

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	80%
Provider-level surveys	20%
Client-level surveys	0%
Observation	0%
Other	0%
Total	100%

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
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)
- 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 economic conditions (employment rate, etc.)
- Weather

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

Adjusted capacities were in effect for most of the emergency shelters for de-densification in congregate settings. With the global pandemic causing shutdowns in economies across the world, there were changes in economic conditions that may have contributed to the lack of growth in income among our participants. On the night of the PIT count, there was also a Code Blue called due to wind chills below 20 degrees, that may have allocated more winter initiative bed resources to those contact by outreach.

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" - known locations

- Service-based count

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 count, but completed at a later date
- Other:

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?

- N/A

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 PIT count methodology
- Change in emergency shelter capacity
- Weather

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

This year, in response to the pandemic, OHS utilized a hybrid model to conduct the 2021 Point-in-Time (PIT) count. Based on CDC, local, and HUD COVID-19 guidelines, the count had limited physical interaction to ensure the health and safety of all participants. This hybrid model included an observational count, canvassing by foot in Kensington and in Center City, plus eight Come and Be Counted sites and a TeleCount, all of which covered the entire city of Philadelphia. A modified survey was administered to all participants at the eight Come and Be Count sites and the TeleCount. This survey and the hybrid model were approved by HUD for Philadelphia's 2021 PIT count. In addition, due to Covid-19, in accordance with CDC, local and HUD Covid-19 guidelines OHS did not survey emergency rooms in local hospitals.

Note: On the night of the count, a Code Blue was called in anticipation of wind chills below 20°F. The low temperature for the night was 28°F with wind chill of 16°F.

Modified survey, waiver received to not collect subpopulation information.

