

Selected Chat Log

During the October 2019 PIT Count Methodology Office Hours, participants asked a number of questions for which others offered insights into their own models, responses, and successes. Below is a selected portion of the chat log from that call.

General PIT Count Planning: Promising Practices

- From Vermont Balance of State CoC: Having shelter guests participate in identifying hotspots and/or conducting the survey increased our unsheltered count that we probably wouldn't have done without them. We don't really have a process for it yet – it is very much shelter by shelter on how they engaged
- We've put together a coordinated entry dashboard, and it's helped us see how many people we currently have homeless in our system on a regular basis. We've seen that this number has been very close to our PIT number which we think is a good sign that we are getting good coverage for both coordinated entry AND our PIT count.
- We have third year social work students to help with outreach. Non-outreach students don't tend to engage clients as well.
- City of Amarillo works very closely with the President of Amarillo College to count the homeless students, Dr. Lowery-Hart is very involved with the CoC. We did completed a Summer Count which included a local report that captured all homeless including doubled up while we only report the unsheltered count on the PIT report.
- This is Michael Ullman from the National Homeless Information Project. We strongly encourage communities to provide a larger range of appropriate ethnicities cultures instead of these heterogeneous categories called Asian, Black, Hispanic and even White and Native American. Ethnicity is the single biggest predictor of homelessness and HUD fails to account for this in their data requirements.
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PIT Count Methodologies and Extrapolation

- CT uses geographic sampling and enumeration that focuses on known locations. Details start on page 62. <https://cceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CT-Counts-May-2018-v2.pdf>
- We have some language on Observational Counts we worked on with our PIT Consultant that might be helpful to those considering observational counts for the first time. Feel free to email me if you'd like that language: shayes@coloradocoalition.org

Mobile Apps

- Here's a link to the Office Hours call that covered mobile apps: <https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/point-in-time-count-methodology-office-hours-june-2019/>
- Hi all! If anyone has questions on mobile apps CA-601 (San Diego) is going to be using Simtech's this year. It's our first year fully using an app. We're open to take questions about our experience so far! support@rtfhdsd.org

Strategies to Include HUD-VASH PSH Inventory in HMIS

- Go to your local media and try to get a story on how the VA does not collaborate with the rest of the homeless coalition and how many VASH vouchers they are sitting on and not using. If you want this information email me at mdarrenu@yahoo.com
- For VASH projects we ask our local housing authority to enter that information into the system rather than the VA. This has worked for us for a while. It is not perfect but each year, more and more beds are included in HMIS vs. not included.
- It took us years to get HUD-VASH projects into HMIS. First, they said they weren't allowed. We contacted our local HUD-VASH director and got them to say that our housing authority COULD put in HUD-VASH information into HMIS. Next, they said they didn't have the staff hours available to do the input, so I offered to input the data for them. Then they said they didn't have all of the information we needed so we came up with an ROI and a supplemental form to their 50058 form that they use to collect the data. They were willing to send that out and get the data that we needed, but it took a ton of work.
- FYI, we have about 100 HMIS admins that have started an HMIS administrators Slack channel. We talk about everything from data warehousing, PIT apps, vendor satisfaction and migration, etc. All HMIS admins are welcome. Email me if you are interested in joining: gaither.stephens@gulfcoastpartnership.org. We also have a Google group that is open to all. We have 128 members that offer near real-time help to other admins.