Community Health Workers

There are 8,000 community health workers in BC who care for clients in a variety of publicly-funded health care settings. The combined total straight-time (not including overtime) hours of work is equivalent to 4,700 full-time employees. Most community health workers work for home support agencies (74.4 per cent) and community mental health services (19.4 per cent).

Community health workers make up the largest group of employees in the Community Bargaining Association (CBA), totalling approximately 50 per cent of employees.

FTE and employee trend (2008-2013)

Demographics
The average age of a community health worker is 46.3 years, which is similar to what is was in 2009 (46.2 years). Approximately 33.5 per cent of community health workers are now 55 years or older, which is an increase from 2009 when 30.7 per cent of community health workers were over age 55.

Employees by Age Group (2009 vs. 2013)

Wages and benefits
The average annual compensation for one regular community health worker is $59,300 or $30.43 per hour, including wages and benefits. Since 2005, community health worker wages have increased by 14.8 per cent while the rate of inflation (BC Consumer Price Index) during this period was 10.0 per cent.

Wage Settlements vs. Inflation (BC CPI 2005-2013)
Community Health Workers

Compensation breakdown for a regular community health worker (2013)

Overtime and sick leave
Over the past five years, community health workers have received in average between 20 and 40 minutes of overtime per week. Since 2008, average overtime increased by 20 minutes per week. Paid sick leave for community health workers has decreased slightly over the past five years.