



Seniors and COVID

Lessons Learned & Next Steps

Joint Constituent Meeting

Cowichan

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OFFICE OF THE
SENIORS ADVOCATE
BRITISH COLUMBIA

What we know about B.C. seniors

TODAY

1,023,741

Seniors in B.C.

(19.7% of population)

Total population:

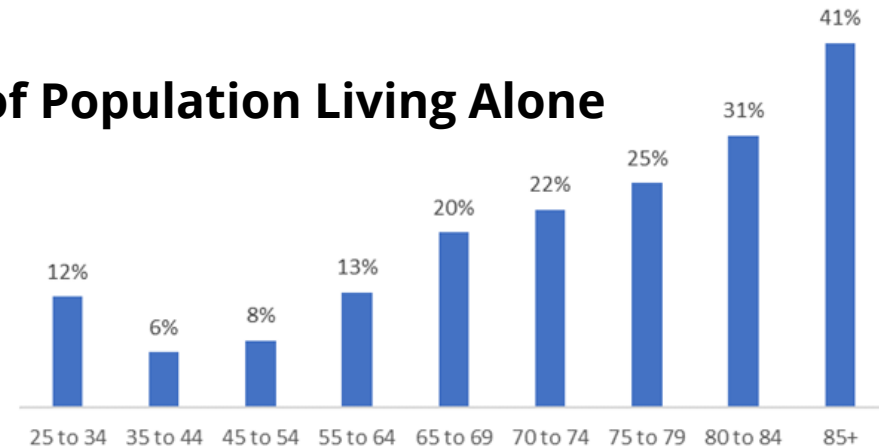
5,197,224



STATS

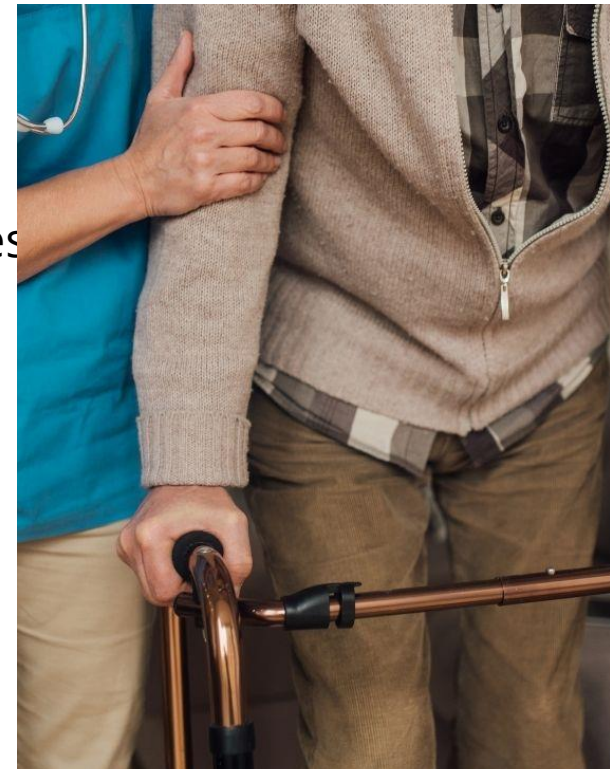
- 93% aged 65+ live independently
 - 72% aged 85+ live independently
 - 10% aged 85+ live in retirement/AL
 - 15% aged 85+ live in LTC
- Median income \$29,630
 - 28% on GIS
 - 27% have income under \$20,000
- 30.4% aged 65 to 69 employed
- 40% aged 65 + volunteer
- 91% have drivers license age 65
 - 36% have drivers license age 85+

Proportion of Population Living Alone



B.C. Long-term care and assisted living

- 521 Sites
- 27,505 Publicly-funded LTC beds + 3,742 private pay beds
- 109 Long-term care facilities owned and operated by health authorities
- 187 Long-term care facilities contracted by health authorities
 - 83 not for profit
 - 104 for profit
- 8,144 Registered AL units (4,262 subsidized)
- 137 Subsidized registered assisted living facilities
- 75 Private registered assisted living facilities



COVID Data

- 521 long-term care and assisted living sites
 - 309 experienced no outbreaks
 - 212 sites experienced one or more outbreaks (358 outbreaks in total)
 - 51% LTC sites experienced an outbreak
 - 77% of LTC sites in Lower Mainland experienced an outbreak
 - 17% AL sites experienced an outbreak
- 56% of outbreaks were contained to 1 staff person
- 69% of outbreaks involved <4 people
- 75% did not involve any deaths
- 4,282 total cases in outbreaks
 - 2,615 resident cases
 - 1,667 staff cases
- 778 deaths (53% of all COVID-19 deaths)



Challenges identified during the pandemic

Care Homes

- Care home staffing
- Marginalization of familial relationships
- Rights vs risk
- Public vs contracted
 - information
 - communications
 - directions
 - PPE
 - Autonomy

Communities

- Living alone
- Not driving
- Low-tech
- Low-income
- Importance of:
 - library
 - senior centres
 - rec centres

Other

- Finding bandwidth for anything not COVID-19 related

Post-pandemic changes

- Assessing what we learned
- Putting experience into perspective
- Focus of quality of life balanced against risk; immortality not a goal of care
- Re-examine basic foundation of contractual arrangements in health care
- Re-examine attitudes of health care towards family members of patients and residents



QUESTION

ANSWER



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Thank you Contact

www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca

Toll-free: **1-877-952-3181**

In Victoria: 250-952-3181

Open Monday to Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm

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