

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments 2015 PIT Count Training

December 9, 2014

Program Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. Training Purpose & Overview
- IV. PIT Count Definitions
- V. PIT Unsheltered Count Techniques
- VI. Q & A

PIT Count Definitions

- i. General Homeless
- ii. Subpopulations

General Definitions & Categories

- DEFINITION OF HOMELESS:
- An **UNSHeltered** homeless person resides in a place not meant for human habitation, such as a car, park, sidewalk, abandoned building, the street, alley, bus or train station, airport, camp site or tent.
- A **SHeltered** homeless person resides in an emergency shelter, including temporary shelters only open during severe weather, or transitional housing, safe haven for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters. This also includes homeless persons staying in a hotel, motel or housing units with vouchers.
- **NOTE:** What is the person's living situation on the day or night of the count? It is **not** their living situation the day before or the day after the count.

People Who Should **NOT** be Counted



- Persons residing in permanent housing (PH) programs, including permanent supportive housing (PSH) or in rental housing with rapid re-housing (RRH) assistance
- Persons temporarily staying with family or friends (persons who are “doubled-up” on the night of the count)
- Persons residing in institutions (e.g., jails, juvenile correction facilities, foster care, hospital beds, detox centers)

Types of Homeless Programs

- **EMERGENCY SHELTER:** a residential homeless assistance facility dedicated for use by persons who are homeless. This includes facilities that may be year-round, winter, hypothermia, temporary or over flow on an as needed basis.
- **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:** (HUD definition) - A project that has its purpose facilitating the movement of homelessness individuals and families to permanent housing within a reasonable amount of time (usually up to 24 months).
- **SAFE HAVEN:** A form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who are on the street and have been unable or unwilling to participate in supportive services.
- **NOTE: INCLUDES UNITS OR BEDS**

Homeless Program Types:

Formerly Homeless

- **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH):**
Permanent housing with supportive social services and **no** time limits on the length of stay. PSH **SHOULD NOT** be included in the PIT Count for the ‘Literally Homeless’. The HUD definition requires a disabling condition.
- **NOTE: PSH is counted on the PIT for purposes of the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) ONLY. The PSH count includes Units or Beds.**

Homeless Program Types:

Formerly Homeless, continued

- **Rapid Re-housing (RRH):** A set of strategies to help households (individuals or families) move quickly out of homelessness into permanent housing that is time limited. **NOTE: Households in Emergency Shelter or Transitional Programs or Unsheltered on the night of the PIT should be counted as “homeless”. Persons waiting to be placed into RRH should be counted as “homeless” on the night of the PIT.**
- **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF):** VA funded RRH program for veteran families.
- **The RRH, RRH Demonstration, SSVF and Permanent Supportive Housing** categories **should not** be included in the PIT Count for the ‘Literally Homeless’, but should be included in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC).

Household Types



- **Households without children:** unaccompanied adults (18 and over) and multiple adults.
- **Households with adults and children:** At least one adult and one child under age 18.
- **Households with ONLY children:** Households composed only of persons under age 18, including unaccompanied children, adolescent parents and their children, adolescent siblings, or other household configurations composed only of children.

Employment & Income

- **MONTHLY INCOME:** Income from ALL sources.
 - Yes Income
 - No income
 - Don't Know/No Response

- **PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME** (Select only one for Adults and Children)
 - *Employment:* Earned income from full or part-time employment, temporary, seasonal or day labor.
 - *Social Security/Veterans or other retirement:* Retirement income from social security, pensions and other types of retirement.
 - *SSDI/SSI/VA Disability:* Includes disability income from any source
 - *TANF/Public Assistance*
 - **Social Security (Children only):** Social security benefits other than retirement or disability, for example, survivor benefits.
 - *OTHER (income) – includes alimony, child support, unemployment, panhandling, etc.*
 - Don't Know/No Response

- **EMPLOYED (Full/Part-time, or temporary at the time of the PIT)**
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't Know/No Response

Housing Needed Today

- Definition and usage determined by the individual jurisdictions. Used for the HIC, gaps analysis and planning for current and future housing needs for persons experiencing homelessness.



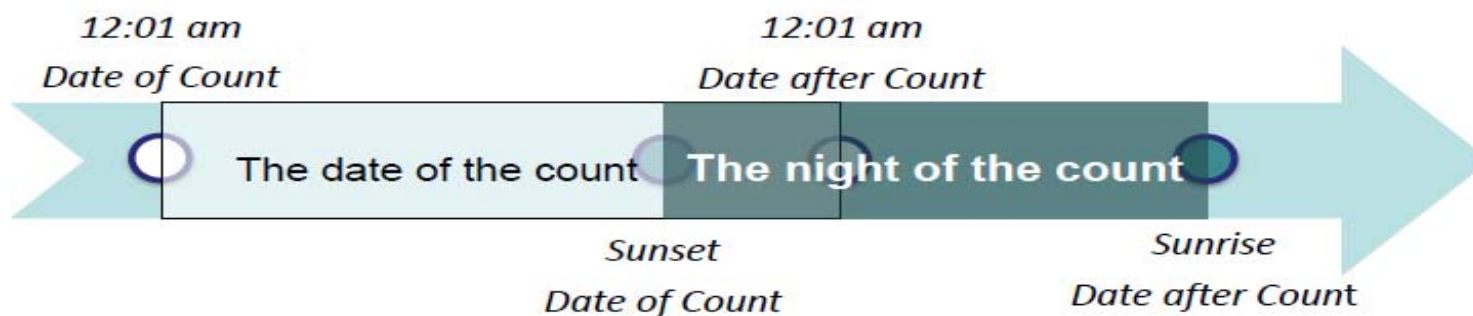
Photo credit: www.modularmusings.com

Timing of the Count

- The 2015 count will take place on **Wednesday, January 28th** (January 29th is the back-up date if weather conditions require rescheduling the count);

night (*noun*) – the period of darkness between sunset and sunrise.

- What we refer to as ‘the night of the count’ covers two dates, as shown in the illustration below





Subpopulations

HUD Required

Non-HUD Required

Required by HUD

- **Chronically Homeless Individuals:** An unaccompanied homeless adult with a **DISABLING CONDITION** who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more **OR** has had at least **FOUR** episodes of homelessness in the past **THREE** years.
- To be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter/Safe Haven during that time.
- Persons under the age of 18, and persons in Transitional Housing **should not** be counted as chronically homeless adults.

Required by HUD, *continued*

- **Chronically Homeless Families (Count adults and children):** A household with at least one adult member who has a **DISABLING CONDITION** and who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more **OR** has had at least **FOUR** episodes of homelessness in the past **THREE** years.
- For purposes of the PIT, persons living in transitional housing at the time of the PIT count **should not** be included in this subpopulation category; the subpopulation count **should** include all members of the household.

HUD Required, *continued*



- Chronically Homeless, cont.
 - ▣ **PER FAM (Persons in Family):** The number of persons in the chronically homeless family, adults and children, should be counted. **This is required by HUD.**
 - ▣ **FAM (Family):** The number families who have at least one Chronically Homeless adult in the household. **This IS NOT required by HUD.**

HUD Required, *continued*

- **Disabling Condition** – Any one of:
 - a disability as defined in Section 223(d) of the Social Security Act as the “inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which...has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of no less than 12-months...”
 - a physical, mental, or emotional impairment which is (a) expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, (b) substantially impedes an individual’s ability to live independently, and (c) of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions;
 - a developmental disability as defined in Section 102(8a) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. In general this “... means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that—is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;...”
 - the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any condition arising from the etiological agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; or
 - a diagnosable substance abuse disorder.

HUD Required, *continued*

- **DISABLING CONDITION SPECIAL NOTE:** For sheltered and unsheltered persons in the general homeless population providers may accept self-reported information of the disabling condition, HMIS data, or rely upon the professional judgment of social workers, case managers\workers, substance abuse counselor, health care workers etc.
- In instances where a disability is required to determine program eligibility, the data source is the evidence required by the funding source.

HUD Required, *continued*

- **ADULTS ONLY - PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OF THE THESE**
- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD):** This category on the PIT includes persons with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse or both) that is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person's ability to live independently.
- **Serious Mental Illness (SMI):** Persons with a mental health problem expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impedes a client's ability to live independently.
- **Co-Occurring Disorders (COD):** Adults who are experiencing both SMI and SUD as defined above.

HUD Required, *continued*

- **NOTE:** Determination for the SUD, SMI, and Co-occurring Disorders categories can be self-reported, or made by a social workers, case worker/manager, mental health worker, or documented in HMIS.
- **All Veterans – Adults (male or female)** who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States including the Coast Guard. This **does not** include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.
- **NOTE: Female veterans will also be counted in a separate category.**

HUD Required, *continued*

- **HIV/AIDS:** Individual is HIV positive or AIDS diagnosed.



Photo credit: US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Jan. 2014



Photo credit: Harriet Wise Photography, Jan. 2014

Non-HUD Required



- The following sub-populations data are tracked by the local jurisdictions who participate in the regional PIT COG count of the homeless.
- **Physical Disability (Adults):** Any impairment or immobilization of part of the body that is long-term. For example, a vision, hearing, or other sensory impairment that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities.
- **NOTE:** Persons **do not** need to be chronically homeless.

Non-HUD Required, *continued*

- **Chronic Health Condition (Adults):** Any major health issue except HIV/AIDS, such as diabetes, cancer, asthma, arthritis.
- **Limited English - Adults:** Persons who speak English as a second language and who have limited English proficiency. The limited English proficiency creates a barrier to the person's ability to receive services.
 - Question to ask yourself - Can the person communicate with you effectively in English?
- **NOTE: Documented or undocumented status IS NOT an issue.**

Non-HUD Required, *continued*

- **(DVH) Victims of Domestic Violence - HISTORY:** Persons, either female or male, who have been victims of domestic violence at ANY time in their past, including the current episode of homelessness. This includes children. **OPTIONAL FOR HUD.**
- **(DVC) Victims of Domestic Violence Current Incident of Homelessness:** Persons whose CURRENT incident of homelessness is due to domestic violence. This includes children. **NOTE: COLLECTED BY THE REGION, BUT NOT REQUIRED BY HUD.** Responses should also be included in DV History.

Non-HUD Required, *continued*

- **Foster Care:** Adults or Children who have been in foster care at any time in the past, regardless of household type.
- **Formerly Institutionalized:** Adults, Households with Children and Households with only Children whose *current episode of homelessness* was caused by a **DISCHARGE** into homelessness from prison/jail, foster care, mental institutions, hospitals or long-term care facility.
- **Other:** Please footnote what “other” includes in your jurisdictional narrative report.

RESOURCES

- Submit questions to HUD through the Ask A Question (AAQ) portal on the **HUD Exchange**
 - <https://www.hudexchange.info/>
- **Point-in-Time Count Methodology Guide**
 - <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4036/point-in-time-count-methodology-guide/>
- **A Guide to Counting Sheltered Homeless People**
 - www.hudhre.info/documents/counting_sheltered.pdf
- **A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People**
 - www.hudhre.info/documents/counting_unsheltered.pdf
- **2015 HIC & PIT Data Collection Notice and Resources**
 - <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/2015-hic-pit-data-collection-notice-and-resources>