

Methodology for CO-504 - Colorado Springs/El Paso County CoC

Sheltered Population Total

1. What data source(s) was used to produce the total number of people included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing) on the night of the count?

- HMIS Data
- Provider survey(s)
- Provider interview(s)

2. Were you able to collect information about the number of people being sheltered on the night of the count from all emergency shelters, Safe Havens, and transitional housing projects listed on your HIC or only some?

- All providers gave the required information

4. What method(s) were used to obtain the highest quality count of your sheltered population?

- Reviewed HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting a PIT count
- Ensured HMIS data was reviewed and complied with data quality standards (e.g., complete and up-to-date demographic data, such as gender)
- Written instructions to providers
- Written instructions to interviewers
- Trained providers on the data collection requirements/forms
- Trained interviewers on the data collection requirements/forms
- Reminded/followed-up with providers about the count to maximize participation
- Compared the counts to other internal data sources and resolved inconsistencies

3. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the count of the total number of people included in the sheltered population?

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)

- Compared the counts to last year's counts and explained the changes

5. Did your approach to collecting PIT counts of sheltered populations differ from your approach to collecting PIT counts of sheltered subpopulations?

No

Sheltered Subpopulation

6. What data source(s) was used to produce the demographic and subpopulation included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing) on the night of the count?

- HMIS Data
- Provider survey(s)
- Provider interview(s)

7. Were you able to collect information about the demographic and subpopulation characteristics of all sheltered people or only some?

- All sheltered people

8. What method(s) were used to obtain the highest quality demographic and subpopulation information about your sheltered population?

- Reviewed HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting a PIT count
- Written instructions to providers
- Written instructions to interviewers
- Trained providers on the data collection requirements/forms
- Trained interviewers on the data collection requirements/forms
- Reminded/followed-up with providers about the count to maximize participation
- Compared the counts to other internal data sources and resolved inconsistencies
- Compared the counts to last year's counts and explained the changes

Unsheltered Population

9. What approach was used to count the total number of people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count?

- "Post-night of the count" surveys within 7 days following the PIT count night (e.g., "service-based count" at locations where people who are homeless go for assistance)

10. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the total count of people in the unsheltered population?

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)

11. What information or method(s) was used to produce an unduplicated total count of homeless people across your sheltered and unsheltered populations?

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)

12. What method(s) were used to obtain the highest quality count of total unsheltered people in your unsheltered population?

- Reviewed HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting an unsheltered count
- Written instructions to canvassers
- Trained canvassers on the data collection requirements/forms/process
- Developed maps and/or used Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to support the count
- Reminded/followed-up with canvassers about the count to maximize participation
- Included formerly homeless people to support the count
- Compared the count to other internal data sources and resolved inconsistencies
- Compared the count to last year's count and explained the changes

13. Did your approach to collecting the total count of unsheltered people differ from your approach to collecting demographic and subpopulations data about unsheltered people?

No

Unsheltered Subpopulations

14. What approach was used to collect demographic and subpopulation data about unsheltered people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count?

- Surveys/interviews of people identified within 7 days following the night of the PIT count night who may have been unsheltered on the night of the PIT count (e.g., “service-based” surveys at locations where people who are homeless go for assistance)

15. Were all people who were encountered during canvassing on the night of the count or during post night of the count PIT activities asked to complete a survey/interview?

- All people encountered were surveyed

16. What method(s) were used to obtain the highest quality demographic and subpopulation data on unsheltered people included in your unsheltered subpopulations?

- Reviewed HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting an unsheltered count
- Written instructions to canvassers
- Trained canvassers on the data collection requirements/forms/process
- Included formerly homeless people to support the count
- Compared the count to other internal data sources and resolved inconsistencies
- Compared the count to last year’s count and explained the changes

Annual Comparison

17. When compared to last year, please indicate whether the sheltered and unsheltered count increased, decreased, or stayed the same. Describe the specific factors that may have resulted in the increase, decrease, or no change.

17a. Compared to last year, the 2015 sheltered count:

- Decreased

Explain:

The 2014 PIT count had a total of 950 people sheltered - 443 in ES and 507 in TH. In 2015 that count decreased to 830 people sheltered - 496 in ES and 334 in TH. We had an increase in available Winter Shelter beds this year, and the more vulnerable clients who normally go unsheltered were able to stay at the Winter Shelter since there are lower barriers than many of the housing programs. This explains decrease in unsheltered persons from 2014. We had a decrease in TH beds this year due to one of the TH programs working through contract issues at the end of 2015 beginning of 2015. Those beds are now available again and by next PIT/HIC they will be used and counted. We also had a voluntary non-HUD funded TH program that did not report PIT or HIC numbers this year and was not reserving beds for homeless clients.

17b. Compared to last year, the 2015 unsheltered count:

- Decreased

Explain:

There were more Winter Shelter beds available in our community this year explaining the decrease in unsheltered people on the night of the PIT. The Winter Shelter beds were not limited to cold weather nights this year, and were instead available each night from November 1, 2014 April 15, 2015. There were lower restrictions and barriers placed on these beds compared to other Emergency shelters making the beds more accessible for homeless clients, which in turn explains the decrease in unsheltered people.

