

# 2017 Aboriginal Homelessness Count

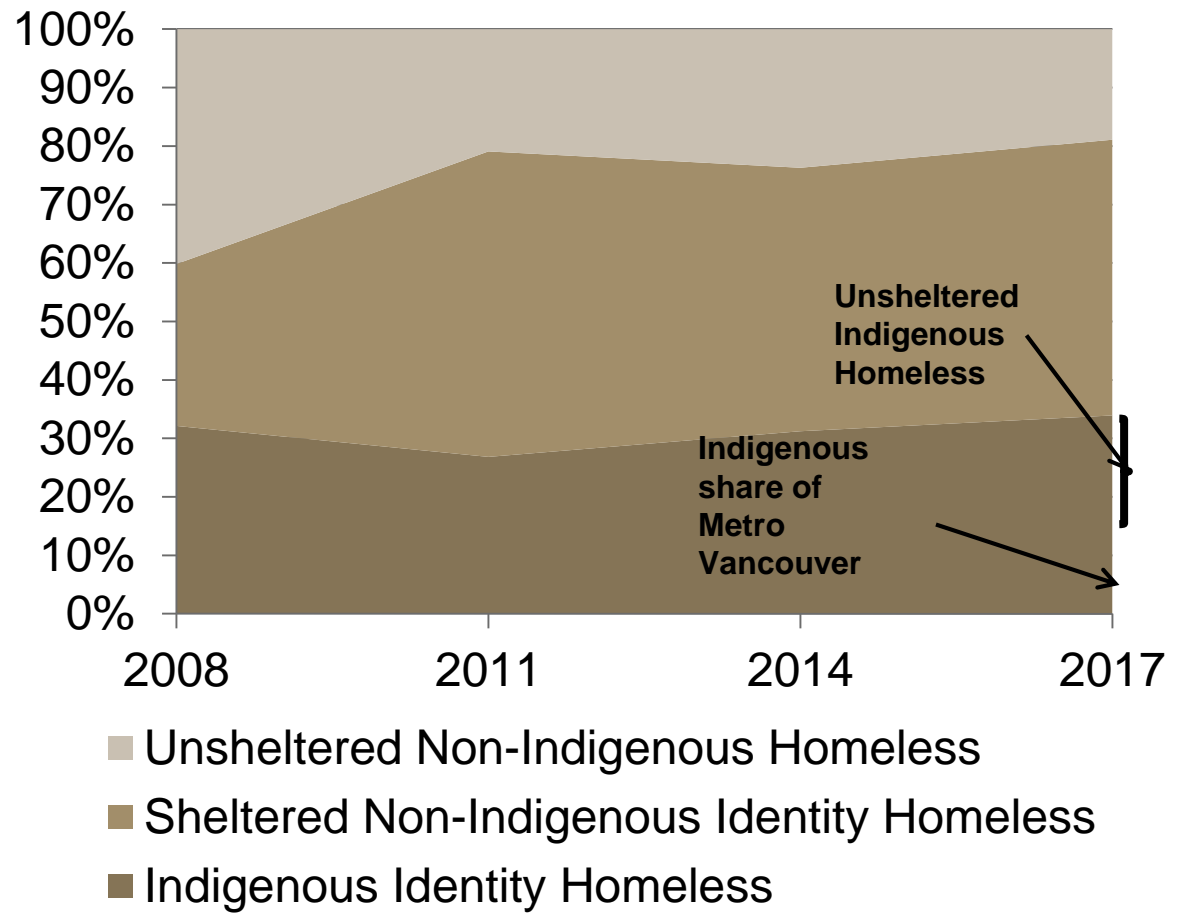
The story within the numbers

# Opening

1. Territorial Acknowledgement of Coast Salish and specifically Musqueam and Tsawwassen First Nations
2. Limitations of the presentation and the presenter
3. Thanks to Jelica Shaw, De Whelan, Lorraine Copas and the Metro and Aboriginal Tables

# Data Trends

- Rate of Indigenous Homelessness 13X non-Indigenous
- Growing in both absolute and relative terms
- 16X more likely to be unsheltered
- Unsheltered is hardest number to fully capture resulting in significant undercount



# Causes - Systemic and Structural Challenges in a non-Indigenous Seller's Market

- Accommodations available over the phone/online frequently “disappear” when attending in person
- New rental housing mix typically geared towards one bedroom, which does not align with Indigenous family circumstances
- Rental housing stock becoming more volatile with increased commoditization of supplementary site housing (increased turnovers, closed term rental agreements, bidding wars)
- Significant implications for the at-risk population, which forms a disproportionately large portion of the Indigenous communities in Metro Vancouver

## Causes - Disconnect between Housing First and Indigenous Community and Culture

- Housing First informed by the At Home Chez Soi project.
- The nature of the Indigenous communities are sufficiently distinct from the rationale for the HPS Housing First Model
- Difference in complexion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous homeless populations (demographic, geographic, socioeconomic, and mobility of populations vary)
- Housing First does not capture the critical aspects of community that are necessary to achieve the required long-term attachment to “home”

## **Causes - Serious gap in utilization of existing shelter services by Indigenous populations**

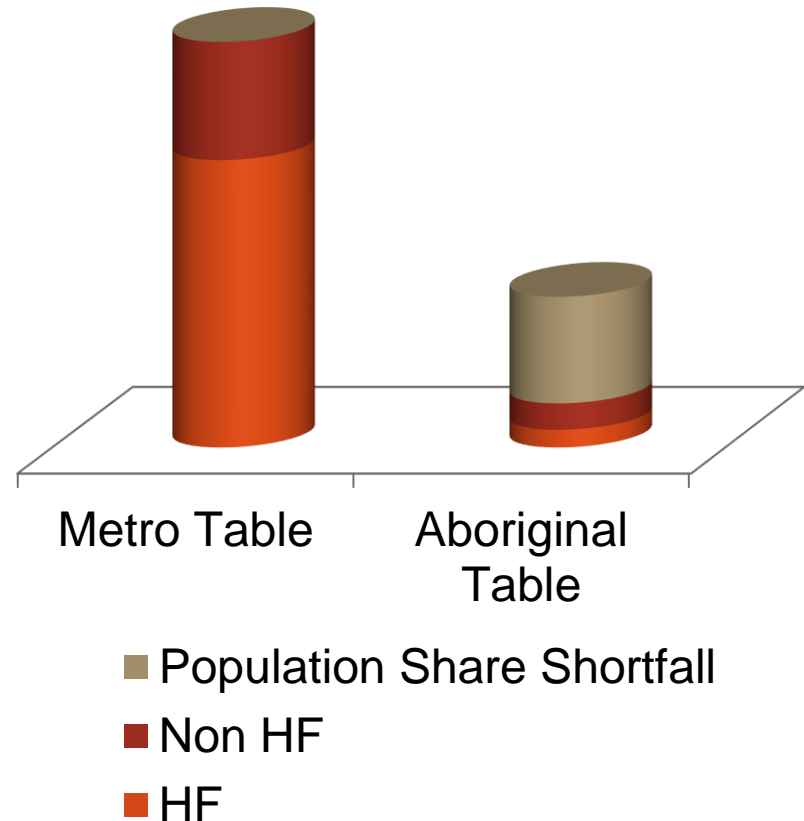
- Housing First implies a certain readiness for housing that may include attachment to some of the services and supports that can be found with the existing shelter services and related supports
- Challenge is that Indigenous populations are not accessing those sheltered services and supports to a disproportionate level relative to the non-Indigenous population
- More research and analysis is needed to analyze whether this lack of attachment to shelter services and supports has any implications on the ability of homeless populations to secure permanent housing within a Housing First Framework.

## **Cause - Lack of Critical Mass of Indigenous Organizations in Housing First Space**

- Barrier to entry built into Housing First model that weighs in advantage of large capacity non-Indigenous community entities with the depth and breadth of expertise and resources to leverage and pursue these types of contracts
- Much more difficult and time-intensive for Indigenous organizations to assemble and sustain a coalition of enterprises that could even hope to put forward the type of resource and expertise mix that is present within the large non-indigenous organizations.
- Capacity development and readiness address ideological capacity more than actual structural capacity

# Causes – Insufficient Funds Misaligned with Relative Size of Indigenous Homelessness

- Distinct Indigenous Funding Allocation better allows for non HF initiatives (60% non HF)
- Metro table bound by non-Indigenous Funding ratios (35% non HF)
- Metro table more limited in regards to insight into Indigenous “Community”
- Realignment of existing funding will likely aggravate challenges in addressing overall level of growing homelessness
- Supplementary funds available through situational opportunities add administrative burden and are less





# Solutions

- Adequately resource the Aboriginal table to meet proportional indigenous needs via Indigenous Allocation
- Revisit Housing First Strategy as an appropriate vehicle to resolve Indigenous Homelessness in Metro Vancouver
- Revisit the definitions of community currently in use to better understand Indigenous community circumstance and fluid family structure