



PIT Count Office Hours

December 15, 2021

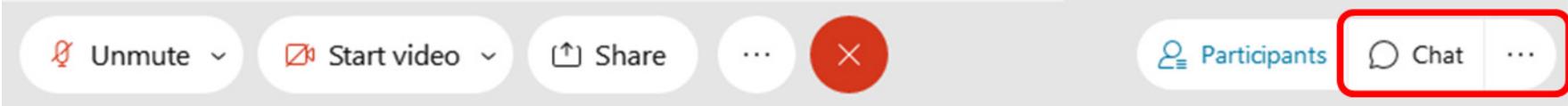
2:00-3:30pm ET



Housekeeping

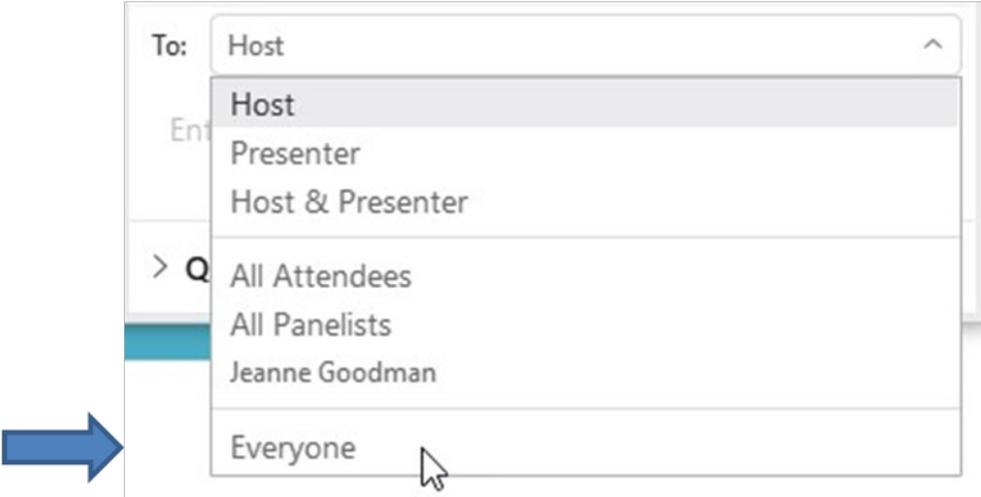
- A recording of today's session, along with the slide deck and a copy of the Chat and Q&A content will be posted to the HUD Exchange within a few business days.
- Materials from this session, along with the recording and materials from prior PIT Count Office Hours Sessions, can be found [here](#).
- To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using:
+1-415-655-0002 Access code: 2425 010 7556
(If you need to call in toll-free, call 1-855-797-9485)

Chat Feature

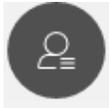


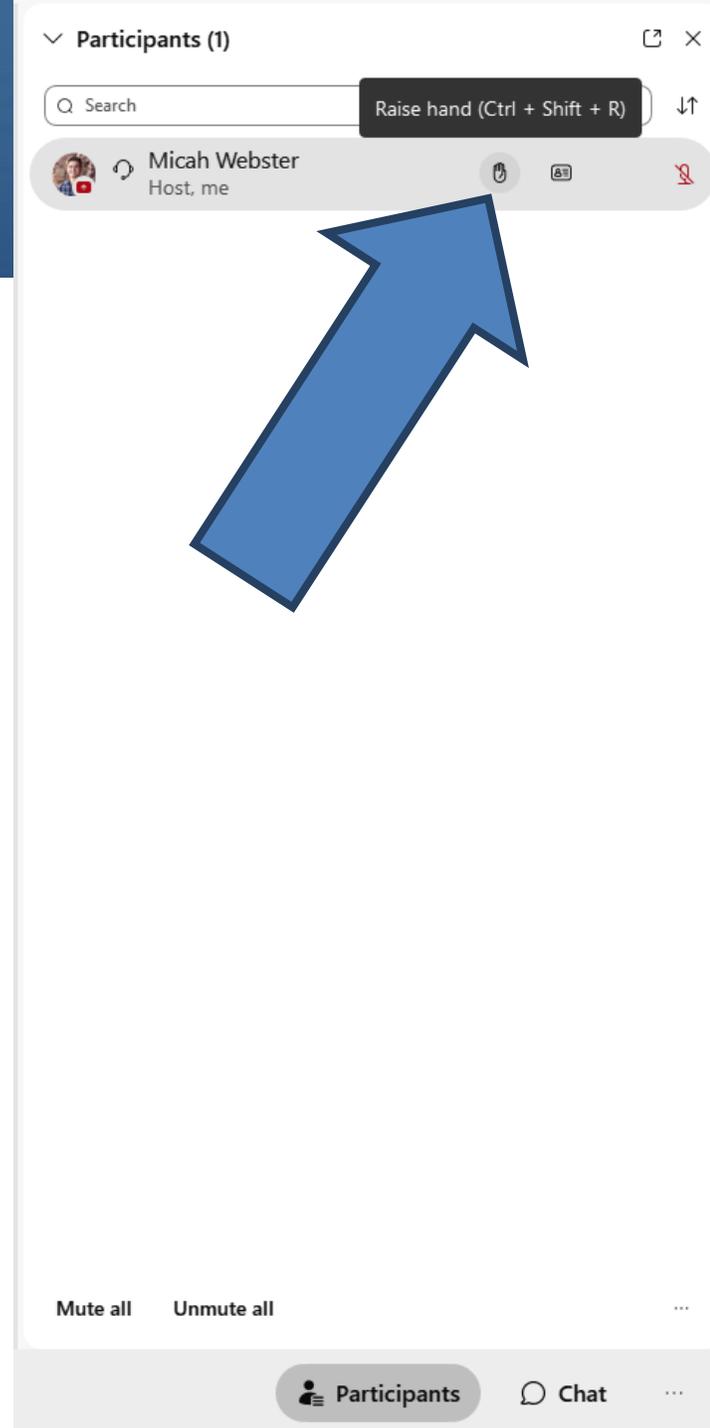
Select the Chat icon to make a comment or ask a question.

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



Want to ask a question verbally?

1. Select the Participant list icon at the bottom of this screen.
It looks like this: 
2. Hover your mouse next to your name and select the Raise Hand icon.
3. We will call on you, then unmute you to ask the question, and put you back on mute.
4. ****Click the hand icon again to lower your hand after you have asked a question****
5. Call-in users can unmute/mute by hitting *6.



Speakers & Resource Advisors

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- William Snow, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (he/him/his)

Abt Associates

- Tori Morris (she/her/hers)
- Aubrey Sitler (she/her/hers)
- Meghan Henry (she/her/hers)
- Caroline Roddey (she/her/hers)

Agenda

- HIC and PIT Count Update
- PIT Count Safety Considerations
- PIT Count Sampling Guidance and Tools
 - Overview of Sampling and Developing a Sampling Approach
 - Demonstration of Sampling Tools
- Q&A

HIC and PIT Count Updates

- CoCs should be preparing to count. **HUD does not plan on granting any extensions because of COVID-19.**
- CoCs that received an exception last year should note that the exception only applied to 2021 and **should expect to meet the regulatory requirement of conducting a full count at least every other year** if they did not conduct a PIT count in 2021.

Safety Considerations for Counting During COVID-19



COVID-19 Safety Guidance for the PIT Count

HUD's recently released [Safety Guidance document](#) considers the need to maintain safety while collecting sufficient data to make life-saving decisions about serving people experiencing homelessness. It includes guidance on:

- Vaccination status for people conducting the count
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Social distancing
- Volunteers
- Homeless service provider staff
- Remote PIT count training
- Partnerships
- Sampling
- Mobile count applications

Vaccinations, PPE, and Social Distancing

Health Precautions:

- CoCs should **encourage all people involved with the count to be fully vaccinated** or follow local health precautions.
- It is recommended that staff and volunteers get tested no more than 7 days prior to the count and stay home if they have any COVID-19 symptoms on the night of the count.
- CoCs should encourage volunteers to observe symptoms for 14 days after the count and utilize COVID-19 tracing applications.

PPE:

- CoCs should ask volunteers to bring masks and wear them during the count and **be prepared to provide masks, hand sanitizer, and other PPE** recommended by local health authorities.

Social Distancing:

- CoCs should create **small counting teams** with 2-3 volunteers. Teams should remain six feet apart from each other and people experiencing homelessness.

Volunteers and Partners

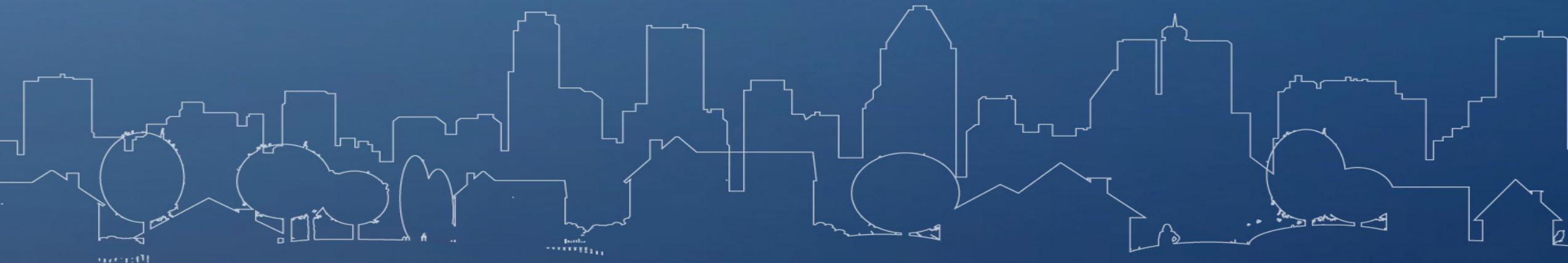
Volunteers:

- HUD **discourages CoCs from using volunteers that are at high risk of contracting COVID-19**, including persons age 65 or older, to physically count. Alternatively, these higher-risk community members can be engaged in the PIT count in other ways (for example, data entry).
- To limit social interactions, HUD recommends that CoCs **maximize use of remote training options**.

Partners:

- HUD recommends **partnering with homeless service provider staff to coordinate multi-day counts**, leveraging the work they are already doing with unsheltered populations to understand where people were sleeping on the night of the count.
- **Partnering with Health Care for the Homeless providers and the local public health authority** will give CoCs needed insight about safely conducting the count and may provide additional access to health resources to conduct the count.

PIT Count Sampling Guidance and Tools



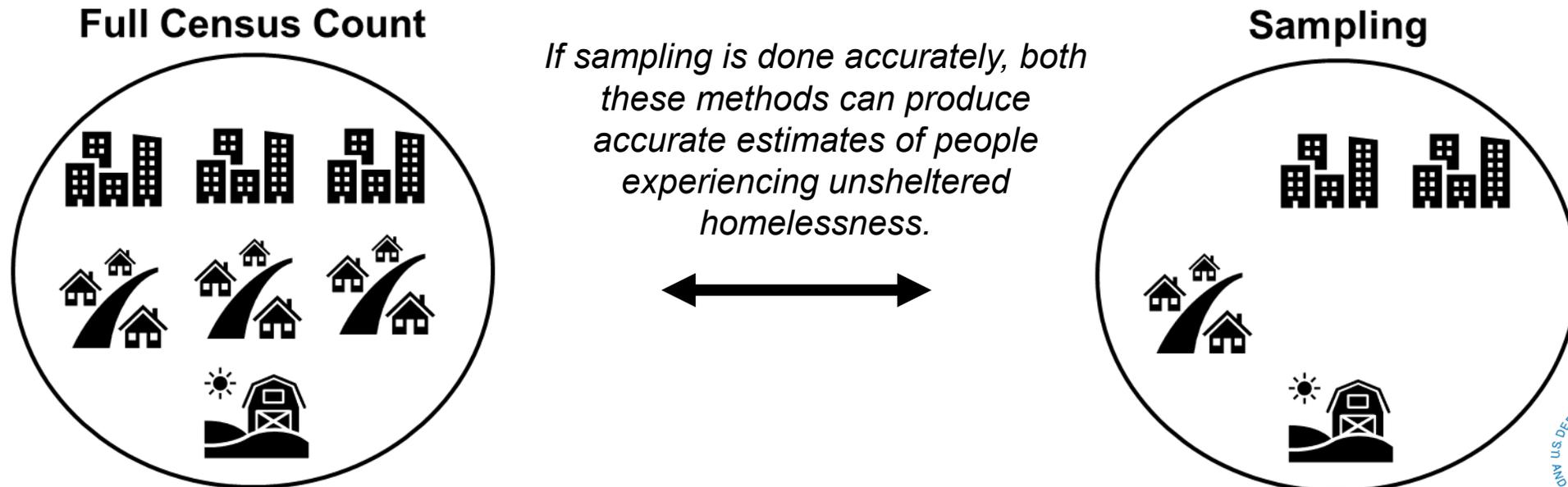
Sampling Guidance and Tools

1. **[How to Use Sampling within a CoC to Conduct an Unsheltered PIT Count](#)**: a guidance document that provides an overview of sampling and how to use sampling to conduct an unsheltered PIT count.
 - The **[December 3, 2020 PIT count office hours](#)** provides more details to the guidance document. It is highly recommended to review the office hours if you are considering sampling.
2. **[PIT Count Sampling Tool](#)**: this tool helps CoCs develop a sampling approach to estimate a total count of the number of people within their geographies experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of the PIT count.
3. **[PIT Count Estimating Tool](#)**: this tool helps CoCs that already conducted the unsheltered PIT count, using a sampling approach, to estimate a total unsheltered PIT count.
4. **[PIT Count Data Extrapolation Tool](#)**: this tool helps CoCs extrapolate for demographic data within their PIT counts, also available on the **[Point-in-Time Count Implementation Tools page](#)**.

What is Sampling?

Sampling is a way to account for information about a whole group of people by only collecting data about a portion of that full group.

In the context of an unsheltered PIT count, this means that a community could estimate the number and characteristics of all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by counting only some sub-regions of its full geography and then extrapolating for uncounted areas.



Sampling Considerations

Benefits of Sampling



Requires less time than a full census count.



Requires fewer staff and volunteers

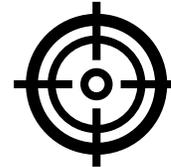


Increases safety for people experiencing homelessness and staff/volunteers

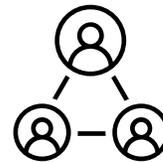
Drawbacks of Sampling



Relies on assumptions based on limited information.



May not be as precise as a full census count.



If demographics are not accounted for in developing a sampling approach, extrapolated information about demographics may not be valid.

Sampling Support for CoCs

Local Research Partners: can help CoCs refine PIT count data collection approaches, support implementation, and data cleaning and analysis.

TA Providers: can answer questions about technical assistance tools, connect CoCs to resources, and assist communities in developing PIT count methodologies.

- *How to contact:* submit questions via the [Ask a Question](#) page on the [HUD Exchange](#). To submit a question, select **HDX (AHAR, HIC, LSA, PDX, PIT, Stella, Sys PM)** under Reporting Systems.

Sampling Terms

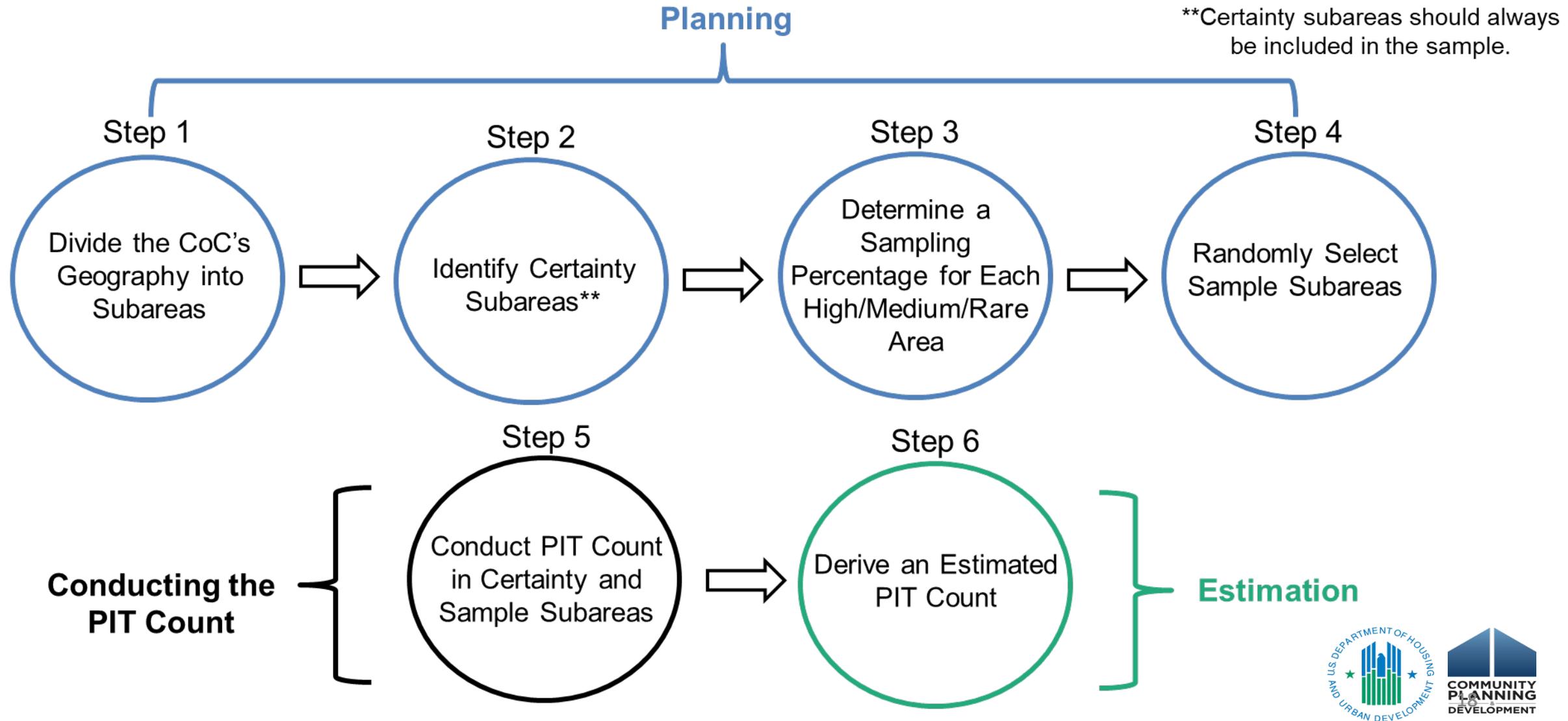
Sampling Terms:

- **Subareas:** distinct areas of a CoC's full geography. Subareas do not all have to be the same size geographically, but they should be divided and categorized based on their predicted levels of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- **Sample subareas:** randomly selected subareas in which a CoC will conduct PIT count observation or survey activities.
- **Sampling percentage:** the percentage of subareas to be sampled for a given subarea type.

Subarea Types:

- **Certainty subareas:** subareas with uniquely high patterns of unsheltered homelessness should be selected as certainty subareas
- **High-density subareas:** subareas that include known locations where a relatively larger number of people experiencing homelessness frequently stay
- **Medium-density subareas:** subareas that include areas where fewer people experience unsheltered homelessness
- **Rare or unlikely subareas:** subareas that include areas where very few or no people have been known to experience homelessness.
- **Uninhabitable subareas:** subareas where it would be impossible for someone to experience unsheltered homelessness (these include areas like large bodies of water.)

Six General Steps to Developing a Sampling Approach

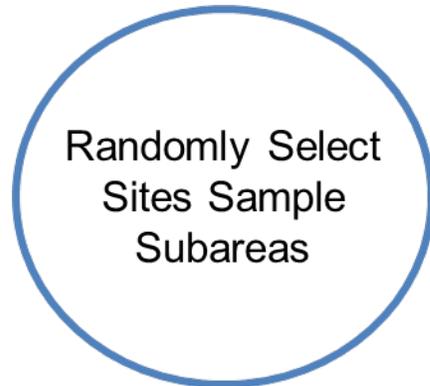


PIT Count Sampling Tool

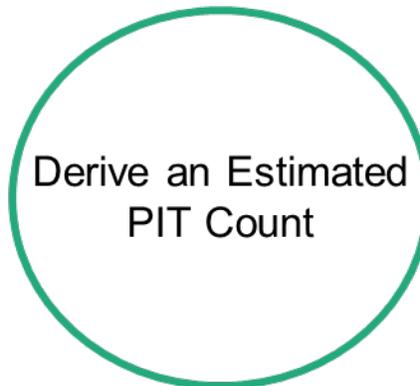
Goal of this tool: to support communities who are in the **planning phase of their PIT count** to determine sample sites and then to use that framework after the count to calculate a weighted estimate that would represent all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the CoC.

The PIT Count Sampling Tool can help with:

Step 4



Step 6



Demonstration of the PIT Count Sampling Tool

A detailed user guide is available on the [PIT Count Sampling Resource Page](#)



Unsheltered Point-in-Time Count
PIT Count Sampling Tool for CoCs
Version 1.0

PIT Count Sampling Tool Overview

Background

HUD requires Continuums of Care (CoCs) to conduct Point-in-Time (PIT) counts of people in unsheltered locations at least every other year. Many CoCs conduct their PIT counts by sampling parts of their jurisdictions and using those samples to derive a full estimate of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

The PIT Count Sampling Tool is intended to help CoCs to develop their sampling approaches and estimate of the total number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness based on the sample data they collect.

Purpose of this Tool

This tool helps CoCs use a sampling approach to estimate a total count of the number of people within their communities who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of the PIT count. This tool is intended to support communities that are in the planning phase of their PIT count to determine sample sites and then to use that framework after the count to calculate a weighted estimate that would represent all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the CoC.

CoCs that have already conducted a PIT count using sampling and that are seeking assistance with using data collected to estimate the total unsheltered PIT count should use the [PIT Count Estimating Tool](#), available on the [How to Use Sampling within a CoC to Conduct an Unsheltered PIT Count](#) page on HUD Exchange (linked below).

This tool will only help a CoC establish an estimate of total people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and will not calculate estimates for household, demographic, or subpopulation data. To estimate more specific data about the sampled population, a community would need to conduct a complete sampling of their community. Guidance on conducting a complete sample of a community is provided in the [How to Use Sampling within a CoC to Conduct an Unsheltered PIT Count](#) guidance document (linked below).

To extrapolate for demographic data, CoCs may also consider using the [PIT Count Extrapolation Tool](#), an Excel file available for download

[PIT Count Implementation Tools page](#)

Version 1.0 introduces the PIT Count Sampling Tool.

PIT Count Sampling Tool User Guide

To view the [comprehensive user guide](#) PIT Count Sampling Tool, please visit this page:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6218/how-to-use-sampling-within-a-coc-to-conduct-an-unsheltered-pit-count/>

Note that this page also includes:

- (1) [How to Use Sampling within a CoC to Conduct an Unsheltered Point-in-Time Count](#) : General guidance on how to use sampling to conduct an unsheltered PIT count
- (2) [PIT Count Estimation Tool](#): Tool to help CoCs that have already conducted a sampling-based unsheltered PIT count to calculate a weighted PIT count total
- (3) [PIT Count Estimation Tool User Guide](#): A user guide for the PIT Count Estimation Tool

To view all of HUD's PIT count and HIC resources visit the [PIT and HIC Guides, Tools, and Webinars Page](#) (<https://tinyurl.com/jvad88ta>). This is a one-stop site where communities can access all of HUD's guidance on how to plan and implement their PIT counts. The resources include the [How to Use Sampling within a CoC to Conduct an Unsheltered PIT Count](#) guidance document (<https://tinyurl.com/t65xntfb>), the [PIT Count Methodology Guide](#) (<https://tinyurl.com/29bhdka2>), survey tool resources, and implementation resources.

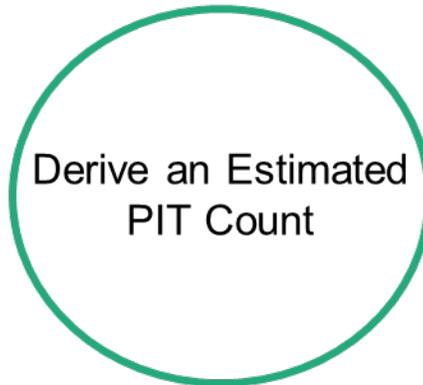
If you have technical questions about using this PIT Count Sampling Tool, please submit your questions to the [Ask A Question \(AAQ\)](#) portal (<https://tinyurl.com/ne39t9rw>). In Step 2 of the question submission process, select "HDX Homelessness Data Exchange (including PIT, HIC, AHAR, Sys PM, LSA, and PDX)" from the "My question is related to" drop down list.

PIT Count Estimating Tool

Goal of this tool: help communities that already conducted the unsheltered PIT count using a sampling approach estimate a total unsheltered PIT count.

The PIT Count Estimating Tool can help with:

Step 6



Demonstration of the PIT Count Estimating Tool

A detailed user guide is available on the
[PIT Count Sampling Resource Page](#)



Unsheltered Point-in-Time Count
PIT Count Estimating Tool for CoCs
Version 1.0

PIT Count Estimating Tool Overview

Background

HUD requires Continuums of Care (CoCs) to conduct Point in Time (PIT) counts of people in unsheltered locations at least every other year. Many CoCs conduct their counts by sampling parts of their jurisdiction and using those samples to derive a full estimate of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

The **PIT Count Estimating Tool** is intended to help CoCs develop the estimate of the total number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness based on the sample data they collect.

Purpose of this Tool

This tool helps CoCs that already conducted the unsheltered PIT count using a sampling approach to estimate a total unsheltered PIT count.

This tool assumes that the CoC already divided its geography into smaller subareas and categorized them based on the likely number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness within each subarea, then sampled those selected areas during the unsheltered PIT count. The tool takes the CoC's sampled PIT count data and calculates an estimated total unsheltered PIT count, which is weighted to represent the subareas that were not counted to estimate an overall count for the full area. This tool is designed to guide CoCs through these steps.

CoCs seeking assistance with selecting sample sites should use the **PIT Count Sampling Tool**, available on the [How to Use Sampling within a CoC to Conduct an Unsheltered PIT Count](#) page on HUD Exchange (linked below).

This tool will only help a CoC establish an **estimate of total people experiencing unsheltered homelessness** and will **not calculate estimates for household, demographic, or subpopulation data**. To estimate more specific data about the sampled population, a community would need to conduct a complete sampling of their community. Guidance on conducting a complete sample of a community is provided in the [How to Use Sampling within a CoC to Conduct an Unsheltered PIT Count](#) guidance document (linked below).

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- (1) **How to Use Sampling within a CoC to Conduct an Unsheltered PIT Count**: General guidance on how to use sampling to conduct an unsheltered PIT count
- (2) **PIT Count Sampling Tool**: A tool to help CoCs to develop and use a sampling approach to conduct their unsheltered PIT counts. This tool includes the "estimation" function covered in the PIT Count Estimating Tool.
- (3) **PIT Count Sampling Tool User Guide**: A user guide for the PIT Count Sampling Tool

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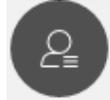
PIT Count Resources

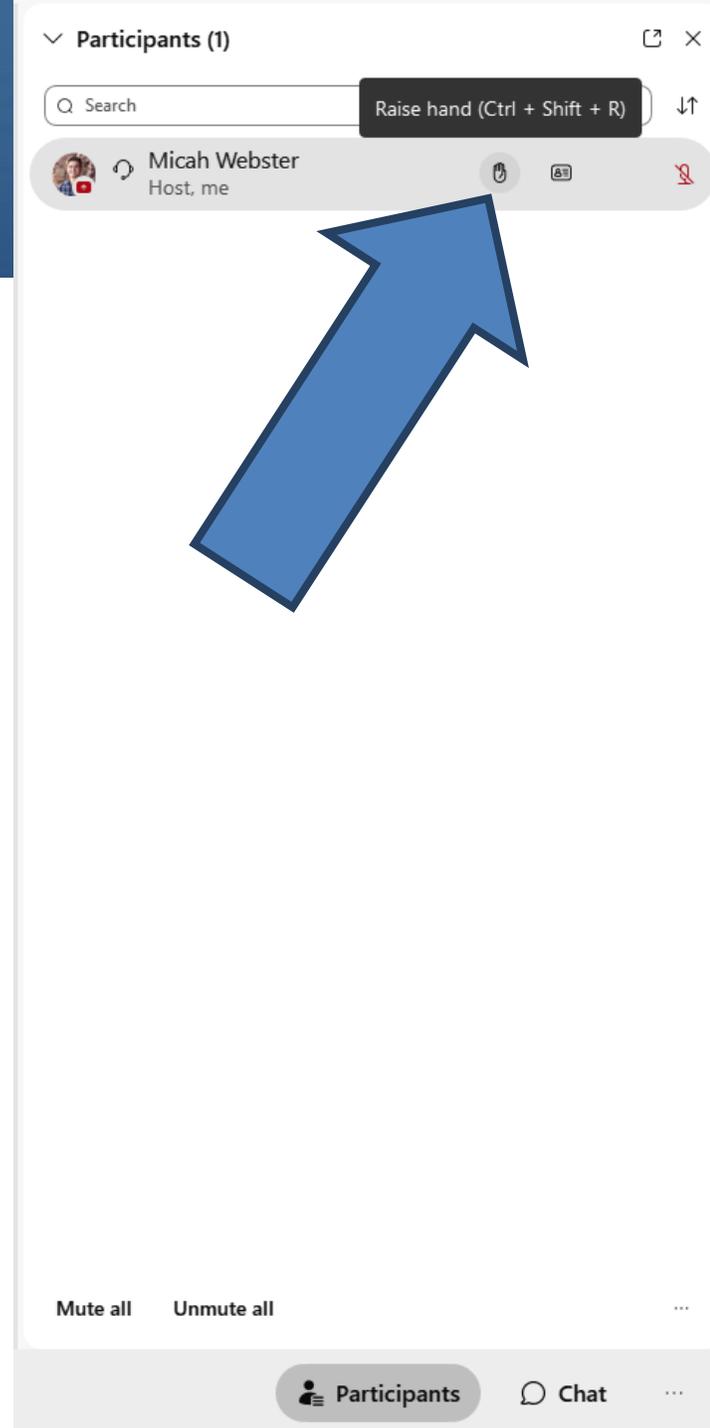
- The HUD Exchange HIC and PIT Count AAQ inbox **will no longer answer policy questions, including those about planning for or implementing the HIC or PIT count.** Instead, policy questions should be sent to HICPITCount@hud.gov.
- The HUD Exchange HDX AAQ inbox will continue to **answer questions about technical assistance tools to assist communities with their HIC or PIT counts or how to submit data in HDX 1.0.**

PIT Count Resources

- [PIT Count & HIC Landing Page](#) on HUD Exchange
- [PIT Count Methodology Guide](#)
- [PIT Count Sampling Guidance & Tools](#)
- [PIT Count Office Hours Recordings](#)
- [PIT Count Survey Tools](#) *(these tools will be updated to align with the 2022 HMIS Data Standards)*

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Q & A

