



Ministry of  
Public Safety and  
Solicitor General

# Situation Tables in BC: 2022 RTD Analysis

Collaborative Public  
Safety Programs



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# Executive Summary

In the past year, we saw positive growth across all KPIs, from cross-sector collaboration to risk diversion. We funded 23 new Tables in FY22/23, raising the Provincial total to 37.

The following is an analysis of data from the 17 Situation Tables which were active in BC in 2022. As more Tables onboard, subsequent RTDs will feature statistical insights from a broader BC perspective, representing an increasingly powerful policy tool. To further enhance the impact of Situation Tables, CPSP is responsible for data and privacy governance, providing support in analyzing data gathered from operational Situation Tables. It is a first step towards enabling timely comparative analyses between communities, identifying systemic gaps in and barriers to services, determining Provincial priorities, and informing resource and service allocation with the intention of a more just, inclusive, and resilient British Columbia.

In 2022, there were 358 discussions across all Tables. 65.4% of these discussions were closed with the overall risk lowered. 38% of the discussion subjects were female, 41% were male, and 21% 'other' or families. The most common age groups were 18 to 24 and 30 to 39, both at 18%. Of the 105 predetermined risk factors this database tracks, 2022's top five (5) were:

- Lack of appropriate housing – 55.9%;
- Unable to meet own basic needs – 45.8%;
- Financial hardship – 33.2%;
- Suspected unmanaged mental health concerns – 31.6%; and,
- Drug abuse/misuse – 25.7%

Since 2018, 90% of all discussions referred to Tables by the Police of Jurisdiction have been transferred to more appropriate agencies to provide services. This directly prevents the criminalization of individuals at risk, and prevents those individuals from experiencing negative outcomes. It moreover allows front line policing services to concentrate their efforts and resources on core policing matters.



## Our Mission

- To foster collaboration amongst public safety entities, communities, and frontline stakeholders to promote the safety, well-being, and resiliency of people and communities in the face of emerging challenges.
- To build strength, collaboration, and innovation into the social services landscape of BC communities, thereby ensuring the long term sustainability of the Situation Table model.

## Our Vision

- Resilient and thriving communities across BC, where collaborative, prevention-focused responses to public safety form the bedrock of community well-being, rather than overreliance on enforcement.
- Routine, comprehensive, and timely responses to people in crisis, leading to meaningful harm reduction via the establishment and expansion of Situation Tables and Indigenous Intervention Circles.



A high-angle, blurred photograph of a group of people sitting around a table in a meeting. A single, glowing incandescent lightbulb hangs from the ceiling in the center of the frame. The background is out of focus, showing the silhouettes of the participants and the structure of the room. The overall tone is professional and collaborative.

## Background

Situation Tables are an evidence-based model for improving community safety by facilitating space for a community's front-line service providers to collaborate, leading to coordinated multi-agency responses, rapidly connecting vulnerable people to all the services they need in order to proactively mitigate risks and vulnerabilities associated with harms and negative outcomes. Cases, referred to as discussions, are brought forward by a member organization if it meets the threshold of Acutely Elevated Risk (AER), and an intervention is then planned by multiple agencies. Interventions occur within 24 – 48 hours of the Situation Table meeting.

## The Ministry's Role

MPSSG's Collaborative Public Safety Programs is leading efforts to create new and enhance existing Situation Tables in BC, including policy frameworks, funding, and data governance. These activities align with CPSP's mandate to seek community-based solutions that address community safety & wellbeing, including, but not limited to, crime reduction; moving away from reactive approaches and towards holistic, integrated, and evidence-based models.



# Celebrating Breakthroughs, Inspiring Progress in 2022

↑ **65%**

Lowered risk

↑ **358**

Discussions

↓ **41%**

were male

↑ **5.6**

Agencies per  
Intervention (average)

↓ **18%**

Were age 30-39

= **25%**

Originated from  
law enforcement

↑ **23**

Tables funded

Through the dedication  
and commitment of  
community champions

↓ **88%**

Transferred from  
Police to a more  
suitable Agency

↑ **7.4**

Number of Risk  
Factors (average)



# Top 5 Risk Factors in 2022

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55.9%

LACK OF APPROPRIATE HOUSING

46%

UNABLE TO MEET OWN  
BASIC NEEDS

33%

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

32%

SUSPECTED UNMANAGED  
MENTAL HEALTH  
CONCERN(S)

26%

DRUG ABUSE/MISUSE



In 2021, **Financial Hardship** was at 19%, which represents a 14% increase in a single year – the highest recorded since tracking began.

#### A Note on 'Risk'

The Situation Table model is neither investigative nor punitive. Risk Factors are aggregately tracked and cannot be connected to individuals. These risk factors do not represent judgement or prognostication of criminality. Rather, they highlight barriers to achieving both individual and community safety & wellbeing and can inform meaningful policy reforms.



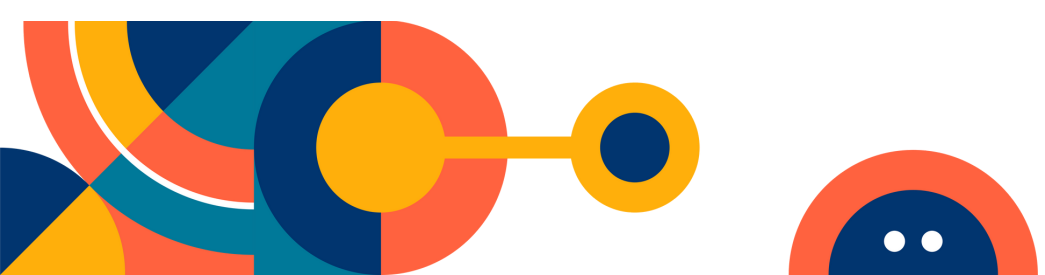
# Top Originating Agencies in 2022

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- 1 Police of Jurisdiction 25.4%
- 2 Adult Probation 8.4%
- 3 MCFD 5.3%

## Top Lead Agencies in 2022

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- 1 Adult Probation 8.4%
  - 2 MCFD 7.0%
  - 3 Interior Health 6.4%
- 



# INSIGHTS: HOUSING CRISIS

## A lack of appropriate housing stands out as the overwhelming top risk factor across virtually all Situation Tables.

Exacerbated by limited rental supply, a lack of affordable housing options, rapid urbanization and population growth leave individuals and families struggling to secure safe and affordable housing. Evidence-based research suggests that this reality in turn may lead to exposure to comorbid risk factors, including: crises in mental health, inability to meet basic needs, association with negative peers, substance misuse, etc.

As supported by Situation Table data, housing precarity is often correlated to other top risk factors, such as:

- Drug abuse/misuse: 62.5%;
- Suspected mental health concerns: 61.3%;
- Unable to meet own basic needs: 60.4%;
- Negative peer association: 58.0%.

Our Government recognizes that housing is a significant issue facing British Columbians, and one that is a joint responsibility across all levels of government. As a direct response, in December of 2022, the Ministry of Housing was formed to focus on the creation of affordable, accessible, and safe housing supply.

CPSP works closely with the Ministries of Housing, Health, Mental Health and Addictions, Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and Attorney General to promote Situation Tables as a key collaborative response and resource in responding to the housing crisis across the spectrum of complex care needs, accessibility, and affordability.



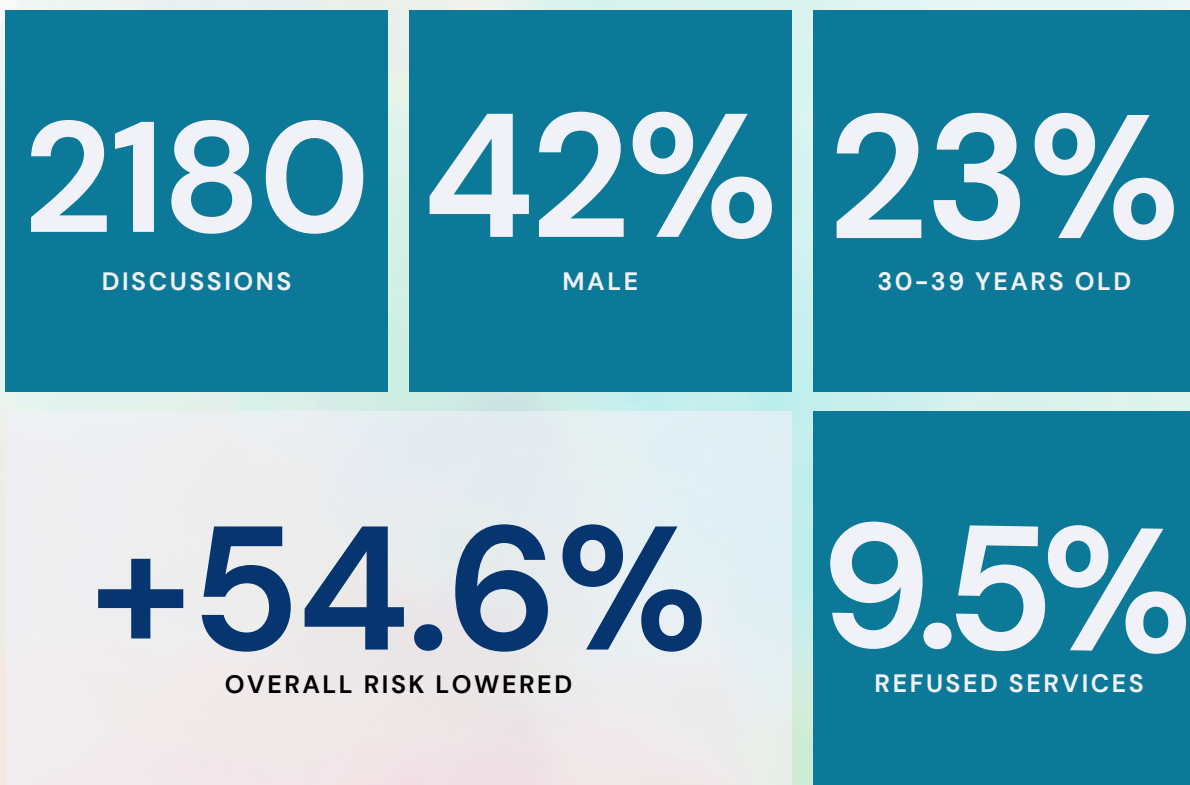
## 2015–2022 SNAPSHOT

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The data for this report was aggregated from the 17 Situation Tables which were active in BC in 2022. In years prior, there were as few as 4 active Tables. Therefore, annual data comparisons must be viewed with the caveat that recent years have more weight in aggregate trends than previous years. Likewise, larger communities have a more significant impact on total values, due to their larger annual discussion counts. Additionally, newly established Situation Tables may have different local contexts and circumstances during their implementation phase which impact their discussion and agency participation totals.

While the purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the composition of discussions at these Situation Tables, using this report to compare year-over-year trends should be done with these caveats in mind, until such a time as most BC communities have established active Tables.

Aggregated historical data compounds in efficacy and utility as new Tables and new annual data subsets are added, as it allows us to see emergent trends. For example, 2022 data is the first instance we saw "Financial Hardship" in the top 5 most common risk factors, telling us that underlying factors – perhaps inflation or the rising cost of housing, but potentially some yet unknown compounding factor – are impacting vulnerable British Columbians more acutely than in years prior.



Aggregate statistics: 2015–2022



# Trends in Risk

11

## 7 YEAR AGGREGATE

2015–2022

2015–2021

• Lack of Appropriate Housing	53.7%	+3.0%	50.7%
• Unable to meet own basic needs	44.7%	+3.3%	41.4%
• Drug Abuse/Misuse	34.0%	+1.6%	32.6%
• Suspected mental health concern	30.4%	+3.4%	27.0%
• Negative peer association	27.5%	+2.0%	25.5%

### A Note on 'Risk'

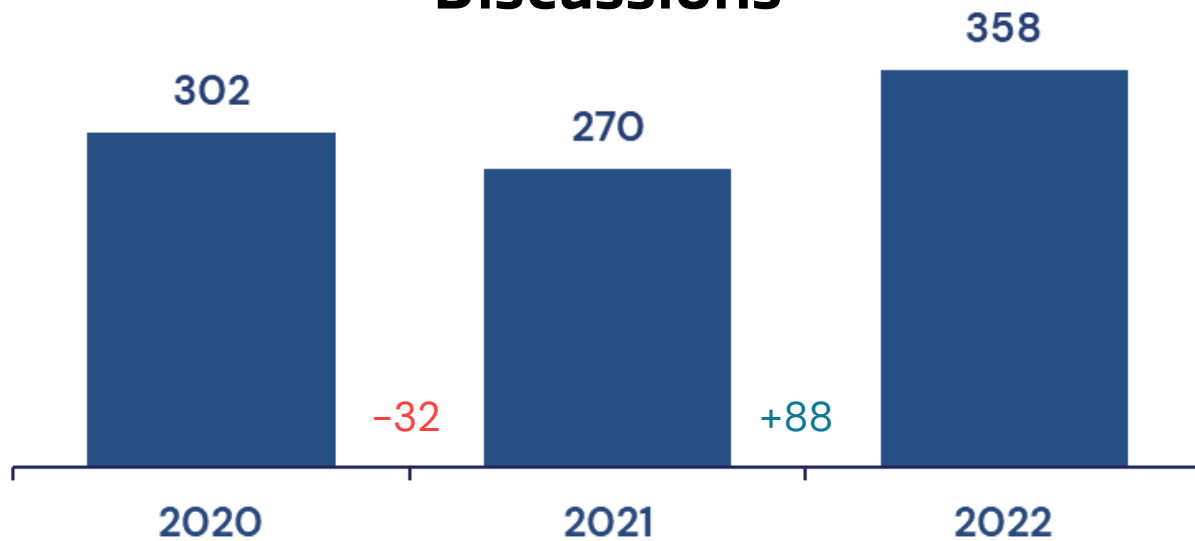
The Situation Table model is neither investigative nor punitive. Risk Factors are aggregately tracked and cannot be traced to individuals. These risk factors do not represent judgement or prognostication of criminality, but rather highlight barriers in achieving community safety & wellbeing and can inform meaningful policy reforms.

### Acutely Elevated Risk (AER)

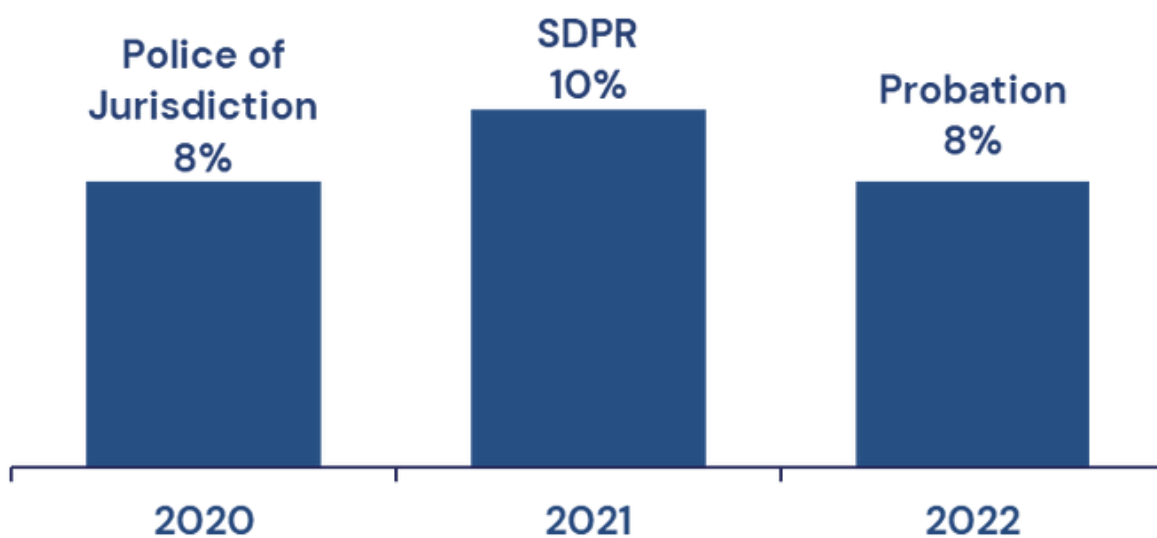
Refers to situations where individuals and/or families are facing a composite level of risks factors, spanning across multiple human service and justice disciplines, and where there is a high probability of harm occurring to self or others without immediate intervention, and where there is significant community interest at stake.

# Trends 2015–2022

## Discussions



## Lead Agency



# Situation Table Communities

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## Lower Mainland

- Abbotsford
- Agassiz
- Burnaby
- Chilliwack
- Coquitlam
- Hope
- Langley
- Maple Ridge
- Mission
- Squamish
- Surrey (SMART)
- Surrey (CHART)
- Vancouver
- Whistler

## Vancouver Island

- Campbell River
- Comox Valley Region
- Duncan (Cowichan)
- Nanaimo
- Port Alberni
- Port Hardy
- Victoria

## Interior

- Kelowna
- Greater Westbank
- Lytton – Lillooet
- Merritt
- Penticton
- Oliver–Osoyoos
- Columbia Valley District

## North

- Houston
- Kitimat
- New Hazelton
- Prince George
- Prince Rupert
- Quesnel
- Smithers
- Terrace
- Williams Lake



## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Lack of Appropriate Housing 57.1%
- Suspected Mental Health Concern 57.1%



Discussions

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- Police of Jurisdiction 42.9%
- Burnaby Community Services 28.6%

100%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk



42.9% Female  
14.3% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- Police of Jurisdiction 28.6%
- MCFD 28.6%
- School District 28.6%

42.9%

12-15 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	8.0		-
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	4.6		-
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	1		-

# CAMPBELL RIVER



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## TOP RISK FACTORS

- |                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| • Financial Hardship          | 65.0% |
| • Lack of Appropriate Housing | 60.0% |
| • Substance Misuse            | 57.5% |

40

Discussions

57.5%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- |                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| • Police of Jurisdiction | 37.5% |
| • SDPR                   | 17.5% |
| • Sasamans Society       | 12.5% |



45% Female  
45% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- |                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| • SDPR             | 22.5% |
| • Island Health    | 20.0% |
| • Sasamans Society | 15.0% |

22.5%

40-49 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	8.2		-
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	6.7		-
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	15		-

## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Drug Abuse/Misue 87.0%
- Alcohol Abuse/Misuse 78.3%
- Lack of Appropriate Housing 73.9%

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- Pacific Community Resources Society 43.5%
- Cyrus Centre 17.4%

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- Pacific Community Resources Society 39.1%
- Cyrus Centre 26.1%
- Ann Davis Transition Society 21.7%

23

Discussions

60.9%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk



60.9% Female  
26.1% Male

43.5%

18-24 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	10.6		-
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	6.6		-
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	1		-

## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Lack of Appropriate Housing 81.8%
- Suspected Mental Health Concern 72.7%



Discussions

63.6%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk



63.6% Female  
36.4% Male

36.4%

18-24 YRS  
Age Group

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- Police of Jurisdiction 36.4%

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- Police of Jurisdiction 36.4%
- Cowichan Women Against violence 18.2%

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	8.1		9.4
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	5.5		3.8
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	2		3

## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Unable to meet Own Basic Needs **83.3%**



Discussions

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- School District **50.0%**
- Police of Jurisdiction **33.3%**
- ARC Programs **16.7%**

**83.3%**

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk



50% Female  
0% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- Youth Probation **16.7%**
- SDPR **16.7%**
- School District **16.7%**
- Salvation Army **16.7%**
- Arc Programs **16.7%**

**33.3%**

18-24, 30-39 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	7.7		10.5
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	6.2		3.8
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	2		1



## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Drug Abuse/Misuse 100%



Discussions

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- School District 100%

50%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk0% Female  
100% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- School District 50%
- Hope and Area Transition Society 50%

50%

5-11, 16-17 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	4.0		3.5
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	4.5		2.5
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	0		0

## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Lack of Appropriate Housing 57.7%
- Suspected Mental Health Concern 38.5%
- Unable to Meet Own Basic Needs 38.5%
- Financial Hardship 38.5%

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- School District 34.6%
- Police of Jurisdiction 19.2%

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- MCFD 23.1%
- Interior Health 19.2%
- School District 11.5%



Discussions

80.8%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk34.6% Female  
30.8% Male

19.2%

5-11 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	7.8		7.7
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	5.2		4.9
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	4		2

## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Crime Victimization – Sexual Assault 50%



Discussions

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- Police of Jurisdiction 33.3%
- MCFD 33.3%
- Kitimat Community Development Centre 33.3%

83.3%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk33.3% Female  
16.7% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- MCFD 50.0%
- Social Services 33.3%
- Mental Health 16.7%

33.3%

12–15 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	3.8		-
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	4.0		-
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	2		-

# MISSION



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## TOP RISK FACTORS

- |                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| • Lack of Appropriate Housing      | 87.5% |
| • Suspected Mental Health Concerns | 50.0% |
| • Drug Abuse/Misuse                | 50.0% |



Discussions

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- |                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| • Community Services | 62.5% |
|----------------------|-------|

50%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk



62.5% Female  
37.5% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- |                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| • Mental Health          | 25.0% |
| • Police of Jurisdiction | 25.0% |

25%

18-25, 30-39, 50-  
59 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	3.5		4.1
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	4.3		4.2
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	0		4

## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Lack of Appropriate Housing 61.1%
- Unable to meet Own Basic Needs 50.0%
- Financial Hardship 33.3%

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- MCFD 33.3%
- Brain Injury Society 16.7%

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- MCFD 33.3%
- Brain Injury Society 22.2%
- Foundry 16.7%

## HIGHLIGHTS

18

Discussions

88.9%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk



27.8% Female  
22.2% Male

11.1%

12-15, 18-24, 60-69  
YRS  
Age Group

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	4.9		4.9
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	5.1		5.9
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	0		0



## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Financial Hardship 81.1%
- Drug Use 67.6%
- Lack of Appropriate Housing 64.9%

18

Discussions

100%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk



35.1% Female  
48.6% Male

25%

30-39, 40-49 YRS  
Age Group

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- RCMP - Victim Services 27.0%
- Northern Health 10.8%

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- RCMP - Victim Services 18.9%
- Northern Health 10.8%

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	13.6		9.5
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	4.3		4.6
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	4		3

## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Unable to Meet Own Basic Needs 83.3%
- Drug Use 66.7%
- Lack of Appropriate Housing 66.7%



Discussions

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- Bylaw 33.3%
- Outreach Agency 33.3%
- Mental Health 33.3%

100%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk



33.3% Female  
66.7% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- Mental Health 66.7%
- Outreach Agency 33.3%

50%

40-49 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	4.7		-
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	4.3		-
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	0		-

## TOP RISK FACTORS

- |                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| • Drug Abuse/Misuse           | 47.6% |
| • Lack of Appropriate Housing | 42.9% |
| • Alcohol Abuse/Misuse        | 38.1% |

21

Discussions

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- |                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| • Northern Society for Domestic Peace | 47.6% |
| • Good Acre Place                     | 14.3% |

66.7%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk28.6% Female  
52.4% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- |                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| • Northern Society for Domestic Peace | 66.7% |
| • Police of Jurisdiction              | 19.1% |
| • Good Acre Place                     | 14.3% |

23.8%

18-24 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	4.7		-
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	4.3		-
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	0		-

## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Lack of Appropriate Housing 50.0%



Discussions

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- Education 50.0%
- Police of Jurisdiction 33.3%
- Mental Health 16.7%

16.7%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk



0% Female  
83.3% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- Police of Jurisdiction 33.3%
- Education 33.3%

33.3%

12-15 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	4.2		-
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	3.7		-
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	1		-

## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Unable to Meet Own Basic Needs 71.2%
- Lack of Appropriate Housing 49.2%
- Criminal Involvement – Assault 32.2%

59

Discussions

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- Adult Probation 44.1%
- School District 13.6%
- Surrey Urban Mission Society 10.2%

42.4%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk



23.7% Female  
52.5% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- Adult Probation 40.7%
- Surrey Urban Mission Society 11.9%
- School District 8.5%

35.6%

40–49 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	5.0		5.1
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	5.5		5.2
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	0		3



## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Lack of Appropriate Housing 68%
- Unable to Meet Own Basic Needs 60%
- Financial Hardship 56%



Discussions

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- Police of Jurisdiction 20%
- ICMT 12%
- Ksan Society 12%
- Emergency Department 12%

60%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk28% Female  
40% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- ICMT 24%
- Ksan Society 20%
- Northern Health 12%

20%

40-49 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	7.0		8.9
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	6.2		5.8
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	5		3

## TOP RISK FACTORS

- Drug Abuse/Misuse 56.1%
- Alcohol Abuse/Misuse 49.1%
- Lack of Appropriate Housing 42.1%

57

Discussions

## TOP ORIGINATING AGENCIES

- Police of Jurisdiction 84.2%
- Canadian Mental Health Association 5.3%

66.7%

Interventions which  
led to overall  
lowered risk



49.1% Female  
38.6% Male

## TOP LEAD AGENCIES

- Interior Health 22.8%
- Canadian Mental Health Association 21.1%
- Boys & Girls Club 14.0%

22.8%

30-39 YRS  
Age Group

## HIGHLIGHTS

	2022	vs.	2021
Average Risk Factors Involved Per Discussion	6.0		6.6
Average Agencies Involved Per Discussion	6.9		6.2
Cases Transferred from Police to a More Suitable Agency	47		50



# In Gratitude; Collaboration is Continued Success



The Ministry expresses our sincere appreciation to all Situation Table stakeholders, including fellow Ministries, municipal partners, First Nations staff, NGOs, health authorities, and law enforcement, for their unwavering support and dedication to this initiative.

[CPSP@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CPSP@gov.bc.ca)  
Supporting People for Safer Communities

