



Updated Report

More than 80% or 37 of California's 44 Continuums of Care Did Not Conduct a January 2021 Point-in-Time Unsheltered Count after Receiving Approval from HUD Because of Safety Reasons Related to the Pandemic

(Last week's report noted 36 of 44)

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The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires CoCs to conduct an unsheltered Point-in-Time (PIT) count during the last 10 days of January in odd-number years. This year, HUD allowed CoCs to [request an exception to some or all of the unsheltered PIT count requirements](#).

The table below notes that

- 37 or 84% of 44 Continuums of Care (CoCs) did not conduct an unsheltered count during the last 10 days of January after receiving approval from HUD not to conduct an unsheltered count because of safety reasons related to the pandemic.

Of the seven remaining CoCs,

- Lake County CoC conducted an unsheltered count on January 28 similar to the unsheltered counts conducted in past years, which included asking survey questions to obtain HUD required housing type and subpopulation data. The CoC did use a mobile app for the first time to automate data collection.
- Merced County CoC conducted a non-contact head count on January 28 based on observation only (i.e., no data collection on demographics, subpopulation, or household characteristics) after receiving approval from HUD, which was required if a CoC wants to submit their unsheltered data to HUD through the Homelessness Data Exchange ([HDX - www.hudhdx.info](http://www.hudhdx.info)).

- Three CoCs (Placer County, Sutter County, and Nevada County) are using their by-name-list, or active list, that is frequently updated (at least monthly) to conduct a modified unsheltered PIT count after receiving approval from HUD, which was required if a CoC wants to submit their unsheltered data to HUD through the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX - www.hudhdx.info).

(NOTE: In order to receive approval, HUD stated that *CoCs that choose to do this should consider when they last updated their data and how complete their outreach is to areas that do not traditionally have people experiencing homelessness. CoCs desiring to use these data will need to send (HUD) an email stating what data they want to use and demonstrating why they believe the data accurately reflects the unsheltered population, including persons in all subpopulation groups experiencing unsheltered homelessness. For instance, the CoC could run the data on the date of the last unsheltered PIT count and demonstrate the total result was within 5 percent of the unsheltered PIT count reported to HUD in that year.*

- Kern County CoC is combining point-in-time data from all emergency shelters and navigation centers in the Bakersfield/Kern County region with case management data from HMIS. The CoC first validated the HMIS data against historical PIT count data to secure the approval of the methodology exception request from HUD. CoC will also engage in sampling to achieve the accuracy of the HMIS data. The CoC will submit this data, in lieu of conducting an unsheltered PIT count, to HUD through the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX - www.hudhdx.info).
- Tehama County CoC is planning to conduct its unsheltered count during the end of February, after postponing its end of January unsheltered count due to weather. CoC received approval from HUD, which was required if a CoC wants to submit their unsheltered data to HUD through the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX - www.hudhdx.info).

Implications for the immediate future

All of California's 44 CoCs should conduct an unsheltered count in 2022 if there are no pandemic related reasons preventing CoCs to conduct one safely. HUD only requires CoCs to conduct a PIT unsheltered count during the last ten days of January in odd number years. Only about half of California's CoCs have been conducting a PIT unsheltered count during even number years.

Outdated PIT Unsheltered Count Data Should Not be Used for Statewide Legislative, Funding, Planning, and Policies to Solve Homelessness if Possible

When a CoC does not conduct a PIT unsheltered count during even number years, HUD takes the PIT unsheltered count from the previous odd number year and adds it to the PIT sheltered count number for the following even number year. HUD requires PIT sheltered counts every

year. For example, CoCs that did not conduct a PIT unsheltered count in 2020 had their 2019 PIT unsheltered count added to their 2020 PIT sheltered count by HUD, who will soon publicly post this combination as their total 2020 PIT count.

Thus, if a CoC does not conduct a PIT unsheltered count in 2022, the CoC's 2019 PIT unsheltered count will be added to its 2022 PIT sheltered count and reported by HUD as its total 2022 PIT count if the current HUD practice continues. Within this scenario, the next time that an updated PIT unsheltered count will be added by HUD to a PIT sheltered count will be 2023, four years after the CoCs previous PIT unsheltered count in 2019.

Updated PIT Unsheltered Count Data Should Always be Used for Statewide Legislative, Funding, Planning, and Policies to Solve Homelessness When Possible

What is important to note is that PIT unsheltered count data includes unsheltered persons by household type and subpopulation data, which is key for legislative, funding, planning and policy purposes. Household type data includes the total number of families and subpopulation data includes the total number of chronically homeless persons, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with serious mental illness, substance users, veterans, and youth ages 18 – 24.

If all of California's CoCs conduct a PIT unsheltered count in 2022, assuming there are no longer any pandemic related reasons not to conduct one, we will not have to wait until 2023 to have updated 2019 PIT unsheltered data. We will not be left wondering next year how different the 2022 unsheltered population might be compared to 2019 in terms of total number, household type, and various subpopulations.

Past legislation that focused on solving homelessness has been influenced by PIT unsheltered count data concerning chronically homeless persons, families, persons with mental illness and substance use, veterans, and youth under age 18 and between the ages of 18 – 24.

The total numbers of unsheltered subpopulations and types of households have been used to shape the eligible activities, targeted subpopulations, and best, promising, and emerging practices promoted or required by the funding sources.

The total number of PIT unsheltered persons has been used to allocate hundreds of millions of dollars through funding sources to prevent and end homelessness established by legislation during the past few years. Using PIT unsheltered count data, thoughtful planning and policies were built into past Notice of Funding Availability (NOFAs) related to the allocated funds for the funding sources.

Next Steps

Updating [local](#) and [statewide](#) PIT unsheltered data should always be encouraged so that updated data can inform legislative, funding, planning, and policy proceedings when needed.

	Continuum of Care	Did Not Conduct an Unsheltered Count in January	Did Conduct a Modified Unsheltered Count in January	Did Conduct Unsheltered Count Similar to Past Years in January
CA-500	San Jose/Santa Clara City & County CoC	✓		
CA-501	San Francisco CoC	✓		
CA-502	Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County CoC	✓		
CA-503	Sacramento City & County CoC	✓		
CA-504	Santa Rosa, Petaluma/Sonoma County CoC	✓		
CA-505	Richmond/Contra Costa County CoC	✓		
CA-506	Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties CoC	✓		
CA-507	Marin County CoC	✓		
CA-508	Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	✓		
CA-509	Mendocino County CoC	✓		
CA-510	Turlock, Modesto/Stanslaus County CoC	✓		
CA-510	Stockton/San Joaquin County CoC	✓		
CA-512	Daly City/San Mateo County CoC	✓		
CA-513	Visalia/Kings, Tulare Counties CoC	✓		
CA-514	Fresno City & County/Madera County CoC	✓		
CA-515	Roseville, Rocklin/Placer County CoC		✓	
CA-516	Redding/Shasta County CoC	✓		
CA-517	Napa City & County CoC	✓		
CA-518	Vallejo/Solano County CoC	✓		
CA-519	Chico, Paradise/Butte County CoC	✓		
CA-520	Merced City & County CoC		✓	
CA-521	Davis, Woodland/Yolo County CoC	✓		
CA-522	Humboldt County CoC	✓		
CA-523	Colusa, Glenn, Trinity Counties CoC	✓		
CA-524	Yuba City/Sutter County CoC		✓	
CA-525	El Dorado County CoC	✓		
CA-526	Tuolumne, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa Counties CoC	✓		
CA-527	Tehama County CoC			✓ will in Feb
CA-529	Lake County CoC			✓
CA-530	Alpine, Inyo, Mono Counties CoC	✓		
CA-531	Nevada County CoC		✓	
CA-600	Los Angeles City & County CoC	✓		
CA-601	San Diego City and County CoC	✓		
CA-602	Santa Ana, Anaheim/Orange County CoC	✓		
CA-603	Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC	✓		
CA-604	Bakersfield/Kern County CoC		✓	
CA-606	Long Beach CoC	✓		
CA-607	Pasadena CoC	✓		
CA-608	Riverside City & County CoC	✓		
CA-609	San Bernardino City & County CoC	✓		
CA-611	Oxnard, San Buenaventura/Ventura County CoC	✓		
CA-612	Glendale CoC	✓		
CA-613	Imperial County CoC	✓		
CA-614	San Luis Obispo County	✓		
	Total	37	5	2