# Methodology for NY-503 - Albany City & 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)

- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

## Sheltered Subpopulation

**4. Looking at the change in your sheltered count from last year's count, please choose the three reasons you believe best explains these changes from the drop-down list below**

- Change in PIT count training

- Change in awareness of PIT count and relevant resources

- Change in availability of affordable housing

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

The reasons that best explain the change (a net increase of 33 persons) in the sheltered count from last year\'s count are: (1) Increased or Improved PIT count training and (2) Change in Availability of Affordable Housing.

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 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.

Change in Availability of Affordable Housing: The CoC's area has seen an extremely low vacancy rate and a stark decline in available affordable housing. As a result, more households have been staying in shelter – even if voucher assistance is available – it has been challenging to find available units.

## Unsheltered Population

**5. What approach(es) was used to count the total number of people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count? (select all that apply)**

- "Night of the count" - known locations only

**5b. How did the CoC select the areas that were included for canvassing?**

- An effort was made to use local knowledge (such as outreach workers and other local expertise) locations (e.g., areas with known concentrations of people experiencing unsheltered homelessnes

- Data from prior PIT counts

**6. Were certain areas within the CoC geography specifically excluded because the CoC had reaso there were no unsheltered people in those areas based on prior knowledge/experience?**

- No

**7. Did the CoC adjust the information in some way (e.g., statistical adjustment or extrapolation) to areas within the CoC geography that were not canvassed but where unsheltered people might ha night of the PIT count?**

- No

**8. Were certain areas within the CoC geography specifically excluded because of concerns relate and safety?**

- No

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**9. 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

**10. Looking at the change in your unsheltered count from last year's count, please choose up to three reasons that best explain these changes from the drop down list below. Please also provide a brief description of these specific factors (500 word limit).**

- Change in implementing the PIT count (Select all that apply)

- Change in capacity (e.g., increase or decrease in beds/units available, more or less funding available type, more staff in prevention programs, fewer beds available due to COVID-19 social distancing proto

Challenges in finding units to marry with vouchers continues to present an issue in addressing hom

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

- Change in PIT count training (e.g., more/less training options or online training)

- Change in volunteers for PIT count (e.g., increase or decrease in volunteers overall, increase or decrease in volunteers with prior experience, included volunteers from law enforcement in implementation but did not in prior year)

- Counted in fewer or more areas of jurisdiction

Please provide a brief description of these specific factors and how these changes affected PIT count implementation

Training was increased; additional volunteers were engaged - such as police dept and emergency room staff; a more complete count across the CoC\'s geographic region was conducted.

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Please provide a brief description of these specific factors and how these changes affected PIT count implementation

elessness.

The reasons that best explain the change (a net increase of 34 persons) in the unsheltered count from
last year\'s count are: (1) Change in Implementing the PIT Count, and (2) Change in Capacity.

Change in Implementing the PIT Count: This year volunteers were trained more effectively to ensure de-duplication and successful interview techniques. In addition, the Collaborative Applicant facilitated phone meetings which included the unsheltered PIT Lead Agencies leading the surveying to ensure a more accurate and complete count. Additionally, the CoC\'s primary Outreach provider has added a second outreach van that covers the entirety of the CoC\'s geographic area year-round. As a result, the outreach team was able to identify a number of additional known locations and has built relationships with a number of additional partners across the CoC who supported the count (i.e. Colonie Police Department). Moreover, the Collaborative Applicant and Unsheltered PIT Lead newly hosted training among Emergency Room staff, which resulted in an increased count of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Change in Capacity: Change in capacity also impacted a reported increase in persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. As noted above, increased Outreach team funding resulted in a more complete count. Additionally, this year over the CoC\'s geographic area, there has been a decrease in available units, making it difficult to connect persons experiencing homelessness with housing (even when clients have subsidies in hand). As a result, providers have seen an increase in homelessness.