

# Methodology for TN-501 - Memphis/Shelby County CoC

## Sheltered Population Total

**1. What data source(s) was used to produce the total number of people included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing) on the night of the count?**

- HMIS Data
- Provider survey(s)

**2. Were you able to collect information about the number of people being sheltered on the night of the count from all emergency shelters, Safe Havens, and transitional housing projects listed on your HIC or only some?**

- A subset of providers gave the required information

**4. 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
- Ensured HMIS data was reviewed and complied with data quality standards (e.g., complete and up-to-date demographic data, such as gender)

**2a. How did you select the subset of providers?**

- Providers were not selected randomly, and the selection was driven by convenience or expediency (e.g., providers that were willing to participate)

**2b. Did you adjust the information in some way (e.g., statistical adjustment or extrapolation) to account for all emergency shelter, Safe Havens, and transitional housing providers in the CoC?**

No

**3. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the count of the total number of people included in the sheltered population?**

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number

- Written instructions to providers

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

Yes

### **Sheltered Subpopulation**

**6. What data source(s) was used to produce the demographic and subpopulation included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing) on the night of the count?**

- HMIS Data

**7. Were you able to collect information about the demographic and subpopulation characteristics of all sheltered people or only some?**

- A subset of sheltered people

**7a. How did you select the subset of providers?**

- Sheltered people were not selected randomly, and the selection was driven by convenience or expediency (e.g., people that were willing to provide information)

**7b. Did you adjust the information in some way (e.g., statistical adjustment or extrapolation) to account for all sheltered people?**

No

**8. What method(s) were used to obtain the highest quality demographic and subpopulation information about your sheltered population?**

- Ensured HMIS data was reviewed and complied with data quality standards (e.g., complete and up-to-date demographic data, such as gender)

### **Unsheltered Population**



**9. What approach was used to count the total number of people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count?**

- "Post-night of the count" surveys within 7 days following the PIT count night (e.g., "service-based count" at locations where people who are homeless go for assistance)

**10. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the total count of people in the unsheltered population?**

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number

**11. What information or method(s) was used to produce an unduplicated total count of homeless people across your sheltered and unsheltered populations?**

- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

**12. What method(s) were used to obtain the highest quality count of total unsheltered people in your unsheltered population?**

- Reviewed HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting an unsheltered count
- Written instructions to canvassers
- Trained canvassers on the data collection requirements/forms/process
- Reminded/followed-up with canvassers about the count to maximize participation
- Included formerly homeless people to support the count
- Compared the count to last year's count and explained the changes

**13. Did your approach to collecting the total count of unsheltered people differ from your approach to collecting demographic and subpopulations data about unsheltered people?**

No

## **Unsheltered Subpopulations**

### **14. What approach was used to collect demographic and subpopulation data about unsheltered people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count?**

- Surveys/interviews of people identified within 7 days following the night of the PIT count night who may have been unsheltered on the night of the PIT count (e.g., “service-based” surveys at locations where people who are homeless go for assistance)

### **15. Were all people who were encountered during canvassing on the night of the count or during post night of the count PIT activities asked to complete a survey/interview?**

- All people encountered were surveyed



**16. What method(s) were used to obtain the highest quality demographic and subpopulation data on unsheltered people included in your unsheltered subpopulations?**

- Reviewed HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting an unsheltered count
- Written instructions to canvassers
- Trained canvassers on the data collection requirements/forms/process
- Included formerly homeless people to support the count
- Compared the count to last year's count and explained the changes

**Annual Comparison**

**17. 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.**

**17a. Compared to last year, the 2015 sheltered count:**

- Decreased

**Explain:**

On the evening of the 2014 PIT, the low was 20 degrees. This year the weather was unseasonably warm with a low of 37 degrees, which we attribute to the drop in sheltered clients for the 2015 PIT Count.

**17b. Compared to last year, the 2015 unsheltered count:**

- Decreased

**Explain:**

Our unsheltered count decreased from 122 in 2014 to 78 in 2015. The weather was oddly warm during the PIT registry week this year so the weather was not a factor i.e. no cold weather shelters were open during the count, and the non-existence of extreme cold weather makes it less likely that folks would resort to family and friends for shelter on the night of the PIT. Additionally our HMIS data shows that 48 individuals entering PSH projects during 2014 came from non-housing (street, park, car, bus station, etc.) and our TH projects show 44 entering from the same conditions.

















