

Methodology for NY-520 - Franklin, Essex Counties 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.

- Change in participation of programs serving subpopulations (e.g., veterans, youth)
- Increased or improved PIT count training
- Other:

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 sheltered count from last year's count are: 1) Change in participation of programs serving subpopulations, 2) Increased or improved PIT count training, and 3) Other - Bail reform and prison decompression.

Change in participation of programs serving subpopulations: This year, Behavioral Health Services' DV shelter and Soldier On's SSVF - EHA projects were included in the sheltered PIT count. This resulted in a more accurate sheltered PIT count, increasing the number of persons counted.

Increased or improved PIT count training: This year there was improved training. The Collaborative Applicant, in coordination with the HMIS lead, facilitated increased training opportunities for the the community on PIT requirements and HMIS data clean up. The CA also provided additional one-on-one technical assistance to agencies that are not within the HMIS on how to collect data and complete required forms. This improved training led to a more accurate and complete count.

Other: Bail reform and prison decompression: The Franklin Essex Housing Coalition area, comprised of two counties in northern New York, has seen an increase in persons entering the homeless system due to NYS bail reform and prison decompression. Specifically, NYS bail reform was implemented in January, 2020. Since then, shelter providers have seen an increase of persons needing shelter who would have previously been in jail. In addition, due to the pandemic, state prisons decompressed occupancy to reduce potential COVID-19 spread. As the area hosts several large prisons, this resulted in an influx into the sheltered homelessness system.

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)

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

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NYS bail reform and prison decompression

- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)
- 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?

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)
- 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

- Other: COVID-19

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

NY-520 reported 1 individual experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of the count. This is an increase of 1 person over last year. CoC providers believe that concern over contracting COVID-19 may have contributed to this individual's reluctance to engage with emergency shelter resources.

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