

Methodology for NY-519 - Columbia, Greene 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 unique client identifiers (not PII)
- 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 availability of affordable housing

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- Other:

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

The reasons that best explain the change (a net increase of 21 persons) in the sheltered count from last year's count are: (1) Change in PIT Count Training, (2) change in availability of affordable housing, (3) the end of the eviction moratorium.

In 2023, the collaborative applicant (CA) hosted a PIT lead training to review updates to the HIC/PIT Count, the survey instrument, and clarify who should be counted. Additionally, the CA conducted a sheltered PIT count training for DSS staff, to ensure new staff in both Columbia and Greene Counties understood requirements of the count which led to better data collection and improved data quality.

Rents in both Columbia and Greene Counties have increased dramatically since the pandemic. 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.

Since Eviction Moratorium ended and COVID 19 prevention funds for rental assistance are no longer available, those at imminent risk of homelessness have lost their housing resulting in an increase in sheltered homeless.

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 homelessness)
- Data from prior PIT counts

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?

- 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?

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end of eviction moratorium

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- 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

Change in capacity also impacted a reported increase in persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness year, over the CoC's geographic area, there has been a decrease in available units, making it difficult for persons experiencing homelessness with housing (even when clients have subsidies in hand). Additionally, prevention funds from COVID 19 for rental assistance have been exhausted. As a result, providers have reported an increase in homelessness.

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

In 2023, CGHC Board conducted outreach to several new service providers to assist in the 2023 count. In addition to the PIT Lead agencies Columbia Opportunities and MHA of Columbia and Greene Counties, the CoC engaged DSS staff in both counties. There were a number of new providers that assisted in canvassing known locations and conducted interviews in service based locations. The VA, Greene County Mental Health (MHACG), The Salvation Army, St. Catherines Center for Children, and Twin County Recovery Centers. The additional outreach teams and service based surveying significantly increased capacity to canvass and covered many more jurisdictions resulting in an increase of homeless.

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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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- Other:

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

The reasons that best explain the change (a net increase of 6 persons) in the unsheltered count from last year's count are: (1) Change in Implementing the PIT Count training, and (2) Change in Capacity.

Change in Implementing the PIT Count: Two trainings were conducted in 2023, one for the PIT Leads to ensure de-duplication and successful interview techniques. The CoC also conducted outreach to additional agencies with outreach teams serving those with substance use disorder and behavioral health which increased both participation and the jurisdictions that were covered. The Collaborative Applicant conducted both volunteer and new DSS staff training to ensure a more accurate and complete count. This year, there were three additional outreach teams that canvassed known locations throughout both counties.

Change in Capacity: This year, over the CoC's geographic area, there has been a significant challenge in locating available units (even when clients have subsidies in hand). As a result, providers have seen an increase in homelessness. Additionally, the loss of prevention funds for rental assistance and the end of the eviction moratorium has resulted in an increase of homeless.

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End of Eviction Moratorium

