The Downtown Eastside (DTES), the oldest neighborhood in Vancouver, British Columbia, has high rates of poverty, public health issues, and other inequities that affect people facing some of the most stark marginalization in the country. While various programs and initiatives have been implemented by governments, community-lead organizations, and health services, persistent issues in areas such as housing, addiction, and mental illness call for a broader framework of strategic partnerships. Among key service providers are not-for-profit organizations, which constitute a growing sector undertaking increasingly important roles in community development. Yet, coordination is limited within and beyond the sector, as evident in the lack of a comprehensive record of these organizations and their services. Without a comprehensive record, people who live in the DTES and service providers who support this neighbourhood are limited in their ability to draw on these supports. As such, this study collated information on not-for-profit organizations that are located in and serve the DTES population, and examined prominent trends in the sector. This study employed an environmental scan - a systematic and comprehensive search - of the non-profit organizations that serve the DTES population. We then conducted a thematic analysis of the organizations’ mission and mandate and target population to identify opportunities and challenges confronting these organizations, and neighbourhood trends in service provision. Findings of this thematic analysis reveal key gaps in who is best-served by not-for-profits in the DTES, and can support service providers and stakeholders to better serve the needs of the DTES Community.

Themes:

Check (highlight) the most applicable theme according to the abstract.

| Innovation and Technology | Health and Wellness | Culture and Society | Sustainability and Conservation |

Comments:

“Not-for-profit organizations” could be shortened to “non-profit”. The second last sentence is also rather long and could be split into two sentences for the sake of clarification.