

# 2017 British Columbia Consumer Debt Study



Our fifth annual BC Consumer Debt Study examines trends and key information regarding consumers' debt levels, financial habits and the strategies they pursue to resolve their financial difficulties. The only study of its kind in BC, we've gathered responses from over 1,300 consumers facing financial challenges.

This year we aim to shed much-needed light on the non-financial impacts of being in debt including the psychological and physical effects it can have on an individual and how this correlates with soaring consumer debt levels. For the full report, visit [www.sands-trustee.com](http://www.sands-trustee.com)

## Gender

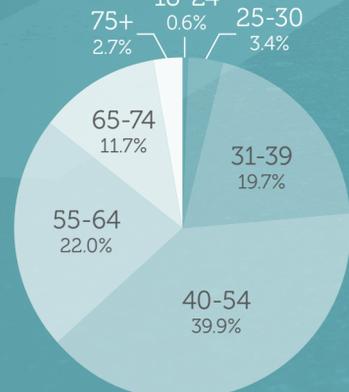


44.9%  
Male



55.1%  
Female

## Age of Respondents



## Marital Status



40.1%  
Married/Common-law relationship



27.0%  
Divorced or separated



24.7%  
Single



4.9%  
In a relationship (not living together)

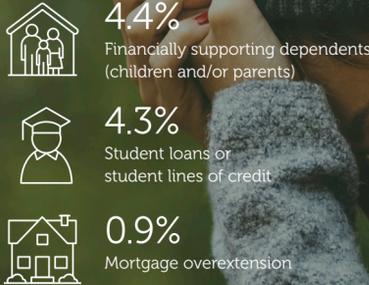


3.3%  
Widowed

## How much consumer debt did you have when you contacted or met with Sands & Associates? (Excluding your vehicle loan and/or mortgage)



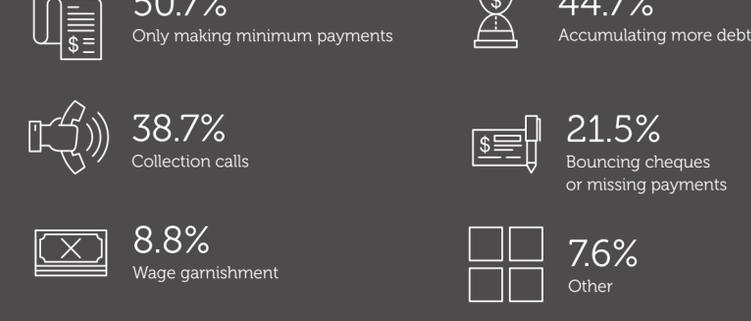
## What was the primary cause for your debt?



## HIGHLIGHT OF RESPONSES SUBMITTED AS 'OTHER'

- "Child diagnosed with chronic illness"
- "Lost money in the housing market; had to sell at a loss due to family growth"
- "Attempt at another debt consolidation that was fraudulent."
- "My husband passed away and I was left with no money and a child."

## How did you know your debts were becoming a problem? (Choose all that apply)

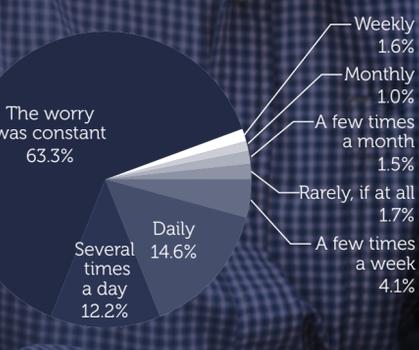


## Debt Stress is Real Stress

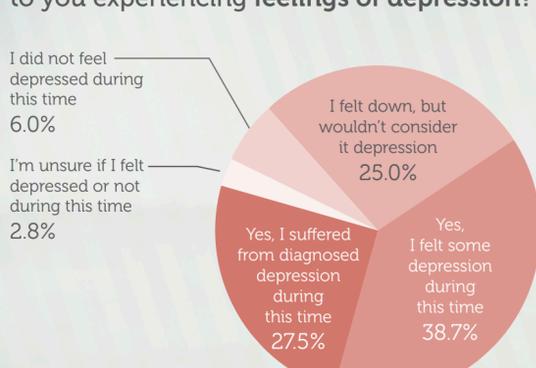
### Do you feel that your debts caused you to experience any of the following? (Choose all that apply)



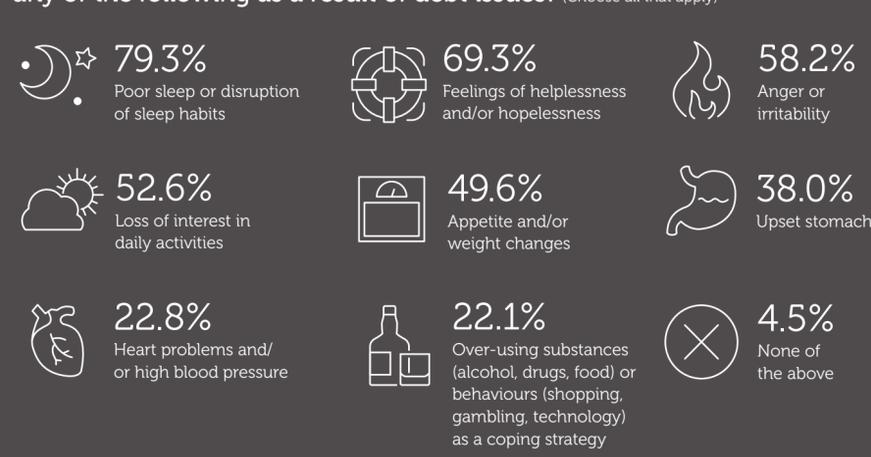
### How often did you find yourself worrying about your debts or general finances?



## Do you feel that being in debt contributed to you experiencing feelings of depression?

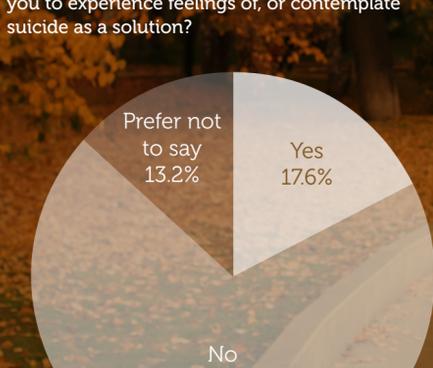


## Before resolving your financial situation, did you experience any of the following as a result of debt issues? (Choose all that apply)



The study found that, depending on generation, between one in five, or one in six respondents reported **suicidal thoughts or feelings in relation to their financial difficulties.**

### Did your financial difficulties ever cause you to experience feelings of, or contemplate suicide as a solution?



**KNOWING IS NOT OWING.**  
Learn about Consumer Proposals and other debt management options.



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