PIT Office Hours: Chat and Q&A
December 15th, 2020

Please note that this document should not be considered formal HUD guidance; the HUD Ask A Question Desk should be leveraged for official HUD responses to questions. Additionally, this document has not been edited. The content reflects the language used by participants and panelists during the meeting.

December 15, 2020   3:01 PM   from Thomas Bednar to everyone: To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using:

+1-415-655-0002   Access code: 178 502 3595

(If you need to call in toll-free, call 1-855-797-9485)

December 15, 2020   3:01 PM   from Sam Bochinski to everyone: Can you provide the link in the chat box?

December 15, 2020   3:01 PM   from Alicia La Patra to everyone: Good Afternoon

December 15, 2020   3:02 PM   from Sharee Campbell to everyone: Hello all.

December 15, 2020   3:02 PM   from Lisa Snipes to everyone: Good afternoon from IL-514 DuPage County IL

December 15, 2020   3:03 PM   from franny mack to everyone: hi :-)

December 15, 2020   3:04 PM   from Lee Murdock to everyone: Hello from Yakima Washington

December 15, 2020   3:04 PM   from Ahmad Haj Ali to everyone: Hello from Arlington County VA

December 15, 2020   3:04 PM   from Sharese Towns to everyone: Good afternoon from Ames, Iowa

December 15, 2020   3:04 PM   from Allison Arthur to everyone: Hello from Jefferson County, Washington.

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December 15, 2020   3:06 PM   from Ahmad Haj Ali to everyone: What is the deadline for CoCs to submit a request?

December 15, 2020   3:06 PM   from Corey Root to everyone: We are planning a limited street count with extensive service count over 14 days using the full survey -- correct that we do not need to seek an exception?

December 15, 2020   3:12 PM   from Natalie McCleskey to everyone: If we use HMIS soley to capture all Unsheltered PIT data (utilizing our local Coordinated Entry - Hotline - System) do we have to get HUD approval? Or is HMIS not considered an "alternate comprehensive dataset"?

December 15, 2020   3:12 PM   from Amy Stewart to everyone: I recall that Mr. Snow has said it's fine if we end up NOT using an exception we request for a "just in case" situation. If, in fact, we don't use the exception, do we have to write back and tell you that?

December 15, 2020   3:13 PM   from Ahmad Haj Ali to everyone: What is the deadline to submit a request for exception?

December 15, 2020   3:13 PM   from Dustin Kane to everyone: Can surveys be conducted remotely (over the phone) from those requesting assistance, or must they be conducted in person only?

December 15, 2020   3:13 PM   from Nina Gall to everyone: If our comunity elects to conduct the unsheltered count after the last 10 days in January, should we still conduct the sheltered count during the last 10 days in January, or would the date of the sheltered count need to align with the unsheltered count?

December 15, 2020   3:15 PM   from Deven Chona to everyone: If we dont plan on collecting ALL data, but we dont know what data will/will not be collected, do we need to send an exception for specific data points?

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December 15, 2020	3:16 PM	from Amy Stewart to everyone:	Ditto to Deven's question re specific data points for exception to full questions

December 15, 2020	3:16 PM	from William Snow to everyone:	@ Ahmad - there is not an official deadline for submitting the exception requests. However, there is a natural deadline of the last 10 days of January. However, if you plan on doing a count and something happens (e.g., stay-at-home order is enacted) you have the ability to still seek an exception. We will be flexible and work with you as we navigate these complicated times.

December 15, 2020	3:17 PM	from Ashley Burton to everyone:	If we are doing only a head count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, with no demographic or subpopulation data collection...what are volunteers supposed to write down, just numbers of amount of people they see? I know it was mentioned before to collect time, exact location, identifying features and description of what they are wearing, sleeping or not in order help with de-duplicating....but anything else? Also what will that look like when put into HDX? How will that work?

December 15, 2020	3:17 PM	from William Snow to everyone:	@ Corey - if you are submitting all of the unsheltered PIT count elements then you don't need to seek an exception for what you are proposing.

December 15, 2020	3:17 PM	from Paula Holtsclaw to everyone:	If our PIT Date is 1/26, then is the "night of the Count" counted between 10pm on 1/25 through 6 am on 1/26?

December 15, 2020	3:18 PM	from William Snow to everyone:	@ Natalie - yes, using HMIS will require you to seek an exception. We will discuss that today.

December 15, 2020	3:18 PM	from Jessica Sones to everyone:	question about sheltered count -- can HUD provide some guidance on how persons in SSVF Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) funded units should be counted? Not sure if this is considered ES (and folks should be counted), or if this is part of SSVF RRH inventory

December 15, 2020   3:19 PM   from William Snow to everyone: @ Amy - if you get an exception but you don't use it you do not need to write back to us. You will simply enter your data in HDX. We will know you at that point if you did more than what you were approved to do. We don't want you to do more work on this than is needed so no extra emails if you do more.

December 15, 2020   3:20 PM   from Thomas Bates to everyone: Need some clarification: we are moving our count to 6AM and asking "where did you sleep last night" and planning to do the regular survey. However, if people refuse to wear a mask and we can identify them has homeless, we plan to do an observation only. Am I understanding this would be dissallowed after 6AM?

December 15, 2020   3:22 PM   from William Snow to everyone: @ Dustin - generally phone surveys to a more broad group are not allowed. For instance, if you want to post a survey on a public website for anyone to complete. But you can record data collected through your coordinated entry phone calls. Also, if your street outreach or provider staff want to reach out to people they know have recently been homeless to verify where they were on the count night you can do that. If you are doing any of these kind of follows up though you can only do it if you are doing a survey in your larger effort. This will not work if you try to pair it with observation counts (because you can't tell if they have already been counted).

December 15, 2020   3:22 PM   from Amy Stewart to everyone: Thanks, Mr. Snow

December 15, 2020   3:24 PM   from William Higgins to everyone: It is difficult trying to get the Maine CoC participants to do any unsheltered count at all, yet we are seeing 20 times the numbers unsheltered already, despite resources and use of hotels.

December 15, 2020   3:25 PM   from peg lijewski to everyone: how can observation only count information without demographics be submitted in HDX? It is set up to require all fields for submission in the system?

December 15, 2020   3:26 PM   from Amy Stewart to everyone: Boosting Peg's question re HDX fields

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December 15, 2020   3:26 PM   from Lisa Snipes to everyone: Following response to @peglijweski

December 15, 2020   3:26 PM   from Michelle Herrera to everyone: Ive encountered where tents have been utilze for stray animals.

December 15, 2020   3:27 PM   from William Higgins to everyone: As an individual with personal experience of homelessness, there are no excuses not to try and have a count at all. Are their easy links to the prior PIT Office Hours fro me to share to CoC members before out meeting tomorrow?

December 15, 2020   3:28 PM   from William Snow to everyone: @ Nina - your HIC, sheltered PIT, and unsheltered PIT count should all be tied to the same date.

December 15, 2020   3:28 PM   from Thomas Bednar to everyone:
          https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Conducting-the-2021-Unsheltered-PIT-Count.pdf

December 15, 2020   3:28 PM   from Dustin Kane to everyone: @William Snow - Thank you!

December 15, 2020   3:31 PM   from William Snow to everyone: @ Devon - if you are not planning on counting all data I would recommend identifying the large categories that you will and won't count. For instance, you say you will collect all demographics then you don't have to list each element. If you are not sure what you are doing I would recommend requesting an exception to only do a count of total people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (i.e., head count). Then, if you collect more, great. If you don't collect more you are covered. You can submit more data in HDX at the time of submission if you collected more and want to report it.

December 15, 2020   3:32 PM   from William Snow to everyone: @ Ashley - what to collect at observation is being covered right now by Aubrey. We are publishing a resource for you to use as well. That should come out soon.

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December 15, 2020   3:32 PM   from Ahmad Haj Ali to everyone: Thank you William!!

December 15, 2020   3:32 PM   from Samantha Concepcion to everyone: Will any of the HDX submission process be different because of the various exceptions communities can get?

December 15, 2020   3:32 PM   from Ashley Smith to everyone: thanks!

December 15, 2020   3:34 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @William Higgins: all prior PIT Count Office Hours are posted here: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/#pit-count-office-hours

December 15, 2020   3:35 PM   from Amy Stewart to everyone: Boosting Samantha Concepcion's question re HDX submission

December 15, 2020   3:38 PM   from William Higgins to everyone: Maine is a state far spread out, with many areas that have no shelter resources available. The Point in Time is always difficult to find volunteeres, with it being in the cold of maine in January. This year there will be less shelters, with less beds available (reduced HIC), and far fewer warming centers available.

December 15, 2020   3:40 PM   from steve marshall to everyone: On alternaive data sets: The state of Vermont has housed everyone since the onset of the Covid. Can their data set be used to estimate the homeless population, if they are appropriately screened?

December 15, 2020   3:41 PM   from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: Are most CoC expecting more folks outdoors, due to fears of being in shelter w CV?

December 15, 2020   3:44 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @William Higgins: The chat logs are posted to HUD Exchange at the link I sent earlier after each session

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December 15, 2020   3:44 PM   from Thomas Bates to everyone: We are expecting to find less people d/t moving times to early morning when emergency shelter hasn't closed yet, in prior years we coincided with shelter times but folks would arrive there later

December 15, 2020   3:44 PM   from laura lama to everyone: what if the data in our alternative dataset does look different but we are confident that it is more accurate than past counts?

December 15, 2020   3:45 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @William Higgins: click "view training materials" under each of the recorded videos posted on this page to see chat logs, slide decks, and transcripts: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/#pit-count-office-hours

December 15, 2020   3:46 PM   from laura lama to everyone: so it is possible for us to submit a headcount wtih some other secondary information but not all? for example, chronicity information may be difficult for our street outreach crew to collect by the end of Jan.

December 15, 2020   3:49 PM   from steve marshall to everyone: I haven't heard doing a survey over days or weeks. What are the rules, limits, on extending the survey period?

December 15, 2020   3:49 PM   from Calpurnyia roberts to everyone: For the final PIT count that HUD points out, will HUD be apply the same methods as before to create the final national and state counts of unsheltered individuals or will HUD be using different methods, like extrapolation.

December 15, 2020   3:49 PM   from Carrie Bosch to everyone: Can our CoC combine a census count done by outreach workers the night of the count with a sampling aproach for a service-based count the day(s) after the count - e.g. sampling every 5 people as they enter our day shelters?

December 15, 2020   3:50 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: 2021 PIT count materials are available here: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/#2021-pit-count-and-hic-guidance-and-training

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December 15, 2020   3:51 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: PIT Count Sampling Guidance: https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6218/how-to-use-sampling-within-a-coc-to-conduct-an-unsheltered-pit-count/

December 15, 2020   3:51 PM   from William Snow to everyone: @ Paula - using your example, I would use January 25. We think of the night as being the date the night begins.

December 15, 2020   3:51 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: Conducting the 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count: https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6213/conducting-the-2021-unsheltered-pit-count/

December 15, 2020   3:51 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: PIT Count Survey Tools Page: https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3322/point-in-time-survey-tools/

December 15, 2020   3:52 PM   from Kathy Germain to everyone: Any updates on 2020 NOFA submission

December 15, 2020   3:52 PM   from William Snow to everyone: @ Jessica - godo question on SSVF. The short answer is that I don't know. I would like to talk to the VA SSVF staff before I respond. Please send an AAQ. It will take a few weeks for me to get that answer given the holidays but I will definitely hunt it down.

December 15, 2020   3:52 PM   from Thomas Bates to everyone: Need some clarification: we are moving our count to 6AM and asking "where did you sleep last night" and planning to do the regular survey. However, if people refuse to wear a mask and we can identify them has homeless, we plan to do an observation only. Am I understanding this would be dissallowed after 6AM?

December 15, 2020   3:53 PM   from Ashley Smith to everyone: Is it correct that if doing Observation only, the count needs to be done the night of the count, NOT the following day?

December 15, 2020   3:53 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: FAQ on phone- or web-based surveys: https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3124/can-i-use-a-phone-or-web-based-survey/

December 15, 2020   3:54 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Ashley: correct

December 15, 2020   3:54 PM   from Melissa McWhinney to everyone: Is it acceptable to combine observation and survey, i.e. toe do limited observation the night of the PIT, and to use a limited survey of food programs and warming center over the following days, asking where people slept on the night of the PIT?

December 15, 2020   3:55 PM   from Ashley Smith to everyone: @Aubrey, thanks!

December 15, 2020   3:56 PM   from Ashley Burton to everyone: second melissa's question, also would that data have to be entered different because one is observation and one is limited survey...I think William touched on this but I had to step away (sorry if already asked!)

December 15, 2020   3:57 PM   from Shawn Hayes to everyone: If there is a case manager or staff member who regularly works with folks, would it be okay to complete the survey leading up to the date of the count so long as the staff/cm confirm none of the survey info changed after the night of the count?

December 15, 2020   3:57 PM   from Shawn Hayes to everyone: including homelessness status of course.

December 15, 2020   4:00 PM   from Catherine Huang Hara to everyone: Since we are providing samples, will you want raw data submissions so you can better align the math in relation to the samples to generate the national sample?

December 15, 2020   4:00 PM   from William Snow to everyone: @ Thomas - there is no simple answer to this. It depends on the nature of your geography. If the location you are counting is relatively remote and it is highly unlikely that there is movement among the homeless population and

other people who are not homeless are not likely to be in those places then you can probably count a little later. However, if you are in a city where there are people going to work at those hours then we don't encourage you to do the count in those hours.

December 15, 2020   4:01 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: All PIT Count Office Hours recordings are available here: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/#pit-count-office-hours

December 15, 2020   4:02 PM   from Thomas Bates to everyone: @William - thanks; we are considered rural by HUD but locally would call it "micro-urban". We have used a simialr approach (in the evening) before and are pretty strict with how we include observation only and would apply that same standard here, we will definitely consider how the time-shift could imapct. Thanks

December 15, 2020   4:02 PM   from Thomas Bednar to everyone: To download the chat: "FIle">"Save As">"Chat"

December 15, 2020   4:02 PM   from Riley Wilkerson to everyone: Is HUD in communication w/the CDC to assess the potential risks of conducting a nation-wide homeless PIT? Most public health experts think that the next few months will be to most dangerous and the PIT has the potential of being a national "super spreader" event.

December 15, 2020   4:03 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: FAQ: "When is it appropriate to ask people, "Where are you sleeping tonight?" when conducting a PIT count?". https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3472/when-is-it-appropriate-to-ask-people-where-are-you-sleeping-tonight/

December 15, 2020   4:05 PM   from Louise Hubbard to everyone: Are you planning to address the limitations of sheltered PIT counts which may be far lower than normal due to the requirements of social distancing and thus has the potential to underrepresent that segment of the service system??

December 15, 2020   4:06 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: For anyone interested in a general training on typical PIT count standards and methodologies, HUD published this training a few years ago to help guide you through requirements. Note that this does NOT include any information about the 2021 flexibilities and possible exceptions but does apply to PIT count approaches more broadly: https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/pit-count-standards-and-methodologies/

December 15, 2020   4:08 PM   from Michelle Spencer to everyone: In purchasing PPE supplies under the Planning Grant budget do we have to request permisson in advance and must we request to amend budget, etc? Or can we purchase under the budget line item of supplies?

December 15, 2020   4:08 PM   from Melissa McWhinney to everyone: Please send the link to the guidance about how to capture data from overflow hotels this year. Thank you.

December 15, 2020   4:10 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Melissa: HMIS Project Setup and Inventory Changes: https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HMIS-Project-Setup-and-Inventory-Changes-during-an-Infectious-Disease-Outbreak.pdf

December 15, 2020   4:12 PM   from Davis Schofield to everyone: Our CoC is planning to reduce the number of survey questions for the unsheltered PIT Count due to COVID19. This reduction will result in our inability to determine chronic homelessness status for unsheltered. Are we required to apply for receive HUD exception for this?

December 15, 2020   4:14 PM   from Gabriel Krivosh to everyone: Clarifying question that I may have misheard the response to: In order to have CE staff at a call center complete PIT surveys over the phone with folks that are already calling reporting unsheltered homelessness and seeking service, is there a need to have special permission granted?

December 15, 2020   4:16 PM   from Amy Stewart to everyone: Boosting question re guidance on overflow hotels / temporary emergency shelter

December 15, 2020   4:16 PM   from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: Are the resource above availabe on HUD's PIT page?

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December 15, 2020   4:16 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: See this graphic on p. 24 of the PIT Count Methodology Guide to help determine when the "night" of your PIT count begins: https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PIT-Count-Methodology-Guide.pdf

December 15, 2020   4:17 PM   from Fred Hintz to everyone: If we are using a "known locations" approach but reducing the number of locations that we visit on the night of the PIT to places we have found people in the past and not necessarily visiting as many 24-hour locations like gas stations, wal-marts, etc.. Do we need to ask for an exception, or should we be using some kind of a sampling approach to determine which locations to visit?

December 15, 2020   4:18 PM   from Ashley Smith to everyone: When will the observation only form be available?

December 15, 2020   4:18 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Suzie: All of the guidance linked here is available on HUD Exchange. Most is linked somewhere from the PIT page. The general PIT / HIC landing page is here: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/#general-pit-guides-and-tools

December 15, 2020   4:18 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Ashley: Should be posted sometime this week on this tab: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/#2021-pit-count-and-hic-guidance-and-training

December 15, 2020   4:18 PM   from Arielle Benson to everyone: For an observation only count, even within a limited geographic area, if we are relying solely on outreach workers and city jurisdictional staff who will have generated lists in advance of all of our encampment residents, then during the morning and day after the "night of", will effectively double check this list, and note any individuals who were previously not known. Are we will required to observe prior to 6am on the night of? Or is our ability to effectively deduplicate sufficient?

December 15, 2020   4:20 PM   from laura lama to everyone: we have a femo funded hotel shelter program with no max number of beds. they get booked as needed. would this be voucher-based beds? what would the number of beds be? the number of beds used on the night of the PIT?

December 15, 2020   4:20 PM   from laura lama to everyone: femo*

December 15, 2020   4:21 PM   from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: With so many CoCs asking for - and being granted - exceptions, including NO unsheltered count, what are HUD's plans to report to Congress? Seems like the unsheltered number will be lower regardless, and erroneously demonstrate a reduction in homelessness.

December 15, 2020   4:26 PM   from Amy Stewart to everyone: IS SSVF Prevention the same as the SSVF Emergency Housing Assistance for PIT purposes and the question that William said he'd track down, or should I submit a separate AAQ?

December 15, 2020   4:27 PM   from Amy Stewart to everyone: Boosting Lara Lama question re the number of beds in hotel

December 15, 2020   4:28 PM   from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: We got ours granted in minutes- thanks, William!

December 15, 2020   4:29 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: Please submit an AAQ if we didn't get to your specific question today!

December 15, 2020   4:29 PM   from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: AAQ link is pasted below. Select "HDX (Homelessness Data Exchange)" as your topic on the 2nd screen of this page. https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/

December 15, 2020   4:30 PM   from Rebekah Zahn-Pittser to everyone: Thank you!

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Q&A Session for PIT Count Office Hours

Session number: 1785023595

Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Starting time: 2:18 PM

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-Corey Root - 3:06 PM

Q: We are planning a limited street count with extensive service count over 14 days using the full survey -- correct that we do not need to seek an exception?

Priority: N/A-

_____

-Lisa Rice - 3:18 PM

Q: Forgive me if you addressed this previously, but will this presentation be available for viewing at a later date?

Priority: N/A-

_____

-Wally Lugo - 3:20 PM

Q: Slide 15: Demographics

Priority: N/A-

_____

-Wally Lugo - 3:20 PM

Q: Does that apply to exprapolations?

Priority: N/A-