

Point-in-Time Count Fact Sheet

Annual Point-in-Time Count is held on the night of the last Wednesday in January

What is a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count?

- The PIT count is a one-night count of unsheltered and sheltered homeless persons.
- The PIT count must occur on one night during the last ten days in January.
- Communities must use an approved methodology to count and not “guesstimates”.

Who do we count?

Adults, children, and unaccompanied youth who, on the night of the count, are living in one of the places described below:

Unsheltered homeless: (PIT Count)

- Reside in a place not meant for human habitation such as streets, parks, abandoned buildings, stairwells, tunnels, bridges, rest areas, farm outbuildings, and campgrounds.
- Included in this count are people in temporary tents, armory shelters, encampments, and warming centers.

Sheltered homeless: (HMIS and Shelter Survey)

- Reside in an emergency shelter.
- Reside in transitional housing or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came for the streets or emergency shelters.
- Reside in a domestic violence shelter or residential program for runaway/homeless youth.
- Any hotel, motel, or apartment voucher arrangements paid by a public or private agency because the person or family is homeless.

Why is it important?

Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) is required by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to obtain a count of the number of unsheltered and sheltered homeless persons or families in Idaho.

Currently Idaho receives over three million dollars for programs that serve the homeless. Continued funding from HUD for Homeless programs throughout Idaho is contingent upon our efforts to collect data on unsheltered and sheltered persons.

The Point-in-Time Count is the only resource available to obtain information on the unsheltered homeless. We must report on the number of chronically homeless in Idaho. Since many chronically homeless people do not use shelters, they will be left out of the equation completely if only sheltered data is used.

Using data from the Point-in-Time Counts allow the collection and comparison of data within local and regional providers in the state and even nationally.

How else can the Point-in-Time Count be used?

Conducting the count draws attention to the issue of homelessness in your community

- Possible opportunity for media attention
- Especially useful in communities where homeless people are not typical visible
- Opportunity for community discussion

Opportunity to educate the public and local officials

- Who becomes homeless and why
- How many homeless are in your community
- Service and housing needs

Opportunity to involve new organizations or community partners

- New volunteers become acquainted with your agencies and services
- New avenues for other funding sources or donations from businesses, foundations, private citizens, clubs, and organizations