

Appendix C – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Should Shelter Plus Care (S+C) programs be included on the HIC?

Yes, all Shelter Plus Care programs should be included in the HIC. S+C programs should be counted as permanent supportive housing, as all S+C beds are required to serve persons who are homeless. Each S+C program must have a program-level PIT count on the HIC, even if they do not participate in the local HMIS.

2. Do permanent supportive housing programs need to have a program-level point-in-time count in the HIC?

Although permanent supportive housing programs are not included in the CoC-wide PIT count, all permanent supportive housing programs must provide a point-in-time count for the HIC. This count should be conducted on the night designated by the CoC for the HIC and CoC-wide PIT count.

3. Should beds/units that are not dedicated to serving homeless persons, but sometimes serve homeless persons, be included in the HIC?

No, only beds/units that are dedicated to serving homeless persons should be included in the HIC. Additionally, only persons staying in emergency shelter, Safe Havens, and transitional housing beds dedicated to serving persons who are homeless should be included in the CoC-wide PIT count.

4. Should beds that are not occupied on the night of the count be included in the HIC?

For year-round and seasonal beds, the CoC should report the total number of beds, not just those that are occupied on the night designated for the count. For overflow beds, CoCs should report only the number of beds occupied on the night designated for the count (see instruction for 2.9C, Bed and Unit Availability).

5. What is considered a household with only children?

A household with only children is any household comprised only of children under 18 years of age. This includes unaccompanied children, adolescent parents and their children, adolescent siblings, and any other household configurations composed only of children.

6. If a homeless program serves multiple household types and do not have a specific number of beds designated for each specific household type, how should I record this program in the HIC?

There are two methodologies for designating household types in a program that serves multiple household types without a fixed number of beds for each household type. The beds may be apportioned by household type based on average utilization rates during the year. (This is the methodology described in the 2010 HMIS Data Standards.) Alternatively, the beds may be apportioned based on how they are used on the night designated for the point-in-time count. (This is the methodology described in past HIC guidance.)

7. Who should I be contacting at our local VA to learn more about VA homeless programs that need to be incorporated into our CoC's HIC and PIT count?

CoC staff should contact the Homeless Coordinator at their local VA Medical Center to get more information about VA homeless services offered to veterans in your area. A link to a list of Homeless Veteran Program Coordinators by state is available at:

http://www.va.gov/homeless/hmls_vet_prog_coord.asp.

8. How should VASH vouchers be reported on the HIC?

CoCs should report the total number of VASH vouchers available for use on the designated night of the HIC and PIT count, regardless of whether or not the voucher is presently being used. CoCs should contact their local housing authority or VA medical center that administers the VASH vouchers to determine the total number of vouchers available in the CoC. When a single program operates in multiple CoCs, each CoC should have program descriptor data pertaining to that program in their HMIS; beds should be apportioned according to which CoC they are physically located in. Vouchers are designated for use in a particular geographic location; vouchers that were funded but unused on the night of the HIC should be included within the CoC where they are designated for use.

9. Should persons being served by HPRP be included in the PIT count?

HPRP participants (Homelessness Prevention or Rapid Re-housing) who are in conventional housing (i.e. housing in the private rental market) on the night designated for the count should not be included in the PIT count.

10. Does the unsheltered point-in-time count need to occur only during the overnight hours?

No. However, most CoCs conduct their PIT count during the nighttime hours to avoid duplication of persons who may be found in places not meant for human habitation during the day, but who were served in a residential homeless facility (emergency shelter, Safe Havens, or transitional housing) on the night of the count. To ensure a thorough count of homeless persons living on the street or places not meant for human habitation, many CoCs also conduct a service-based or known location count in the day(s) following the night

designated for the PIT count. In this approach, persons encountered at service-based or other known locations, such as soup kitchens, drop-in centers, encampments, and libraries, are surveyed to see where they slept on the night designated for the count.

11. Should persons who were recently evicted and are now staying in a motel or hotel for temporary shelter be considered homeless for the purposes of the point-in-time count?

Persons who are staying in a hotel or motel and paying for their stay using their own resources should not be included in the PIT count. However, persons who are staying in a hotel or motel with voucher or other form of payment assistance from a homeless assistance provider should be included in the sheltered PIT count. In addition, these beds/units should be included in the HIC as emergency shelter, with the Bed Type designated as 'voucher'.

12. Does the new definition of homelessness have any impact on who should be included in the 2012 PIT count?

No, per Section 427(b)(3) of the McKinney Vento Act as amended by the HEARTH Act, CoCs will continue to count the same populations and subpopulations on the PIT as they have in the past. CoCs should be counting sheltered persons who are residing in beds dedicated for homeless persons on the night of the count. This should include persons residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Haven programs. The unsheltered count should include persons who are sleeping outside or in a place not fit for human habitation on the night of the count.