

COMMUNITY PLANNING

YOUTH COUNT



GOAL OF TODAY'S MEETING

To give input about most responsive methodology to count unsheltered youth

Agenda:

1. Youth organizations
2. Purpose of Point In Time Count and Youth Count
3. Structure of 2019 Youth Count
4. Enhancements and methodology
5. Involvement
6. Wrap



POINT IN TIME
COUNT
OVERVIEW





PURPOSE OF THE COUNT AND SURVEY

Every two years, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to conduct a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of individuals, youth, and families experiencing homelessness and provide accompanying data.

- A “snapshot” of homelessness (both sheltered and unsheltered) in our community and nationally
- Locally, the data helps
 - inform program, policy, funding, and system design decisions
 - measure progress in decreasing homelessness
 - increase public awareness
 - advocate for additional resources in our effort to end homelessness countywide.
- Federal mandate, requirements for efficacy, reliability of data
- Known locally as EveryOne Counts!
- Jan. 25, 2022 (Required last 10 days of January, odd-numbered years). Data due March/April/May.
- Opted out in 2021 due to COVID surge, resource gaps, & HUD waiver options.

PIT COUNT DEFINITION – SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

Included

- Streets
- Tents
- Make shift shelters
- Vehicles
- Parks
- Abandoned buildings
- Bus or train stations
- Camping grounds
- Emergency & DV shelters
- Community Cabins
- Transitional housing programs
- Safe parking
- Seasonal/overflow shelter

NOT Included

- Staying place to place (couch surfing)
- Doubled-up or overcrowded
- Rehabilitation or mental health facilities
- Jail or prison
- Pending eviction or foreclosure

Values

- 1. Reliable data**, including by
 - the expertise of Guides, outreach teams and program staff
 - Fieldwork **coordinated and implemented well** and consistently across all census tracts
- 2. Federally compliant**
- 3. Physically safe** for all people involved
- 4. Better understand** the opinions, needs, history, and profile of people who are homeless
- 5. Produce data** to utilize in the work of reducing homelessness
- 6. Protect** highly vulnerable people from COVID transmission (especially people experiencing homelessness and guides)
- 7. City-level sheltered and unsheltered count data**
- 8. Center racial equity** (administration, survey questions, and analyses) and policy-informing data
- 9. Technology** to support fieldwork
- 10. Expedite** production of reports and data availability
- 11. Nimble, fluid**, key decision points

COMPONENTS



Sheltered Count

- Conducted the evening prior to the count
- All ES and TH
- Includes DV & winter shelters

Visual Count

- **General Street Count:** conducted in the early AM
- **Youth Count:** Conducted in the afternoon and evening

Survey

- Conducted in the 2 weeks following the visual count
- Random sample for both sheltered and unsheltered

PRE-
WORK
&
DETAIL

Pre-work for data quality and reliability

- Create draft Housing Inventory Chart
- Update / develop Survey questions and plan Youth Count
- Administer unsheltered structure occupancy sampling for multipliers
- Gather and assess density estimations and special assignment areas

Sheltered Count

- Evening prior to the count
- All ES, TH, motel voucher
- Includes DV & winter shelters

Visual Count

- **General Street Count**
Conducted early morning
- **Youth Count**
Conducted afternoon and evening

Survey

- Conducted in the 2 weeks following the general street count
- Survey random sample of sheltered and unsheltered people

- Annual requirement
- Led by HMIS staff
- All programs whether use HMIS or not
- Survey separate from HMIS/Admin data

- Teams of 2-3 cover every census tract
- Paid Guide expertise critical
- Improvement each time
- Youth Count planning upcoming
- 2019: ~ 500 volunteers & 200 paid guides

- 1,200 -1,500 surveys total
- Paid peer surveyors for unsheltered
- 5-7 Survey Coordinators
- Staff for sheltering progs.
- Age, gender, race, ethnicity, HH type & size, living situation, and few
- Certain sub-pops

IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW FEATURES

COVID accommodations (will obtain approval from County health officials)

1. Teams encouraged from existing social pods
2. Build heavily on outreach teams and staff of shelters, drop in centers, and other programs
3. Virtual deployment as much as possible and contingencies

Electronic tools

1. Sign up and select from available census tracts/areas
2. Electronic app and census tract maps for the visual count
3. Electronic app for unsheltered structure person and household data collection (Multiplier)

City/regional coordination

1. City/regional coordinators leads for program, guide, and volunteer participation, tract assignment, and special outreach areas
2. Continued importance of survey coordination leads

Other

1. Race and equity focus
2. Expanded jurisdictional sheltered and unsheltered data
3. Improve fieldwork for unsheltered family households and youth
4. Data released sooner countywide and with more jurisdiction-specific content



YOUTH COUNT
2019



YOUTH COUNT PURPOSE

Define the extent of unsheltered homelessness among

- unaccompanied children age 17 and under
- unaccompanied young adult age 18-24, and
- Unaccompanied parenting children and young adults



2019

YOUTH STREET COUNT

Youth Guides and youth provider partner as teams

Targeted locations where unsheltered youth are known to congregate

Afternoon/evening of January 25 (time TBD).

Youth Guides - cash stipend of \$15/hour for training & count

Tally Sheet, maps, and screening tool

COUNTING SITES

Programs serving youth and young adults with housing instability

Consistent process to ask every youth to self-administer screening form

VISUAL COUNT

PEER SURVEYORS

2022 CONTEXT

- ✓ Enthusiasm for EveryOne Counts!
- ✓ Enthusiasm and desire for current data
- ✓ Improvement efforts, including technology
- ✓ Dynamic nature of pandemic
- ✓ Fatigue and overstretched season
- ✓ Guide and volunteer participation compliant with public health criteria





Why do a Youth Street Count?

- Unaccompanied U25 commonly do not co-mingle with older unhoused adults
- PIT counts do NOT reflect the unaccompanied U25 youth experience. HUD definition is a limiting factor
- Some success with a peer-led survey unhoused U25 youth in targeted areas of the community. Youth suggestions welcome.
- The **Youth Street Count** is planned and coordinated through youth serving organizations with direct connections to young people with lived experience, who help to identify locations for teams to conduct the survey – Youth Team leader & Youth Guide



What is the role of a Team Leader?

- Escort Youth Guides through the assigned count area
- Ensure the safety of Youth Guides
- Answer questions from Youth Guides
- Support interactions between Youth Guides
- Assist with data collection, as needed
- Collect completed data collection forms from Youth Guides, and hold on to extra supplies
- Respond to crisis situations



What is the role of a Youth Guide?

- Work with a small team of one to two other Youth Guides and one Team Leader in covering an assigned count area

**Youth Guides are paid \$20/hour for their time
(including this training, paid upon the completion of their
count shift)**

2022 HOMELESS

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY



Key Next Steps

- Discussion of alternate strategies
- Identification of youth resource partners
- Identify locations and coverage areas to minimize duplication
- Develop training schedule & field protocols

YOUTH COUNT PLANNING & CORE COUNT ACTIVITIES

Youth Count Community Meetings

- Youth Count Methodology Meeting – *today!*
- Youth Count Planning and Sign Up Meeting – *Dec. 13 at 2 – 4 pm*
- Youth Street Count Strategy Session – *early January (Date TBD)*

Youth Focus Groups to Identify Coverage Areas– *early January, (Date TBD)*

Training for Youth Street Count – *mid-January, (Date TBD)*

Youth Count – *January 25*

Youth Surveyor Training – *January 25 – January 28*

Survey Period – *January 25 through February 8*





Questions?