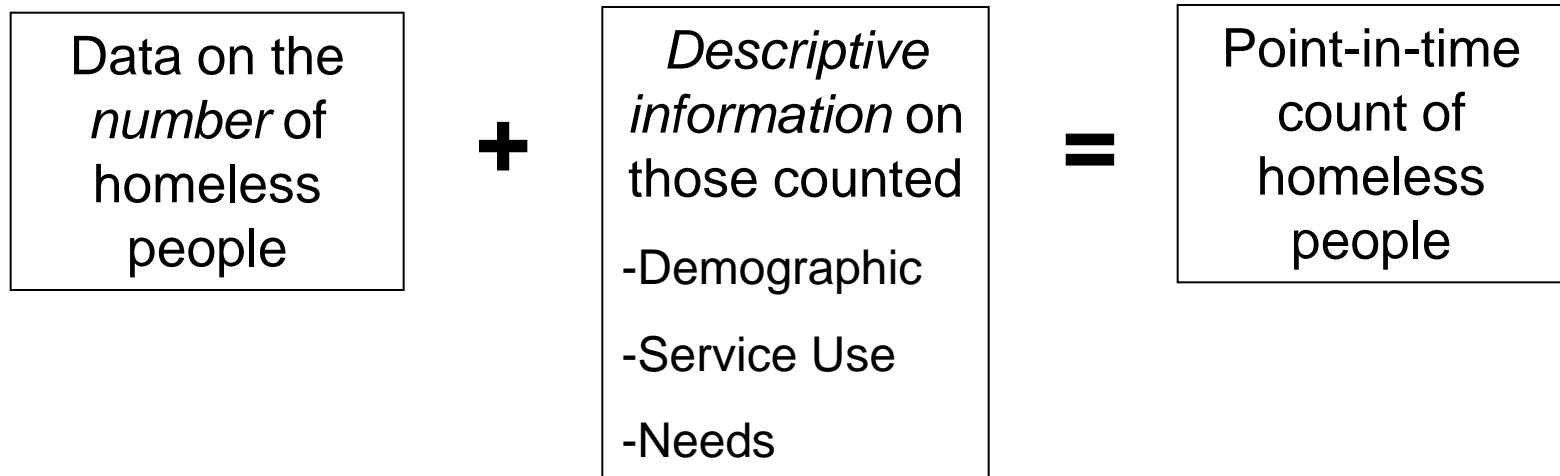


2011 NC Point-in-Time Count Training

January 12, 2011

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

HUD Point-in-Time Count Requirements

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

When to Count Homeless Persons

The NC Count is the night of **Wednesday, Jan. 26th, 2011**

— Time period for data collection:

- Unsheltered count
 - Street count – typically involves a ‘blitz’ on the night of the PIT
 - Services-based count – can be conducted up to 2 weeks after the night of the PIT
- Sheltered count
 - Count people in the program on the night of the count (emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing)
 - Collect bed inventory information for eHIC

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 the person “Where did you sleep the night of January 26th?”

When to Count: Review

- Count will take place statewide on January 26th
- 24 hour count, beginning at 6pm on January 26th and ending at 6pm on January 27th
- Sheltered count to take place on the night of the 26th. All interviews on the 27th should ask: "Where did you sleep last night?"
- In addition to your community's manual count, CHIN will conduct a count using HMIS.

Who Is Homeless?

- To be counted in the PIT, a person must be **literally homeless** according to HUD's definition.
- This means on the night of the PIT, they are:
 - Residing in emergency shelter, including domestic violence shelter;
 - Residing in transitional housing;
 - Residing in a place not meant for human habitation, such as an abandoned building, car, park, sidewalk, or street

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 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-PH, SRO, S+C, or HUD-VASH permanent housing) are NOT counted as homeless, but we ARE taking a count of them. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) PIT counts are required in the eHIC.

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 in hospitals, mental health, chemical dependency, or criminal justice facilities on the night of the count
- Although not required for HUD, this information may be useful for local purposes

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, HUD-approved methods
 - Must consult a statistician or other expert
- **Do not** use unscientific adjustment factors or multipliers

Unsheltered PIT Count (con't.)

Methods of counting unsheltered homeless persons:

1. Simple street count with observation

- No interviews – enumerators record observations of people

2. Street count plus interviews

3. Services-based count

- Interviews at non-shelter service locations that unsheltered homeless people rely on – soup kitchens or food banks, drop-in centers, healthcare centers, emergency rooms

New in 2011

New Household category: Households of Only Children

- Households in which every person is under the age of 18
 - Unaccompanied children under 18
 - Teenage parents and their children
 - Adolescent siblings without parents present

New: Chronically Homeless Families

- Definition of chronically homeless expanded to include families
 - Family with at least one adult member (18 or older) who has a disabling condition AND who has either been continuously homeless for a year OR has had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years

New in 2011

HUD is requiring a count of homeless veterans

- NC has always counted this information
- Veteran = person who served in active duty in the US armed forces (not inactive military reserves or National Guard unless the person was called to active duty)

“Unaccompanied Youth” now “Unaccompanied Children”

- Only a change in terminology
- Definition remains the same:
 - A person under the age of 18 whose parents are **not** present with them on the night of the count

Forms to Use

- Sheltered Count Form
 - For Emergency & Seasonal Shelters, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing programs
- Unsheltered Count Form
 - For street/services-based counts of unsheltered persons
- Demographic & Needs Survey
- State Reporting Form
 - For CoC leadership to report totals to NCCEH

Sheltered Count Form

- Use for Emergency Shelter/Seasonal Shelter, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Fill out one form per program
- All Balance of State agencies: return form to NCCEH
- All other CoCs should coordinate collection at local level

Sheltered Count Form (con't.)

- Bed Inventory

- Record the total number of beds in the program (not just those used on the night of the PIT)
 - Exception: hotel/motel beds – only count beds in use

- Bed Types:

- Beds for singles vs. beds for families
- Hotel/motel: paid for by agency **because** person is homeless
- Overflow: available on ad hoc basis when “regular” beds are full
- Seasonal: open during high-demand months (record dates open)

Sheltered Count Form (con't.)

- Sheltered Count

- Record people in 3 household types – with children, without children, only children
- Record chronically homeless individuals AND persons in chronically homeless families
- Record subpopulation information (veterans, DV, mentally ill, substance abuse, unaccompanied children)
- Record discharge information from systems
- Definitions of key terms are on the second page

Unsheltered Count Form

- Use for street and services-based counts of unsheltered homeless people
 - Unsheltered = residing in a place not meant for human habitation on the night of the count (car, abandoned building, park, sidewalk, the streets)
- Balance of State communities: return form to local PIT coordinator (or NCCEH if no coordinator)
- All other CoCs should coordinate collection at local level

Unsheltered Count Form

- Unsheltered Count

- Record people in 3 household types – with children, without children, only children
- Record chronically homeless individuals AND families
- Record subpopulation information (veterans, DV, mentally ill, substance abuse, unaccompanied children)
- Record discharge information from systems
- Definitions of key terms on the second page

NC Homeless Demographic & Needs Survey

- Use for BOTH Sheltered and Unsheltered Count
 - Gathers information for required subpopulation info AND to help your community assess needs
 - Should be compiled at local level
 - You may edit the survey to suit your community's needs
- 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 NCCEH.

State Reporting Form

- CoC leadership should use this form to report the total homeless count from their community.
- Note changes: Chronically Homeless Families, Households of Only Children
- Forms are due to NCCEH by Friday, February 11th.

Frequently Asked Questions from CoCs

- A woman in my shelter has children, but they are not at the shelter with her. Do I record the woman under households with children or households without children?
 - Households without children. The children must be present with the adult to count as a household with children.
- Can someone who is doubled-up (staying with friends or family) be counted as homeless?
 - No. Under HEARTH, HUD's definition of homeless will expand to include doubled-up situations, but this change has not gone into effect yet.

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, and should not be counted as homeless. However, many communities find this type of information very important for program planning, particularly discharge and prevention planning.
- 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.

Due Dates to Return Forms to NCCEH

- All Balance of State communities: Friday, February 4th
 - Unsheltered Count Form - one per community
 - Sheltered Count Form - one per agency
- All other CoCs: Friday, February 11th
 - State Reporting Form
 - Email: data@ncceh.org
 - Fax: 888-742-3465

Additional Resources

- All resources: www.ncceh.org/pointintimehowto
 - Includes HUD documents
 - A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People
 - A Guide to Counting Sheltered Homeless People
- Download 2011 PIT Forms: www.ncceh.org/2011PIT
 - Be sure to use the FINAL versions – do not fill out a form that says “SAMPLE” on it
- PIT Technical Assistance
data@ncceh.org (919) 755-4393