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# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH HOMELESSNESS: ASSESSMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF CANADIAN DATA SOURCES

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*The opinions and interpretations in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Infrastructure Canada.*

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## Executive Summary

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Infrastructure Canada has requested a review of economic and social factors associated with homelessness, as well as the identification and estimation of key factors associated with Canadian homelessness. The present document constitutes an assessment of the availability of Canadian data sources, which we hope will make it easier for researchers to estimate the respective contributions of various economic and social factors on homelessness in Canada.

Data discussed in this document can be used for aggregate-level studies and models aimed at addressing policies related to homelessness. The primary focus of these studies is to determine what measures can effectively reduce the degree of homelessness and the extent to which they can do so. Typically, the dependent variables in these models come either from Point-in-Time Counts, aggregated data on shelter users, and information on shelter capacities over time and across various jurisdictions.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, we focus on exploring the availability of data on homelessness in Canada, which varies significantly across provinces and territories.

This document demonstrates that researchers interested in quantitative analysis of homelessness in Canada have access to a wide array of data sources. Many of the data sources available online and free of charge are discussed in the present document. It includes information about data pertaining to population, immigration, the labour market, housing, the economy broadly, weather and homelessness. The data in question is provided by all orders of government, non-profit organizations and university-based researchers.

In some cases, customized data requests may be available on request from specific organizations—e.g., government agencies—sometimes for a fee. We encourage researchers to explore these opportunities where the need arises.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on this topic, see the aggregate-level studies outlined in: O'Flaherty, B. (2019). Homelessness research: A guide for economists (and friends). *Journal of Housing Economics*, 44, 1-25.

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## Introduction

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Infrastructure Canada has requested a review of economic and social factors associated with homelessness, as well as the identification and estimation of key factors associated with Canadian homelessness. The present document includes an assessment of the availability of Canadian data sources—among other things, this can make it easier for researchers estimate the respective contributions of various economic and social factors to homelessness in Canada.

We offer data that can be used for aggregate-level studies and models aimed at addressing policies related to homelessness. The primary focus of these studies is to determine what measures can effectively reduce the degree of homelessness and the extent to which they can do so. Typically, the dependent variables in these models come either from Point-in-Time Counts, aggregated data on shelter users, and information on shelter capacities over time and across various jurisdictions.<sup>2</sup> Specifically, we focus on exploring the availability of data on homelessness in Canada, which varies significantly across provinces and territories. However, we will not delve into data available for individual-level studies, which involve observations of individual people or households.

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<sup>2</sup> For more information on this topic, see the aggregate-level studies outlined in: O'Flaherty, B. (2019). Homelessness research: A guide for economists (and friends). *Journal of Housing Economics*, 44, 1-25.

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## Data Sources

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In this section, we introduce various publicly available Canadian data sources on different aspects of the economic and social factors associated with homelessness. These data sources provide valuable insights into the prevalence, demographics, and causes of homelessness in aggregate level.

### Statistics Canada

#### 1. POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION DATA:

Per capita levels or rates, such as the percentage of social assistance recipients in a population, are commonly derived from population or sub-population data. Statistics Canada offers a wealth of historical data on [Canada's population size and demographic characteristics](#), making it a valuable resource for researchers. Researchers can customize the tables to get what is appropriate for their research. This data is available back to the early 1970s. In particular, the following tables are widely used:

##### *i. Historical population with age, sex, migration and marital status structure:*

- **Annual** demographic estimates by age and sex, for Canada, the provinces and the territories are available in [Table 17-10-0005-01](#). Estimates of population by **marital status** or legal marital status are also available in [Table 17-10-0060-01](#). In addition, estimates of the components of interprovincial **migration** and international migration, by age and sex are available in [Table 17-10-0015-01](#) and [17-10-0014-01](#), respectively.
- The **quarterly** estimates of population for Canada and provinces are also available in Tables [17-10-0009-01](#), [17-10-0020-01](#), [17-10-0040-01](#), [17-10-0045-01](#) and [17-10-0059-01](#).
- The **annual** estimates of population for **sub-provincial** areas of Canada are available in Tables [17-10-0135-01](#) to [17-10-0142-01](#).

##### *ii. Census aggregate data for selected years*

- **Family structure**, such as two parents and single parent families with various break downs are available in Tables [98-10-0123-01](#), [98-10-0124-01](#), [98-10-0137-01](#). This data is available for 2011, 2016 and 2021.
- **Immigration** data is also available for limited years based on census years. See for example Tables [17-10-0141-01](#) and [17-10-0040-01](#).
- [Statistics on Indigenous Peoples](#) also provides important data on **Indigenous** population.
- One can find aggregated and very detailed demographic data such as **Indigenous** population on Census and National Household Survey (NHS) profiles for census years. See for example [2016 Census Profile](#) and [2011 NHS Profile](#) for the most recent census and NHS.

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## 2. LABOUR MARKET

- Historical *annual* data on **upper income limit**, income share and average income by economic family type and income decile is available in [Table 11-10-0192-01](#). This is a good indicator of market income in Canada, the provinces and the territories.
- Historical monthly data on **labour force characteristics** including unemployment rate and other labour market measures for Canada, the provinces and the territories is available in [Table 14-10-0287-01](#).
- Labour force characteristics by economic region is available in [Table 14-10-0293-01](#). This data is monthly and was archived since December 2020.
- **Duration of unemployment** data is available in [Table 14-10-0057-01](#).
- General minimum **wage rates** in Canada and its provinces and territories are available [here](#).
- A list of other labour market metrics is available at this [link](#). Data on the **low income cut-off** is available [here](#).

## 3. HOUSING MARKET

- Historical annual **vacancy rates** for census metropolitan areas are available in Tables [34-10-0127-01](#), [34-10-0128-01](#), and [34-10-0129-01](#).
- Historical annual monthly **housing price indices** for census metropolitan areas are available in Tables [18-10-0205-01](#), [18-10-0210-01](#), [18-10-0273-01](#).

## 4. ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- Historical (real-time) releases of **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** statistics is available in Tables [18-10-0259-01](#), [18-10-0256-01](#) and [18-10-0004-02](#).
- The **Gini coefficient**, a validated measure that is widely used to describe regional income inequality, is historically available for Canada and its provinces and territories in [Table 11-10-0134-01](#).



## Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

Data tables in CMHC's [housing data portal](#) offer insight into recent developments in the housing industry. The [data tables](#) offer up-to-date statistics on a variety of topics, including:

- [Household characteristics data](#): This historical data provides information household characteristics including home equity, income, housing types, tenure, core housing need, and demographics. This information is useful for housing professionals, researchers, and stakeholders to analyze housing trends and conditions in Canada. The data covers topics such as household net worth, household incomes, number and types of households, core housing need, demographics and social data, as well as housing for Indigenous peoples.
- [Housing market data](#): This provides data and analysis on the housing market in Canada, including information on new home sales, construction, and existing housing stock. The data covers various regions, provinces, territories, and metropolitan areas. The tables cover details such as absorbed and unabsorbed units, housing starts and completions, ownership rates, and prices. The information is organized by dwelling type, intended market, and price range. It also includes mortgage lending statistics, residential conversions and demolitions, and housing market tables for selected regions.
- [Mortgage and Debt Data](#): The tables provide information on mortgage and consumer debt activity in Canada, the provinces, and Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs). The data includes mortgage holders and lenders, average payments, credit scores, consumer debt, mortgage insurance, mortgage performance, and arrear and foreclosure rates. The tables also show trends in mortgage and consumer credit, outstanding debt, and scheduled payments.
- [Rental market data](#): This data includes vacancy rates, average rents, and other detailed rental market data for various types of rental housing across Canada. The data is available at the national, provincial, and local levels and can be used for pricing properties and determining ideal areas to build or rent. The tables include data on purpose-built rental housing market, seniors' rental housing market, condominium apartment survey, and social and affordable rental structure survey tables.
- [Housing market indicators](#): It provides important housing indicators related to home building and housing for Canada, its 10 provinces, and Census Metropolitan Areas. This data can be useful in understanding housing trends and conditions, as well as the factors that influence housing demand.

## Maytree

Maytree publishes an annual report called [Welfare in Canada](#), which analyzes the total incomes available to those relying on social assistance, taking into account tax credits and other benefits. The report covers four different household types for each province and territory. The report was established by the Caledon Institute of Social Policy and is a continuation of the Welfare Incomes series originally published by the National Council of Welfare. The 2021 edition was published in November 2022, and earlier editions are also available. The number of **social assistance recipients** in each province and territory can be found in the Social Assistance Summaries report.

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## Government Spending

The termination of Statistics Canada's Financial Management System (FMS) data series has made it difficult for researchers to analyze aggregate data. In addition, relying solely on the Department of Finance's Fiscal Reference Tables (FRT), which only offer broad categories, further compounds this issue. Fortunately, Kneebone and Wilkins at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy have developed a long-term data series that goes beyond broad aggregates, highlighting the value of analyzing trends in provincial government finances from 1980/81 to 2020/21 (for some provinces, the data stretches back to 1965/66. They update this data annually once the public accounts for that year become available. Researchers studying homelessness can employ this data to investigate the impact of **provincial government spending** on social services, such as measures aimed at reducing homelessness. The data is available [here](#).

Another source is [Finances of the Nation](#), which provides useful data on revenues (but only highly aggregated spending categories). This includes a data series on federal-provincial transfers, keeping in mind that some researchers might hypothesize that rising homelessness rates are due to cuts to federal transfers that forced provinces to scale back social programs.

## Weather

Weather data can be used in homelessness research to understand the impact of weather on homelessness. It can also be used to plan and evaluate homelessness services, predict homelessness, and assess the impact of climate change on homelessness. By analyzing weather patterns, researchers can gain important insights into the needs of homeless populations and help policymakers and service providers better address those needs. The Environment and natural resources section of the official website of the Government of Canada provides **historical weather data** for various climate stations across Canada. The available [historical weather data](#) includes daily, hourly, monthly, seasonal, and annual observations of temperature, precipitation, wind speed and direction, relative humidity, sunshine duration, and cloud cover. The historical data generally goes back several decades, and in some cases, more than a century.

## Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)

The Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) was developed by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) in collaboration with communities across Canada to support the day-to-day operations of homeless service providers. HIFIS is a comprehensive data collection and case management system that is used by some Canadian homeless shelters and service providers to track information about their clients, such as demographic information, housing history, service utilization, and health information. The system is intended to improve the delivery of services to persons experiencing homelessness, as well as to support research, policy development, and program evaluation related to homelessness in Canada.

The Data Provision Agreement for HIFIS outlines the data and corresponding fields of data that are available to inform policy, analysis, research, and evaluation purposes – see this [link](#) for more information. There are two sets of data that are available: (a) HIFIS Shelters data and (b) Point-in-Time count data.

The HIFIS shelter data collection includes four main categories of information: shelter, client, client-shelter, and turnaway. The shelter information category includes data on service provider ID, shelter provider name, service provider type, bed counts, bed types, and community. The client information category includes data on unique client identifier, gender, year and month of birth, family role, family head ID, citizenship/immigration status, indigenous indicator, veteran status, life events, contributing factors, contributing factor start and end dates, employment status, country of origin, education, sources of income, income start and end dates, health conditions, housing types, housing start and end dates. The client-shelter information category includes data on the reason for service, reason for discharge, book-in and book-out dates. Finally, the turnaway information category includes data on the reason for turnaway, date of turnaway, anonymous gender, anonymous age category, anonymous Indigenous indicator (assumed), and anonymous disability indicator (observed). This data is available on an individual and daily basis from 2005 to 2022. Additionally, two ESDC studies provide valuable insights into the data collected in HIFIS shelter data: the “[Shelter Capacity Report 2018](#)” and “[Highlights of the National Shelter Study 2005 to 2016](#)”.

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The Point-in-Time Count in HIFIS includes information in three main categories: service provider information, client information and optional questions. The service provider information includes the ID, name and type of service provider, bed counts and types, look-up values and community. The client information includes site ID, survey number, location and time, along with core questions such as family status and role, age, Indigenous identity, gender and sources of income. Optional questions include times experienced homelessness, reasons for not accessing shelter, citizenship status, history of brain injury, housing challenges and preferred language. This data is used to inform policy, analysis, research and evaluation purposes. The Point-in-Time Count is available for 2016, 2018 and 2020. The “[Everyone Counts 2018: Highlights](#)” study by ESDC is a useful resource for gaining insight from the data available in the Point-in-Time Count in HIFIS.

### Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH)

Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) is a national research institute that collects and analyzes data on homelessness in Canada. COH conducts research on the economic and social factors associated with homelessness and provides recommendations for policy and practice.

COH mainly provides a range of aggregate and concise summary of data and research products related to homelessness in Canada, including:

- *Point-in-Time (PiT) Count Reports*: Reports that provide a snapshot of homelessness in a specific community or region on a particular night.
- *Periodic Reports*: COH provides periodic reports that provide an overview of homelessness in Canada, including trends, demographics, and policy implications. Additionally, the COH reports often include cost and benefit data which is helpful in evaluating homelessness in Canada. This data may include information on the costs of providing shelter and emergency services, as well as the costs associated with health and justice services. The reports may also provide data on the potential cost-offsets associated with investing in housing support programs.
- *Infographics*: Visual representations of key data and research findings related to homelessness in Canada.
- *Interactive Maps*: Maps that show homelessness and housing-related indicators in Canada at the national, provincial, and community levels.
- *Research Briefs*: Brief summaries of research studies on homelessness in Canada, including key findings and policy implications.
- *Research Papers*: In-depth research studies on homelessness in Canada, including empirical data, literature reviews, and policy analyses.

To access these resources and learn more about homelessness in Canada, visit the COH website at <https://www.homelesshub.ca/>.

## Provincial and Municipal Homelessness Data

Many provinces and territories in Canada collect data on homelessness through their own data collection systems. In Canada, homelessness data collection is typically the responsibility of local municipalities or regional organizations, but some provinces have also taken on this role. The following is a list of provinces and territories that have a dedicated approach to homelessness data collection and the major cities that also collect their own data.

### **BRITISH COLUMBIA:**

[Data Catalogue](#) in the Government of British Columbia's Open Data Portal has several datasets related to economic and social factors associated with homelessness, including information on the number of persons experiencing homelessness, rental housing affordability, income assistance caseload, housing affordability, and poverty reduction strategies.

*BC Housing* conducts a province-wide Point-in-Time (PiT) Count every two years, and many municipalities conduct their own PiT counts, including Vancouver, Victoria, and Surrey. BC Housing is a provincial agency in British Columbia that provides a variety of housing-related services and programs to residents of the province. Some of the data that BC Housing provides is as follows and available [here](#):

- *Housing statistics:* BC Housing collects and analyzes data on the province's housing market, including information on housing affordability, vacancy rates, and housing starts.
- *Housing programs:* BC Housing provides data on the various housing programs and services that it offers, including social housing, rent assistance, and supportive housing.
- *Homelessness:* BC Housing tracks data on homelessness in the province, including the number of people experiencing homelessness and the reasons why they are homeless.

*The City of Vancouver* has been collecting data on homelessness since the early 2000s and has published several reports and plans related to homelessness over the years. Some of these reports, including the Vancouver Homeless Count Reports, provide historical data on homelessness in the city – see for example this [link](#). The City of Vancouver's [Open Data Portal](#) provides free access to a wide range of datasets related to the city including information on housing market.

*The City of Victoria* has a Homelessness Action Plan that includes a yearly Point-in-Time (PiT) Count of people experiencing homelessness in the city. The City of Victoria's [Open Data Portal](#) provides access to a variety of datasets related to the city, including data on housing and homelessness.

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## **ALBERTA:**

Government of Alberta's open datasets, [Open Data](#), provides a comprehensive view of homelessness in Alberta, including information on the extent of the issue, prevention and support measures, affordable housing initiatives, and social assistance programs. Here's a summary of the selected data available on Open Alberta related to homelessness and corresponding structural factors:

- [Emergency Shelters Daily Occupancy AB](#): It contains information on the daily occupancy of emergency shelters in Alberta. The dataset provides daily counts of the number of individuals staying in emergency shelters across the province broken down by region and by shelter including shelters in Edmonton, Calgary, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat Red Deer and Lloydminster.
- Other historical data for economic and social factors associated with homelessness include: [Income Support Caseload](#), [Vacancy Rates by Municipality](#), [Unemployment Rate](#), [Energy Prices](#), and many other income and expenditure data for households as well as labour force statistics in the province.
- [Income Support Caseload](#): this dataset provides information on the monthly caseload of Income Support in Alberta, divided into two groups: Expected to Work (ETW) and Barriers to Full Employment (BFE). Income Support is financial assistance for people who cannot afford basic necessities. The caseload consists of various household compositions and is reported annually, with regional breakdowns added in April 2018.
- [Economic Dashboard](#): It provides a variety of economic data related to Alberta. It includes information on the size and growth of the economy, employment, inflation, housing, energy, international trade, and population demographics. The dashboard is regularly updated with the latest data and can be accessed online.

*Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF)*: CHF uses a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect and manage data related to homelessness in Calgary, Alberta. The HMIS contains a variety of data, including client demographics, emergency shelter services, housing first, outreach services, transitional housing, addictions, and other relevant data. A comprehensive list of assessments can be found on their [website](#), which provides valuable insights into the data that the HMIS stores.

*Homeward Trust Edmonton*: Homeward Trust Edmonton, similar to CHF in Calgary, manages a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for Edmonton. The Edmonton Homelessness Dashboard provides a user-friendly and accessible way to track progress towards ending homelessness in the city, with a variety of data presented in interactive graphs and charts. This includes information on the number of people experiencing homelessness, the number of people housed through various housing programs, and the outcomes of those programs. Overall, the [dashboard](#) is a valuable tool for understanding the data collected on homelessness in Edmonton.

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### **SASKATCHEWAN:**

The Ministry of Social Services in Saskatchewan is responsible for collecting and reporting on homelessness data in the province. They release an annual report, the Saskatchewan Homelessness Count, which provides an overview of homelessness in the province, including data on the number of people experiencing homelessness, their demographics, and their use of homeless-serving systems and programs. Additionally, some municipalities in Saskatchewan may also have their own homelessness data and reports available. For example, the City of Saskatoon releases an annual report on homelessness in the city, which provides data and analysis on the local homelessness situation.

The Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics ([SBS](#)) is also collects and provides statistical information on various aspects of Saskatchewan's economy and society. The SBS collects a wide range of data related to demographics, population, income, employment, industries, trade, and other social and economic indicators. Some examples of the data collected by the SBS include:

- *Population statistics*, including demographics and migration patterns
- *Labour market information*, including employment and unemployment rates, job vacancies, and wages
- *Gross Domestic Product (GDP)* and other measures of economic output
- *Information on various industries and sectors*, such as agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and construction
- *Housing and construction data*, including building permits and housing starts
- *Health and social indicators*, including hospitalization rates, crime statistics, and education levels.

### **MANITOBA:**

Manitoba Housing conducts an annual Point-in-Time (PiT) Count of homeless individuals across the province, and some municipalities such as Winnipeg conduct their own counts. Some potential sources for accessing data on homelessness in Manitoba include:

*Government of Manitoba [Open Data Portal](#)*: The Government of Manitoba provides access to a variety of open data sets, including census data and *limited* administrative data related to social services.

*Winnipeg Street Census*: The [Winnipeg Street Census](#) is a periodic survey of people experiencing homelessness in the city of Winnipeg, and it is released by End Homelessness Winnipeg. The survey results are typically made publicly available and can provide valuable insights into the demographics and experiences of people experiencing homelessness in the city.



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**ONTARIO:**

[Data Catalogue](#) in the Government of Ontario's Open Data Portal has several datasets related to economic and social factors associated with homelessness, including information on housing affordability, the housing market, the employment rate, etc.

*The City of Toronto* offers various datasets related to homelessness on their Open Data Portal. Some of the relevant datasets include:

- [Shelter Use Data](#): This dataset provides information on the number of people using emergency shelters in Toronto, broken down by shelter location and demographic group. There also developed [two dashboards](#) including Monthly Snapshot and Historical Trends. The Monthly Snapshot shows inflow and outflow of people in and out of shelter system for the current month, while the Historical Trends dashboard shows the inflow and outflow of people over time and allows users to filter data by sub-populations and specific time periods. In addition, [The Daily Shelter & Overnight Service Occupancy & Capacity](#) data set includes a daily list of active overnight shelters and allied services in the Shelter Support and Housing Administration division's Shelter Management Information System (SMIS) database. It provides updated information about shelter and overnight service programs administered by SSHA, including the program's operator, location, classification, occupancy, and capacity.
- [Street Needs Assessment Data](#): The Street Needs Assessment (SNA) is a survey and point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in Toronto. It was conducted in April 2021 by the City's Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) and community partners in the homelessness sector. The results provide a snapshot of the scope and profile of people experiencing homelessness in Toronto and give them a voice in the services they need to find and keep housing.
- [Rent Bank Data](#): This dataset contains information on the number of people on the wait list for social housing, the number of rent bank loans granted, and shelter use in Toronto. The data is presented by quarter, beginning in 2009, and includes the average number of beds used by singles and families per night.

**QUEBEC:**

[Partenariat Données Québec](#) is an open data sharing platform made possible through a collaboration between the Province of Quebec and municipalities. Data featured through this platform include the following:

- *Allocation Famille* provides financial assistance for households with children under the age of 18 (data is available [here](#)).
- *Indice de défavorisation du Québec* is an index developed in the late 1990s to measure the deprivation of Quebec residents on a small geographic scale. The index consists of six indicators, all derived from the 2016 census (data available [here](#)).
- *Solidarité sociale* provides financial assistance for singles adult or for families that have one or more adults who have severely limited capacity for employment (data available [here](#)).
- *Aide sociale* is a form of social assistance in Quebec (data available [here](#)).



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- *Aide financière de dernier recours* is a form of social assistance (data available [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

### *Montreal*

- Social housing data is available for the City of Montreal (data is available [here](#) through the provincial data portal).
- The City of Montreal administers housing subsidy programs for low-income households (data is available [here](#) through the provincial data portal).
- The City of Montreal undertook its first PiT Count in 2015. Results of Montreal's PiT Counts are available [here](#).

### **NEW BRUNSWICK:**

The Government of New Brunswick's open data portal, [Open Data](#), provides limited data on homelessness such as [homeless shelter capacity](#) and socioeconomic factors that may contribute to homelessness. The portal also offers various datasets related to health, population, labour market, and immigration. Similarly, the City of Fredericton has a [public platform](#) that provides limited access to local socioeconomic data for the city. The Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee collects data on the demographics and other characteristics of the homeless population, as well as the causes and contributing factors of homelessness. They also conduct [quantitative and qualitative studies](#) on topics such as housing affordability, mental health and addiction, and the effectiveness of various intervention programs.

### **NOVA SCOTIA:**

The [Government of Nova Scotia](#) and its [open data portal](#) provides various datasets may related to economic and social factors that may be associated with homelessness. In a similar way, Halifax [Open Data portal](#) public provide access to the city's data.

### **NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR:**

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's open data portal, [Open Data](#), provides various datasets may related to economic and social factors that may be associated with homelessness. In addition, the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (NLHC) reports housing data in [annual reports and different publications](#). Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency collects and publishes data on a wide range of socioeconomic factors, including income, employment, and housing. Their [website](#) contains a wealth of data and analysis in the province.

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***NORTHWEST TERRITORIES:***

[NWT Bureau of Statistics](#) is responsible for collecting and analyzing statistical data on the NWT and its population. They have data on socioeconomic factors associated with homelessness in the territory.

***YUKON:***

[Yukon Bureau of Statistics](#) is responsible for collecting and analyzing statistical data on Yukon and its population. They have data on socioeconomic factors associated with homelessness in the territory. In addition, The Yukon's [open data portal](#) have data and insights on the issue that is specific to the local context.

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## Conclusion

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Researchers interested in quantitative analysis of homelessness in Canada have access to a wide array of data sources. Many of the data sources available online and free of charge are discussed in the present document, along with valuable information on where exactly to find the data in question. As such, it includes information on data pertaining to population, immigration, the labour market, housing, the economy broadly, weather and homelessness. The data in question is provided by all orders of government, non-profit organizations and university-based researchers.

In some cases, customized data requests may be available on request from specific organizations—e.g., government agencies—sometimes for a fee. We encourage researchers to explore these opportunities where the need arises.