

# Methodology for PA-500 - Philadelphia 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? Please indicate the percentage of the PIT count derived from each of the sources. (If a source was not used, please enter zero).**

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| HMIS Data              | 75%         |
| Provider-level surveys | 25%         |
| Client-level surveys   | 0%          |
| Observation            | 0%          |
| Other                  | 0%          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>100%</b> |

**2. Was the CoC 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 the HIC or only some? listed on your HIC or only some?**

- Complete census count

**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
- Blitz count of persons in shelters (i.e., count occurred at same time to avoid double counting)

## Sheltered Subpopulation

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

- HMIS Data
- Provider-level surveys

**5. Was the CoC able to collect information about the demographic and subpopulation characteristics of all sheltered people or only some?**

- All sheltered people

**6. Looking at the change in your sheltered count from last year's count, please choose up to three reasons that best explains these changes from the drop down list below.**

- Change in emergency shelter capacity
- Change in transitional housing capacity
- Change in rapid re-housing capacity

**Please provide a brief description of these specific factors (500 word limit):**

Compared to last year's Point-in-Time Count, this year's Sheltered Count increased by 1% (55 persons), primarily due to changes in the capacity of emergency shelter, transitional housing and rapid rehousing projects within the CoC.

-The number persons in households without children in emergency shelter increased by 17% (321 persons). This change is the result of implementing new emergency shelter projects to serve persons formally residing in the Kensington encampments that were closed, and intended to provide support for persons experiencing homelessness suffering from Opioid addiction. This increase in persons served in household without children offsets both the decreases in households with children (11%, or 166 persons) and child only households (-10 persons) in emergency shelter.

- In transitional housing, the number of persons in households with children decreased by 7% (52 persons) and in households without children by 15% (50 persons). This is due to several transitional housing projects closing in 2018. No new transitional housing projects were introduced in 2018.

-The total persons in safe haven projects remained consistent with the previous PIT Count, only increasing by 5% (12 persons).

- The total number of chronically homeless persons increased dramatically, primarily due to the number of persons in households without children. This is likely due to several factors, including adding new emergency shelter projects serving the persons dedicated to serving those experiencing opioid-driven homelessness, and relying more heavily on data from HMIS for this year's PIT Count than previously.

## **Unsheltered Population**

**7. What approach(es) was used to count the total number of people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count. (select all that were used)**

- "Night of the count" - complete census

**7a. Were certain areas within the CoC geography specifically excluded because the CoC had reason to believe there were no unsheltered people in those areas?**

No

**7c. In areas that were canvassed, did the CoC count all unsheltered people in those areas or a sample of people?**

- All people encountered during the count

**8. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the total count of people in the unsheltered population? (Check all that apply)**

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number

- Blitz count of unsheltered people (i.e., canvassing of different areas occurred at same time to avoid double counting)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

## **Unsheltered Subpopulations**

### **9. What approach(es) 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 as unsheltered on the night of the PIT count
- Surveys/interviews of people identified as unsheltered on the night of the count, but completed at a later date

### **10. 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?**

- A subset of people was surveyed

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

- Blitz count of unsheltered people (i.e., sheltered and unsheltered counts occurred at same time to avoid double counting)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

### **12. Looking at the change in your unsheltered count from last year's count, please choose up to three reasons that best explains these changes from the drop down list below**

- Change in emergency shelter capacity
- Other:

**10a. How did the CoC select those people?**

- People were not selected randomly, and the selection was driven by practicality or expediency (e.g., people willing and able to complete a survey on the night of the PIT count)

**10b. Did the CoC adjust the information in some way (e.g., statistical adjustment or extrapolation) to account for all persons in all projects?**

Yes

**Please provide a brief description of these specific factors (500 word limit):**

Compared to last year's Point-in-Time Count, this year's unsheltered Count decreased by 10% (110 persons), most likely due to efforts addressing the Opioid Crisis in Philadelphia. More specifically, the closing of several encampments during the Winter, accompanied by increases in outreach efforts, and the increased amount of emergency shelter projects made available.

Last year's unsheltered count included 3 projects whose participants were reported as unsheltered. In this year's count, these projects' participants were included in the sheltered count.

At the 30th Street Transit Station, 77 less individuals were counted than the previous year. We believe that this decrease is due to the fact that Amtrak police have recently been closing the station to homeless individuals and asking them to move along, most likely scattering these individuals.