

Methodology for NY-512 - Troy/Rensselaer 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? 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%
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
- 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

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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.

- Impact of coordinated entry
- Other:

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

The reasons that best explain the change (a net decrease of 60 persons) in the sheltered count from last year's count are: (1) Impact of Coordinated Entry, (2) Change in capacity due to COVID-19, (3) Other: Eviction Moratoriums.

Impact of Coordinated Entry: With funding through the CoC, Rensselaer has developed a robust Coordinated Entry system focusing on rapidly and effectively housing the most vulnerable households. The CE system has strengthened communication and relationships across program types, and has empowered street outreach programs to more rapidly make appropriate referrals directly into permanent housing. The community continues to see the positive impact of CE, including more appropriate placements within PH and improved housing stability.

Change in capacity due to COVID-19: As a result of COVID-19, some shelters decompressed in order to meet federal and state social distancing requirements or were closed on the night of the count. For example, the Inn from the Cold, a seasonal shelter that operates in churches, didn't open this year as a result of COVID restrictions. As such, there was less capacity to provide shelter than in years past.

Other, Eviction Moratoriums: On the night of the count, there were two eviction moratoriums in place: the federal CDC Eviction Moratorium and the NYS Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act. This reduced the need for emergency shelter as residents are remaining in rental properties, even if they have not been able to pay rent. Providers believe this is the primary reason for the reduced sheltered count this year.

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

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Eviction Moratoriums

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 unique client identifiers (not PII)
- 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

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?

- All people encountered were surveyed

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 unique client identifiers (not PII)
- 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

- Increased or improved PIT count training
- Other: COVID-19

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

The reasons that best explain the change (a net increase of 1 person) in the unsheltered count from last year's count are: (1) Increased or Improved PIT count training, (2) Other, COVID-19.

Increased or improved PIT count training: This year volunteers were trained more effectively to ensure de-duplication and effective interview techniques. In addition, the Collaborative Applicant facilitated phone meetings which included the unsheltered PIT Lead Agencies hosting homeless events to ensure a more accurate and complete count.

Other, COVID-19: CoC providers believe that concern over contracting COVID-19 may have contributed to individuals' reluctance to engage with emergency shelter resources.

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