2023
Point-in-Time Count
Planning for Communities

January 4, 2023

Webinar Information

All participants
lines are muted.

Use the chat
feature to submit
questions. You
can also
unmute to ask
questions.

This webinar
will be posted
to COHHIO’s
website.

This webinar is
being recorded.
Purpose of this Webinar

Discuss planning, process, and tools for local Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts

Provide information and updates relevant to the 2023 PIT Count
Agenda

• Purpose & Importance of Point-in-Time Count
• PIT Planning Components
• Counting Us App
• Survey Tools
• Volunteer Training & Safety
• Timeline
• Questions
Purpose & Importance of PIT Count

• Provides data about homelessness
• That data is used throughout the year for many important purposes:
  • HUD uses PIT data to inform Congress about homelessness
    • Congress then sets budget to provide federal funding assistance
  • CoC funding competition
    • Which in turn effects how much federal funding a community receives for homeless assistance
  • Helps community form data driven approach to ending homelessness and applying for local grants
  • Educates public and stakeholders
    • It’s extremely difficult to advocate for affordable housing and assistance to help the homeless without adequate and accurate data
  • Provides community a chance to do homeless outreach
    • Our CoC, in particular, has very minimal street outreach. So this is an extremely important opportunity
  • PIT data (along with HMIS data) is used to do a semi-annual needs assessment
    • Which determines our priority regions for funding
  • PIT counts are especially important with non-HMIS participating projects because this is the only data we collect about those being served in those projects
    • Which, again, provides insight into the CoC needs analysis
  • The PIT count is critical to effective planning and performance management toward the goal of ending homelessness in each community and for the nation as a whole.
  • The PIT count is the main national data source and it helps identify where progress is being made and where further efforts are required
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PIT Count Planning

Identify PIT Coordinating Committee Members
- HIC/PIT County Contact
- Homeless Adult, Youth, or Veteran
- Domestic Violence Survivor
- Volunteers from Homeless Service Providers
- Outreach Team Members
- Mental Health Providers
- Police
Incentives

Identify possible sources for incentives to give those experiencing homelessness:

• Restaurants
• Walmart/Target/Kmart
• Convenience Shops
• Churches
• Shelters

If incentives are secured...

• Make note of the donation
• Make someone responsible for obtaining them
• Procure incentives before the Count
• Identify places for volunteers to access them

Develop Volunteer Recruitment & Deployment Plan

Designate

• Command Center
  Where do the volunteers train?
• Staging Area
  Where do the volunteers meet?
• Communication Plan
  Who will answer what questions?
  Where do you send people that need immediate assistance?
2023 PIT Count Date/Time:

- 8:00 pm Jan 24
- overnight
- 6:00 am Jan 25

No earlier than 8:00 pm!
No later than 6:00 am!

PIT Count Overview

Sheltered Count:
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Persons residing in hotels/motels (paid for by public or private organizations for purposes of providing emergency shelter)
- Extreme weather shelters/cold shelters

*There is a Sheltered Count for HMIS Participating and Non-HMIS Participating providers*
PIT Count Overview

Unsheltered Count:

Persons who, on the night of the count, are living in a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. This includes persons staying in cars, encampments, or abandoned buildings, etc.

*AND must be located in a designated high or low census tract

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Street Count

Sending enumerators to specified locations to interview individuals/households sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation:
* These locations will be very specific U.S. Census tracts
* No unsheltered surveys area outside of the specific census tracts area's will be included in the PIT count
Geographic Based Sampling Approach

If sampling is done accurately, both these methods can produce accurate estimates of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

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2023 PIT Count Collection App

All Ohio BoSCoC communities MUST use the free data collection app or web application “Counting Us”. Specifically, those who need to enter data in the app would be:

• Those required to do Unsheltered Count
  • Non-HMIS participating Shelters

Important Points:
- No need to buy any new equipment
- No need to hand your device to anyone you’re surveying
  - Download the app now!
- The areas that will be required to be canvassed for the unsheltered count are very specific and detailed down to census tracts
- Ohio BoS staff will reach out directly to county contacts in the areas required to do an unsheltered PIT Count with more details and maps
- We very strongly encourage providers to use the Counting Us App for all data entry
- If for whatever reason you must use paper forms, be sure to collect exact addresses of where the person is staying
2023 PIT Count App: Getting Started

1. Download and Access Counting Us for data entry:
   • Web Version - https://counting.us/
   • iPhone & Android app downloaded from your app store
     Search for “Counting Us”

2. Register yourself and create account by clicking:
   - Register
   - Submit Registration

3. You are now ready to login
   - Login

2023 PIT Count App: Forgot Login

Enter your name, email, cell phone number, create a password, and hit Submit Registration.

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio | 175 S. Third St. Suite 580 Columbus, OH 43215
2023 PIT Count App: Getting Started

Change Count

Join New Count

Join a Count

Enter the Setup Key provided by your regional count administrator.

OHBoS2023

Joint Count

Setup Key: OHBoS2023
2023 PIT Count App: Required Census Tracts

Sampling Setup:
- Over 600 Known Locations surveys submitted
  - ~400 submitted last year
- To narrow down our sampling, we used Locations with a minimum of 3 people
- This brought us to 107 High Probability areas
- Added a random sample of 148 low-probability areas to get 255 census tracts that must be canvassed for the unsheltered count
  - 99% confidence interval
2023 PIT Count App: Required Census Tracts

Counties that DO NOT have to do an unsheltered count:
1. Adams
2. Darke
3. Hardin
4. Harrison
5. Logan
6. Morgan
7. Noble
8. Paulding
9. Putnam
10. Sandusky
11. Seneca
12. Shelby
13. Wyandot

Demo of how to find census tracts:

-Clermont county
2023 PIT Count App: Demo

https://counting.us/

Scenario #1:
• You are an enumerator in a designated/required area
• The PIT Count Lead directs you to go do outreach between 3rd Street and High Street
• While out, you encounter:

BB
• Sleeping on park bench
• 58 year old male (11/12/64)
• First time homeless
• Has a mental disability

Scenario #2:
• You are a data administer at Safety Promise Shelter
• Safety Promise Shelter is non-HMIS Participating
• You have a the following client that needs counted:

HH
• Safety Promise Shelter
• 58 year old female (11/12/64)
• Experienced homelessness before
• Has a physical disability
2023 PIT Count App: Important Reminders

https://counting.us/

- If you want to enter data, always answer “No” to the first question “Have you already been interviewed today for the PIT”?
- Answer as many demographic questions as possible
- If you don’t see any required census tracts highlighted for the county you plan to do outreach in, email hannahbasting@cohhio.org

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PIT Count Collection Tools

Sheltered

Unsheltered

Service-Based Count Form

- Not required
- Communities must contact COHPIO of intent to hold service-based
- Service-based count specific information will be provided during PIT Open Office Hours on 1/17
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Volunteer Training

• Create training
• Publicize training dates for volunteers
• Send emails, texts, etc. to get info to volunteers
  • Express the need to attend
  • How they can attend
  • Time commitment involved
• Conduct training
  • Document training attendance
Volunteer Training - Street Count

• Build rapport (make eye contact, be welcoming, etc)
• If they are sitting, kneel or sit at their level
• Do not shine light in their face
• Be cognizant of body language
  • Avoid crossing arms
  • Leaning back
  • Frowning
• Be respectful
• Social distance (stay 6ft apart)
• Wear PPE yourself, and offer to anyone being counted (if able)

Volunteer Training
How to Ask Questions

• Try to start conversation casually, not scripted.
• For unsheltered, please remember:
  • When encountering unsheltered homeless on the night of the PIT Count, always offer them a shelter bed or stay in a hotel/motel, if available
  • Collect detailed contact information so that you can follow up and offer housing assistance where person is eligible and desires assistance
  • Any time unsheltered families with children are encountered, you MUST offer shelter, if available
• Ensure that volunteers are comfortable asking questions and know why they are asking survey questions
### Volunteer Training – General Safety

- Stay with assigned team in assigned area
- Carry a cell phone
- Dress warm and comfortably
- Follow traffic laws
- Trust your instincts
- Don’t enter abandoned buildings (unless instructed otherwise)
- Leave a situation if you and your team are not comfortable
  - If person becomes hostile or threatened, apologize and leave
  - Record in Unsheltered Observation Form
- Announce yourselves when approaching

### Volunteer Training – COVID Safety

- Staff and volunteers are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated prior to the PIT night
- Stay at home if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19
  - If possible, get tested for COVID-19 prior to participating in the count
- Ask all volunteers to bring masks and wear them during any PIT count activities
  - Agencies should provide extra masks if able to do so
    - Work with local health department to assist in coordinating a safe count
- Practice 6ft social distancing at all times
  - Small count teams (two or three volunteers per team)
  - Keep 6ft away from anyone being interviewed on the night of the count
What the CoC is doing to help ensure a safe count:

- Mobile app
- Sampling approach
- Available to provide technical assistance

Volunteer Training – COVID Safety

- Attempt to recruit volunteers who are not at high risk of contracting COVID-19
  - If this is not possible, try to delegate low-risk tasks
  - Work with colleges and universities to recruit volunteers
- Conduct all training remotely/virtually
  - If you need assistance with technology and setup, contact hannahbasting@cohhio.org
  - Partner with local health department and health care providers

Volunteer Training – COVID Safety

Post PIT Follow-Up

• Provide feedback to volunteers via:
  • Certificates
  • Thank you emails
  • Closing event
  • Or other
• Hold a virtual debriefing meeting with PIT Coordinators.
• Providers should also follow-up with newly identified persons experiencing homelessness.

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### 2023 Timeline

**Sheltered PIT Count for HMIS Participating Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Task Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 20, 2023</strong></td>
<td>Check data quality in Rme for issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>by January 23, 2023</strong> (before the PIT Count)</td>
<td>Make sure entry/exits dates have been entered for all clients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>by January 26, 2023</strong> (after the PIT Count)</td>
<td>Again, check to make sure entry/exit dates have been entered for all clients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 8, 2023</strong></td>
<td>COHHIO HMIS staff will pull reports for sheltered PIT data for January 24.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### 2023 Timeline

**Sheltered PIT Count for Non-HMIS Participating Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Task Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 2, 2022 - January 24, 2023</strong></td>
<td>Providers download Counting Us app, and participate in any training and technical assistance regarding use of app</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 24 – 25, 2022</strong></td>
<td>Providers collect information on every client who stayed in their program on the night of January 24, and enter into Counting Us app</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2023 Timeline
Unsheltered PIT Count

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 15, 2022</td>
<td>Known Locations surveys submitted in Counting Us app</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 4, 2023</td>
<td>Map of high/low probability census tracts made available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2022 - January 24, 2023</td>
<td>Select communities organize PIT Count, download Counting Us app, and participate in any additional training and technical assistance regarding use of app.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 24, 2023 - January 25, 2023</td>
<td>Select communities conduct Street Count.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25, 2023 – January 31, 2023</td>
<td>Communities wishing to conduct service-based count (and who have notified COHHIO in advance) collect data on those experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of 1/24/23, and who slept in a high/low probability census tract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By February 7, 2023</td>
<td>All PIT data must be entered into the Counting Us app</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Information

HIC/PIT Correspondence
ohioboscoc@cohgio.org

HMIS Correspondence
hmis@cohgio.org
Questions?

Thank you!