transit.
- 25% of trips were made by active transportation modes, with 15% made on foot, 8% by bicycle and micromobility, and 2% other.

Mobility options

In 2022:

- 89% of households had access to at least one vehicle, with a household average of 1.6 vehicles.
- 66% of households had at least one adult bicycle or e-bike and 70% of households with children had at least one child-sized bicycle.

Source: Capital Regional District

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/transportation/crd-2022-origin-destination-household-travel-survey-report.pdf>



Transit Use

In Greater Victoria, 71% of residents used local transit in 2023/24, of whom 18% had used local public transit in the past 24 hours, while 40% used it more than a month ago.

In 2023/24, Greater Victoria residents made an average of 4 one-way trips per week, more than the average across BC respondents (2.9). Local residents who use transit are mostly occasional riders (39%), followed by heavy riders (14%), medium riders (11%), and light riders (7%).

Two in ten (22%) Greater Victoria transit users indicate they used transit “more often” compared to a year ago, while 32% use it less often. Just under one-half (45%) of riders say their usage is “about the same.” Greater Victoria riders who use transit more often are increasing usage due to convenience (70%), affordability (57%), and environmental reasons (42%).

In 2023/24, Greater Victoria residents used transit to commute to work (24%), for entertainment or social reasons (21%), personal business (17%), shopping (15%), and going to the ferry terminal or airport (12%). The main reasons non-riders did not use transit were preferring to drive (60%), bus taking too long to arrive at destination (55%) and preferring to cycle or walk (49%).

Note: In 2023/24, BC Transit used a different research provider with a different methodology, preventing direct comparisons with data from previous years. Total percentages may not add up to 100% for select items.

Source: BC Transit

<https://www.bctransit.com/corporate-reports/customer-tracking-surveys>