



Point-in-Time Count Leader Information

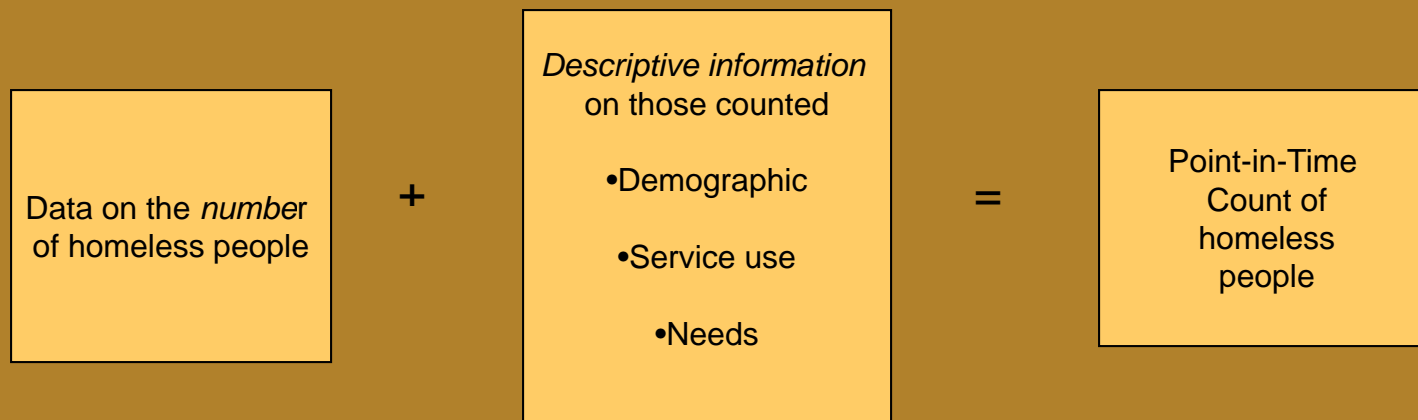
Unsheltered Count





What is a Homeless Point-in-Time Count?

A “Count”= collecting the number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families in your community along with demographic and sub-population information





Why Count?

- Obtain current and accurate data on the number and characteristics of homeless individuals and families
- Provides information for policy and planning decisions at local, state and federal levels
- Public awareness and education
- Opportunity for connecting homeless individuals and families with local resources
- Funder requirements--Continuum of Care application and other non-HUD funding



Why Count (Continued)

- Track data and trends/changes
- Determine where in the community individuals live
- Learn how many of those surveyed are chronically homeless
- To understand barriers for accessing available shelters and resources
- Learn how to intervene with people who have recently become homeless or are on the verge of homelessness



Benefits of Accurate Data on Homelessness

Communities need accurate data to:

- Make funding recommendations to elected officials
- Determine the size and scope of homelessness at the local level
- Track local trends of homeless population
- Plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs
- Measure progress in addressing homelessness
- Measure performance of individual programs and the systems as a whole

HUD needs data to:

- Understand the extent and nature of homelessness throughout the country
- Report to Congress on performance of programs
- Make funding decisions



Benefits of Counting Twice a Year

- Get a more accurate picture of the homeless situation in the state of Missouri
- To track the trends and changes in summer vs. winter seasons
- Incorporate homelessness awareness and education in the community twice a year



Methods for Counting-Unsheltered

1. Simple Street Count with Observation

- No interviews; record observations of people

2. Street Count Plus Interviews

3. Service-based Count

- Interviews at non-shelter service locations that unsheltered homeless individuals and families rely on to survive; i.e. soup kitchens or food banks, drop-in centers, healthcare centers, emergency rooms, churches, etc.



When to Count?

The time period for data collection:

- The count must take place within the 24 hour time-period (midnight to midnight)
- This does not mean that you count the entire 24 hours; the individuals and families counted must have been homeless within that 24 hour time period
- You may count an individual or family the day after the count, if they state that they were homeless during the count period and have not already completed a survey form



County Leader Duties

Leaders take responsibility for the data collection process for their county.

Duties include:

- Solicit volunteers to assist with the count, and turn in signed Volunteer Release Forms
- Delegate duties to volunteers
- Train volunteers on how to count and how to complete surveys
- Be the primary contact for volunteers in your county
- Map out areas to conduct the count
- Assign team volunteers to mapped areas of the county to complete surveys
- Contact agencies to complete surveys for clients that come in for services
- Collect surveys and send in to Balance of State Coordinator

Optional:

- Coordinate donation distribution
- Create resource sheet to hand out during the count
- Ensure that services are in place for night of the count



Where to Solicit Volunteers?

- Colleges/ Universities
- Homeless liaison with school districts
- Public assistance offices
- Youth outreach workers
- Local law enforcement
- Churches
- Compensated work therapy clients
- Formerly homeless individuals and families
- Friends and family
- Social Service agencies



Where to Count?

- Foreclosed homes
- Campgrounds
- Riverbanks
- Under bridges
- Wooded areas
- Abandoned buildings
- Truck stops
- 24 hour stores
- Meal distribution centers
- Libraries
- Parks
- Parking lots
- Etc.



Where to Count (Continued)

- Ask local law enforcement to help locate areas where homeless individuals and families stay
- Pay attention a few weeks before the count, you may notice new areas that you should visit for the count
- Ask formerly homeless people or those that visit the local soup kitchens and food pantries for ideas on where to look
- Ask other local service providers
- Before the count, provide homeless individuals and families an incentive; i.e. give away vouchers or have a meal served



Documents to Help with the Count...

These forms and letters will be provided to County Leaders from the CoC Lead Agency (MHDC):

- Volunteer Release Form
- PowerPoint training for volunteers
- Survey form and instructions

If requested:

- Media release
- Donation request letter
- Letters to businesses



Form Deadlines

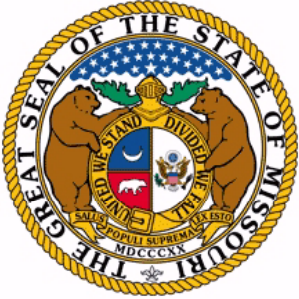
- Completed Volunteer Release Forms are **due to MHDC by close of business on the day of the count.**
- Completed Survey Forms must be submitted to MHDC. **Deadlines will be given to County Leaders.**
- These can be faxed, mailed, or scanned and e-mailed in to your Region's CoC Coordinator at MHDC (see the following slides for contact information)



Regions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10

(Counties: Adair, Audrain, Atchison, Bates, Benton, Boone, Caldwell, Callaway, Camden, Carroll, Cass, Chariton, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cole, Cooper, Daviess, Gasconade, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Holt, Howard, Johnson, Knox, Lafayette, Lewis, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Maries, Marion, Mercer, Miller, Moniteau, Monroe, Morgan, Nodaway, Osage, Pettis, Phelps, Pike, Platte, Pulaski, Putnam, Ralls, Randolph, Ray, Saline, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby, St. Clair, Sullivan, and Worth)

- MHDC, Attention: Mandy Fangmann
3435 Broadway Kansas City, MO 64111
- Fax: 816-759-6638, Attention: Mandy Fangmann
- E-mail: mfangmann@mhdc.com



Regions 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9

(Counties: Barry, Barton, Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Cedar, Crawford, Dade, Dallas, Dent, Douglas, Dunklin, Franklin, Hickory, Howell, Iron, Jefferson, Laclede, Lawrence, McDonald, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Ozark, Oregon, Polk, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard, Stone, Taney, Texas, Vernon, Washington, Wayne, and Wright)

- MHDC, Attention: Jenni Miller
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For Questions Contact:

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