



# Monitoring Seniors Services 2023

9<sup>th</sup> Edition

March 14, 2024



OFFICE OF THE  
**SENIORS** ADVOCATE

# Demographics

## 2022

Total Population  
**5,319,324**

Seniors

- **20%** of the population
  - **16%** 10 yrs. ago

	SENIORS POPULATION	% OF TOTAL POPULATION	% CHANGE IN 5 YRS.	% CHANGE IN 10 YRS.
65+	1,058,462	20%	16%	41%
65 - 74	610,513	11%	15%	46%
75 - 84	323,891	6%	22%	40%
85+	124,058	2%	8%	24%



# Demographics

- **21.8** years life expectancy at age 65 (**1%↓** over 5 yrs., **1%↑** over 10 yrs.)
- **343 per 10,000** seniors fatality rate (**4%↑** over 5 yrs., **2%↓** over 10 years)
- **Top causes of death for seniors over last 5 yrs.**
  - Cancer (24%)
  - Heart disease (19%)
  - Cerebrovascular diseases (6%)
  - COVID-19 (6%)
  - Chronic lower respiratory diseases (4%)





# Health Care Highlights

	65 - 84	85+
<b>Non-users of health care services</b>	15%	5%
<b>Low-complexity chronic conditions</b>	31%	13%
<b>Medium-complexity chronic conditions</b>	28%	26%
<b>High-complexity chronic conditions</b>	17%	35%
<b>Diagnosed with dementia</b>	3%	18%

# Health Care Highlights

## Hospitalizations

- **8%↓** in emergency room visits per 1,000 65+ (over 5 yrs.)
- **26%** of all emergency room visits are for seniors
- **5%↓** hospitalization rate per 1,000 65+ (over 5 yrs.)
- **47%** of all hospitalizations are for seniors

## Alternate Level of Care (ALC)

### Over the last 5 years:

- **14%↑** total ALC cases and days
- **<1%↓** in avg. length of ALC stay





# Health Care Highlights

**Over the last 5 years:**

## **Home Support**

- **10%↑** in home support clients
- **4%↓** in avg. hours per client
- **7%↓** in client rate per 1,000 pop. 75+

## **Adult Day Programs**

- **6%↓** in Adult Day Program clients
- **21%↓** in Adult Day Program days

# Health Care Highlights

Over the last five years:

## Assisted Living (AL)

- **21% ↑** in waitlist for subsidized units
- **16% ↓** rate of subsidized units per 1,000 seniors (75+)
- **2% ↑** in avg. care hours



# Health Care Highlights

Over the last 5 years:

## Long-Term Care (LTC)

- **136% ↑** in clients waiting to be admitted (**3,892**)
- **54% ↑** in average time on waitlist (**209 days**)
- **12% ↓** in rate of LTC beds per 1,000 75+
- Clients are admitted **4 times faster** from hospital than the community
- **17% ↑** in proportion of residents taking antipsychotics without a diagnosis of psychosis





# Health Care Highlights

## PharmaCare

- **\$1.6 billion** spent on medication for seniors
- **69%** of prescription costs covered by seniors and third-party insurance providers
- Remaining **31%** covered by PharmaCare

## Health Human Resources

- Active, registered health care employees increased in most professions
- **Over the last 5 years:**
  - Physicians - **14%** ↑
  - Nurses - **10%** ↑
  - Care aides - **38%** ↑
  - Physiotherapists - **19%** ↑
  - Occupational therapists - **18%** ↑



# Housing Highlights

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## Property Tax Deferral

- **80%** of seniors are homeowners
- **50%** of seniors live in a single detached house
- **10,361** new users of the program (**13% ↓** over 5 yrs.)
- **\$4,767** avg. deferred (**17% ↑** over 5 yrs.)
- **Est. 9%** of senior homeowners deferred their property taxes in 2022/23 (**76,847**)

# Housing Highlights

## Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER)

- **23,506** people receive SAFER (**3% ↓** over 5 yrs.)
- **\$20,800** avg. annual income of SAFER recipients (**9% ↑** over 5 yrs.)
- **\$1,116** avg. monthly rent for SAFER recipients (**12% ↑** over 5 yrs.)
- **\$198** avg. monthly SAFER subsidy (**8% ↓** over 5 yrs.)

VANCOUVER

AVERAGE RENT \$1,696

MAXIMUM CEILING \$803 - ZONE 1

DIFFERENCE - \$893



# Housing Highlights

## Seniors Subsidized Rental Housing

### Over the last 5 years:

- **6%** ↑ in units (1,764 new units)
- **58%** ↑ in applicants (4,578 new applicants)
- **3%** ↓ in units/1,000 pop. 55+

### As of March 31, 2023:

- **11,549** on the waiting list
- **865** applicants housed
- **2.7-year** avg. wait time for applicants waiting
- **90%** ↑ in applicants waiting 5+ yrs.



# Transportation Highlights

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## Driving

- **80%** of seniors maintained an active driver's licence (**19%** ↑ over 5 yrs.)

## Public Transportation

### Over the last 5 years:

- **4%** ↓ in HandyDART clients (**6%**↑ TransLink, **18%** ↓ BC Transit)
- **35%** ↓ in HandyDART rides provided (**27%** ↓ TransLink, **43%** ↓ BC Transit)



# Income Support Highlights

- Median seniors income **\$33,150 (16%↑** over 5 yrs.)
- Avg. seniors income **\$49,030 (12%↑** over 5 yrs.)

## Income Supports

PROGRAM	AVG. AMOUNT (2021)	
GIS	\$6,240	\$1,057 (\$12,684)
OAS	\$7,030	\$708 (\$8,492)
CPP	\$8,170	\$1,307 (\$15,679)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,440</b>	

- **BC Seniors Supplement - \$99** max (**100%↑** /5 yrs.)



# Safety and Protection Highlights

Over the last 5 years:

## Missing Seniors

- **9% ↓** reported to Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- **16% ↓** reported to Vancouver Police Dept. (VPD)

## Seniors Abuse and Neglect

- **35% ↑** in reported cases of physical abuse 65+ (VPD)
- **53% ↑** in reported cases of financial abuse 65+ (VPD)
- **15% ↑** in complainants of property offences 65+ (RCMP)
- **55% ↑** in victims of violent offences 65+ (RCMP)
- **114% ↑** in cases of abuse and neglect of seniors reported to Designated Agencies
- **110% ↑** in abuse related calls to Seniors Abuse and Information Line



# Community Supports Highlights

**Over the last 5 years:**

## **New Horizons for Seniors**

- **75% ↑** in federal funding for new community-based projects for seniors

## **First Link©**

- **13% ↑** in clients
- **4% ↓** in client rate per 1,000 pop 75+
- **32% ↑** in client contacts

## **Better at Home**

- **18% ↑** in clients
- **<1% ↑** in client rate per 1,000 pop 75+
- **52% ↑** in services provided



# Overall

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- Generally living longer and healthier lives
- Generally mobile and independent well into our 80's
- Affordability is an increasing issue for seniors
- Abuse, neglect, and policing data increases are concerning
- Some services are increasing, expenditures are increasing, but population growth is reducing overall access to most services
- Cost pressures on government will intensify over the next decade as the seniors age cohorts shift to 85+

# Contact

Toll-free: **1-877-952-3181**

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Monday to Friday: 8:30am–4:30pm

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