2021 Sheltered Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

Prepared for PA Balance of State

Eastern PA Continuum of Care

Western PA Continuum of Care

https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/2021-point-time-pit-count

Presented by:

- Jessica Sones and Leigh Howard, Diana T. Myers and Associates, Inc. (DMA)
  - Under contract with the PA DCED, funded through CoC Planning Grants
- Brendan Auman, PA Dept of Community & Economic Development (PA DCED)

What is the PIT count?

- A census or count of all people experiencing homelessness on a single night (i.e., at a given point in time), including some required demographic information and characteristics about those people, as defined in the annual HIC/PIT Data Collection Notice.

- HUD requires CoCs to conduct PIT counts of people experiencing homelessness.

- PIT Count includes:
    - Housing Inventory Count
    - Sheltered PIT
    - Unsheltered PIT*

*This webinar will not cover the unsheltered PIT Count. HUD is offering flexibilities for the 2021 unsheltered PIT. The Eastern and Western PA CoCs have chosen different approaches.
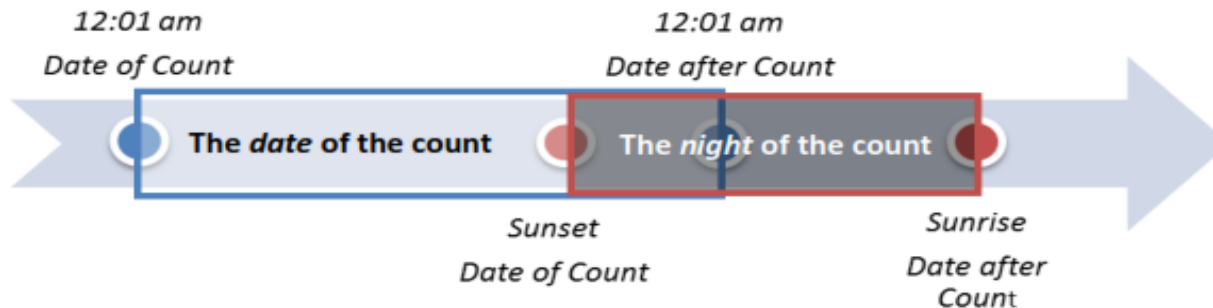
Who is counted in the sheltered PIT count?

Sheltered PIT Count

- **Emergency shelters** (including those using hotel and motel vouchers)
- **Transitional housing**
- **Safe Havens**

When is the PIT count conducted?

- CoC program regulations require sheltered and unsheltered counts to be "conducted on one night in the last 10 calendar days of January."

- Wednesday, January 27, 2021
  - This means the period of time from Wednesday night through Thursday morning.

Overall PIT Timeline

- December 8, 2020: Sheltered PIT webinar **YOU ARE HERE!**
- December 2020/ January 2021: Confirmation of all sheltered programs and PIT contact, identification of new/closed programs
- January 2021: HMIS Data quality check of sheltered programs
- **JANUARY 27, 2021: PIT COUNT DATE**
- February 17, 2021: All data due to DMA
- February – March 2021: Data entry, checks for duplication, follow-up with questions
- March 31, 2021: CoC submit all data to HUD
- May 2021: County-level PIT reports distributed

SHELTERED PIT COUNT

○ Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

○ Point-in-Time Count (PIT)

- HIC= beds/units
- PIT= people

Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

- Includes all:
  - Emergency Shelters (ES)
    - Domestic violence shelters
    - Hotel/motel vouchers
  - Transitional Housing (TH)
  - Rapid Re-Housing projects (RRH)
  - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
  - Other Permanent Housing (OPH)

Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

Bed Type	McKinney-Vento (ESG)	HMIS participating	Beds HH w/ Children	Units HH w/ Children	Beds HH w/o Children	Beds HH w/ only Children	Population designated beds?	Year-Round Beds	Total Seasonal Beds	Seasonal operating dates	Overflow Beds	PIT Count
Other beds	No	no	0	0	0	0		0	20	10/5/15 - 5/8/16		13
Other beds	No	no	0	0	10	0	10 veteran beds	10	0			4
Other beds	No	no	9	3	0	0		9				9
Other beds	No	no			29	0		29	0			29
Other beds	No	no	15	3	0	0		15				0
Facility-based beds	No	no			0			0	20	12/1/15 - 4/1/16		17
Facility-based beds	No	no	0	0	3	0		3	0			0
Other beds	No	no							15	10/1/15 - 4/30/16		10
Other beds	No	no	14	1	0	0		14	0			14
Facility-based beds	No	no	12	1	30	0		42	0			29
Other beds	Yes	no							19	11/1/15 - 3/31/16		19
Facility-based beds	Yes	no	18	4	13	0		31				31
Facility-based beds	No	no			12		12 veteran beds	12				13

Types of Homeless Projects to Include in the HIC

- Beds and units in the HIC must be dedicated to serving households experiencing homelessness, or for permanent housing projects, dedicated for persons who were homeless at entry. **For the purposes of the HIC, a project with dedicated beds/units is one where:**

  A. The primary intent of the project is to serve persons experiencing homelessness;

  B. The project verifies homeless status as part of its eligibility determination;

  C. The actual project clients are predominantly homeless (or, for permanent housing, were homeless at entry).

- Beds in institutional settings not specifically dedicated for persons who are homeless such as detox facilities, emergency rooms, jails, and acute crisis or treatment centers **should not** be included in the HIC.

HIC Data Collection Tool

○ Online survey: The week of the PIT count, DMA will send a link to an online survey. ALL projects (including ALL project types- ES, TH, RRH, PSH, other permanent housing) must complete the online survey… **even if the program is in HMIS**

○ Online survey requests:

  ○ Capacity = total # units *and* beds
  ○ Configuration of units/beds
  ○ Funding Source
  ○ Count of persons in program

HIC Data Collection Tool

COVID-19 Considerations for the HIC:

- **Whether to include project on HIC:** When deciding whether to include your infectious disease response inventory on the HIC, please consider if they are dedicated to people experiencing homelessness (in which case they should be on the HIC) or if they partially serve people experiencing homelessness (in which case you should report on folks experiencing homelessness only).

- **Project Type:** If your program has simply physically distanced the Emergency Shelter beds from the existing Emergency Shelter facility to another location temporarily (such as a hotel/motel) to respond to the infectious disease, the beds do not need to be re-categorized (i.e. if they were site-based before, they are still counted as site-based).
  - The HIC survey will ask if you are reporting on site-based shelter or hotel/motel vouchers. If your site-based shelter has transitioned some beds to hotel/motel temporarily due to COVID-19, you will still report these beds as part of your site-based shelter inventory.

HIC Data Collection Tool

COVID-19 Considerations for the HIC:

○ **Beds/Units**: If the Emergency Shelter, in order to physically distance, took beds "offline" for some period of time, the HIC reporting should adjust the ES inventory down to the lower level for the period of the infectious disease response.

○ **New Projects:** If there are any programs in your county providing services to persons experiencing homelessness (including hotel/motel programs) that are new as of January 2020, please notify DMA ASAP.

Sheltered Point-in-Time Count (PIT)

○ Includes all People in Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing programs

○ PIT Data source: HMIS *or* Interview Forms *or* Mobile App

   ○ HMIS participating programs will be notified in advance of the PIT count as to whether their data quality passes pre-test (*more info on next slide). If yes, the project will not need to collect sheltered PIT data.

   ○ All other projects will collect data using Interview Forms *or* using the Mobile App. (Program level decision)

Sheltered Point-in-Time Count (PIT)

*HMIS participating ES and TH programs – Data Quality

- If your ES or TH program participates in HMIS, DMA/DCED will review your data to check whether it passes a data quality threshold:
  - Program entries/exits entered regularly
  - Program enrollments roughly align with program inventory (e.g. you do not have 100 people in the program when you only have 50 beds)
  - If your program has good data quality, we will use HMIS data for PIT Count. If not, you will need to complete interview forms for al households.
- You can start working on data quality now, by ensuring that your HMIS records are up to date (former clients exited, all current clients enrolled, program census is accurate)

Sheltered Point-in-Time Count (PIT)

COVID-19 Considerations for the Sheltered PIT Count:

- Programs should make a plan for safely collecting data from all program participants for the count (using social distancing, PPE, mobile app, etc).
    - If using the mobile app, program staff must be the ones completing the surveys as you interview participants (please do not give link to participants to fill it out on their own).
- Programs providing hotel/motel vouchers should make a plan for collecting data from all participants residing in hotel/motels.

Sheltered PIT:
PIT Data Collected

What information are we collecting?

1. # persons in household

2. For each person in household:
   - Age
   - Gender   • Ethnicity   • Race

3. Additional data collected:
   - # of homeless episodes
   - Length of time (# months) homeless
   - Domestic Violence   • Disability
   - Veteran Status

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Domestic Violence Question

For reasons of safety, please do not ask the next question in front of two adults who have identified that they are part of the same Household: (Note to interviewer, if two+ adults are being interviewed together, skip this question.)

Did you need to leave the place you were last staying due to someone making you feel unsafe? Do you feel unable to return there because you feel unsafe?
☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ Did not ask question

For persons feeling unsafe, ask the following question: **Would you like to speak to someone who can talk to you about increasing your safety?**

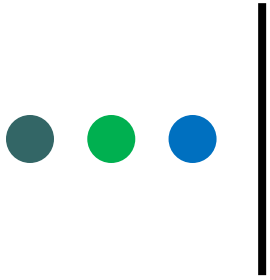* If yes, direct this individual to the **National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1−800−799−7233**

If yes to feeling unsafe: Thank you for letting me know. I have a series of additional sensitive questions to ask you. Is that ok, or do you feel like answering additional questions would compromise your safety?

   ☐ Yes; it is ok to proceed with your questions.   ☐ No, I am not comfortable answering any additional questions. (Thank this person and end survey.)

Sheltered PIT Interviews

- Ask all questions as written on the Interview Form or within the Mobile App.
- Inform participants
  - Participation is voluntary
  - Individuals may refuse to answer some or all questions.
  - Refusal to participate will not result in a denial of shelter, service, or other assistance.
- If person refuses to give initials, assign initials and complete rest of interview.
- Disability status: ask no questions regarding the nature or severity.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role: All Housing Providers

○ **Housing Inventory Count online survey**:

- The week of the PIT count, DMA will send a link to an online survey. ALL projects and project types (ES, TH, RRH, PSH, other permanent housing) must complete the online survey… **even if the program is in HMIS**

Role: Emergency and Transitional Housing Providers

○ **Housing Inventory Count online survey**

PLUS

○ **Point in Time Count:** Using HMIS *or* Interview Forms *or* Mobile App

- ES and TH providers will be notified in advance of the PIT count as to whether their data quality passes pre-test. If yes, the project will not need to collect sheltered PIT data.

- All other projects will collect data using Interview Forms or using the Mobile App. (Program level decision)

Next Steps

- November 2020 through January 2021: Confirmation of all sheltered programs and PIT contact, identification of new/closed programs

- January 2021: HMIS Data quality check of sheltered programs

- JANUARY 27, 2021: PIT COUNT DATE

- February 17, 2021: HIC surveys and Point in Time Count interview forms due to DMA
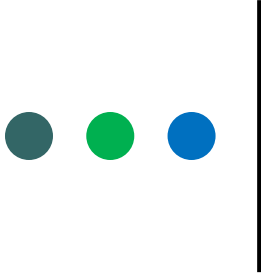
Contact Information

○ Jessica Sones or other DMA staff –

- pahomelesscount@dma-housing.com
- (215) 576-1558

○ **CoC PIT Count website**:

https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/2021-point-time-pit-count

ArcGIS Survey123 Mobile App

- Overview and demo of mobile app
- Presenter:
  - Brendan Auman, DCED