



PIT Count Office Hours

December 15, 2020

3-4:30pm ET



Housekeeping

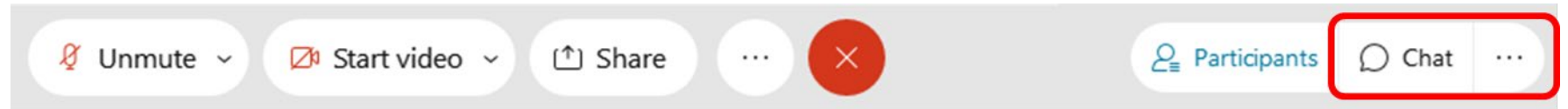
- A recording of today's session, along with the slide deck and a copy of the Chat and Q&A content will be posted to the HUD Exchange within 2-3 business days
- Event information for upcoming PIT Count Office Hours, along with copies of all materials can be found here:

[https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=41d93284a8-2021 HIC and PIT Count Updates for CoCs 11 16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-41d93284a8-19554637#2021-pit-count-and-hic-guidance-and-training](https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=41d93284a8-2021+HIC+and+PIT+Count+Updates+for+CoCs+11+16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-41d93284a8-19554637#2021-pit-count-and-hic-guidance-and-training)

- To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using:
+1-415-655-0002 Access code: 178 394 7380

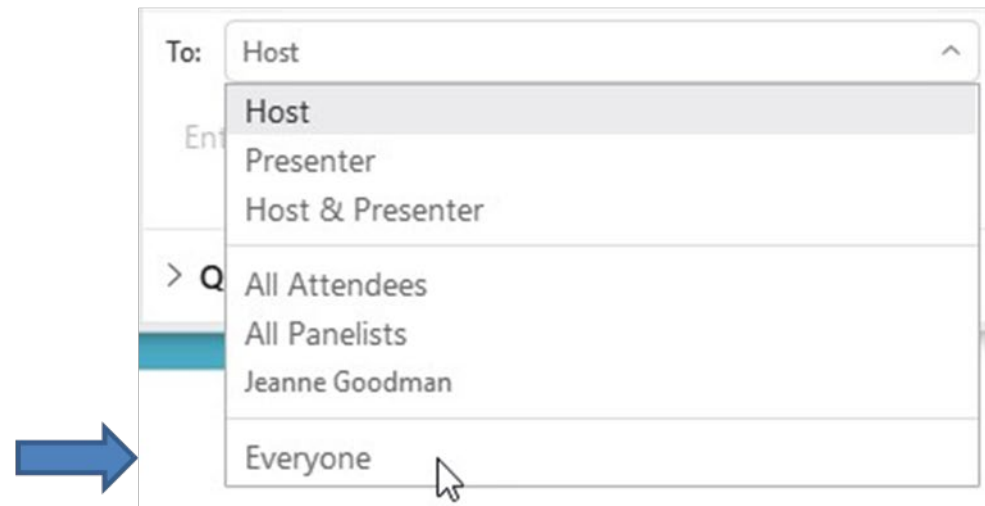
(If you need to call in toll-free, call 1-855-797-9485)

Chat Feature



Select the Chat icon to make a comment or ask a question.

Be certain the To field is set to **Everyone**



Raise Hand for Questions

Locate and select
the **Raise Hand**
icon on the right

The screenshot displays the Zoom application interface. On the right side, the 'Participants' panel is open, showing a search bar and a list of participants. Under 'Panelist: 1', there is a participant named 'Jeanne Goo...' with the role 'Host'. Under 'Attendee:', there is a participant named 'Mr. Bo Jangles' with the role 'Me'. At the bottom of the screen, the 'Participants' and 'Chat' tabs are visible. A yellow box highlights the 'Raise Hand' icon (a hand with a raised index finger) in the bottom toolbar, with a blue callout bubble pointing to it from the left.

Participants

Search

Panelist: 1

JG Jeanne Goo... Host

Attendee:

MJ Mr. Bo Jangles Me

Participants Chat

Speakers & Resource Advisors

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- William Snow, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs

Abt Associates

- Aubrey Sitler
- Meghan Henry
- Larry Buron
- Tommy Joe Bednar

2021 PIT COUNT FLEXIBILITIES



2021 HIC and PIT Count Requirements

HIC

- Conduct as normal

Sheltered PIT Count

- Conduct as normal

Unsheltered PIT Count

- Conduct based on flexibilities in guidance
- CoCs can seek an exception to some or all of the unsheltered PIT count requirements

2021 Unsheltered PIT Count Flexibilities

For the 2021 unsheltered PIT count, CoCs should:

- Prioritize the safety of people experiencing homelessness, staff, and volunteers

For the 2021 unsheltered PIT count, CoCs may:

- Conduct observation-only counts or very short surveys
 - CoCs covering large geographies may conduct observation-only counts in separate areas on consecutive nights for two to four nights
- Conduct PIT count activities for up to 14 days (normally up to 7 days)
- Rely more heavily on sampling, even if that's a change from usual PIT count approach
- Use HMIS or other comprehensive datasets*

*CoCs need to get approval to do this

Resource: [Conducting the 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count](#)

PIT Count Exceptions that Require Permission from HUD

1. Exception to some or all of the unsheltered PIT count requirements

- e.g., request to only do a head count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, with no demographic or subpopulation data collection
- e.g., request not to conduct an unsheltered PIT count at all in 2021

2. Request to use an existing comprehensive dataset instead of conducting an unsheltered PIT count

3. Exception to counting in the last 10 days of January

- Note that the data submission timeline will not likely change (around end of April)

CoCs can simply make other changes to their PIT count approaches without seeking HUD approval. HUD will require CoCs to state what changes they made during the data submission process in the HDX in spring 2021.



Requesting Exceptions

CoCs that cannot conduct the full 2021 unsheltered PIT count must submit a request for an exception to William Snow (William.Snow@hud.gov) that describes:

1. Why the CoC cannot conduct a full unsheltered PIT count,
2. Whether the CoC is requesting an exception to some or all of the requirements of the unsheltered PIT count;
3. If the CoC is conducting a count, what exactly will be included in the count (e.g., a head count only);
4. Other efforts they are taking to understand the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their community.

2021 PIT COUNT & OBSERVATIONS



Observation vs. Survey

Observation-only counts produce a head count without verbal or physical interaction between people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and those conducting the PIT count.

vs.

Survey-based counts rely on surveys conducted with people to determine whether they are experiencing homelessness, and include questions on demographic information and any other information the CoC deems important for local planning purposes. Surveys can be conducted over a broader period of time because respondents can be asked questions to validate whether they experienced homelessness on the night designated for the count.

Observation vs. Survey PIT Count Activities Timing

| | | Timing of PIT Count Activities | |
|----------------------|--------------|---|--|
| | | On the Night of the Count (e.g., 10pm-6am, starting on the night designated for the count) | After the Night of the Count (e.g., starting at 6am the day after the night designated for the count) |
| PIT Count Activities | Observations | Yes | No |
| | Surveys | Yes | Yes |

PIT Count Observation Forms

Observation forms should include:

- Observations that may substantiate the person's housing status (i.e., whether or not they should be included in the PIT count)
 - Is the person sleeping when observed?
 - Why do you think they may be experiencing homelessness?
- Observations that will assist with deduplication (i.e., making sure every person is only counted once)
 - Physical appearance
 - Exact location (e.g., street intersection, approx. address)
 - Belongings, clothing color, companion animals

Recording Observations during Observation-Based Counts

Demographic information should not be assumed by observation

- Demographic information—such as race, ethnicity, gender, and age—should not be assumed or inferred from an observation only
- Demographic information *may* be added by an outreach or other worker who is certain they know the individual being observed

Observation Tool

Forthcoming Resources:

- **PIT Count Observation Guidance (PDF)**
- **Updated Example PIT Count Observation Form (PDF and Word)**

Coming soon to the PIT Count Survey Tools [page](#)

Example PIT Count Observation Form

Please complete one form for each person observed.

Observation #: _____

Name of person completing this form: _____

Date: _____ Exact time of observation: _____

Exact location (e.g., east side of Main St. between Broadway and 1st; on bench in SW corner of X Park): _____

Number of people observed in household: _____ ☐ Unsure of the number of people to count

If unsure: Why are you unsure? _____
(e.g., in a closed tent)

*If more than 1: Which form **Observation #**(s) should be counted with this person's?* _____

Description of person: Please include details about any physical appearance (e.g., long dark hair; grey beard), clothing (e.g., black down coat), unique identifiers (e.g., visible tattoos), possessions (e.g., navy blue hiking backpack, orange tent), or companion animals you observe.

Physical Appearance: _____

Clothing: _____

Unique identifiers: _____

Possessions: _____

Companion animals: _____

Other: _____

Is the person sleeping? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: Why do you think they may be experiencing homelessness? _____

Do you know any demographic information about this person?

☐ No—I have never met this person. Please **do not** fill in demographic information in the box below.
☐ Yes—I know this person. Please fill in known demographic information in the box below.

| | | | | |
|------------|--|--|---|--|
| Age: | <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18—24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 or older | |
| Gender: | <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender non-binary or non-conforming |
| Ethnicity: | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino | | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino | |
| Race: | <input type="checkbox"/> White | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American Indian or Alaska Native | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Races | |

Common Observation Questions

What types of questions do you recommend adding to an observation form to aid in deduplication?

Are there strategies for avoiding duplication in observation-based counts?

Common Observation Questions

Should we extrapolate demographic information for an *observation-only* unsheltered count? Do we submit demographic data if conducting an observation-only PIT count?

Common Observation Questions

What are some ways communities doing head counts have gone about accurately counting people in tents if only the tents, and not the people, are visible?

2021 PIT COUNT & SURVEYS



Brief Survey Counts

HUD's [Conducting the 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count](#) notes:



Brief Survey Counts: CoCs could choose to conduct a short survey with people in places not meant for human habitation to determine if a person was experiencing homelessness on the night designated for the unsheltered PIT count. For example, if a CoC chooses to use January 25 as its PIT count date, it could conduct this very short survey at any hour of the day over several days. To maximize safety, HUD does not recommend adding questions beyond those a CoC would need to de-duplicate and confirm that someone was experiencing homelessness on the night of the count. This survey could be limited to a person's name and housing status on the date of the count.

Short Surveys in 2021

Limit questions to those that will allow you to:

- Understand the person's housing status on the night designated for the PIT count
- Deduplicate all unsheltered PIT count data (including other surveys and observations, if using both methods)
- Collect other required data elements (informed by any exceptions approved by HUD)

Observation vs. Survey PIT Count Activities Timing

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| PIT Count Activities | Observations | Yes | No |
| | Surveys | Yes | Yes |

Example Survey Questions

1. What is your name?

If the person does not want to provide their name: What are your initials?

2. What is your date of birth?

If the person does not want to provide their date of birth: How old are you?

3. Where did you sleep on [the night of the PIT count—e.g., "last Thursday night" or "on January 25"]?

4. Observations about the person's physical appearance or other identifiers, if deduplicating with observations

Common Survey Questions

Can a CoC use both short surveys and observations to conduct an unsheltered PIT count?

2021 PIT COUNT & USE OF ALTERNATIVE DATASETS



What are Alternative Datasets?

Data that accurately reflect the unsheltered population, including persons in all subpopulation groups experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Alternative datasets with information about unsheltered homelessness may include:

- “By-name,” “active,” or “priority” lists
- HMIS data (coordinated entry, outreach, etc.)
- Other unsheltered contact lists

Using Alternative Datasets

CoCs that use and frequently update (at least monthly) a complete by-name or active list could request an exception to use those data in lieu of conducting an unsheltered PIT count.

To be used in lieu of an unsheltered PIT count, alternative data should be:

- Comprehensive
- Regularly and recently updated (at least monthly)
- Comparable to previous unsheltered PIT counts

Using Alternative Datasets

To evaluate if an alternative unsheltered data source is comparable, compare your CoC's most recent unsheltered PIT count data with the proposed data source's numbers for the same timeframe as that PIT count.

Consider:

- How comparable are the total numbers?
- How comparable are demographic and household characteristics?

Common Alternative Database Questions

What is an acceptable amount of difference (e.g., 5%, 10%) between an alternative unsheltered data source and last year's unsheltered PIT count?

Should it account for demographic differences or just a head count of people?

COMMON QUESTIONS



Common Questions

Is there a deadline for requesting an unsheltered PIT count exemption? Can we submit an updated exemption if circumstances change in the CoC?

Common Questions

Is purchasing PPE for the unsheltered PIT count an eligible expense?

2021 Unsheltered PIT Count Resources

- [Conducting the 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count](#)
 - Guidance document that outlines the unsheltered PIT count flexibilities
- [How to Use Sampling within a CoC to Conduct an Unsheltered Point-in-Time \(PIT\) Count](#)
- Example PIT Count Observation Form: Forthcoming
- Updates to [HMIS Project Setup and Inventory Changes](#)
 - Updated to address non-congregate shelter (NCS) and hotel/motel inventory in the HIC and for the sheltered PIT count
- 2021 HIC and PIT Count Notice: **Not yet released**
 - This will have very few edits and the substantive issues are addressed in the first document above
 - Timing: TBD (probably late December)

All forthcoming resources will be posted to the [2021 PIT Count and HIC Guidance and Training page](#)



General PIT Count Resources

- [PIT Count & HIC Landing Page](#) on HUD Exchange
- [PIT Count Methodology Guide](#)
- [PIT Count Office Hours Recordings](#)
- [PIT Count Survey Tools](#)

More PIT Office Hours

Upcoming PIT Count Office Hours

- January 12, 2021 | 3:00-4:30pm ET
- January 19, 2021 | 3:00-4:30pm ET

Registration links available [here](#).

Pulse-Check Question

In the chat, tell us:

What do you want us to focus on during future
PIT Count Office Hours sessions?

Raise Hand for Questions

Locate and select
the **Raise Hand**
icon on the right

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JG Jeanne Goo...
Host

Attendee:

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Me

Participants Chat

Q & A

