



POINT-IN-TIME CENSUS & SURVEY

2015

APPLIED SURVEY RESEARCH

CONTENTS

- ▶ What is the purpose of the PIT Count?
- ▶ Why does the PIT Count matter?
- ▶ What will the PIT Count tell us?
- ▶ What will I be doing on the day of the Count?
- ▶ Next steps and reminders

PURPOSE

- ▶ The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of every homeless person during the last 10 days of January every 2 years
- ▶ Counts happen all over the country and must be organized to minimize double counting (shelter, street, age, gender, and location)

IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Increases community understanding of homelessness
- ▶ Retains and improves funding for homeless services and meets federal data reporting requirements
- ▶ Generates valid, accurate data regarding individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our community
- ▶ Links homeless data collection efforts to national and local strategic, program, and policy planning

PIT COUNT COMPONENTS

Shelter Count

- Conducted the evening of January 22nd

General Street Count

- General Count:
Conducted January 23rd
- Youth Count:
Conducted January 22nd

Survey

- Conducted in the 2-3 weeks following the census

DEFINITION OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including:

Individuals and families with a primary night time residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings

- ▶ HEARTH Act Definition (Category I)

DEFINITION

▶ Included

- ▶ Make shift shelters
- ▶ Unsheltered
- ▶ Vehicles
- ▶ Parks
- ▶ Abandoned buildings
- ▶ Bus or train stations
- ▶ Airports
- ▶ Camping grounds

▶ Not included

- ▶ Couch surfers
- ▶ Double-ups
- ▶ Rehabilitation or mental health facilities
- ▶ Most in jail or prisons
- ▶ Awaiting eviction or foreclosure

LOGISTICS

- ▶ Street Count is a visual count of people residing on the street, in parks/beaches/open spaces, in vehicles, in abandoned/foreclosed buildings, and in make-shift shelters.
- ▶ Street counts are planned while people are still in public shelters (6AM).
 - ▶ Timing and coordination is important to avoid duplication.
 - ▶ Areas around shelters are counted first.

LOGISTICS

- ▶ Volunteers will not be paid for their time nor will they be reimbursed for their mileage
- ▶ Homeless guides will be paid \$10/hour for their expertise during the count and for their time in training
 - ▶ All homeless guides must have a 2015 PIT Count Referral Card and Training Attendance Card in order to receive payment
 - ▶ All payments will be made after teams return to the deployment center on the day of the count

LOGISTICS

6:00 am

1. Guides and volunteers assemble at a pre-assigned deployment location
2. Complete paper work
 - a) Sign-in and Hold Harmless Agreement
 - b) Review of safety protocols, forms and data quality
3. Volunteer-Guide Teams are created- (Couples OK, <18 no)
4. Street count packets distributed
 - a) Maps and data collection forms
 - b) Clipboard & pencils
 - c) Training guidelines
 - d) Contact phone numbers
 - e) Stickers to be worn on jackets
5. Teams go out into the field
6. Teams return or check in with deployment captains before 10:00 am or as soon as map areas are covered

10:00 am

LOGISTICS - MAP ASSIGNMENTS

- ▶ **We will review map prior to deployment**

LOGISTICS - TALLY SHEET

- ▶ Gender
- ▶ Age
- ▶ Family status
- ▶ Encampments
- ▶ Vehicles
- ▶ Abandoned Buildings

LOGISTICS - SAFETY

- ▶ Be safe and do not take any risks
- ▶ Do NOT approach individuals and ask them if they are homeless Observe and tally only
- ▶ Stay with your teammate
- ▶ Be respectful of those you are counting
- ▶ Call your Deployment Center Captain if you have a problems or questions
- ▶ Call 911 if you have a true emergency

LOGISTICS -PREPARATION

- ▶ Wear comfortable shoes and clothes
- ▶ Dress warmly – wear a jacket/sweatshirt/ raincoat, gloves, hat, etc
- ▶ Bring a car (if possible). If driving, have gas & paperwork
- ▶ Bring a cell phone
- ▶ Bring a flash light
- ▶ We will go rain or shine so bring an umbrella if it rains
- ▶ Get plenty of rest the night before

NEXT STEPS

- ▶ You will be updated via email with any new information and more specific details about the count
- ▶ Please contact the 2015 Homeless PIT Count Hotline if you have any questions:

(877)728-4545
- ▶ If you have questions regarding the methodology, data or media contacts please email:

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THANK YOU
