

METHODOLOGY



Research Methods

The quantitative data for the Community Snapshots is gathered from both primary and secondary sources, collected from local, provincial, and federal governments and from local non-profit organizations. In addition, we work with data derived from 50 organizations in the Cowichan Valley. Data is collected from these organizations through a variety of ways including: interviews (initial and secondary), surveys, in-house reports, and publications. Qualitative data and background information for the report are gathered through interviews with members of local governments, researchers, health care providers, public institutions, non-profit service providers, and community members.

We use outside sources to create specific comparisons to communities outside of the Cowichan Valley. Though the most recent data available from Statistics Canada is utilized the cancellation of the mandatory long-form census in 2010 has limited research finding in key areas due to significantly reduced scope and lower response rates which has unfortunately limited the ability to identify and understand important trends. The good news is that the mandatory long form census was reinstated in 2016 so we can look forward to in-depth data sources in 2017. Comparative information will be embedded in the online version of the Community Snapshots as the new data is released and can be accessed by clicking on the symbols listed in the legend.

Data Sources & Methodology

Major Sources

Statistics Canada • BC Stats • BC Vital Statistics • The Cowichan Valley Regional District • BC Ministry of Education • School District 68 • School District 79 • Vancouver Island Health Authority • BC Housing • BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General • BC Ministry of the Environment, RCMP. A full list of sources for each section is available [here](#).

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Data Sources & Methodology

Secondary Sources

Some organizations were limited in their capacity to provide evaluation or in-house data. However, through interview processes, organizations were able to provide insights of a qualitative nature about trends they identified or witnessed within their organization's day-to-day services. The information contained in the Community Snapshots are a compilation of key trends and highlights with contributions from various local organizations.

First Nations Sources

The first step of the process in developing the Snapshots was to have a template to work from. Once this first step is completed, we will provide it to all of the Nations within the CVRD and request any data and/or information they would like to have included and showcase in the snapshots. As that information is received we will be adding in their pages.

How to Use this Resource

The Community Snapshots are designed to be living documents, meaning that as new information becomes available, the reports feature links providing new information. Additionally, the reports are dynamic: they have links to any new and relevant data, research reports, videos, themes, success stories and so on. This information will be linked throughout the reports and will be identified by linked icons that direct the reader to further information.