



THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
Beyond the Call

HELPSSEEKER SOCIAL IMPACT AUDIT FACT SHEET

WHAT IS HELPSSEEKER?

HELPSSEEKER Technologies is dedicated to transformative social change through data and analytics. They collect and analyze data to support social sector decision-makers, service providers, and community members looking for help.

WHAT IS A SOCIAL IMPACT AUDIT?

A Social Impact Audit is a systematic approach developed by HelpSeeker that captures and analyzes all funding sources in the social safety net of a region, to help decision-makers measure social return on investment.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY A SOCIAL SAFETY NET?

The network of supports meant to improve the safety and quality of life for the most vulnerable persons in the community, including in the areas of:

- Homelessness
- Poverty reduction
- Mental health issues
- Substance use and overdoses
- Sex work
- Crime

THE AREA

For the purposes of this report, HelpSeeker focused on the City of Vancouver, recognizing that Vancouver organizations also serve a swell of daily commuters and seasonal tourists, complicating overall coordination of service delivery and systems-change efforts.

THE NUMBERS

The delivery of social support and community services in Vancouver amounts to more than **\$5 billion per year**. This equates to \$14 million per day, \$7,200 per Vancouver resident, or \$9,700 every minute. In 2019, these estimates include:

- **\$2 billion** in direct transfers from the federal government to support individuals and families
- **\$1.4 billion** allocated to registered charities and non-profit societies with a primary mandate to address community and social issues, such as homelessness and poverty. This does not include religious and educational charities, such as the Union Gospel Mission and the Boys and Girls Club. Many of these charities are concentrated in the Downtown Eastside
- This includes **\$406 million** in charitable investments that were directed into the Downtown Eastside in 2019, an increase of 14% over 2018. More than \$1 million per day is spent on community and social issues in the Downtown Eastside, which works out to \$19,500 per DTES resident

- **\$139 million** from the City of Vancouver to social-related services
- **\$680 million** from public and private foundations
- **\$317 million** in expenditures from the Vancouver Police Department
- **\$315 million** going to mental health and addiction services
- **\$181 million** in allocations to non-charities from grants from the federal government
- **\$17 million** going to charities delivering mental health and addictions services

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE (V6A POSTAL CODE) NUMBERS

- There was \$355 million of charitable investment in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) in 2018, representing an increase of about 14% in 2019, amounting to about \$406 million. Over 50% of that investment came from charities in the community and social services category.
- Approximately \$66 million was allocated from Vancouver Coastal Health to the DTES every year from 2012 to 2015.
- Approximately 13% of service listings in the City of Vancouver were located in the DTES where a concentration of organizations operate to meet local needs. The DTES makes up 2% of the city's geographical area and 3% of the city's population.

FURTHER CONTEXT

- Vancouver's social safety net is three times the annual budget of the City of Vancouver (\$1.7 billion) and 5.4 times the annual budget of BC Ferries.
- \$5 billion is roughly equivalent to US \$4 billion – more than NASA's annual budget for the International Space Station.
- The entire budget of Vancouver Coastal Health in 2020 was \$4 billion; Fraser Health Authority was also \$4 billion.
- For every dollar spent on policing, \$15 is spent on other areas of Vancouver social safety net.
- Operating costs for one unit of social housing, many no larger than 250 square feet, costs \$3,125 a month. (source: City of Vancouver)

SOME OF THE HUMAN TOLL

- 527 fatal overdoses in Vancouver in 2021, an increase of 26% over 2020 and 115% over 2019. With a rate of 58 overdose deaths per 100,000 persons in 2020, Vancouver had more fatal overdoses per capita than Chicago, New York City, and Los Angeles.
- Probability that a person with a substance use disorder would be readmitted within 30 days after being discharged from an emergency department: increased from 49.5% to 60.5% in 2017.
- A Downtown Eastside resident is 32.3% more likely to live with depression, 30.8% more likely to live with mood and anxiety disorders, and seven times more likely to live with schizophrenia or other delusional disorders.