



WHISTLER'S
VitalSigns

Whistler's Vital Signs®

A Community Check up

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Preface

It's been a long road to the 2022, or maybe we call it 2023, Vital Signs Full Report. A report has been in the works for some time, but with COVID interruptions we delayed the final publication until February 2023.

Many folks participated in this report, even if they were not on the committee that finalized the report. And we know, now that it is complete and gone to the printers, that it's likely out of date. In a Pre-COVID world, we became comfortable with data that was aged by a year or two or even 5 years. Now, the world is changing at a rapid pace. So, will this be the last full report? I guess that will be something to consider when we've wrapped up our distribution and our queries to the community.

We have noticed that the world of data collection is changing too. It seems Statistics Canada isn't quite where it hopes to be, but there are many updates to language that provides a stronger sense of inclusivity and recognizes the impacts of marginalization. For example, 2021 saw the first survey of the Canadian population that included assigned sex at birth and gender identity. The number of people who reported gender identity as being different than assigned sex at birth was low (.19%). But we might ask ourselves if there are societal norms that could cause under reporting.

Other organizations we consulted often used outdated Statistics Canada language, which made it hard to navigate the language to use, so we've made effort to include definition links in our References.

We also considered reports that reflected on data collection and interpretation, and the impacts that may have on communities who are marginalized by systems that are developed and maintained by predominantly white European settlers. For example, British Columbia's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner's [Research Brief Disaggregated Data: Summary of recommendations to prevent harm to communities](#) offers ways to mitigate negative impacts of data and works to promote equality and justice.

In calculations throughout the Vital Signs Full Report, we rounded to the nearest whole number. And in some cases, categories may not have been fully represented in a total of 100.

Census Profile

A significant amount of data is available in the Statistics Canada Census Profiles for 2021. You can search by your community and add other communities for comparison. The following link is the one our team referenced most, but note this could be archived at any time:

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Whistler&DGUIDlist=2021A00055931020&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>

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Whistler's Village of 100

To help us compare and understand numbers, we chose to look at Whistler as if it was a village of 100 people. With this outlook, each person in Whistler's village of 100 represents 139.8 Whistlerites. Areas, like Squamish, are also represented in population of 100 as a comparison.

Village of 100 can also be interpreted as a percentage of 100.

Population

Whistler 2021	13,982
Whistler 2016	8,713

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Population percentage change, 2016 to 2021

	Whistler	Pemberton	Squamish	West Vancouver	British Columbia
Population percentage change, 2016 to 2021	19.0	32.4	22.2	3.9	7.6

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Age Characteristics

Total - Age groups of the population - 100% data	13,980			
		Combined total by age group	Percentage of total by age group (rounded to nearest whole)	Combined percentage by combined age group
0 to 4 years	445		3	
5 to 9 years	530		4	
10 to 14 years	585		4	
15 to 19 years	640		5	
20 to 24 years	1,125		8	50
25 to 29 years	1,740		12	
30 to 34 years	1,695		12	
35 to 39 years	1,410		10	
40 to 44 years	1,095		8	
45 to 49 years	960		7	

50 to 54 years	960		7	
55 to 59 years	825		6	
60 to 64 years	700		5	
65 to 69 years	530		4	
70 to 74 years	410		3	
75 to 79 years	205	315	2	
80 to 84 years	80			
85 to 89 years	20			
90 to 94 years	10			
95 to 99 years	0			
100 years and over	0			

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Median Age in Whistler

	Whistler	Pemberton	Squamish	West Vancouver	British Columbia
Median age of the population 2021	35.6	36.4	37.6	50.8	42.8
Median age of the population 2016	34				43.2

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Private Dwellings

Total Private Dwellings

	Whistler	Pemberton	Squamish	West Vancouver	British Columbia
Total private dwellings	10,065	1,430	9,906	18,795	2,211,694
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	5,597	1,357	9,191	17,690	2,041,834
Percentage of dwellings occupied by usual residents	55.6	94.9	92.7	94.1	92.3

Private Dwellings by Period of Construction

	Whistler	Whistler 2011-2021 Total	Squamish	Squamish 2011 – 2021 Total
Total - Occupied private dwellings by period of construction - 25% sample data	5,600		9185	
1960 or before	40		365	
1961 to 1980	1,140		2,740	
1981 to 1990	1,325		895	
1991 to 2000	1,425		1,355	
2001 to 2005	380		525	
2006 to 2010	685		990	
2011 to 2015	230	590	670	2,315
2016 to 2021	360		1,645	

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Population Change Between 2011 and 2021

Whistler Population 2021	13,982	+4,158
Whistler Population 2011	9,824	
Squamish Population 2021	23,819	+6,661
Squamish Population 2011	17,158	

(Statistics Canada, n.d.)

Between 2011 and 2021, approximately 590 dwellings* were newly built, at the same time the population increased by 4158 residents. While Squamish built 2,315* for a population increase of 6061.

*590 and 2315 is the number of newly built dwellings that were occupied at time of census. The number does not include new homes built since 2011 that were not occupied at the time of census.

Correction: On page 4 of the report, the authors made a typographical error on the total population increase in Squamish between 2011 and 2021. The last sentence in the paragraph should have read, "While Squamish built 2315 for a population increase of 6661."

Mobility Status of Whistler Residents (Squamish) by percentage of total – mobility status 1 year ago 25% sample data – calculated as a percentage.

	1 year - Between May 11, 2020 and May 11, 2021*	1 year -Between May 10, 2015 and May 10, 2016*	5 year – Between May 11, 2016 and May 11, 2021	Squamish 5 year – Between May 11, 2016 and May 11, 2021
Did not change address	77	74	42	48
Changed address within Municipality	13	13	20	19
Changed address within BC	5	4	12	20
Changed address to or from another province	2	3	8	8
Changed address to or from another country	2	6	15	5

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Median Total Income of economic and non-economic family in 2020

Income of economic families in 2020	
Total - Income statistics for economic families in private households - 100% data	3,400
Median total income of economic family in 2020 (\$)	110,000
Median after-tax income of economic family in 2020 (\$)	95,000

Average family size of economic families	2.7
Total - Income statistics for couple-only economic families in private households - 100% data	1,860
Median total income of couple-only economic families in 2020 (\$)	100,000
Median after-tax income of couple-only economic families in 2020 (\$)	87,000
Average family size of couple-only economic families	2.0
Total - Income statistics for couple-with-children economic families in private households - 100% data	1,180
Median total income of couple-with-children economic families in 2020 (\$)	141,000
Median after-tax income of couple-with-children economic families in 2020 (\$)	122,000
Average family size of couple-with-children economic families	3.8
Total - Income statistics for one-parent economic families in private households - 100% data	280
Median total income of one-parent economic families in 2020 (\$)	76,000
Median after-tax income of one-parent economic families in 2020 (\$)	69,000
Average family size of one-parent economic families	2.6
Total - Income statistics for persons aged 15 years and over not in economic families in private households - 100% data	4,350
Median total income of persons not in economic families in 2020 (\$)	40,800

Median after-tax income of persons not in economic families in 2020 (\$)		36,800
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Total one-parent families	290	
in which the parent is a woman+	205	70.6%
in which the parent is a man+	80	27.5%

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Visible Minority

Total - Visible minority for the population in private households - 25% sample data	13,425	
Total visible minority population	1,715	13% of total
South Asian	105	
Chinese	255	
Black	90	
Filipino	570	
Arab	40	
Latin American	140	

Southeast Asian	90	
West Asian	0	
Korean	65	
Japanese	300	
Visible minority, n.i.e.	10	
Multiple visible minorities	55	
Not a visible minority	11,715	87 % of total

BC Housing Definitions

\$128,810 gross income as the Low and Moderate Limit for residential units with **two or more bedrooms** for families with children.
(Equivalent of \$30.96 per hour/parent at 40 hours/week)

\$82,310 gross income as the Low and Moderate Limit for residential units with **less than two bedrooms** for couples without children
(equivalent of \$19.79 per hour per earner at 40 hours/week)

(BC Housing, n.d.)

Minimum Wage in BC

\$15.65 per hour – equivalent of \$32,552 at 40 hours/week for 52 weeks

Effective June 1, 2022

(Government of British Columbia, n.d.)

Total Income by population aged 15+ years

	Whistler	Percentage of total population reported income (11,890) 2020	Whistler Men	Whistler Women	Squamish	Squamish Men	Squamish Women	West Vancouver	West Vancouver Men	West Vancouver Women	BC	BC Men	BC Women
Total - Total income groups in 2020 for the population aged 15 years and over in private households - 100% data	11,890		6,335	5,550	19,110	9,650	9,455	37,230	17,145	20,080	4,200,500	2,048,300	2,152,200
Without total income	225		120	100	410	205	200	1,630	800	835	124,155	60,445	63,710
With total income	11,660		6,215	5,445	18,705	9,445	9,260	35,595	16,350	19,240	4,076,350	1,987,855	2,088,490
Under \$10,000 (including loss)	870	7	465	405	1,295	570	725	4,640	2,015	2,625	385,230	166,325	218,900
\$10,000 to \$19,999	795	7	395	400	1,535	630	910	3,790	1,570	2,220	474,245	197,530	276,715
\$20,000 to \$29,999	1,490	13	655	830	2,105	865	1,245	4,695	1,885	2,810	627,895	264,860	363,035

\$30,000 to \$39,999	1,845	16	865	985	2,150	935	1,215	3,430	1,310	2,120	515,780	222,825	292,955
\$40,000 to \$49,999	1,705	15	930	770	2,045	910	1,130	2,695	1,040	1,655	442,130	198,985	243,150
\$50,000 to \$59,999	1,340	11	720	615	1,855	880	970	2,245	940	1,305	363,335	172,380	190,950
\$60,000 to \$69,999	850	7	465	380	1,490	790	695	1,875	775	1,100	284,130	149,100	135,030
\$70,000 to \$79,999	600	5	365	240	1,325	725	600	1,495	670	825	221,755	125,565	96,190
\$80,000 to \$89,999	435	4	255	180	1,045	575	470	1,355	660	695	172,110	101,195	70,915
\$90,000 to \$99,999	340	3	210	135	895	510	380	1,100	525	575	136,185	81,180	55,005
\$100,000 and over	1,400	12	895	505	2,975	2,060	915	8,270	4,955	3,315	453,550	307,905	145,645
\$100,000 to \$149,999	815		520	295	1,940	1,285	650	3,265	1,655	1,610	297,440	194,595	102,850
\$150,000 and over	585		375	210	1,035	775	260	5,005	3,300	1,705	156,105	113,310	42,800

Municipality or district	Population (15+ years) with total income	Total income under \$50,000 by population with total income	Percentage total income under \$50,000 of population with total income	Total income over \$100,000 by population with total income	Percentage total income over \$100,000 of population with total income
Whistler	11,660	6,705	58	1,400	12
Squamish	18,705	9,130	49	2,975	16
West Vancouver	35,595	19,250	54	8,270	23

Population (15+ years) with total income does not represent total population – and does not include population without total income nor incomplete tax records for 2020.

Do we have a sustainable future?

Vehicles Registered in Whistler

5351 total vehicles registered in Whistler - That's 1 car for every 2.3 residents aged 15 and over

123 e-vehicles are registered in Whistler – That's 1 e-vehicle for every 114 residents

(RMOW, n.d.)

Commuters who use a car, truck, or van as a main mode of commuting

Correction: On page 6 of the report, the authors should have written, “Resident commuters who use a car, truck, or van as a main mode of commuting”.

	Whistler	Pemberton	Squamish
Total - Main mode of commuting for the employed labour force aged 15 years and over with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address - 25% sample data	6,115	1,710	9,895
Car, truck or van	4,140	1,390	8,420
Percentage using car, truck or van	68	81	85
Car, truck or van - as a driver	3,895	1,285	7,775
Car, truck or van - as a passenger	245	105	645
Public transit	645	25	190

Walked	690	170	540
Bicycle	460	90	440
Other method	175	30	305

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Occupied Private Dwellings by Type

70.5% are not a single detached home

29.5% are a single detached home

Household and dwelling characteristics	
Total - Occupied private dwellings by structural type of dwelling - 100% data	5,595
Single-detached house	1,660
Semi-detached house	470
Row house	1,470
Apartment or flat in a duplex	565
Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	1,375
Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	15
Other single-attached house	45

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Population Density in Sea to Sky Communities

	Whistler	Pemberton	Squamish	West Vancouver
Population density per square kilometre 2021	58.3	55.5	227.5	506.1

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Water Usage

462.11 Litres per person per day* (water usage) – equivalent to 96 flushes of a low flow toilet

368 kg per person per year* of landfill waste – up from the lowest recorded in 2019 of 293kg

*based on population equivalent

(RMOW, n.d.)

WCSS Waste Diversion

453,654 kg of waste diverted by Re-Use-It and Re-Build-It Centres

(Whistler Community Services Society, 2022)

Whistler's GHG Emissions (Tons)

Year	Total Estimated GHGs	Passenger Vehicle Estimated GHGs	Percentage of total estimated GHGs from passenger vehicles
2021	127K	66K	52%
2020	108K	46K	42%
2019	131K	71K	54%
2018	125K	70K	56%
2017	129K	71K	55%

>50% of GHG Emissions in Whistler are estimated to be from passenger vehicle emissions in the last 5 years, with the exception of 2020 when traffic dropped to levels unseen in Whistler for many years.

(RMOW, n.d.)

Climate Action

Keystone Species

Wetlands are vital to balancing our ecosystems. And beavers provide the necessary skills and tools for maintaining and creating wetlands. Protecting beavers, is the key to biodiversity because each one provides habitat for many species who live on land and below water in Whistler.

48 active beaver colonies in Whistler

300 estimated number of beavers

1000 estimated beavers before settlers

72% of original wetlands lost since development began

(Snowline Ecological Research and Palmer, 2021)

Indicator Species

The Northern Goshawk is a raptor whose habitat is old growth forest. The lack of their presence in the valley indicates the health or existence of mature forests may be compromised.

Old growth forests are a buzz with biodiversity & we still have small patches that remain. While there is evidence that Goshawks have been present in the Whistler Valley, it's touch and go for revitalizing the population. Maintaining old growth in the stretch between Whistler and Pemberton is critical to encouraging breeding pairs in building new nests.

(Snowline Ecological Research and Palmer, 2021)

20% of the 4855 species recorded in Whistler's Biodiversity Project are Fungi

(Whistler Naturalists, 2022)

Climate Adaptation

Extreme Weather Centre

20 groups used overnight shelter services in 2021

70+ visits to the warming space during the day

Current activation for extreme cold weather occurs during “a wind chill of minus 20°C or lower for 6 hours or more” or “when the temperature or wind chill reach minus 35°C for at least 2 hours.”

(Whistler Community Services Society, 2022)

Annual average hourly concentration of particulate matter (PM2.5)

2021	5.38
2020	6.95
2019	4.91
2018	7.9
2017	10.91
2016	6.29
2015	8.5
2014	5.25

(RMOW, n.d.)

BC Wildfire

2017 BC Wildfire State of Emergency lasted 70 days

(Government of British Columbia, n.d.)

Is our community livable?

Childcare

Childcare rate of access (Number of licensed daycare spaces per 100 children)

14.3 Whistler

(RMOW, 2020)

12.5 Pemberton

(Sparc BC, 2019)

21 Squamish

(Gillespie, 2020)

“The waitlist time for children under 3 years of age at one of the providers is 18 – 24 months.” – Whistler Childcare Planning Project – Final Report, RMOW, August 2020

(RMOW, 2020)

Transit

“The Route 10 Valley Express has proven to be very popular with Whistlerites, the report noted, as the line’s ridership grew by 175 per cent between 2019 and 2021, making it the fifth busiest route overall, and the only route to increase in ridership during the pandemic.” ~ Pique Newsmagazine, 2022

(Wisla, 2022)

137 days commuters went without access to transit in Whistler in 2022 due to a transit strike

Whistler Transit Ridership

2021 1494286

2020 1415026

2019 3189769

(RMOW, n.d.)

PEACE Counsellors supported:

490 Children & youth through one-to-one counselling

277 Children & youth through groups

1048 Children & Youth through counselling hours

342 students Grade 5 – 8 supported through Believe presentations which focus on education around healthy relationships, personal safety, and resources.

(Howe Sound's Women's Centre Society, 2022)

RCMP Data

Whistler RCMP in a Committee of the Whole presentation called 2021 “very unusual” in terms of statistics — as the community continued to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Violent crimes reported

Overall Violent crimes	Violent Crimes - Sexual offences	
195	33	2021
160	21	2020
22% increase	57% increase	In 2021 over 2020

4517 calls for service to Whistler RCMP in 2021

2% increase since from 2020

“I started to see it more prevalent; we started to see it more serious in nature,” she said. “When people were in mental health crisis, they were in serious mental health crisis where they had either attempted to take their lives or people were in violent states, from which they required police attendance and police intervention to ensure the safety of not only themselves but everybody else around them, including my members on my team.” ~ Sargent Banks, RCMP Committee of the Whole presentation (according to Pique Newsmagazine)

13% increase in mental-health flags (185 in 2021)

60 mental health flags in 2016

Down 56% drug crimes (18 in 2021, 41 in 2020)

Down 17% property crime (351 in 2021, 423 in 2020)

Down 27% traffic offenses (102 in 2021, 139 in 2020)

(Barrett, Violent crime was up 22% in Whistler last year, while property crime, impaired driving fell, 2022)

(RMOW, 2022)

RMOW Election 2022

Voter Turnout 2022	3224	35% of eligible voters
Voter Turnout 2018	2955	32% of eligible voters
Voter Turnout 2014	2303	27% of eligible voters
Voter Turnout 2011	3952	55% of eligible voters

(RMOW, 2022)

Permanent Resident Satisfaction with Municipal Decision Making

When asked in the **2022 RMOW Community Life Survey** “How satisfied are you with the existing opportunities to provide input to municipal decision making in Whistler?” half of Whistler permanent residents felt somewhat or very satisfied. A question about whether the same residents voted in the 2022 municipal election, or not, would be an interesting exercise. Unfortunately, the study was limited in scope.

(Deloitte., 2022)

Is everyone thriving?

Food Bank Visits

2021	9365
2020	5782
2019	3005
2018	2773

(Whistler Community Services Society, 2022)

According to Gizem Kaya, food security and community development manager at WCSS, many individuals have gone from being food donors to visitors at the food bank. "There is no help for people... other than food banks which were meant to be a temporary solution," she said, "and now it's quickly becoming a very permanent solution." ~ excerpt from CBC News article "Food bank visits hit record high at luxury ski town in B.C." from December 2022

(Thayaparan, 2022)

Cost of Living

16.9% increase in food cost in 2022*

16.7% increase in shelter costs in 2022*

*BC rates used in calculating Vancouver's 2022 liveable wage

(Ivanova, Daub, & French, Working for a Living Wage; Making paid work meet basic family needs in Metro Vancouver, 2022)

(Ivanova, Working for a Living Wage 2022 Technical Appendix, 2022)

Living Wage

Whistler's Living Wage

\$25.73 per hour per adult at 35 hours per week 52 weeks per year based on a two-earner family with two children ~ RMOW Economic Development Team "Whistler's Living Wage" Presentation in 2019

(RMOW, 2020)

If Whistler’s living wage grew at a similar pace to Vancouver’s living wage assessment, we could imagine a 17.3% increase over the last year. However, Whistler’s last calculation was 2019.

Author’s Note: Whistler’s Living Wage has not been officially calculated under the guidance of Living Wage for Families in BC and Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives BC Office. The estimate was made based on Metro Vancouver’s increase between 2021 and 2022’s calculation.

“The living wage is the hourly wage that two parents working full-time need to earn to support a family of four. In Kelowna it is \$4.39 (23.7 per cent) higher than last year’s rate of \$18.49, in Victoria it is \$3.83 (18.7 per cent) higher than last year’s \$20.46 and in Metro Vancouver it is \$3.56 (17.3 per cent) higher than last year’s \$20.52.” ~ Living Wage Rates 2022, Soaring Living Costs Cause Major Increase in Living Wage Costs Across BC.

Whistler Estimated (per hour) \$30.18 = \$25.73 + \$4.45

Whistler Estimated increase \$4.45 = \$25.73 (RMOW’s 2019 Calculation) x 17.3% (Metro Vancouver’s increase since 2021)

(Living Wage for Families BC, n.d.)

Resort Municipalities Living Wage (per hour)

\$23.60 per hour in Revelstoke

\$25.56 per hour in Golden

\$23.58 per hour in Fernie

(Ivanova, Daub, & French, Working for a Living Wage; Making paid work meet basic family needs in Metro Vancouver, 2022)

Dwellings Not Acceptable

Total - Occupied private dwellings by housing indicators - 25% sample data	5,600	
Total - Households 'spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs' or 'not suitable' or 'major repairs needed'	2,355	42% of total
Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs only	1,655	

Not suitable only	300	
Major repairs needed only	140	
'Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs' and 'not suitable'	150	
'Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs' and 'major repairs needed'	80	
'Not suitable' and 'major repairs needed'	15	
'Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs' and 'not suitable' and 'major repairs needed'	25	
Acceptable housing	3,245	58% of total

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Housing and Affordability

“Housing is considered affordable when 30 per cent or less of your household's gross income goes towards paying for your housing costs.” ~ BC Housing

(BC Housing, n.d.)

50% of Whistler households have a total household income that is below \$100,000.

25% of Whistler households have a total household income that is below \$60,000.

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Market Housing

\$3.3M median purchase price for single family home in 2021

\$1,306,000 median purchase price for townhouse in 2021

\$770,000 median purchase price for townhouse in 2021

(RMOW, n.d.)

Ownership Whistler Housing Authority (WHA)

21 WHA resales in 2022

\$276,326 median WHA resale in 2022

100 new apartments WHA sales in 2022

68 units were 2-bedroom and sold for \$405,000 - \$460,000 + 5% GST payments

24 units were 1-bedroom and sold for \$310,000 - \$340,000 + 5% GST payments

8 units were 3-bedroom and sold for \$500,000 - \$535,000 + 5% GST payments

(Whistler Housing Authority, n.d.)

NEW! “An individual who is employed or self-employed a minimum average of at least 30 hours per week on an annualized basis by a Qualified Whistler Business.” — Whistler Housing Authority updated the definition of employee for the rental and purchase waitlists.

(Whistler Housing Authority, n.d.)

CHMC

\$201,938 is the cost of house purchase that a Whistler median income coupled household can afford, according to Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CHMC). Calculated using \$100,000 total household income, a 5% interest rate, a \$30,000 down payment, and \$2500 in monthly non-shelter related expenses.

(Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), n.d.)

Rental Housing & Affordability

\$1500 is the amount of rent that Whistler households with a total income of \$60,000 can afford, if renters keep monthly non-shelter related expenses below \$2,000 – according to CHMC’s Calculator

\$1500 is the median rate for a WHA 1 bedroom rental with a couple or single occupant with a total household income of \$60,000 in 2022

44 WHA rental turnovers in 2022

4.4 years average wait time for WHA 1 bedroom rental
(Whistler Housing Authority, n.d.)

Employment and Labour Force

81% of population aged 15 years and over participate in the labour force
(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Labour force aged 15 years and over by occupation

Total - Labour force aged 15 years and over by occupation - Broad category - National Occupational Classification (NOC) 2021 - 25% sample data	9,620	
Occupation - not applicable	80	
All occupations	9,540	
0 Legislative and senior management occupations	165	2%
1 Business, finance and administration occupations	1,405	15%
2 Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	580	6%
3 Health occupations	340	4%
4 Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	640	7%
5 Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	585	6%
6 Sales and service occupations	3,940	41%

7 Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	1,535	16%
8 Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	250	3%
9 Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	100	1%

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Employee Average Wages by Occupation

BC Average Hourly Wage including both sexes and ages 15 and over

Management occupations	\$50.39/ hr
Business, finance and administration occupations	\$30.37/hr
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	\$43.25/hr
Health occupations	\$34.21/hr
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	\$35.41/hr
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	\$31.74/hr
Sales and service occupations	\$21.45/hr
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	\$31.20/hr
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	\$28.28/hr
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	\$27.99/hr

(Statistics Canada, n.d.)

Composition of total income in 2020 of the population

87.2% market income (including employment, investment income, private retirement income and more)

12.7 % government transfers (includes all forms of benefits such as CPP, EI, WorkSafe, GST credit and more).

1.1% Employment Insurance (E.I.) benefits

7.9% COVID-19 Government income support and benefits

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Median total income in 2020

\$47,600 men

\$41,200 women

(Statistics Canada, 2022)

Gender Diversity Inclusion

“HSWC intends to continue to work towards reducing barriers for gender-diverse folks to access our programs and services. Data shows that gender-diverse individuals face higher rates of violence than cis-gendered individuals and HSWC is working to ensure that all people who experience violence, harassment and discrimination as a result of their gender have access to safe, supportive and healing care in our community.” ~ Ashley Oakes, HSWC (in an email by Ashely, when asked about HSWC’s Gender Diversity programming)

408 Gender Diverse Inclusion program attendees

605 Persons supported through Gender Diversity Inclusion Outreach

(Howe Sound's Women's Centre Society, 2022)

Whistler Community Services Society Outreach Services

Number of visits at one-on-one or group sessions for mental and emotional wellbeing and peer support.

2021	6128
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2020	4922
2019	3233
2018	2040

(Whistler Community Services Society, 2022)

Communities that Care Whistler 2021 Prevention Needs Assessment Survey

Grades 6 – 12

7 out of 10 respondents are confident in accessing mental health services in their community

42% of grade 10 students reported going to school drunk or high in Whistler – a number well above Sea to Sky’s average of 23%.

Nearly ¼ of respondents felt sad or hopeless over a two-week period and

10% seriously considering suicide

closer to 20% of grade 8 students had suicidal thoughts

(Communities that Care, 2021)

Communities that Care Whistler 2021 Young Adult Online Survey

Persons aged 18 to 30 who live or work in Whistler (898 respondents)

Alcohol is most commonly used substance

74% of respondents used alcohol at least once per week

31% reported binge drinking (consuming five or more drinks on one occasion) at least once per week over the last month

7% report using cocaine at least once per week, and a further 13% once or twice per month

10% had witnessed an overdose since living in Whistler, and 3% reported overdosing themselves

(McLoughlin, 2021)

Alcohol Consumption

Litres per person aged 15+ per year

9.23 BC

11.34 North Shore Coast Garibaldi Region

(Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, 2021)

Racism

72% of survey participants who identified as racialized had experienced racism while living here

44 % would report the incident

(Whistler Multicultural Society and Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network, 2023)

During the pandemic (2020 & 2021) Pique Newsmagazine reported multiple organizations (including Whistler Community Services Society, Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre and Whistler Multicultural Centre) and community members experienced and witnessed a heightened level of racist incidents, including micro-aggressions and hate-speech.

(Lalonde, Whistler family speaks out after being told to "Go back to China", 2020) (Noel, 2020)

Closing

Whistler's Vital Signs is a citizen-led collection of data. We are pleased to offer this collection of data and hope it brings opportunities for further inquiry into what's happening in Whistler and helps us define how to further build a sustainable, livable and thriving community.

Because this report is to inspire action, not all statistics were included.

Stop by whistlerfoundation.com/vital-signs to learn what's next.