2013 COC POINT-IN-TIME COUNT TRAINING
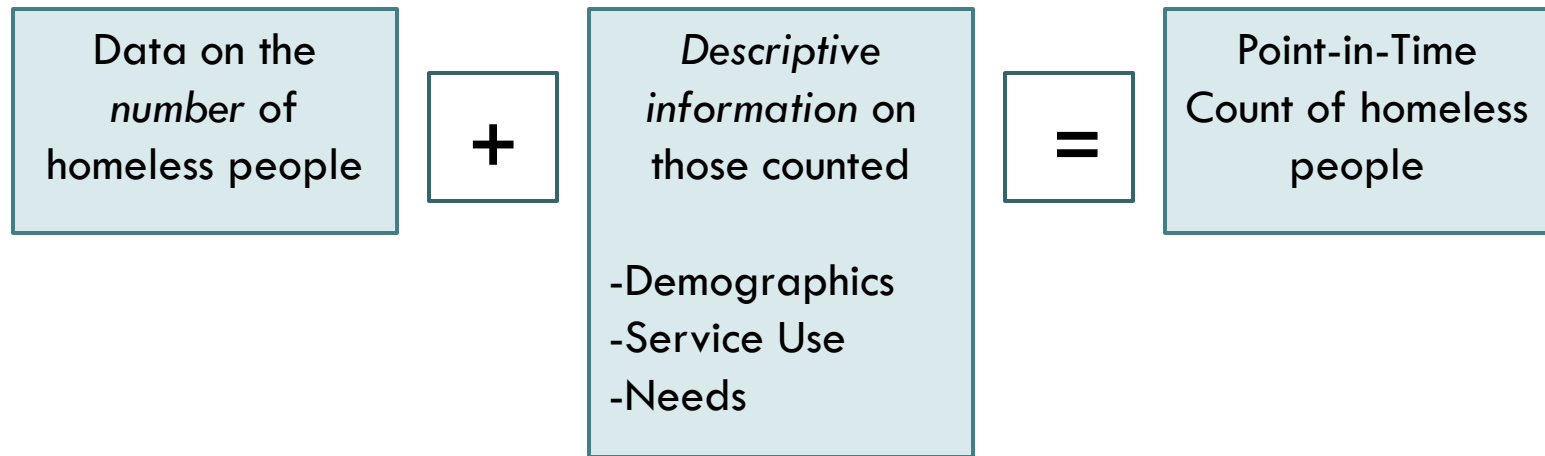
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

Welcome

- Reminders:
  - 4* to mute/unmute line
    - Please mute your line to cut down on background noise.

  - If your phone plays music while on hold, please do not put us on hold during the conference call.

- This presentation is posted on the NCCEH website at http://www.ncceh.org/2013PIT/

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Agenda

- Background & purpose of PIT Count

- Point-in-Time vs. Housing Inventory Chart

- Three categories to count:

  - Sheltered PIT

  - Unsheltered PIT

  - Permanent Housing Count of formerly homeless people

- New in 2013

- Reporting forms & deadlines

- Questions

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What Is a Point-in-Time Count?

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

Data on the *number* of homeless people	**+**	*Descriptive information* on those counted -Demographics -Service Use -Needs	**=**	Point-in-Time Count of homeless people

- "Point-in-Time" = a snapshot of the homeless population on a single night

  - **2013 PIT Count: Wednesday, January 30**

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HUD Point-in-Time Count Requirements

- Only count people who are **literally homeless** according to HUD's definition.

- Count people where they are on the night of the PIT (Jan. 30).

- They must be sleeping in:

  - Emergency shelter, including:
    - Domestic violence shelter
    - Seasonal shelter
    - Hotel/motel vouchers paid for by an agency because the person is homeless

  - Transitional housing designated for homeless persons

  - A place not meant for human habitation, such as a car, park, abandoned building, sidewalk, bus/train station (unsheltered)

The revised HEARTH definition of homelessness does NOT change who is counted in the PIT

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HUD Point-in-Time Count Requirements

- <u>Sheltered</u> counts required annually

- <u>Unsheltered</u> counts required biennially (odd years)
  - NC conducts annual sheltered & unsheltered counts

- One-night count must occur during <u>last</u> <u>ten</u> <u>calendar days</u> in January

- Must collect subpopulation data on people counted
  - chronic homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse, veteran status, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS

- PIT counts must be based on statistically reliable methods, not guesstimates

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PIT Count Logistics

- CoC leadership coordinates PIT at local level
  - Should contact agencies about local process

- Each agency conducts its own count & fills out form
- CoC leads compile total count for CoC
  - Submit data to HUD via HIC and the CoC application

- NCCEH collects CoC totals & compiles statewide total
  - Posts data on website: www.ncceh.org/PITdata

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How do communities use PIT data?

- 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 towards eliminating homelessness

- To be useful, data must be accurate and reliable

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How does HUD use PIT data?

- Understand the extent and nature of homelessness throughout the country
  - PIT is data source for the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) – used by Congress, the administration, media, and general public
- Provide Congress and OMB with information on services provided, gaps in service, and progress in eliminating homelessness
- Inform funding decisions
  - Performance-based rather than needs-based

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Point-in-Time vs. Housing Inventory Chart

During the count, we collect data for TWO purposes:

- Point-in-Time Count: <u>Homeless</u> people
  - Sheltered homeless (in shelter/transitional housing)
  - Unsheltered homeless
- Housing Inventory Chart: <u>Formerly homeless</u> in permanent housing programs
  - Rapid re-housing
  - Permanent supportive housing

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Sheltered PIT: Who is Counted?

- Count and report:
  - People residing in emergency shelter, including:
    - domestic violence shelter
    - seasonal shelter
    - hotel/motel vouchers paid for by agency because person is homeless
  - People residing in transitional housing designated for homeless persons

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Sheltered PIT: Who Is NOT Counted?

- Do <u>not</u> report:
    - People 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
    - People in residential facilities not designated for homeless persons
    - People living in hotels/motels they pay for themselves
- You can collect this info locally if you choose, but do not include it in your homeless count.

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Sheltered PIT: When to Count

Count people where they are sleeping on the night of **Wednesday, Jan. 30th, 2013**

Set a 24-hr. period for data collection: 6 pm Jan. 30th to 6 pm Jan. 31th

- Count people in the program on the night of the count (emergency shelter, transitional housing)
- Collect bed inventory information for HIC

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Sheltered PIT: How to Count

- Manual count
  - Use survey/interview method
  - Homeless Demographic & Needs Survey available to help you conduct interviews

- Administrative records
  - Only if info is <u>current</u> and accurate (age, household type, chronic homeless status, all subpopulation info)

- HMIS (if agency uses it)

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Using HMIS for Sheltered PIT Count

- HUD recommends using HMIS to generate sheltered reports

- Must ensure data quality is high – need HMIS data to be accurate to use it for your count

- CHIN holding a training on how to use HMIS to get sheltered PIT count on **January 23rd at 2:00.**
  - Please contact the Help Desk to register: (877) 703-3176 or support@nchomeless.org.

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Unsheltered PIT: Who Is Counted?

- Count people where they are sleeping on the night of **Wednesday, Jan. 30th, 2013**

- Count and report:
  - Homeless people residing in a place not meant for human habitation
  - Can include streets, parks, cars, abandoned buildings, tents, bus/train stations

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Unsheltered PIT: Who Is Counted?

- Report only the number of unsheltered people actually counted during the Point-in-Time Count

- **Do not** use unscientific adjustment factors or multipliers

- HUD allows statistical sampling to extrapolate unsheltered homeless population, but must use HUD-approved methods

  - **Must** consult a statistician or other expert
  - Consult with NCCEH before doing so

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Unsheltered PIT: How to Count

Methods of counting unsheltered homeless persons:

1. ## Simple street count with observation

   - No interviews – record observations of people

2. ## Street count with interviews

   - Better method – get more information

3. ## Services-based count

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

Use Homeless Demographic & Needs Survey to conduct interviews

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Unsheltered PIT: When to Count

- Street count – usually a 'blitz' on the night of the PIT

- Services-based count – can be conducted up to 2 weeks after the night of the PIT

- 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

- <u>Always</u> ask about homelessness on the night designated for the Point-in-Time Count
  - If data collection lasts into the following day or later, ask the person "Where did you sleep the night of January 30th?"

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Permanent Housing Count: Who Is Counted?

- Count of <u>formerly homeless</u> people who are now in permanent housing programs

- This info is needed for the Housing Inventory Chart

- HUD requires info to be collected on the night of the PIT Count

- Count people who are in:
  - Rapid re-housing programs (ESG, CoC, SSVF, other)
  - Permanent supportive housing programs (Shelter+Care, SHP-Permanent Housing, HUD-VASH)

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Permanent Housing Count: When to Count

Count people where they are sleeping on the night of **Wednesday, Jan. 30th, 2013**

Set a 24-hr. period for data collection: 6 pm Jan. 30th to 6 pm Jan. 31th

- Count people in the program on the night of the count (rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing)
- Collect bed inventory information for HIC
- Must collect info on programs that are funded but not yet operational (ESG RRH)

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New in 2013

New Provider Type: Rapid Re-Housing

- Used to be HPRP only, now for all rapid re-housing programs

Program Description	Program Type	Identify as TH using RRH model?
CoC-funded TH projects renewing in 2012 AND being reclassified as RRH	RRH	n/a
ESG-funded RRH programs	RRH	n/a
Other RRH programs (inc. VA SSVF)	RRH	n/a
CoC-funded TH projects not up for renewal in 2012 that use RRH model	TH	Yes
CoC-funded TH projects that do not use RRH model	TH	No
Other TH projects that do not use RRH model	TH	No

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New in 2013

New Age Categories

- Used to report on adults and children
- New categories:
  - Adults over age 24
  - Adults 18-24
  - Children under 18

New Breakdown in Households of Only Children

- Number of one-child households (i.e. unaccompanied child)
- Number of multi-child households (teen parents and their children, adolescent siblings, etc.)

Report Male Veterans and Female Veterans

Emphasis on Counting Homeless Youth

- Youth includes people under age 25

- HUD seeking more data on this population

- Strategies to include homeless youth in PIT Count:
  - Collaborate with school homeless liaisons
    - Make sure to only count HUD homeless & de-duplicate counts
  - Engage youth service organizations, including HHS Runaway & Homeless Youth programs
    - List of RHY programs: https://onecpd.info/resources/documents/2013HICandPITGuidance_Youth.pdf
  - Recruit currently/formerly homeless youth to help with unsheltered count

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Emphasis on Counting VA Programs

- Emergency Shelter:
  - Health Care for Homeless Veterans Community Contract Emergency Housing
  - Health Care for Homeless Veterans Community Contract Residential Treatment
  - Mental Health Rehabilitation Treatment

- Transitional Housing:
  - VA Grant and Per Diem
  - VA Compensated Work Therapy-Transitional Residence

- Rapid Re-Housing:
  - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

- Permanent Supportive Housing:
  - HUD-VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing)

Find your local VA Homeless Coordinator:

va.gov/homeless/hmls_vet_prog_coord.asp

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Forms for Reporting PIT Count Data

- Sheltered Count Form (homeless)
  - For Emergency & Seasonal Shelters, Transitional Housing
- Unsheltered Count Form (homeless)
  - For street & services-based counts of unsheltered persons
- Permanent Housing Count Form (formerly homeless)
  - For Rapid Re-Housing & Permanent Supportive Housing programs
- Demographic & Needs Survey
  - For conducting interviews with homeless persons being counted
- CoC Reporting Form
  - For reporting your CoC's total to NCCEH

Forms are posted at www.ncceh.org/2013PIT

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Sheltered Count Form

Use for Emergency/Seasonal Shelter & Transitional Housing

Bed Inventory:

- Record the total number of beds in the program
  - Exceptions for ES hotel/motel beds and overflow beds – only count beds in use during PIT

- Bed Types:
  - Beds for singles, families, or households of only children
  - 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 (indicate dates open)

- Record changes in bed inventory since 2012 count

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Sheltered Count Form

Sheltered Count Section

- 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, HIV/AIDS)

- Record discharge information from systems

- Definitions of key terms are on the last page

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Unsheltered Count Form

Use for street and services-based counts of unsheltered homeless people

Unsheltered Count Section

- 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, HIV/AIDS)

- Record discharge information from systems

Definitions of key terms on the last page

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Permanent Housing Count Form

Use for Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing

Bed Inventory Section

- RRH: Record the beds <u>used</u> the night of the PIT
- PSH: Record the <u>total</u> number of beds in the program

Bed Types:

- Beds for singles, families, or households of only children

Record any changes in bed inventory since 2012 count

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Permanent Housing Count Form

Permanent Housing Count Section

- 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, HIV/AIDS)

- Record discharge information from systems

- Definitions of key terms are on the last page

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Homeless Demographic & Needs Survey

- This **optional** form may be used for interviewing persons during your count.

- Can be used for both Sheltered and Unsheltered Counts

- Gathers information for required subpopulation info and helps your community assess needs

- Should be compiled at local level

- You may edit the survey to suit your community's needs

- The information gathered by using this form will help you complete your PIT forms as well as inform your community's planning process.

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CoC Reporting Form

- CoC leadership should use this form to report the total count from their community.

    - Compile totals from all Sheltered Count, Unsheltered Count, and Permanent Housing Count forms.

- CoC Reporting Forms are due to NCCEH **Friday, March 1st**

    - Email: data@ncceh.org

    - Fax: 1-888-742-3465

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Frequently Asked Questions

- 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. People who are doubled-up are not literally homeless and can't be counted in the PIT.

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Frequently Asked Questions

- Should a person who is in an institution on the night of the PIT (jail, hospital, drug/alcohol facility) be counted?

  - No, this person is not literally homeless and should not be counted in the PIT. However, many communities find this type of information very important for program planning, particularly discharge and prevention planning.

- Should programs that are not dedicated to serving homeless persons, but sometimes serve homeless persons, be included in the PIT Count?

  - No. Only programs that are dedicated to serving homeless persons should be included in the PIT. Programs that happened to serve a homeless person on the night of the PIT (such as residential treatment programs) should not be included.

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Additional Resources

- PIT Count Guidance: www.ncceh.org/pointintimehowto
  - Slides from this presentation
  - HUD documents
    - Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People
    - Guide to Counting Sheltered Homeless People
    - 2013 HIC and PIT Guidance

- 2013 PIT Forms: www.ncceh.org/2013PIT

- PIT Technical Assistance
  data@ncceh.org   (919) 755-4393

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