

## **PIT Office Hours: Chat and Q&A**

**January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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January 12, 2021      2:59 PM      from Steffi Travis to everyone:      Good afternoon from Gaston-Lincoln-Cleveland Counties, NC!

January 12, 2021      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: 178 068 8545

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

January 12, 2021      3:02 PM      from Daniella Jordan to everyone: If some regions in our COC are doing a head count, how will that be reported on the PIT report? If we do a head count it is likely we will not get a correct date of birth, race, etc. How should this be reported? Thanks.

January 12, 2021      3:04 PM      from Hannah Maharrey to everyone:      From what I have read, we just need to collect enough data during the PIT to be able to de-duplicate the total, how much explanation needs to be entered into HTX to explain how the data points have been adjusted to comply with COVID guidance.

January 12, 2021      3:05 PM      from John Summerlot to everyone: Last week Norm Suchar said that CoCs who conducted an unsheltered PIT in 2020 do not need to conduct an unsheltered PIT in 2021, because it is a biennial count. At the last PIT count webinar, the chat indicated that an unsheltered PIT is required by HUD for 2021, unless CoCs are seeking a waiver. Which is correct?

January 12, 2021      3:05 PM      from Valerie Caplan to everyone: Our community is currently operating safe-sleep sites which are basically sanctioned tent sites. I am assuming that these sites would not be included in the sheltered count but wanted to verify

January 12, 2021      3:06 PM      from Gaither Stephens to everyone:      Hello everyone!

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January 12, 2021      3:06 PM      from Fred Hintz to everyone:      Hi Everyone, Are Veterans staying in hotels with the SSVF Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) funds required to be counted as literally homeless during the night of the PIT count? We do not currently count them in our HMIS and we have many more than we usually do (which is none).

January 12, 2021      3:08 PM      from EveryOne Home to everyone:      Is there a sense of how long it will take to get permission once we've made the formal waiver request?

January 12, 2021      3:08 PM      from Tucker Morgan to everyone: Are there any particular concerns for doing entering our short survey into HMIS to aid in our deduplication and collection of subpopulations since many of those are being cut out of the survey this year?

January 12, 2021      3:09 PM      from Claire Burrus to everyone: We were already approved for an exception to use an alternate dataset. Will there be any impact on funding if subpopulation counts change due to the use of this different methodology? How will HUD treat this 2021 year of PIT Count data in terms of context and how it is explained, used, etc.?

January 12, 2021      3:10 PM      from Valerie Caplan to everyone: If we have sent an email to the 2021PIT@hud.gov email address, should we be expecting a response? I submitted but have not heard anything

January 12, 2021      3:11 PM      from Jessica Sones to everyone: If we already sent out waiver exception request to you William, do we also have to submit it to 2021PIT@hud.gov? I think you said no, but want to make sure

January 12, 2021      3:11 PM      from David Lewis to everyone: How many CoCs have requested full exemptions, at this point?

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January 12, 2021      3:13 PM      from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:    Here is a link to the new PIT waiver memo that William has been referencing:  
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/Biennial-Point-in-Time-Count-Waiver-PDAS-approved-for-Signature.pdf>

January 12, 2021      3:13 PM      from Gina Ward to everyone:    If we decide to conduct the unsheltered PIT, are we able to reduce our area coverage due to less volunteers?

January 12, 2021      3:15 PM      from Amanda Sternberg to everyone:    The memo states the deadline to submit the waiver is 5:00 PM Eastern on Jan 20, not noon.

January 12, 2021      3:15 PM      from Thomas Bates to everyone:    For the PIT, if we have an org providing motel vouchers and some of them are occupied by Veterans on the night of the count - do we consider that a Veteran-dedicated bed? I think we did last year, but I think that was a mistake. Additionally, will there be HIC-dedicated office hours?

January 12, 2021      3:15 PM      from Suzie Tolmie to everyone:    Turns out we (Nashville) did not need to request an exception/waiver, as we did unsheltered count in 2020. I just wanted to send thanks to William for replying to our exception request anyway. Tennessee is in a tight spot with positive cases, very low % of ICU beds available. We were unsure, sent the request and heard back from HUD very quickly. I appreciate the staff in DC reviewing these quickly so that we know where we are going. Thank you, & your TA staff for holding these virtual meetings and clarifying exception/waiver issues.

January 12, 2021      3:15 PM      from Thomas Bates to everyone:    I'm sorry my question starts with "For the PIT" but should say "For the HIC"

January 12, 2021      3:15 PM      from Mike Thomas to everyone:    If we did not do a count in 2020, and request an exception to the count in 2021, is it a reasonable assumption that we will be required to do a full count in 2022?

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January 12, 2021 3:17 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Thomas Bates: Feel free to ask HIC questions here.

January 12, 2021 3:17 PM from Jennie Neal to everyone: what funding are you referring to for PPE

January 12, 2021 3:17 PM from Allison Arthur to host & presenter: The state PIT form requires someone experiencing homelessness to sign a form to allow the information to be put in HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) and some people have expressed concern getting that close to a person. Can we ask them for permission to sign that or refuse consent (which turns their information into a number). Just wondering if we can do it and social distance.

January 12, 2021 3:17 PM from David Lewis to everyone: How many CoCs have requested full exemptions, at this point?

January 12, 2021 3:18 PM from Thomas Bates to everyone: @Aubrey, thanks! My prior question was related to the HIC - if a veteran \*happens\* to be in a bed, but veteran status is not required for someone to be in that bed, it would \*not\* be considered veteran-dedicated, right?

January 12, 2021 3:19 PM from Jason King to everyone: If we are only counting the clients in our shelter do we need to do anything extra or just a regular count sheet

January 12, 2021 3:19 PM from EveryOne Home to everyone: Thinking about the sheltered count and the HIC, should we include COVID-Hotels that have been used for shelter decompression (known as Project Roomkey here in California) ?

January 12, 2021 3:19 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Thomas: correct. Veteran-dedicated beds must be occupied by members of veteran households. \

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January 12, 2021      3:19 PM      from Christina Cruz (privately):    Hi, are individual organizations suppose to submit these waivers?

January 12, 2021      3:19 PM      from Thomas Bates to everyone:    Thanks, locally we have a project that is operated by a program that usually is all-veterans but they have a small program that is open to everyone and I think that's where my thinking was. I appreciate your help

January 12, 2021      3:20 PM      from Sofia Johnson to everyone:    Could you repeat the last day and time to submit any waivers?

January 12, 2021      3:20 PM      from Melanie Woolman to everyone:    If only completing a head count, are communities required to also conduct the observation-based forms in order to de-duplicate?

January 12, 2021      3:21 PM      from Daniella Jordan to everyone:    Sorry if I missed this, but how are we going to report on incomplete data? If we do a head count we will not get all data needed by the PIT report, how are we going to report on just the data we have in order to avoid getting errors?

January 12, 2021      3:21 PM      from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:    @Sofia: the memo states: "January 20, 2021 at 5:00 pm eastern time" for the waiver not to complete an unsheltered PIT count. time and date change waivers can go to William after that date, as usual.

January 12, 2021      3:21 PM      from Thomas Bates to everyone:    Following the CPD Notice, are we to understand that NO FIELD in HDX will be marked as "required?" Except for # of people generally? (As in, demographics, ages, race, etc are not required?)

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January 12, 2021      3:21 PM      from William Snow to everyone: @Amanda - you are absolutely right. The deadline is actually 5pm ET on January 20 (not noon). Sorry about that.

January 12, 2021      3:22 PM      from Jessica Sones to everyone: Final PIT office hours - can we cover frequently asked HIC questions (esp. unique situations that are coming up this year)?

January 12, 2021      3:23 PM      from Thomas Bates to everyone: Second Jessica's request. We're not sure if temporary expansions of shelter funded by CARES should be included, or if local privately funded and temporary shelters should be included

January 12, 2021      3:23 PM      from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Jessica - anything in particular you want to hear about re: the HIC?

January 12, 2021      3:23 PM      from Jessica Sones to everyone: @Aubrey - I know I personally have submitted several AAQs about unique situations we are running into. Would be interested to hear about other FAQs or questions coming up this year, as they may apply to our CoC too but we haven't thought of it yet

January 12, 2021      3:25 PM      from Yvonne Petrasovits to all panelists: Confirming that if we conducted a 2020 Count we do not have to notify you if we don't plan to conduct one in 2021.

January 12, 2021      3:27 PM      from Frank T. to host (privately): Will a coc's 2020 unsheltered data be rolled over for 2021 in HDX1.0?

January 12, 2021      3:27 PM      from Kristin Zakoor to everyone: If we opt to not do the unsheltered survey at all, is there a possibility that this will negatively impact us during the CoC competition application?

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January 12, 2021      3:27 PM      from Andrea Carey to everyone: Can you clarify which part of the Memo says that an unsheltered 2020 count allows CoCs to opt out of this year's unsheltered count? (Beginner in CFRs here and would like to share with my community)

January 12, 2021      3:28 PM      from Harry Robinson to everyone: Can individual agencies request a waiver even if their COC does not?

January 12, 2021      3:28 PM      from Austin Barrett to everyone: Can you point me to the exact language in the Notice where it says we are not required to conduct a 2021 unsheltered count if we conducted a 2020 unsheltered count. I do not see that explicitly stated in the Notice.

January 12, 2021      3:28 PM      from EveryOne Home to everyone: Jessica Shimmin from EveryOne Home in Alameda County California, wondering whether we will receive confirmation of our waiver requests and what the timeline on that will be.

January 12, 2021      3:28 PM      from Amy Stewart to everyone: what will hdx1 look like regarding how we would enter the unsheltered portion if we do anything less than a regular full count?

January 12, 2021      3:29 PM      from Jason King to everyone: Will we be receiving a count sheet for 2021 sent to us for resubmission.

January 12, 2021      3:29 PM      from Shannon Haward (privately): Is this presentation all about "Unsheltered" PITC

January 12, 2021      3:30 PM      from Shawn Hayes to everyone: Sorry if this has already been answered, but how should Safe Outdoor Spaces be handled in the PIT Count? My assumption is people living in a Safe Outdoor Space would still be considered experiencing homelessness.

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January 12, 2021 3:31 PM from Amy Stewart to everyone: Boosting Andrea and Austin re language citation. thanks

January 12, 2021 3:33 PM from Shawn Hayes to everyone: \*unsheltered homelessness

January 12, 2021 3:36 PM from EveryOne Home to everyone: what about FEMA funded shelter?

January 12, 2021 3:39 PM from Sue Legal to everyone: How would warming shelters be counted and if portions of CoC are not counting unsheltered due to lack of volunteers, numbers will be much lower. Do we need to document and justify reasoning?

January 12, 2021 3:39 PM from Martha Taylor to everyone: Do seasonal overflow beds belong on an Emergency Shelter's Bed and Unit Inventory?

January 12, 2021 3:41 PM from Rose Burton to everyone: Our CoC is in the process of hiring an HMIS Admin so, to be sure we make an informed decision, can you share any future implications of not conducting an unsheltered count this year?

January 12, 2021 3:45 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Martha: All ES beds that were available on the night of the PIT and HIC should be included in the HIC, and all people staying in them should be included on the sheltered PIT count

January 12, 2021 3:45 PM from Matt Simmonds - Simtech to everyone: FYI that the HUD guidance on how to use sampling for the unsheltered PIT is linked to at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6218/how-to-use-sampling-within-a-coc-to-conduct-an-unsheltered-pit-count/>



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January 12, 2021      3:46 PM      from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:    Thanks, Matt! Here's the link to the PIT Office Hours recording and materials where we discussed sampling in more depth: <https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/2021-pit-count-office-hours-december-3/>

January 12, 2021      3:47 PM      from EveryOne Home to everyone:      If our request doesn't meet the waiver requirements will we hear back?

January 12, 2021      3:58 PM      from Kelsey Addy to everyone:    we were told by HUD TA that all beds in a family unit that is dedicated to Veterans should be counted as dedicated beds - is that true?

January 12, 2021      3:58 PM      from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:    @Kelsey: yes.

January 12, 2021      3:59 PM      from Kelsey Addy to everyone:    Thank you Aubrey!

January 12, 2021      3:59 PM      from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:    Looking up the citation to remind how we define "dedicated" beds and units - will send in a second!

January 12, 2021      4:00 PM      from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:    Dedicated bed inventory is defined on p. 17 of the most recent PIT/HIC Data Collection Notice: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Notice-CPD-18-08-2019-HIC-PIT-Data-Collection-Notice.pdf>

January 12, 2021      4:01 PM      from Kelsey Addy to everyone:    Thank you!

January 12, 2021      4:01 PM      from Lucia Orozco to everyone:    We have a Housing Support Program through our county that serves clients that are homeless as well as unstably housed. Should this program be included in our HIC. All beds or just the beds that serve homeless?

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January 12, 2021      4:01 PM      from Thomas Bates to everyone: If a seasonal shelter has transitioned to operating year-round, is there any special way we need to reflect this?

January 12, 2021      4:04 PM      from Christina Ashie Guidry to everyone: To assist in reaching unsheltered individuals, we were going to call individuals on our by name list and HMIS - can we use volunteers to call those individuals or do we have to use authorized staff to call those individuals? (thinking here about the fact that folks on this list have had to agree to share their information for the purposes of HMIS)

January 12, 2021      4:05 PM      from Marlene Hyer to everyone: What are specific instructions for HIC for PSH? I notice more instructions focus on shelters.

January 12, 2021      4:05 PM      from Andrea Hurley to everyone: Does anyone have any way to keep HIC beds organized in an easier way?

January 12, 2021      4:05 PM      from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Marlene: All data submission requirements for the HIC can be found here:  
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Notice-CPD-18-08-2019-HIC-PIT-Data-Collection-Notice.pdf>

January 12, 2021      4:05 PM      from Antoinette Joiner to host & presenter: This Coc plan to utilize the Brief Survey Count option, do we create ouu own "short surevey questions (name, DOB, gender Vet, housing status, disability)?

January 12, 2021      4:10 PM      from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: If anyone has specific requests for topics of focus on next week's PIT Count Office Hours session (including HIC issues), please stick those in the chat. We already noted "HIC FAQs" as requested earlier today.

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January 12, 2021      4:12 PM      from Laura Lane to everyone:      What are some strategies for reporting these data to the community when they won't be comparable to last year? Can we say that there is an uptick or decrease? Can we say that the data tell us something about the effects of the pandemic on our communities?

January 12, 2021      4:14 PM      from Jessica Sones to everyone:      @Laura, that is a good question! I'm interested in that as well

January 12, 2021      4:14 PM      from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:      As a reminder: the office hours where we discussed sampling methodologies is here:  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/2021-pit-count-office-hours-december-3/>

January 12, 2021      4:16 PM      from Matt Simmonds - Simtech to everyone:      You can also check out the guidance from the NAEH on sampling at  
<https://endhomelessness.org/resource/conducting-the-2021-pit-in-the-age-of-covid-19-webinar/>  
Good news is that the approaches align with the HUD guidance - just a different resource to review and consider. Big thing is to be able to document your methodology as that can weigh into how you message any impact COVID has on trends.

January 12, 2021      4:21 PM      from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:      Registration link:  
<https://mailchi.mp/hudexchange/2021-hic-and-pit-count-updates-for-cocs?e=6c20f5e008>

January 12, 2021      4:21 PM      from Andrew Timleck to everyone:      A huge thanks to you all for continuing to shepherd information to us, walk us through the morass of rules, waivers etc. some days, lol. :D

January 12, 2021      4:21 PM      from William Snow to everyone:      That was a great webinar Matt - thanks for putting it in the chat.

January 12, 2021      4:21 PM      from Lisa Snipes to everyone:      Thank you, everyone!

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### **Q&A Session for PIT Count Office Hours**

-Daniella Jordan - 3:01 PM

Q: If some regions in our COC are doing a head count, how will that be reported on the PIT report? If we do a head count it is likely we will not get a correct date of birth, race, etc. How should this be reported? Thanks.

Priority: N/A-

-Aubrey Sitler - 3:29 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

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-Fred Hintz - 3:03 PM

Q: Are Veterans staying in hotels with the SSVF Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) funds required to be counted as literally homeless during the night of the PIT count? We do not currently count them in our HMIS.

Priority: N/A-

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-John Summerlot - 3:05 PM

Q: Last week Norm Suchar said that CoCs who conducted an unsheltered PIT in 2020 do not need to conduct an unsheltered PIT in 2021, because it is a biennial count. Is that correct?

Priority: N/A-

-Aubrey Sitler - 3:27 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

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-Daniella Jordan - 3:21 PM

Q: Sorry if I missed this, but how are we going to report on incomplete data? If we do a head count we will not get all data needed by the PIT report, how are we going to report on just the data we have in order to avoid getting errors?

Priority: N/A-

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-Jessica Rice - 3:23 PM

Q: Is there “master list” of dates and times for PIT counts currently scheduled available to the communities?

Priority: N/A-

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-Lamonica Haynes - 3:23 PM

Q: If we have been granted a Full Exception to the 2021 Unsheltered Count, is there any notification that needs to be made to HUD, or is that only for those who requested waivers?

Priority: N/A-

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-Rhene Ritter - 3:24 PM

Q: Is there flexibility on how the gender questions is asked on a survey to implement feedback from the LGBTQ population?

Priority: N/A-

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-Mitchel Blum-Alexander - 3:29 PM

Q: Sorry, I came to the webinar late...Let's say a CoC did an unsheltered count in 2020 and will do a count this year. Data collected will be limited. This CoC only has to submit a message informing HUD of that fact to the email address in the waiver.

Priority: N/A-

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-Mitchel Blum-Alexander - 3:30 PM

Q: Did I just hear correctly that a CoC that carried out an unsheltered count does NOT can choose not to carry one out in 2021, and does NOT need to submit a waiver request?

Priority: N/A-

-Aubrey Sitler - 3:34 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

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-Dan Derima - 3:33 PM

Q: Good Afternoon. Can a CoC require Volunteers to produce a negative covid test to participate?

Priority: N/A-

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-Gaither Stephens - 3:39 PM

Q: Quick question about units vs. beds. If I have a congregate shelter with one large room with 20 beds, is that 1 unit with 20 beds or 20 units with 20 beds?

Priority: N/A-

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-laura lama - 3:39 PM

Q: those hotel shelters that were opened with brand new covid-19 funding streams will be new rows on the HIC, right? these would not be hotel rooms meant to make up for a reduction of beds in a shelter, but new sheltering options that were created to house ne

Priority: N/A-

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-Andrea Carey - 3:46 PM

Q: Can you clarify which part of the Memo says that an unsheltered 2020 count allows CoCs to opt out of this year's unsheltered count?

Priority: N/A-

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-laura lama - 4:02 PM

Q: what if our warming center doesn't have beds? Also, we should include on HIC even if they weren't running that night?

Priority: N/A-