



**ENDING
HOMELESSNESS
IN MARYLAND.**

TOGETHER.

**2021
POINT IN TIME COUNT
OVERVIEW**



**MARYLAND
BALANCE OF STATE
CONTINUUM OF CARE**

Meeting Agenda

- I. Point in Time Count 101
- II. HUD Changes for 2021
- III. Balance of State Plan
- IV. Balance of State Processes
- V. Balance of State Survey Elements & Walk Through
- VI. Sheltered Count
- VII. PIT Tools



2021 Point in Time Count: 101

CoCs are required to conduct an unsheltered Point in Time Count, at least every other year, to identify those experiencing homelessness on a given night.

The results of the count are one of the critical factors used to measure homelessness across the United States, set federal strategic priorities and determine federal funding allocations



2021 Point in Time Count: 101

HUD regulations require the PIT Count to be conducted in the last 10 days of January.

Why January?

- **Cold:** more people will be indoors
- **End of the month:** people tend to run out of monthly checks
- **Night:** spending the night outside



HUD Flexibilities for COVID19

- HUD is rooted in concern for the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness, staff and volunteers
- HUD will not use 2021 unsheltered count numbers to determine trends over time/negatively impact funding – this is a unique situation
- 2021 allowed PIT counting changes include:
 - Change how and where they count, including how comprehensive
 - Change how many/what questions are asked on the survey as long as they can deduplicate (as brief as name and housing status)
 - Conduct surveys over 14 days instead of normal 7
 - Not conduct an unsheltered count at all
 - Conduct a headcount only (no demographics or household characteristics)
 - Use an alternate data source to submit unsheltered data to HUD (such as a Coordinated Entry by-name list)



BoS Plan for 2021 Unsheltered Count

Time Frame The official 2021 Point in Time Count date for the MD BoS will be **January 27, 2021**. LHCs will have up to 7 days after the count to identify and collect data. All counting efforts must conclude by February 3, 2021.

Location PIT Count surveys will be conducted at service based sites, including locations that provide day services, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, or any other site where those living in unsheltered situations may present during the day. LHCs identify the locations and hours that surveys will be conducted.

Enumerators PIT Count surveys should be administered by existing staff throughout an LHC, for example, including staff from local shelters, street outreach and supportive service providers, where available. LHCs are not required or encouraged to recruit community volunteers or develop teams to canvass the LHC geography.

Data & Methodology The 2021 PIT Count survey will only include data elements that will allow for deduplication of clients. Additional data elements traditionally requested during the count will not be included in the 2021 survey. If the client will not or cannot provide their personal information, observation based responses will be accepted.

Optional Upgrades If an LHC has the capacity and would like to do more than the required minimum standards, they may opt to do so. Street Outreach teams or community volunteers can be used to canvas known areas where people are sleeping in unsheltered locations, outside of service based locations.

LHC Count Plan LHCs were required to register the details of their 2021 PIT Count plan with DHCD when requested.



2021 Point in Time Count: BoS

The BoS received an exemption from HUD that allows for:

- A shortened survey with minimal data elements to allow for deduplication of clients
- Data to be collected for up to 7 days after count night
- There will be no use of community volunteers



2021 Point in Time Count

What to expect

1. **Before you Count:** Complete this training, familiarize yourself with the survey, plan with your LHC, consider safety protocols for counters and clients
2. **During:** Survey clients through February 3rd who are **KNOWN** to have slept in an unsheltered environment on **January 27, 2021**
3. **After:** All survey data should be entered into the Google Form by February 5, 2021



2021 Point in Time Count

Who to count

Someone experiencing unsheltered homelessness if they spent the night in a place not meant for human habitation on January 27th 2021

A person experiencing unsheltered homelessness may be:

- Sleeping in a camp
- Under a bridge
- In a car
- In an abandoned building



2021 Point in Time Count: Safety

Throughout the PIT count, please adhere to the following COVID-19 safety basics:

Decrease face-to-face interaction with clients: The shortened survey is designed to help with this

Decrease the number of volunteers who need to work in physical proximity: Volunteers are not encouraged for 2021

Provide personal protective equipment: Make sure all who are counting and being counted are covered



2021 Point in Time Count Survey

- The modified 2021 PIT Survey is available in a digital and paper format
- LHCs can decide which format to use, however the digital version is encouraged to streamline data collection and entry
- The digital version will be available via Google Forms and can be accessed via computer, smart phone or tablet
- Survey shorter than prior years for safety reasons



2021 Point in Time Count Survey

Survey Data Element Review



2021 Point in Time Count Survey

Web Based Survey



2021 Point in Time Count Survey

After the Count:

All surveys for the January 27th, 2021 Point in Time Count must be complete by February 3rd, 2021.

If your community used the paper surveys, your LHC should designate someone to key in the information into the Google Form version of the survey

LHCs can keep their paper surveys, no need to submit to the Lead Agency as long as all data keyed in



2021 Sheltered Count

- Includes people residing in emergency shelter, safe haven or transitional housing projects
- Majority of data will be collected through information entered by programs into the CoC's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Homeless programs that do not enter data into HMIS will provide data separately – usually faith-based missions or privately funded shelters
 - TeamHMIS will follow up
- CoC reports demographic data for total clients, unaccompanied youth, families with children, and adult-only households
 - Will gather the full data set traditionally required by HUD



2021 DV Survey

Domestic Violence Paper Survey

Domestic Violence Digital Survey

- The protocol is the same for DV surveys as the Unsheltered surveys:
 - Clients enrolled in a DV Shelter on January 27, 2021 should be surveyed
 - Providers can choose which version of the survey to use
 - All data must be keyed into the Google Form by February 5th, 2021



2021 Point in Time Count Tools

Balance of State PIT Information Web Page

- Methodology Plan
- Survey Site Registration Link
- Paper & Web Versions of the Survey Tool



2021 Point in Time Count

Questions?

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or contact your Local Homelessness Coalition lead



Thank You!

