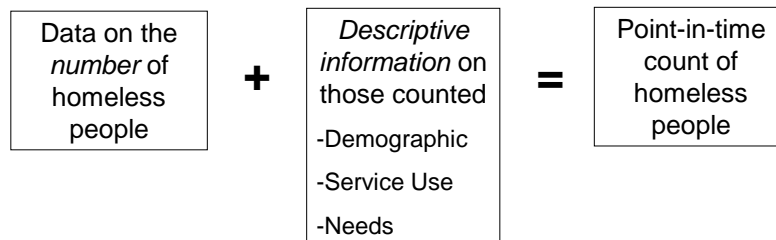


2010 Point-in-Time Count

December 14, 2009

What Does It Mean to Count Homeless People?

- A “count” = collecting information about the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population in your community



- It is possible just to do a count, but preferable to gather descriptive information, too – it will make your count much more valuable and informative!

Benefits of Accurate Data on Homelessness

Communities need accurate data to:

- Determine the size and scope of homelessness at the local level
- Plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs
- Measure progress in addressing homelessness

HUD needs data to:

- Understand the extent and nature of homelessness throughout the country
- Provide Congress and OMB with information on services provided, gaps in service, and performance
- Inform funding decisions

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HUD Point-in-Time Count Requirements

- Conduct counts at least every other year; annual counts are encouraged *****NC BoS require annual count*****
- One-night count must occur during last seven calendar days in January
- Must collect information about chronic homelessness from all homeless people
- PIT counts must be based on reliable methods, not guesstimates

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When to Count Homeless Persons

Jan 27th, 2010 - the night of the North Carolina Count

- Time period for data collection
 - Street count
 - 24 hours or less – typically involves a 'blitz'
 - More than 24 hours – generally service-based
 - Sheltered count
 - Count people in the program on the night of the count
 - Collect bed information for eHIC

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When to Count Homeless Persons (cont.)

- The longer the time period for data collection, the greater the chance for duplicate counting
 - Information collected with interviews helps reduce the chance for counting people more than once
- Always ask about homelessness on the night designated for the point-in-time count
 - If data collection lasts longer than a few hours or into the following day, ask if the person was homeless on the night of the point-in-time count and where he or she slept

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When to Count Review

- Count will take place statewide on January 27th
- 24 hour count, beginning at 6pm on January 27th and ending at 6pm on January 28th
- Sheltered count to take place on the night of the 27th. All interviews on the 28th should ask: "Where did you sleep last night?"
- In addition to your community's manual count, CHIN will conduct a count using HMIS.

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HUD's New Housing Status Categories

Housing Status	Situational Characteristics
Literally Homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying in emergency shelter or transitional housing, including hotel or motel voucher paid for by a social service or charitable organization, OR • Staying in place not meant for human habitation (e.g. streets, parks, and abandoned buildings), OR • Leaving current housing or institutional setting and has no safe, non-emergency housing to stay in tonight, AND • Lack the resources and support networks needed to maintain or obtain safe, non-emergency housing tonight
Imminently Homeless: Housed and at imminent risk of losing housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently housed and being evicted, being asked to leave, or need to leave for other reason (e.g. health/safety concerns, unaffordable rent, institutional discharge, host family/friend risk, family conflict, etc.) AND • Expected to lose their housing within one week (7 days), AND • Lacking the resources and support networks needed to maintain or obtain housing
Precariously Housed: Housed and at-risk of losing housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently housed and potentially at-risk of losing housing due to eviction, being asked to leave, or need to leave for other reason (e.g. health/safety concerns, unaffordable rent, service termination, host family/friend risk, family conflict, etc.) AND • May or may not have resources and support networks needed to maintain or obtain housing

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Counting and Reporting – Sheltered PIT Count

- For HUD purposes, count and report:
 - People residing in emergency shelter and transitional housing
 - Include:
 - Domestic violence shelters
 - Residential programs for runaway / homeless youth
 - Hotel, motel, or apartment vouchers paid for by a public or private agency because the individual or family is homeless

**Formerly homeless persons living in permanent supportive housing (SHP, SRO, or S+C permanent housing) are NOT counted as homeless, but we ARE taking a count of them.

In 2008, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) PIT counts were required in the eHIC.

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Counting and Reporting – Sheltered PIT Count (cont.)

- For HUD, do not report:
 - Individuals living in doubled-up situations
 - Children or youth who are temporarily residing in institutions due to a parent's homelessness or abandonment (i.e. emergency foster care, treatment facilities)
 - Adults living in mental health, chemical dependency, or criminal justice facilities
- Although not required for HUD, this information may be useful for local purposes

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Forms to Use

- Sheltered Count Form
- Unsheltered Count Form
- Demographic & Needs Survey
- Point-in-Time Count Reporting Form
- Housed & At Risk of Homelessness Count Form

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Sheltered Count Form

- Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Seasonal Beds,
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Includes bed information for the eHIC
- Includes household and subpopulation required by HUD
- Note change in Chronic Homeless field
- All BoS agencies should return to NCCEH
- All other CoCs should coordinate collection at local level

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North Carolina's Homeless Demographic & Needs Survey

- Used for BOTH Sheltered and Unsheltered Count
 - Used to gather subpopulation data
 - Should be compiled at local level (excel document will be available on our website)
 - You may edit the survey to suit your community's needs.
 - For ease of use, print on front and back of one page
- This form may be used for interviewing persons during your count. The information gathered by using this form will help you complete the CoC application, as well as inform your community's planning process. These forms do not need to be turned back in to the state.

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Unsheltered Count Form & Survey

- Unsheltered Count Form
 - Used as a tally sheet for staff & volunteers conducting unsheltered count (both street & service-based)
 - Collected by local coordinator
 - Balance of State: report via excel spreadsheet Due: Feb. 5th. Each regional committee must designate lead coordinator.
- North Carolina's Homeless Demographic & Needs Survey
 - As described in Sheltered count
 - Gathers information for required subpopulation info AND to help your community assess needs

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NC's State PIT Reporting Form

- One completed form from each CoC should be turned in to NCCEH by Wednesday, February 10th.
- Note change in chronic homeless fields

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Housed & At-Risk of Homelessness

- New form to capture HUD's new housing status categories
- NOT Required, but may be helpful as you plan new prevention services
- Imminently Homeless: Housed and at imminent risk of losing housing (will be homeless within seven days)
- Precariously Housed: Housed and at-risk of losing housing

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Methods for Counting Unsheltered Homeless Persons

1. Simple street count with observation
 - No interviews – enumerators record observations of people
2. Street count plus interviews
3. Service-based count
 - Interviews at non-shelter service locations that unsheltered homeless people rely on to survive – soup kitchens or food bank, drop-in centers, healthcare centers, emergency rooms

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Counting and Reporting – Unsheltered PIT Count

- Report only the number of unsheltered people actually counted during the point-in-time count
- Can use statistical sampling and extrapolation to estimate unsheltered homeless population, but must use reliable methods
 - Probably need to consult an expert
- Do not use unscientific adjustment factors or multipliers

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Frequently Asked Questions from CoCs

- When do CoCs need to conduct their point-in-time count of homeless persons?
 - Last seven (7) calendar days in January.
- Can someone who will be evicted from their home within one week of the point-in-time count be considered literally homeless?
 - No, this person is precariously housed.

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Frequently Asked Questions from CoCs

- Should a person who is temporarily in an institution (jail, hospital, mental health, or drug and alcohol facility) be counted as literally homeless?
 - No, this person is precariously housed according to HUD's definition. However, many communities find this type of information very important for program planning, particularly discharge and prevention planning.
- Can a person living in transitional housing be counted as chronically homeless?
 - No. By definition, someone who is chronically homeless is either living in emergency shelter or on the street.

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Due Dates

- All Balance of State communities: Wednesday, February 3rd
 - Unsheltered Count totals- one per community
 - Sheltered Count Template- one per agency
 - Any House & At-Risk Counts
- All other Continua: Wednesday, February 10th
 - NC's State PIT Reporting Form
 - Any Housed & At-Risk Counts

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Additional Resources

- Revised HUD documents
 - A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People
 - A Guide to Counting Sheltered Homeless People
 - National Alliance to End Homelessness: Call on Counting in Rural Communities
- PIT Technical Assistance
data@ncceh.org (919) 755-4393

All resources: www.ncceh.org/pointintimehowto

2010 Forms to download: www.ncceh.org/2010PIT

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