



GREATER VICTORIA'S 2025 ANNUAL CHECK-UP

20th Anniversary Edition

DATA SOURCES

September 2025

NOTES ON DATA SOURCES

This document provides the sources for the secondary data referenced in the 2025 Victoria's Vital Signs Report, specifically in the Village of 100: Then & Now and 12 Vital Signs Issue Areas.

The source of opinion data referenced in the report, specifically in the Best Things & Most Important Issues, Quality of Life in Greater Victoria, and Vital Signs Issue Area Grades, is the 2025 Vital Signs Citizen Survey. For the full survey responses, please go to <http://victoriafoundation.bc.ca/vital.signs/>

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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



IF GREATER VICTORIA WAS A VILLAGE OF 100: THEN & NOW

When we first published Vital Signs in 2006, the region's population was 345,000. Today, it stands at 460,000 people, a 33% increase.¹

In that time, we've experienced worsening climate impacts, including prolonged drought, heat domes, wildfires, and atmospheric rivers. We've seen technology transform more aspects of our lives, while social media has radically altered how we perceive each other and the world.

We've witnessed growing income inequality, wealth concentration, and the financialization of housing, fearing for those left behind. We've watched the rise of geopolitical instability, conflicts, and humanitarian crises, fearing for loved ones and homelands.

We've lived through the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and 2008 financial crisis that ravaged our families, communities, and economies, and tested our faith in each other and our governments. We've navigated the post-pandemic recovery, enduring supply chain disruptions, inflation, and high interest rates.

We've been doing the necessary work of reconciliation with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples, and upholding Indigenous rights and title. We've been looking hard at ourselves and our systems to confront racism and discrimination.

Through it all, we've strengthened the bonds that connect us and built a resilient quality of life.

¹ Annual population estimates for the Capital Regional District Census Division, 2006 and 2024 (Statistics Canada. [Table 17-10-0152-01 Population estimates, July 1, by census division, 2021 boundaries](#))

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Gender

2006	Victoria	Canada
Men+	48	49
Women+	52	51

2021	Victoria	Canada
Men +	48	49
Women +	52	51

Note: Men+" includes men (and/or boys), as well as some non-binary persons. "Women+" includes women (and/or girls), as well as some non-binary persons. In 2006, the Census provided sex-only categories: male and female. For our purposes, these have been renamed men+ and women+.

Age

2006	Victoria	Canada
0-14	14	18
15-24	13	13
25-64	55	50
65-84	15	12
85+	3	2
Median age	43.1	39.5

2021	Victoria	Canada
0-14	13	16
15-24	11	12
25-64	53	53
65-84	20	17
85+	3	2
Median age	44.8	41.6

Indigenous Identity

2006	Victoria	Canada
Indigenous Identity	3	4

2021	Victoria	Canada
Indigenous Identity	5	5

Visible Minority Population

2006	Victoria	Canada
Visible Minority	10	16

2021	Victoria	Canada
Visible Minority	17	27

Immigrant Population

2006	Victoria	Canada
Immigrant	19	20

2021	Victoria	Canada
Immigrant	19	23

Marital Status

2006	Victoria	Canada
Single (never married)	33	35
Common-law	9	10
Married	46	48
Divorced	10	8
Widowed	7	6

2021	Victoria	Canada
Single (never married)	28	29
Common-law	12	13
Married	44	44
Divorced	8	6
Widowed	5	5

Note: Does not add up to 100 due to rounding and exclusion of “separated”

Languages

2006

Speak English most often at home: **94** (Canada: **66**)

Speak languages other than English and French most often at home: **5** (Canada: **11**)

Have knowledge of both official languages: **10** (Canada: **17**)

2021

Speak English most often at home: **91** (Canada: **64**)

Speak languages other than English and French most often at home: **6** (Canada: **13**)

Have knowledge of both official languages: **10** (Canada: **18**)

Income

2006	Victoria	Canada
Median individual income*	28,541	25,615
Median household income**	53,310	53,634

2021	Victoria	Canada
Median individual income*	45,600	41,200
Median household income**	85,000	84,000

*Median total income for income recipients (15 years and over), before tax, 2005 and 2020

**Median household income, before tax, 2005 and 2020

Other Demographics

2006	Victoria	Canada
Low Income	10	11
Employed	63	62
Post-secondary Education	57	51
Living Alone*	33	27
Renter	35	31
One-parent Families	16	16

2021	Victoria	Canada
Low Income	9	11
Employed	59	53
Post-secondary Education	62	57
Living Alone*	34	29
Renter	38	33
One-parent Families	14	16

*Defined as one-person private household

Source (all): STATISTICS CANADA, Census Profile, Victoria British Columbia [Census metropolitan area] and Canada, Census of Population, 2006 and 2021

ARTS & CULTURE

Library Use

In 2024, the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) reported the following visits, circulation and engagement across its 12 branches in the region:

- 3.5 million total visits, of which 1.8 million were in-person
- 6.3 million total circulation, 3.7 million physical items and 2.6 million digital items
- 23,000 new cardholders (16% of total cardholders as of Dec. 31, 2024)
- 180,000 public computer logins
- 35,000 total program participation

Source: GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY, personal communication

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

In 2023 (most recent year of data), the GVPL ranked 2nd for total circulation per capita, 8th for in-person visits per capita, and 14th for total number of cardholders per capita, among 42 reporting urban library systems in Canada.

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 2024, the two branches combined recorded:

- 359,000 total circulation, 233,000 physical items and 126,000 digital items
- 17,600 total cardholders (17% new applicants)
- 36% of Sidney/North Saanich residents have a library card
- 41% of Sooke residents have a library card
- 11,550 people attended free events

In 2024, Sidney/North Saanich's Teen Advisory Group organized free library card drives at Parkland Secondary and North Saanich Middle School and gathered Period Promise campaign donations to keep the library's washrooms stocked with free period products. The Sooke branch launched a volunteer-run home delivery service for Ayre Manor, a local seniors' housing complex, providing welcome access to library materials and social connection for homebound residents.

Source: VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

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



Arts Funding

Regional funding

In 2024, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Arts and Culture Support Service distributed a record high \$2.73 million to 101 local not-for-profit arts organizations, of whom 15 were first-time recipients.

CRD grant recipients activated 9,500 arts events and performances in the region, of which 76% were in-person and 24% online, with over 1,150,000 audience members, participants and attendees.

In 2024, approximately 5,580 arts workers were employed by grant recipients, including 4,600 artists and 980 arts workers.

Source: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT. Arts and Culture Support Service 2024 Impact Report
<https://www.crd.ca/media/file/crd-arts-culture-2024-impact-reportpdf>

Federal funding

In 2023/2024, the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) awarded \$5.1 million to 120 recipients in the Victoria CMA, including 71 individuals (27%), 6 groups (2%), and 43 arts organizations (71%).

Grants ranged from \$1,250 to \$670,000. Individuals received an average grant of \$19,584 and the average arts organization grant was \$83,766.

The CCA awarded \$48.4 million (16% of grants awarded in Canada) to 1,257 artists, groups, and arts organizations in 91 communities in BC in 2023/24.

Source: CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS Open Data
<https://canadacouncil.ca/research/data-tables>



Employment in the Arts

In 2024, approximately 12,300 people in Greater Victoria worked in arts, culture, recreation and sports occupations, except management, continuing a five-year upward trend and double the number from 2020.

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

THEN & NOW: Between 2006 and 2022, there was a 44% increase in arts and select cultural workers in Greater Victoria, one of the highest growth rates in Canada, and well above the 25% increase in cultural workers across all census metropolitan areas for the same period.

Source: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT. Arts and Culture Support Service 2022 Impact Report
<https://www.crd.ca/media/file/crd-arts-culture-2022-impact-report>

Community in Focus

A Sacred Legacy: Tam Kung Temple

Designated a national historic site in 2025, the Tam Kung Temple in Victoria stands as a rare and enduring symbol of Chinese Canadian heritage. Established in the 1860's and relocated to the top floor of the Yen Wo Society Building at 1713 Government Street, the temple has served as a spiritual and cultural hub for the Hakka community on Vancouver Island for over a century.

Inside, a wooden statue of the sea deity Tam Kung sits beneath a skylight, surrounded by embroidered silk banners, incense censers, and intricately carved altars. Remarkably, the temple has remained in use through changing times, even surviving a fire in 1980. Today, it is Victoria's only active Chinese temple.

Source: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

<https://www.parks.canada.ca/culture/designation/lieu-site/temple-tam-kung>

BELONGING & ENGAGEMENT

Sense of Belonging

In 2021/22 nearly 62% of the population, aged 12 years and older, in South Vancouver Island reported a somewhat strong or very strong sense of belonging to their local community, down from 72% in 2019/20, and lower than the rates for BC (68%) and Canada (67%) in 2021/22.

Among youth in the South Island, aged 12-17 years, the rate was 71% in 2021/22, down from 84% in 2019/20, and lower than their counterparts in BC (79%) and Canada (80%) in 2021/22.

For seniors, aged 65 years and older, 80% reported a somewhat strong or very strong sense of belonging in 2021/22, down from 83% in 2019/20, and higher than for seniors in BC (76%) and Canada (72%) in 2021/22.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

[Table 13-10-0113-01 Health characteristics, two-year period estimates](#) (custom order, Victoria CMA)

Youth Connections

In 2023, 94% of youth, aged 12-19 years, in South Vancouver Island, had at least one close friend in their school or community, although they were less likely to have three or more of these friends than before the COVID-19 pandemic (70% vs. 82% in 2018). There were no changes in how many online friends they had whom they had never met in person (33% in 2023, including 14% who had three or more such friends).

Most youth (75%) had at least one adult in their neighbourhood or community (outside of their family and school) who they felt cared about them, similar to youth throughout BC. Youth were more likely than those in 2018 to have an adult to turn to when they had a serious problem: 75% had an adult inside their family they could turn to (vs. 71% in 2018), 37% had one outside their family (vs. 31%), and 28% had both (vs. 21%).

Source: Forsyth, K., Smith, A., Poon, C., Peled, M., & McCreary Centre Society. (2024). South Vancouver Island: 2023 BC Adolescent Health Survey results. McCreary Centre Society.

https://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/2023_bcahs_south_vancouver_island.pdf

Charitable Giving

In 2023, 20% of tax filers in Greater Victoria made charitable donations, down from 21% in 2022, and higher than BC (16%) and Canada (17%) in 2023. The median donation in Greater Victoria was \$540 in 2023, up from \$520 in 2022, and below BC's median (\$570) and well above Canada's median donation (\$390) in 2023.

THEN & NOW: From our first Vital Signs report (2006): In 2004, 30% of Greater Victoria tax filers made charitable donations and the median donation was \$290.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

[Table 11-10-0130-01 Summary of charitable donors](#)

Giving Attitudes and Behaviours of Multicultural Canadians

Major findings of Imagine Canada's 2024 Multicultural Charitable Giving Study include:

- 66% of multicultural Canadians view charities and nonprofits positively
- 80% donated to charitable causes in the previous year, making an average contribution of \$795; 60% expressed a desire to donate more in the future
- 57% would be more likely to donate more if they were asked more often or knew where to give
- Primary drivers for giving are showing compassion (83%), doing the right thing (81%), and belief in the cause (81%); personal incentives (52%) or recognition (37%) are less important
- 74% support teaching children about philanthropy
- 76% who have been in Canada 5-10 years donate regularly, compared to 40% who have been in Canada for less than three years

Source: IMAGINE CANADA. Unlocking Generosity: Understanding and Engaging Multicultural Canadians in Charitable Giving 2025.

<https://imaginecanada.ca/sites/default/files/unlocking-generosity-report.pdf>

Police-reported Hate Crimes



In 2024, there were 80 police-reported hate crimes in the Victoria CMA, a rate of 18 per 100,000 population, up from the region's 2023 rate (12), and above the rates for BC (12) and across all CMAs (14) in 2024. The region's hate crime rate rose from 8.5 (35 incidents) in 2020 to 18 (80 incidents) in 2024.

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](#)

Community in Focus

Uplifting Indigenous Self-determination

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to formalize government-to-government relationships and commit to working together on key priorities with the W̱JOḺEḺP (Tsartlip), W̱SIḴEM (Tseycum), x̱w̱seps̱əm (Kosapsum), and S̱ṮÁUṮW̱'s (Tsawout) Nations.

The MOUs will foster a more inclusive approach to regional government with new processes for respectful and reciprocal government-to-government decision-making. The MOUs will promote deeper understanding and respect for each other's governance structures, cultural values, and perspectives.

CRD and Nation staff will meet regularly to support ongoing communication and implementation of shared workplans to address priorities in the MOUs. Leadership and elected representatives will hold annual government-to-government meetings. These connections will foster stronger relationships, build trust, and ensure all parties remain aligned in their shared goals and stated commitments.

Source: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

<https://www.crd.ca/news>

ECONOMY

Unemployment Rate



In 2024, the unemployment rate in Greater Victoria was 4% among people aged 15 years and over, similar to 2023, and lower than the rates for BC (6%) and Canada (6%) in 2024. The unemployment rate among women in the region in 2024 was 4%, on par with the rate for men (4%).

% Population (15 years +) who are unemployed

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Canada	9.7	7.5	5.3	5.4	6.3
BC	9.1	6.6	4.6	5.2	5.6
Victoria CMA	7.8	4.9	3.8	3.7	3.9

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 2024, the employment rate in Greater Victoria was 64% among people aged 15 years and over, higher than 2023 (61%), and higher than the rates for BC (62%) and Canada (61%) in 2024. The employment rate among women in the region in 2024 was 62%, lower than the rate for men (66%).

% Population (15 years +) who are employed

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Canada	58.1	60.5	62.0	62.2	61.3
BC	58.6	61.6	62.5	62.4	61.6
Victoria CMA	58.9	60.2	60.8	61.4	64.0

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 2024, the average hotel room occupancy rate in Greater Victoria was 75%, up from 70% in 2023. The average daily room rate in 2024 was \$261, up from \$247 in 2023. The average revenue per available room, a measure of a hotel's ability to fill its available rooms at an average price, was \$196 in 2024, up from \$173 in 2023.

The Victoria Conference Centre recorded a 12% increase in delegate days in 2024, with just over 94,000 days compared to 84,000 in 2023.

Source: CHEMISTRY CONSULTING GROUP. Victoria Tourism Bulletin December 2024.

<https://chemistryconsulting.ca/2025/02/03/victoria-tourism-bulletin-december-2024/>



Air and Ferry Passenger Volume

In 2024, BC Ferries reported slight increases in passenger traffic (2%), vehicle traffic (2%), and bus traffic (1%) on the Tsawwassen - Swartz Bay route, compared to 2023. Victoria International Airport reported a 7% increase in flight passenger volume in 2024, with 1.9 million total passengers compared to 1.7 million in 2023.

Source: CHEMISTRY CONSULTING GROUP. Victoria Tourism Bulletin December 2024.
<https://chemistryconsulting.ca/2025/02/03/victoria-tourism-bulletin-december-2024/>

Economic Impact of Tourism Sector

The region's tourism industry is a significant driver of employment and economic growth locally and for the provincial economy.

In 2023, there were nearly 5 million total person-visits to Greater Victoria, including 3.7 million domestic visitors from across Canada, 926,500 U.S. visitors, and 352,000 overseas visitors.

These visitors spent over \$1.9 billion in the region, with domestic visitors spending close to \$1.2 billion and U.S. and overseas visitors spending \$488 million and \$270 million, respectively. The average spend per person-visit was \$390, including overnight, same-day non-cruise, and cruise visitors (passengers and crew members).

Visitor spending in 2023 supported roughly 25,000 jobs, \$1.1 billion in wages, \$2 billion in GDP, and \$3.5 billion in economic output across the province. It also generated an estimated \$510 million in tax revenue, with 45% going to the federal government, 49% to the provincial government, and 6% to the region's municipal governments.

The economic impact of tourism includes direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts. Direct impacts are directly associated with employment in tourism. Indirect impacts are associated with employment in industries that depend on tourism. Induced impacts stem from expenditures by individuals employed directly or indirectly in tourism, often referred to as the "household spending effect".

Source: DESTINATION GREATER VICTORIA. Economic Impact of Tourism in Greater Victoria, October 2024.
<https://admin.tourismvictoria.com/content/uploads/sites/2/2024/10/Economic-Impact-of-Tourism-in-Greater-Victoria-October-2024.pdf>

Growth of the Tech Sector

THEN & NOW: In 2013, the tech sector created \$4 billion in economic impact and employed 15,000 people. By 2023, it had generated \$7.9 billion, including \$5.9 billion in annual revenue, and employed over 20,000 people across 1170 tech firms. Today, technology is Greater Victoria's #1 industry. Given the sector's remarkable growth over the past decade, it will have no problem reaching \$10 billion by 2030, the target set by the Victoria Innovation, Advanced Technology and Entrepreneurship Council.

Source: VICTORIA INNOVATION, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNCIL (VIATEC)
<https://www.viatec.ca/tech-industry-studies-reports/>

Community in Focus

B.C.'s Most Economically Resilient Cities

In 2025, local municipalities dominated BC Business magazine's annual ranking of B.C.'s Most Economically Resilient Cities, similar to the 2024 results.

Sidney took first place, followed by Langford and Central Saanich, with Saanich (#6), Victoria (#8), and Sooke (#12) rounding out the top 15 of 50 ranked municipalities.

The magazine looked at 50 BC cities of 10,000+ residents, scoring them on nine criteria: population growth, household financial vulnerability, residents' sense of belonging, rental vacancies, housing sales, housing starts, job creation, unemployment, and economic diversity.

The capital region fares well in the rankings given the public sector's outsized share of BC's job market. Vancouver Island continues to attract workers leaving high-priced urban centres for lifestyle and cost-of-living reasons.

Source: BC BUSINESS

<https://www.bcbusiness.ca/industries/general/b-c-s-most-economically-resilient-cities-in-2025>

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Solid Waste Disposal



In 2024, the CRD's solid waste disposal rate was an estimated 338 kilograms (kg) per person, a decrease from 382 kg in 2023, and below the BC rate for 2022 (479 kg), the most recent year for which provincial data is available. The CRD solid waste disposal target is 250 kg or less per person by 2031, surpassing BC's long-term target of 350 kg per capita.

Source: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT. 2025. Environmental Resource Management 2024 Solid Waste Management Plan Progress Report.

<https://www.crd.ca/media/file/solid-waste-management-plan-2024-progress-reportpdf>

Residential Water Use



In 2023, average residential water consumption in the capital region was 231 litres daily per person, up from 224 litres in 2022. The region's per capita water use rates have stabilized in the last 10 years around the Canadian average, following a sizable reduction between 1995 to 2010 due to greater conservation efforts and the introduction of efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances.

Source: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT. Regional Growth Strategy Indicators Report 2024.

<https://www.crd.ca/government-administration/data-documents/regional-growth-strategy-indicators-report-2024>

In 2021, the average daily residential water use in Canada was 223 litres per capita, a decline of 11% from 251 litres in 2011. In BC, the average daily residential water use per capita in 2021 was 286 litres, a decline of 8% from 312 litres in 2011.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

[Table 38-10-0271-01 Potable water use by sector and average daily use](#)

THEN & NOW: From our first Vital Signs report (2006): In 2004, the average water consumption per person for residential use in the capital region was 312 litres/day, considerably less than the BC average of 425 litres/day.

Source: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT



Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2022, the capital region's annual GHG emissions totalled approximately 1.86 million tonnes (1,858,325) of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), with total per capita GHG emissions of 4.2%. On an absolute basis, this is a 7% decline from the 2007 base year emissions and a decline of 25% on a per capita basis. In 2022, on-road transportation accounted for 42% of GHG emissions, the largest share of total emissions in the region, followed by commercial and institutional buildings at 19% and residential buildings at 15%.

The reduction in the region's GHG emissions between 2007 and 2022 speaks to the efforts the CRD, local, provincial, and federal governments have made to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions. However, the current trend suggests that we will not meet the target by 2038 without greater effort.

Note: The CRD reports GHG emissions in accordance with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC Protocol). The CRD's inventory includes emissions from stationary energy (buildings, construction, energy), transportation (on-road, air, marine), waste, industrial process and product use, and agriculture, forestry and other land use. Due to methodological limitations, the CRD inventory does not include GHG emissions from land use change (residential development) and sequestration.

Source: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT. Capital Regional District 2022 GPC BASIC+ Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory Report.

<https://www.crd.ca/media/file/2022-regional-ghg-inventory-study>



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. As of July 1, 2024, the SRKW population was an estimated 73 individuals, down from 75 reported in the 2023 census due to the deaths of two adult males, one in K pod and one in L pod, and of a male calf in J pod—the only whale born within the census period.

Total population: 73

- J population: 25
- K population: 15
- L population: 33

Note: These counts do not include a new calf born to L pod after the census date.

The SRKW population grew during the late 1970s, 1980s, and mid-1990s, peaking at 98 individuals, and then declined in the late 1990s. By 2001, there were 78 whales left, and while the population rose to 89 in 2006, the numbers have been dropping precipitously ever since.

Source: CENTER FOR WHALE RESEARCH

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

Under current conditions, SRKW have a high probability of extinction. In March 2025, an independent panel of 30 international killer whale, salmon, and conservation scientists met in Vancouver, BC, to develop recommendations for the survival and recovery of this critically endangered population.

The panel used an ecosystem-level approach to assess the effectiveness and limitations of existing threat-reduction strategies and to propose new or revised measures for urgent action.

The 26 recommendations aim to prevent extinction and rebuild a resilient SRKW population. They prioritize science- and evidenced-based solutions to address prey limitation, human-caused undersea noise, and exposure to high levels of contaminants. Most of the recommendations can be implemented without further study, and areas for further research were identified.

Source: INDEPENDENT SCIENCE PANEL ON SRKW RECOVERY (2025). Strengthening recovery actions for Southern Resident killer whales. <https://doi.org/10.70766/32.7300>

Community in Focus

Supporting safe agriculture in Canada

Located on the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ peoples, the Centre for Plant Health in North Saanich, is Canada's only post-entry quarantine, diagnostic, and research facility dedicated to the protection of fruit-bearing trees, grapevines, and small fruit.

Run by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Centre ensures the safe introduction of foreign plant material to Canada, provides export certification, and eliminates viruses from valuable plant varieties.

After a major renewal completed in 2024, the Centre is now home to a world-class plant health diagnostic and research facility. Scientists use techniques like antibody testing, DNA detection tools, and disease testing in controlled settings to advance plant science. The Centre actively engages in scientific collaborations to protect plant resources and support innovation in Canada's agricultural and agri-food sector.

Source: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/about-cfia/science-and-research-cfia/our-laboratories/centre-plant-health>

GETTING STARTED

Net Migration

Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, Greater Victoria had a total net migration of 8,724 people, of whom 86% (7,467) came from other countries, 11% (975) from within BC, and 3% (282) from other provinces.

Net migration in 2023/24 was lower than the previous year (9,188), with a larger share of people coming from other countries (86% vs. 73%) and a smaller share from other provinces (3% vs. 17%) compared to 2022/23.

In 2023/24, 319 young people, aged 20-34 years, came to Greater Victoria from other provinces, well down from 915 the year before, and 531 young people came here from other parts of BC, up from 526 in 2022/23.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

[Table 17-10-0149-01 Components of population change by census metropolitan area and census agglomeration, 2021 boundaries](#)

Immigrant Retention

In 2022, 72% of immigrant taxfilers who chose to live in Greater Victoria upon admission to Canada remained here five years later, on par with the region's same retention rate in 2021, and lower than the five-year retention rates for BC (88%) and Canada (84%) in 2022.

The 2022 retention rate is calculated for immigrants admitted to Canada in 2017. The admission year is when an immigrant first obtained landed immigrant or permanent resident status and may or may not be the same as the arrival year. The five-year retention rate provides insight on the longer-term likelihood that immigrants will settle, establish networks and relationships, and contribute to the economy in their intended geography.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

[Table 43-10-0022-01 Mobility of immigrant taxfilers by census metropolitan areas and tax year](#)

Refugee Resettlement

THEN & NOW: Between 2015 and 2025, 1,985 refugees were resettled in the capital region: 175 through blended sponsorship, 790 through government-assisted sponsorship, and 1,015 through private sponsorship. During this time, 334,695 refugees were admitted to Canada for resettlement, of whom 32,210 were resettled in BC. The top countries of citizenship for resettled refugees admitted to Canada were Syria (31%), Afghanistan (17%), Eritrea (17%), Iraq (7%), Somalia (6%), Democratic Republic of Congo (5%), and Ethiopia (3%).

The Government of Canada resettles refugees to save lives and provide stability to those fleeing persecution with no hope of relief. A refugee is different from an immigrant. An immigrant is a person who chooses to settle permanently in another country; refugees are forced to flee. The United Nations Refugee Agency, along with private sponsors, identifies refugees for resettlement in Canada.

Source: IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA. (2025). Resettled Refugees – Monthly IRCC Updates Open Government Portal [Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory, Census Division and Census Subdivision of Intended Destination and Immigration Category, January 2015 - March 2025]. Retrieved from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/4a1b260a-7ac4-4985-80a0-603bfe4aec11/resource/cc8a6025-49d0-4a35-8537-9c4f3eeaf9a>



Youth Unemployment

In 2024, the unemployment rate for youth, aged 15-24 years, in Greater Victoria was 8%, up from 7% in 2023 and below the rates for BC (11%) and Canada (13%) in 2024. Youth unemployment rates by gender were suppressed in 2024 to meet confidentiality requirements.

% Population (15-24 years) who are unemployed

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Canada	20.1	13.5	10.0	10.7	13.1
BC	18.9	12.3	8.9	9.6	11.4
Victoria CMA	14.3	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.9

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](#)

Child Care Spaces

In 2024/25, there were 15,402 licensed child care spaces across the region's four school districts, a 35% increase from 11,381 spaces in 2018/19, including group spaces for children under 36 months, 30 months to school age, preschool, school age, and multi-age, and family spaces.

Over the past seven years, SD61 (Greater Victoria) has consistently had the largest number of total spaces, with 9,653 (63%) in 2024/25, and SD63 (Saanich) and SD62 (Sooke) have had the largest percentage increase in spaces at 44% and 42%, respectively.

Note: Data refers only to child care spaces in licensed facilities that have opted in to the BC government's Child Care Operating Funding program or the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program.

Source: BC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE. (2025). BC Data Catalogue [Child Care Facilities and Spaces, 2018/19 to 2024/25]. Retrieved from <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/child-care-facilities-and-spaces-over-time>

Community in Focus

Supporting Indigenous maternal and child wellness

Xexe Pahlatsis'lelum (Sacred Cradle House) supports Indigenous mothers and birthers experiencing housing precarity and substance use when they are discharged from hospital. It offers a culturally supportive transitional home where life together with their newborn can begin. Mothers and birthers stay at the program until stable, affordable housing is secured for their family.

Located on the territories of the lək'wəŋən peoples, Sacred Cradle House is operated by the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society. Residents have access to 24/7 staff support and culturally appropriate services, including Elder and Aunty mentorship, life and parenting skills training, doula and midwifery care, health care, infant supplies, and recovery groups and women's circles. These supports are designed to lovingly support maternal and child wellness, centering community, culture, and connection.

Source: ABORIGINAL COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS SOCIETY

<https://acehsociety.com/sacred-cradle-perinatal-housing/>

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Unregulated Drug Deaths



In 2024, there were 165 unregulated drug deaths in South Vancouver Island, down from 180 in 2023, for a rate of 35.4 deaths per 100,000 people in 2024, down from 39.7 in 2023. In 2014, when tracking first began, there were 23 unregulated drug deaths in the region for a rate of 5.9 per 100,000 population.

Greater Victoria remains one of the top three BC cities for unregulated drug deaths in 2024 (161 deaths; 7% of BC deaths), after Vancouver (23%) and Surrey (10%).

In BC, there were 2,287 unregulated drug deaths in 2024, down from 2,585 deaths in 2023, for a rate of 40.1 deaths per 100,000 people in 2024, down from 46.8 in 2023. In 2024, fentanyl was detected in 84% of BC's unregulated drug deaths (85% in 2023) and benzodiazepines were detected in 48% (44% in 2023). Benzodiazepines do not respond to naloxone and create life-saving challenges for first responders.

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 April 30, 2025.

Source: BC CORONERS SERVICE

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

Alcohol Consumption



In 2023, the estimated annual alcohol consumption per capita in South Vancouver Island was 9.9 litres, or 580 standard drinks per person over age 15 per year, down from 10.3L in 2022, and higher than estimates for BC (8.2L or 480 SDs) in 2023 and Canada (7.3L or 428 SDs) in 2023/24.

THEN & NOW: Alcohol consumption rates in South Vancouver Island are returning to levels last seen 20 years ago. In 2002, the per capita alcohol consumption rate was 9.4 L. It peaked at 11 L in 2020 and dropped steadily to 9.9 L in 2023. SVI rates have been higher than BC rates since tracking began in 2002. These declines are likely more than a post-COVID adjustment and may represent structural change in demand in the alcohol marketplace.

Consumption estimates are based on sales of pure alcohol (ethanol). Data are reported in litres of absolute alcohol per person. One litre of absolute alcohol equals 58.65 standard drinks.

One standard drink equals 17 ml of pure alcohol, or 341 ml (12 oz) serving of 5% beer, cider or cooler; 142 ml (5 oz) serving of 12% wine; or a 43 ml (1.5 oz) serving of 40% spirits.

Source: CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR SUBSTANCE USE RESEARCH

<https://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/cisur/stats/alcohol/index.php>



Access to Healthcare Providers

Family Physicians

In 2023, there were 845 family physicians in South Vancouver Island, for a rate of 186 per 100,000 population, up from 819 family physicians and the same rate in 2022, and higher than the rates for BC (138) and Canada (120) in 2023. Since 2019, there has been a 15% increase in the total number of family physicians in the region, from 735 in 2019 to 845 in 2023.

Source: CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION. Supply, Distribution and Migration of Physicians in Canada, 2023 — Data Tables. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2024.

<https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/supply-distribution-migration-physicians-in-canada-2023-data-tables-en.xlsx>

Psychiatrists

In 2023, there were 112 psychiatrists in South Vancouver Island, for a rate of 25 per 100,000 population, up from 106 psychiatrists and a rate of 24 per 100,000 population in 2022, and higher than the rates for BC (17) and Canada (15) in 2023.

Source: CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION. Supply, Distribution and Migration of Physicians in Canada, 2023 — Data Tables. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2024.

<https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/supply-distribution-migration-physicians-in-canada-1971-2023-data-tables-en.xlsx>

In 2021/22, 75% of the population, aged 12 and over, in South Vancouver Island reported having a regular healthcare provider, up from 72% in 2019/20, and lower than the rates for BC (83%) and Canada (86%) in 2021/22.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

[Table 13-10-0113-01 Health characteristics, two-year period estimates](#) (custom order, Victoria CMA)

Community in Focus

New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community opens 20 new beds

Women living with substance-use challenges on Vancouver Island will now have access to additional care through 20 newly opened treatment beds at the New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community in View Royal. Operated by Our Place Society, the centre offers long-term, holistic support for women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse individuals facing addiction, incarceration, or housing instability. Clients can stay up to two years and the opportunity for stability allows them to begin rebuilding their lives. The centre is part of a provincial initiative to expand treatment options in all regions of BC so that more people can find their unique path to recovery.

Source: PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND OUR PLACE SOCIETY

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025HLTH0017-000230>

HOUSING

Housing Sales and Prices

In May 2025, 758 properties sold in Greater Victoria, down 0.7% from May 2024. The ratio of residential sales to active residential listings was 25% in May 2025, making Greater Victoria a more balanced market that was positive for consumers on both sides of the transaction. May is typically when Greater Victoria is at or near peak activity in the property market.

The median sale price for a single-family home in May 2025 was \$1,200,000, up 0.8% from \$1,191,000 the previous year. For a townhouse in May 2025, the median sale price was \$807,750, up 2.3% from \$789,574 in May 2024. For a condo, the median sale price was \$535,000 in May 2025, down 2.3% from \$547,450 in 2024.

Source: VICTORIA REAL ESTATE BOARD

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

Housing Starts and Completions

In 2024, there were 4,185 housing starts in Greater Victoria, down 16% from 4,992 in 2023, and 4,435 housing completions, up nearly 6% from 4,194 in 2023, for all dwelling types. Among total housing starts, 298 were single-detached units, 92 were semi-detached units, 384 were row units, and 3,411 were apartment and other unit types. Among total housing completions, 421 were single-detached units, 70 were semi-detached units, 309 were row units, and 3,635 were apartment and other unit types.

Source: CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION. Housing Market Information Portal

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

Rents and Rental Vacancy

In October 2024, the average vacancy rate for all purpose-built rental apartments (i.e., units built as long-term rental housing) in Greater Victoria was 2.5%, up from 2023 (1.6%). One-bedroom units had the lowest vacancy rate at 2.3% and three+ bedroom units had the highest vacancy rate in 2024 at 3.4%.

The average apartment rent for all unit types in 2024 was \$1,696, a 3.1% increase from \$1,571 in 2023. Average rents ranged from \$1,366 for a bachelor to \$2,439 for a three+ bedroom unit. The supply of purpose-built rentals grew by 1,785 units in 2024, compared to 1,490 units in 2023, with most of the new supply in the Westshore (58%) and Victoria (32%) in 2024.

Source: CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION. Housing Market Information Portal.

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

A person working 35 hours a week at B.C.'s minimum hourly wage of \$17.85 would need to spend 50% of their gross monthly income to rent a bachelor apartment (\$1,366) 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 59 hours a week at minimum wage.



Shelter Cost to Income Ratio

Over the past three Census periods, the proportion of renter and owner households in Greater Victoria that has spent 30% or more of household total income on shelter costs has declined from 31% in 2011 (BC: 30%; Canada: 25%), to 29% in 2016 (BC: 28%; Canada: 24%), to 26% in 2021 (BC: 26%; Canada: 21%).

THEN & NOW: From our first Vital Signs report (2006): In 2001, 28% of households in Greater Victoria spent 30% or more of income on shelter costs.

Shelter costs for renter and owner households include, where applicable, rent, mortgage payments, property taxes and condominium fees, along with the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

Census Profile, Victoria British Columbia [Census metropolitan area], Census of Population 2021, 2016, 2011

International Year of Co-operatives

The United Nations declared 2025 the International Year of Co-operatives, highlighting how member-owned enterprises build inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities. Housing co-operatives offer a blueprint for housing affordability and social cohesion. Residents co-own the property, set the rules, and share responsibility for its future. Because every member has a vote, co-op governance is a community-building exercise. Housing charges are tied to actual operating costs, with surpluses reinvested into the co-op to ensure long-term viability. The results are stable costs, secure tenure, and a built-in network of member support. Across the region, there are an estimated 34 housing co-ops and co-op associations.

Source: CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING FEDERATION OF BC

<https://www.chf.bc.ca/shared-decision-making-empowerment/>

Community in Focus

Supporting renters in financial crisis

The Greater Victoria Rent Bank, operated by the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria, provides a no-interest repayable loan to households at risk of eviction or essential utility disconnection due to short-term financial crisis. The loan can also be used as damage deposit or first month's rent to move to safe and sustainable housing.

In 2023/24, BC rent banks supported 1,513 households, preventing over 600 people from becoming homeless and 1,000 households from spending more than they could afford on rent—an estimated \$27.5 million in avoided costs. Every \$1 invested in BC rent banks delivered \$5 in savings for individuals, families, and government.

Source: COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF GREATER VICTORIA AND BC RENT BANK

<https://communitycouncil.ca/rentbank/> and <https://bcrentbank.ca/news/eviction-prevention-report/>

LEARNING

High School Non-Completion



In 2024, 8% of the Greater Victoria population, aged 15 years and older, had not completed high school, lower than the previous year (9%), and lower than the 2024 rates for BC (11%) and Canada (14%).

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

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Canada	15.1	14.4	14.3	13.9	13.7
BC	15.0	11.3	11.5	11.4	10.9
Victoria CMA	10.6	9.4	9.7	8.9	8.1

THEN & NOW: Since the first Vital Signs report in 2006, the high school non-completion rate in the region has declined steadily from 17% in 2006 to 8% in 2024, with rates for Victoria CMA consistently lower than rates for BC and Canada.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

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

Post-Secondary Educational Attainment



In 2024, 66% of the Greater Victoria population, aged 15 years and older, had completed some form of post-secondary education (i.e., post-secondary certificate, diploma or university degree), on par with the previous year, and above the 2024 rates for BC (63%) and Canada (63%).

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

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Canada	59.5	60.7	61.4	62.0	62.6
BC	60.7	62.1	61.7	62.6	62.9
Victoria CMA	63.9	63.6	64.1	66.0	65.8

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

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

Undergraduate Tuition Fees



In 2024/25, the average undergraduate tuition fees for domestic students in Greater Victoria (Victoria CMA) were approximately \$6,787, up from \$6,654 in 2023/24, and higher than the provincial average (\$6,607) and lower than the national average (\$7,360) in 2024/25. Tuition rates in the region have risen steadily over the past decade from \$5,591 in 2016/17.

Note: Tuition fees of the University of Victoria and Royal Roads University were combined to calculate the weighted average. This data excludes financial assistance or tax rebates provided to students. Average fees are in current dollars and a total for all fields of study.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

[Table 37-10-0120-01 Undergraduate tuition fees, Canadian students, by selected standard geographic areas and by field of study](#)

School Connectedness

In 2023, youth, aged 12–19 years, in South Vancouver Island, were asked how much they agreed with a series of statements about their school experience. Reflecting the provincial trend, local youth were less likely to feel connected to school and less likely to feel safe there than those five years earlier.

Youth who agreed/strongly agreed they felt ...

	2018	2023
School staff expected them to do well	79%	74%
School staff treated them fairly	72%	66%
Safe at school	77%	65%
Teachers cared about them	70%	64%
Like a part of the school	60%	54%
Happy to be at school	61%	53%
Other school staff cared about them	54%	48%

Source: Forsyth, K., Smith, A., Poon, C., Peled, M., & McCreary Centre Society. (2024). South Vancouver Island: 2023 BC Adolescent Health Survey results. McCreary Centre Society.

https://mcs.bc.ca/about_bcahs

Education and Adult Mortality

Every year spent in school or university improves life expectancy, while not attending school is as deadly as smoking or heavy drinking, according to the first systematic review to directly link years of education to gains in longevity.

Using evidence from 59 higher-income countries, the 2024 peer-reviewed analysis found that an adult's risk of mortality from all causes went down by 2% for every year in full-time education. This effect persisted across age, sex, social class, and demography, and did not diminish at higher levels of education.

The study found that completing 18 years of education is the equivalent of a lifetime of eating a healthy diet, lowering the risk of death by 34% compared with those with no formal education. At the opposite extreme, not attending school at any point was as bad for adult health as consuming five or more alcoholic drinks every day or smoking 10 cigarettes each day for a decade.

The study was co-authored by academics from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and the University of Washington (Seattle), with funding from the Research Council of Norway and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Source: IHME-CHAIN Collaborators. (2024). "Effects of education on adult mortality: a global systematic review and meta-analysis". *Lancet Public Health* 2024; 9: e155–65. Published Online January 23, 2024.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/>

Community in Focus

I,ŠETEN E TFE ĆESE ŠXENÁNs TENEW

Walking In Two Worlds, a 2024 feature-length documentary, chronicles the 50-year journey of the W̱SÁNEĆ School Board.

Formed in 1972, the originally named Saanich Indian School Board was one of the first Indigenous-run school boards in the province. It was a direct response to the residential and day school system that sought to assimilate Indigenous children, severing their connection to language and culture.

Walking in Two Worlds traces the journey from the three-room Tsartlip Indian Day School to a flourishing campus. It spotlights the incredible efforts of grandmothers, mothers, aunties, Elders, and leaders to reclaim the right to educate their own children, grounded in W̱SÁNEĆ cultural values and the SENĆOŦEN language.

Co-produced by Emily Olsen and Benjamin Joel Cran, the film honours the work of the late documentarian, Philip Paul. The film was screened by community members and premiered publicly in 2025.

Source: W̱SÁNEĆ SCHOOL BOARD
<https://wsanecschoolboard.ca/>

SAFETY

Selected Crime Rates

Overall Crime

In 2024, there were 5,820 total criminal violations (Criminal Code and Federal Statute violations) per 100,000 population in Victoria CMA, down from 6,169 in 2023, and lower than the rates for BC (7,490) and Canada (6,134) in 2024.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

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



Violent Crime

In 2024, there were 1,435 violent crimes per 100,000 population in Victoria CMA, down from 1,452 in 2023, and lower than the rate for BC (1,498) and similar to the rate for Canada (1,433) in 2024.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

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



Sexual Assault

In 2024, there were 84 sexual assaults (level 1, 2 and 3) per 100,000 population in Victoria CMA (379 total incidents), up from a rate of 73 in 2023, and higher than the rate for BC (78) and lower than the rate for Canada (89) in 2024.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

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

Few instances of sexual assault are reported to police, and only a fraction of police-reported sexual assaults result in charges and convictions. In 2019, only 6% of self-reported incidents of sexual assault in Canada were reported to police.

Source: Cotter, A. 2024. "Criminal Justice Outcomes of Sexual Assault in Canada, 2015 to 2019". *Juristat*. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 85-002-X. https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/statcan/85-002-x/CS85-002-44-7-eng.pdf, p.3.

Motor Vehicle Thefts

THEN & NOW: From our first Vital Signs report (2006): In 2005, there were 260 (876 incidents) motor vehicle theft violations per 100,000 population in the region. In 2024, the rate had dropped to 68 (298 incidents) per 100,000 population.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

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

Youth Crime

In 2024, 218 total youth, aged 12-17 years, in Victoria CMA, were charged with criminal violations, for a rate of 908 youth per 100,000 youth population, up from the region's youth crime rate of 895 in 2023, and higher than the rate for BC (710) and lower than the rate for Canada (1,375) in 2024.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

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

Youth Sense of Safety

In 2023, 90% of youth, aged 12-19 years in South Vancouver Island, often or always felt safe in their neighbourhood during the day, similar to 2018 but lower than a decade earlier (94% in 2013).

In 2023, 68% of youth in SVI often or always felt safe in their neighbourhood at night, similar to 2018 but lower than 2013 (71%), and higher than their provincial counterparts (64%) in 2023.

Males were the most likely to feel safe in their neighbourhood. In 2023, 93% of males in SVI often or always felt safe in their neighbourhood during the day, compared to 89% of females and 78% of non-binary youth.

Source: Forsyth, K., Smith, A., Poon, C., Peled, M., & McCreary Centre Society. (2024). South Vancouver Island: 2023 BC Adolescent Health Survey results. McCreary Centre Society.

https://mcs.bc.ca/about_bcahs



Police-Reported Family Violence

In 2023, the overall rate of victims of police-reported family violence in Victoria CMA was 237 per 100,000 population, higher than the region's rates in each of the years 2019-2022 (2019: 225; 2020: 227; 2021: 232; 2022: 223), and lower than the rates for BC (279) and Canada (352) in 2023.

For children, aged 11 years and under, the rate of family violence victims was 301 per 100,000 child population, and for youth, aged 12-17 years, the rate was 340 per 100,000 youth population in 2023 in the region.

Rate of victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim, per 100,000 population, 2023

	Total	Female	Male
Canada	352	474	222
BC	279	382	174
Victoria CMA	237	315	150

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 2023, the overall rate of victims of police-reported intimate partner violence in Victoria CMA was 250 per 100,000 population, higher than the rates in 2022 (242) and 2019 (247), lower than the region's rates in 2021 (273) and 2020 (253), and lower than the rates for BC (289) and Canada (354) in 2023.

Rate of victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim, per 100,000 population, 2023

	Total	Female	Male
Canada	354	550	155
BC	289	444	130
Victoria CMA	250	371	120

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](#)

In 2019, 80% of spousal victims in Canada did not report the violence they experienced to police. Among spousal victims at the provincial level, reporting to police in 2019 was lower than 20 years earlier (19% vs. 28% in 1999).

Source: Conroy, S. 2021. "Spousal Violence in Canada, 2019" *Juristat*. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00016-eng.pdf>, p. 3.

Community in Focus

Compassionate Care is a Call Away

For people experiencing a mental health crisis, the Community Response, Care & Leadership (CRCL) Teams offer mobile, non-emergency support through a Peer Assisted Care Team model. Operated by AVI Health and Community Services and staffed by mental health professionals and people with lived experience, CRCL teams focus on well-being, connection, and culturally safe support. When a person in crisis calls the hotline, dispatch completes an assessment and sends a team to provide immediate crisis support, including help navigating resources for follow-up.

Developed by the Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division, CRCL is funded by the Province of BC.

Source: AVI HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
<https://avi.org/service/crcl/>

SPORTS & RECREATION

Youth Recreation

In 2023, youth, aged 12-19 years, in South Vancouver Island, participated in various types of physical activity at least weekly over the previous 12 months:

- Informal sports (without a coach): 55%
- Organized sports (with a coach): 51%
- Exercise at a gym or rec centre: 36%
- Dance, yoga, or exercise classes with an instructor: 15%
- Extreme sports (e.g., backcountry skiing, BMX): 10%

Youth participation rates in 2023 were comparable to 2018, but lower than 10 years earlier for informal sports (55% vs. 60% in 2013); organized sports (51% vs. 56%); and dance, yoga, or exercise classes (15% vs. 20%).

In 2023, 67% of the region's youth reported experiencing barriers to engaging in extracurricular physical activity. The top five reported barriers were too busy (42%), injured (25%), too anxious or depressed (20%), thought it was too competitive (19%), and worried about being bullied by another youth (12%).

Source: Forsyth, K., Smith, A., Poon, C., Peled, M., & McCreary Centre Society. (2024). South Vancouver Island: 2023 BC Adolescent Health Survey results. McCreary Centre Society.

https://mcs.bc.ca/about_bcahs

Regional Parks and Trails

In 2024, 91% of Capital Regional District residents visited a regional park and 83% visited a regional trail in the previous 12 months. Most residents (79%) were satisfied with their overall experiences in regional parks and trails, down from 90% in 2017. The majority (94%) of residents believed that parks and trails significantly contribute to resident health and well-being, conservation of natural environments, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The most popular parks were Elk/Beaver Lake, Thetis Lake, and Island View Beach. The most frequently visited trail was the Galloping Goose Regional Trail. The most common activities in parks and trails were walking (79%), hiking (71%), viewing nature (43%), cycling (42%) and dog walking (38%).

Many residents acknowledged the importance of parks (61%) and trails (51%) for respecting and preserving First Nations cultural heritage, with parks (53%) as valuable places for learning about these traditions. Many viewed parks and trails as contributing to equitable access (63%), although just 54% of households in which at least one member has a permanent accessibility requirement felt the same way, and these households were less likely to have visited a regional park or trail in the past year.

Source: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT. 2024. Regional Parks and Trails Resident Survey Report

<https://www.crd.ca/media/file/2024-crd-regional-parks-trails-resident-survey-report>

Marathon Racing

The Royal Victoria Marathon (RVM), organized by runners for runners, is one of the largest annual sporting events on Vancouver Island. Held annually on Thanksgiving weekend, RVM consists of a 42.2 km full marathon, half marathon, 8 km run, 5 km run, and 1 km kids' run.

The full marathon, a fast and beautiful course that winds through Victoria and Oak Bay, is a Boston Marathon qualifier and World Athletics sanctioned event. It is also part of the BC Marathon Championships and an Abbott World Majors ranking event. The half marathon is the most popular distance due to the fast and relatively flat course.

Established in 1980 with 700 runners, RVM had over 12,000 participants in 2024, its third largest event, with higher participation expected for RVM's 45th anniversary in 2025. From its inception to the 2024 RVM, there have been 63,130 full marathon runners, 84,528 half marathon runners, 61,771 eight km runners, and 1,411 five km runners (started in 2023).

Source: VICTORIA MARATHON SOCIETY

<https://www.runvictoriamarathon.com/royal-victoria-marathon>

Access to Sport for Kids

THEN & NOW: KidSport Greater Victoria believes that no child should be left on the sidelines because they do not have the resources to play sports.

Established in 2000, KidSport Greater Victoria raises and distributes funds locally so that children experiencing financial need can enjoy the benefits of organized sport. It has grown steadily to become BC's largest KidSport chapter, and third largest across the country. Today, there are 11 provincial/territorial chapters and 180+ community-based chapters in Canada.

In its first year, KidSport Greater Victoria distributed \$7,000 in season-of-sport registration grants and helped 84 children, with 52 boys and 32 girls funded into soccer, hockey, gymnastics, karate, baseball, skating, football and swimming. In 2024, it distributed \$532,400 in grants and reached 1,357 kids.

This year, KidSport Greater Victoria is celebrating 25 years of helping children access community sport programs. To date, it has distributed \$4.5 million and funded over 17,000 kids across the region.

Source: KIDSPORT GREATER VICTORIA

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

Community in Focus

Spotlighting community excellence in sport

In 2025, Greater Victoria was named a Sport Heritage Community by the BC Sports Hall of Fame, an initiative honouring communities that have shaped British Columbia's sport history.

This designation recognizes the important role communities play in fostering physical activity, organized sport, and high performance. It also acknowledges qualities that attract athletes, coaches, scientists, sport leaders, and major events.

Greater Victoria is perhaps best known for its 1925 Stanley Cup win, hosting the 1994 Commonwealth Games, producing basketball legend Steve Nash, and being home to the nine-time Mann Cup winning Victoria Shamrocks. This is a brief list of the successes and accomplishments in our region!

It also boasts championship teams at the University of Victoria, Royal Roads University, and Camosun College, and amenities like the Pacific Institute for Sport Education, Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, and athlete training centres for national teams.

Source: BC SPORTS HALL OF FAME and GREATER VICTORIA SPORT TOURISM COMMISSION
<https://bcsportshall.com/> and <https://www.destinationgreatervictoria.com/sports-tourism>

STANDARD OF LIVING

Median Family Income



In 2023, the median family income after-tax, for all census family units, in Victoria CMA was \$71,500, up from \$66,620 in 2022, and higher than the median for BC (\$65,020) and Canada (\$62,920) in 2023.

The median family income rose from \$59,180 in 2019 to \$71,500 in 2023.

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 2023, the median total income for individuals in Victoria CMA was \$53,420, up from \$49,750 in 2022, and higher than the medians for BC (\$45,730) and Canada (\$45,000) in 2023. For women in the region, the 2023 median income was \$48,050, compared to \$60,290 for men.

The median individual income rose from \$43,090 in 2019 to \$53,420 in 2023.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

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

Income Inequality

THEN & NOW: In our first Vital Signs report (2006): In 2000, the top 10% of the region's income earners had an average employment income of \$69,000, compared to \$14,600 for the bottom 10%. The income of the top 10% was nearly five times that of the bottom 10%.

By 2020, the average employment income of the top 10% of earners in Greater Victoria was \$100,100, nearly 11 times the \$9,270 income of the bottom 10%. Over this 20-year period, the average employment income for the region's top 10% increased 45%, while it decreased 37% for the bottom 10%.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

[Table 98-10-0069-01 Income statistics for detailed income sources and taxes by decile group: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts](#)

BC Minimum Wage



General minimum hourly wage in BC

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
\$15.20	\$15.65	\$16.75	\$17.40	\$17.85

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 2025 minimum hourly wage, a full-time minimum wage worker earns \$32,487 pre-tax annually, \$2,722 *above* the national 2023 poverty line for a single person. If that worker is a single parent living with one child, their minimum wage income is \$9,607 *below* the national 2023 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 2023 Low Income Measure (LIM) threshold for market income in 2023 constant dollars for a one-person household (\$29,765) and a two-person household (\$42,094) in Canada.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

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

Living Wage



In 2024, the hourly wage required to maintain an adequate quality of life in Greater Victoria was \$26.78, up 5.4% from \$25.40 in 2023 and \$9 higher than the current minimum wage (\$17.85).

A sharp spike in the region's cost of living pushed up the living wage. Although inflation decreased from historic highs, the cost of essentials continued to climb. The financial relief provided by government benefit increases and improvements to child care affordability was outpaced by the rising cost of rent.

In 2024, shelter (39%) and food (18%) comprised the largest share of family monthly expenses in Greater Victoria, with the largest dollar increase from 2023 in shelter and child care costs.

The living wage is the hourly rate that each of two parents working full-time must earn to support a family of four based on the actual cost of living in a particular community. It factors in government benefits, taxes, and deductions and excludes debt payments, savings, and non-essential costs.

Source: COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL. 2024. Greater Victoria Living Wage Annual Report 2024.

<https://communitycouncil.ca/greater-victoria-living-wage-2024/>

Poverty Rates



In 2023, poverty rates in Greater Victoria were 12% overall, 26% for one parent families, 12% for children, and 8% for seniors, as measured by Statistics Canada's Census Family Low Income Measure after-tax.

Overall

In 2023, 12% of the population in Victoria CMA were living in poverty, down from 13% in 2022, and lower than the rate for BC (17%) and Canada (17%) in 2023.

One-Parent Families

In 2023, 26% of one-parent families in Victoria CMA were living in poverty, down from 27% in 2022, and lower than the rates for BC (33%) and Canada (34%) in 2023.

Children

In 2023, 12% of children under 18 years of age, or 7,610 children, were living in poverty in Victoria CMA, down from 13% in 2022, and lower than the rates for BC (17%) and Canada (18%) in 2023.

Seniors

In 2023, 8% of seniors, aged 65 years and older, in Victoria CMA were living in poverty, down from 11% in 2022, and lower than the rates for BC (14%) and Canada (13%) in 2023.

Source: 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](#)

Community in Focus

Sharing Food and Growing Community

The Salt Spring Food Share program brings the community together to celebrate and share local food. Run by the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust, the program aims to increase access to locally grown food, reduce food insecurity and waste, and help food producers share the abundance of their harvests.

The program hosts monthly food exchanges from July to December where islanders can share and exchange homegrown and homemade food, all while building community and fostering connections. The Food Share program also coordinates fruit tree owners, harvest volunteers, and community partners to pick and distribute excess produce to individuals and community organizations. People can drop off and donate their extra produce. In 2024, Salt Spring Food Share harvested and shared over 15,000lbs of fruit and produce!

Source: SALT SPRING ISLAND FARMLAND TRUST

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

TRANSPORTATION

Convenient Access to Transit



In 2023, 85% of the Greater Victoria population lived within 500 metres walking distance of a transit stop, on par with 2021, and fourth highest of Canada's 36 census metropolitan areas after Red Deer (94%), Montreal (87%), and Regina (86%).

Of the region's population with convenient access in 2023, approximately 63% had after-tax income under \$60,000 and 22% had after-tax income of \$60,000 and over, on par with 2021.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

[Table 23-10-0311-01 Convenient access to public transport by geography, gender, age, income after tax](#)

Transit Use



In 2024/25, among Greater Victoria residents:

- 71% used transit, of whom 26% had used transit in the past 24 hours, while 32% used it more than a month ago.
- Of transit users, 36% were occasional riders (down from 39% in 2023/24), 16% were heavy riders (up from 14% in 2023/24), 12% were medium riders, and 7% were light riders.
- Those who used transit in the past seven days made an average of 4.5 one-way trips per week, higher than the BC-wide average (3.0).
- Main trip purposes were commuting (28%), shopping (17%), personal business (17%), and entertainment/social activities (16%, down from 21% in 2023/24).
- Compared to a year ago, 22% of riders used transit more often, 28% used it less often (down from 32% in 2023/24), and 50% used it about the same (up from 45% in 2023/24).
- Riders using transit more often cited convenience (67%), affordability (51%), and environmental benefits (40%) for their increased usage.
- Riders using transit less often or about the same cited preference for a personal vehicle (57%), transit taking too long to reach destinations (50%; down from 55% in 2023/24), and preference for cycling or walking (46%) as reasons why non-riders avoid transit.

Source: BC TRANSIT

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

Bike Ridership

In 2024, approximately 13.5 million people travelled the Galloping Goose network on foot, bike or micromobility device, in both directions, for a daily average of 861 users, up from 9.7 million total users and 636 average daily users in 2021, according to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Regional Cyclist and Pedestrian Count Program.

The three busiest routes in 2024 by average daily users were the Galloping Goose north of Selkirk Trestle (3,548), Galloping Goose south of Cuduthel Road (2,317), and Johnson Street Bridge (2,222).

In 2024, just over 10 million cyclists rode the Galloping Goose, a daily average of 661 cyclists, and the busiest route was the Johnson Street Bridge with 8% of total cycling volumes.

The CRD has set up 43 automated counters around the region to monitor bike and pedestrian traffic volumes. It works with partners including Victoria, Saanich, Colwood, Esquimalt and the University of Victoria to offer a single access point for all automated counts in the region.

Source: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

<https://www.crd.ca/government-administration/data-documents/bike-counts>

Commuters in Greater Victoria are more likely to use active transportation than their national counterparts, with 18.7% of the region's commuters mainly walking or biking to work in May 2024, compared to just 6% of Canadian commuters.

Source: STATISTICS CANADA

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240826/dq240826a-eng.htm>

Go By Bike Week

THEN & NOW: Go By Bike Week is an annual celebration of cycling in the region.

Previously known as Bike to Work Week, it began in 1995 to raise the profile of commuter cycling, first as an initiative of the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition and later managed by the Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society. Bike to Work BC was formed to bring the event to communities across the province. In 2020, the event was renamed Go By Bike Week to reflect the inclusion of a Bike to School component.

Today, Go By Bike events in the region are led by Capital Bike, formed by the merger of the two founding organizations. The original one-week event in May is now three, week-long events held throughout the year. Participation in the region's Go By Bike Week has grown steadily from 500 riders in 1995 to 10,000 in 2019 and now averages about 8,000 riders annually. As noted in the first Vital Signs report, over 5,250 people in the region participated in the 2006 Bike to Work Week.

In 2024, approximately 56,148 people participated in Go By Bike events across BC, logging 2,489,265 kilometers and saving 539,682 kilograms of greenhouse gases, equivalent to 126 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year.

Source: CAPITAL BIKE AND GOBYBIKE BC

<https://capitalbike.ca/> and <https://gobybikebc.ca/>

Community in Focus

‘Walking School Bus’ Offers Exercise and Safety Skills

Children in Greater Victoria are boarding the Walking School Bus! Through supervised walks to school, elementary students are learning safe commuting skills while building healthy habits.

The program, in partnership with the Society for Children and Youth of BC and funded by the Province of BC, gives students a chance to start their school day with some fresh air and exercise. Both volunteers and paid leaders are given safety training to lead students on their routes.

The program is available in Langford, Sooke, Nanaimo, Esquimalt, Saanich, and Central Saanich. It will soon expand to other areas of BC and will also include a Bike School Bus program in some communities.

Source: PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF BC

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025TT0046-000430>