

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)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)
- No specific approach was used

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

- Impact of coordinated entry

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- Change in availability of affordable housing
- Other:

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

The reasons that best explain the change (a net decrease of 6 persons) in the sheltered count from last year's count are: (1) Impact of Coordinated Entry, (2) Change of affordable housing

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 affordable housing capacity: the CoC saw an increase in affordable housing due to the Emergency Housing Voucher program. Individuals were able to move from shelter utilizing these vouchers.

Other, Eviction Moratoriums: While on the night of the count, the NYS Eviction Moratorium had expired, it had only recently expired (January 15th). As such, on the night of the count the community was still seeing the impact of the moratorium. Specifically, while eviction proceedings may occur, many evictions have yet to be implemented. This reduced the need for emergency shelter as residents are remaining in rental properties, even if they have not been able to pay rent.

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 there were no unsheltered people in those areas based on prior knowledge/experience?

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- 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 been on the night of the PIT count?

- No

8. Were certain areas within the CoC geography specifically excluded because of concerns related to 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)

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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)

- 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)

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

Increased training and recruitment of volunteers.

- 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

Lack of available units has continued to result in increased homelessness in the CoC's geographic

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

The reasons that best explain the change (a net increase of 9 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. This year, outreach teams visited local hospitals and urgent care centers to identify and survey persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The teams 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: Change in capacity also impacted a reported increase in persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. 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.

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

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