

Methodology for NY-604 - Yonkers/Mount Vernon/New Rochelle/Westchester CoC

Sheltered Population

1. What data source(s) was used to produce PIT counts of the sheltered population?

- HMIS
- Interviews with sheltered homeless people during the PIT count
- Distribution/collection of PIT forms to provider staff
- Case manager records

2. Were you able to collect the required information from all emergency shelters, safe havens, and transitional housing providers or did you collect data from a subset of these providers?

- All providers gave the required information

3. Once the universe of providers was identified, did you collect the required information from all sheltered persons within those providers or did you collect the information from a subset of sheltered people?

- All sheltered people within those programs

4. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the count of the sheltered population?

- Blitz count of persons in shelters

5. What method(s) were used to obtain the highest quality count of your sheltered population?

- Reviewed HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting a PIT count
- Written instructions to providers
- Reminded/followed-up with providers about the count to maximize participation
- Compared the counts to other internal data sources and resolved inconsistencies
- Compared the counts to last year's counts and explained the changes

6. Did your approach to collecting PIT counts of sheltered populations differ from your approach to collecting PIT counts of sheltered subpopulations?

No

Sheltered Subpopulation

Point In Time Methodology for NY-604 - Yonkers/Mount Vernon/New Rochelle/Westchester CoC

7. What data source(s) was used to produce PIT counts of the sheltered population?

- HMIS
- Interviews with sheltered homeless people during the PIT count
- Distribution/collection of PIT forms to provider staff
- Case manager records

8. Were you able to collect the required information from all emergency shelters, safe havens, and transitional housing providers or did you collect data from a subset of these providers?

- All providers gave the required information

9. Once the universe of providers was identified, did you collect the required information from all sheltered persons within those providers or did you collect the information from a subset of sheltered people?

- All sheltered people within those programs

10. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the count of the sheltered population?

- Blitz count of persons in shelters

11. What method(s) were used to obtain the highest quality count of your sheltered population?

- Reviewed HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting a PIT count
- Written instructions to providers
- Reminded/followed-up with providers about the count to maximize participation
- Compared the counts to other internal data sources and resolved inconsistencies
- Compared the counts to last year's counts and explained the changes

Unsheltered Population

12. What method was used to count the unsheltered population during the PIT count?

- Public places count with interviews on the night of the PIT count

13. How much of your community was canvassed for the unsheltered population count?

- A subset of areas (e.g., known locations or specific neighborhoods, blocks, census tracts, or other geographies) within my community was canvassed

Point In Time Methodology for NY-604 - Yonkers/Mount Vernon/New Rochelle/Westchester CoC

14. Once your geography was identified for the count, did you collect the required information from all persons encountered during the unsheltered count or a sample of persons?

- All people encountered during the count

15. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the count of the unsheltered population?

- Blitz count of persons in shelters

16. What information or method(s) was used to produce an unduplicated count across your sheltered and unsheltered population?

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Blitz count of persons in shelters

17. What method(s) were used to obtain the highest quality count of your unsheltered population?

- Reviewed HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting an unsheltered count
- Written instructions to canvassers
- Reminded/followed-up with canvassers about the count to maximize participation
- Compared the count to last year's count and explained the changes

18. Did your approach to collecting PIT counts of unsheltered populations differ from your approach to collecting PIT counts of unsheltered subpopulations?

No

Unsheltered Subpopulations

13a. How did you select the areas for canvassing?

- Areas were not selected randomly, but an effort was made to use local knowledge to target known locations (e.g., areas with known concentrations of unsheltered homeless people)

13b. Did you adjust the information in some way (e.g., statistical adjustment or extrapolation) to account for the CoC's entire geography?

No

19. What method was used to count the unsheltered subpopulations during the PIT count?

- Public places count with interviews on the night of the PIT count

20. How much of your community was canvassed for the unsheltered subpopulations count?

- A subset of areas (e.g., known locations or specific neighborhoods, blocks, census tracts, or other geographies) within my community was canvassed

20a. How did you select the areas for canvassing?

- Areas were not selected randomly, but an effort was made to use local knowledge to target known locations (e.g., areas with known concentrations of unsheltered homeless people)

20b. Did you adjust the information in some way (e.g., statistical adjustment or extrapolation) to account for the CoC's entire geography?

No

22. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the count of the unsheltered subpopulations?

- Blitz count of persons in shelters

23. What information or method(s) was used to produce an unduplicated count across your sheltered and unsheltered subpopulation?

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Blitz count of persons in shelters

24. What method(s) were used to obtain the highest quality count of your unsheltered sub population?

- Reviewed HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting an unsheltered count
- Written instructions to canvassers
- Reminded/followed-up with canvassers about the count to maximize participation

21. Once your geography was identified for the count, did you collect the required information from all persons encountered during the unsheltered count or a sample of persons?

- All people encountered during the count

- Compared the count to last year's count and explained the changes

Annual Comparison

25. When compared to last year, please indicate whether the sheltered and unsheltered count increased, decreased, or stayed the same. Describe the specific factors that may have resulted in the increase, decrease, or no change.

25a. Compared to last year, the 2013 sheltered count:

- Increased

Explain:

The sheltered count increased from 2,032 persons in 2013 to 2,118 in 2014. Therefore 86 (4.2%) additional persons were sheltered on the night of the Point-In-Time count in Westchester. Reversing a 2-year trend, there were 10 fewer family members housed in congregate family shelters and scattered-site transitional units. We will continue working to accelerate the movement of family homeless from emergency and transitional beds into permanent housing.

Thus, the 86 additional persons represent 94 additional adults without children, who were housed in drop-in overnight, domestic violence, and 24-hour emergency shelters, and 2 additional unaccompanied youth. Part of this increase reflects the inclusion of a 19 bed emergency shelter which was erroneously not counted in prior years. However, we still observe an increase of 75 (11%) in single adult homeless from 2013 to 2014. We believe that this is primarily due to the unusually cold winter in the Northeast with a series of heavy snowfalls, which brought more single adults into our shelter system. We are expecting a decrease in sheltered adults without children during 2014 as we focus resources toward permanently housing veterans and the chronic homeless. Our CoC's goal is to end veteran homelessness in Westchester County by the end of 2014.

25b. Compared to last year, the 2013 sheltered count:

- Decreased

Explain:

The unsheltered count decreased from 22 persons in 2013 to 20 persons in 2014. This is a decrease of 2 (10%). It is difficult to interpret trends in numbers as small as these – only 1.04% of the homeless persons we counted on the night of the Point-In-Time count were unsheltered.

We are confident that we can continue to keep the number of unsheltered very low by maintaining our outreach efforts to homeless (veterans and non-veterans) on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation, and our robust system of low-demand overnight emergency shelters that house those homeless who are unwilling or unable to comply with the public assistance eligibility requirements imposed by most of our 24-hour emergency and transitional shelters.

