

Methodology for NY-507 - Schenectady 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

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- 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 69 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 unit

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" - census

5a1. Did you cover the entire geography of your CoC during the night of the count?

5a1a. What were the reasons you were unable to cover the entire geography (select all th

6. Were certain areas within the CoC geography specifically excluded because the CoC had reason to believe 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 have stayed the night of the PIT count?

- No

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

- No

- 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):

d to public health

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

- 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 entities were engaged - such as police dept and local businesses; 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

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The reasons that best explain the lack of change (remaining at seven persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness) in the unsheltered count from last year's count (compared to prior years in which the count was much higher) are: (1) Change in implementing the PIT Count, (2) Change in capacity, and (3) Change due to policy implementation.

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. This year, the Unsheltered PIT lead built off a new program with the local police department, in which the agency regularly conducts street outreach work in conjunction with police officers. This program allowed the Unsheltered PIT lead to have identified more known locations prior to the count. The Unsheltered PIT Lead also worked prior to the PIT count to make businesses aware of the PIT count and engage them in communication on the night of the count should they encounter anyone experiencing homelessness. In those situations, the outreach team then traveled to the business to survey those identified.

Change in capacity: While there was not an increase in Rapid Rehousing (RRH) beds on the night of the count, over the course of the prior year the CoC worked hard to target additional RRH resources (i.e. through ESG-CV funds) to those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, resulting in a continued low number of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness compared to prior years (i.e. 2021 – 20 people, 2020 – 25 people, 2019 – 22 people).

Change due to policy implementation: With funding through the CoC, Schenectady has developed a robust Coordinated Entry system focusing on rapidly and effectively housing the most vulnerable households – including those who experience unsheltered homelessness. 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.

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