

Methodology for MD-513 - Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester Counties CoC

Sheltered Population Total

1. What data source(s) was used to produce the total number of people included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing) on the night of the count? Please indicate the percentage of the PIT count derived from each of the sources. (If a source was not used, please enter zero).

HMIS Data	96%
Provider-level surveys	0%
Client-level surveys	4%
Observation	0%
Other	0%
Total	100%

2. Was the CoC able to collect information about the number of people being sheltered on the night of the count from all emergency shelters, Safe Havens, and transitional housing projects listed on the HIC or only some? listed on your HIC or only some?

- Complete census count

3. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the count of the total number of people included in the sheltered population?

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)
- Blitz count of persons in shelters (i.e., count occurred at same time to avoid double counting)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

Sheltered Subpopulation

4. What data source(s) was used to produce the demographic and subpopulation data included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing) on the night of the count? (select all that were used)

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- HMIS Data
- Client-level surveys

5. Was the CoC able to collect information about the demographic and subpopulation characteristics of all sheltered people or only some?

- All sheltered people

6. Looking at the change in your sheltered count from last year's count, please choose up to three reasons that best explains these changes from the drop down list below.

- Change in emergency shelter capacity
- Impact of coordinated entry
- Impact of Housing First practices

Please provide a brief description of these specific factors (500 word limit):

Our CoC formed a Coordinated Entry workgroup that implemented a coordinated entry system that met HUD requirements and also encouraged all shelters to adopt a housing first model. Shelters are admitting clients to their shelters even if they have substance abuse and/or mental health issues, and criminal backgrounds. When clients come to the shelter for the night either high or intoxicated, accommodations are made to limit the disruption to other shelter guests. Our coordinated entry is making it easier for people to be admitted to a shelter if there is a bed available. In December a new shelter opened with 22 beds, 2 of which are overflow. On that night, 1 of the overflow beds full, so that were over capacity. In the 2018 PIT, the shelters in our CoC were closer to full capacity and some were at full capacity which was not the case last year. For those shelters that are privately funded and do not accept government funds, the HMIS system administrator enters clients into HMIS if they lack the volunteers to do so. This ensures that we capture all people who are staying at shelters, either government funded or privately funded by faith based organizations.

Unsheltered Population

7. What approach(es) was used to count the total number of people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count. (select all that were used)

- "Night of the count" - known locations

- HMIS

- Service-based count

7a. Were certain areas within the CoC geography specifically excluded because the CoC had reason to believe there were no unsheltered people in those areas?

Yes

7b. How did the CoC select the areas that were included for canvassing?

- Areas were not selected randomly, but an effort was made to use local knowledge to target known locations (e.g., areas with known concentrations of unsheltered homeless people)

7b1. Did the CoC adjust the information in some way (e.g., statistical adjustment or extrapolation) to account for areas within the CoC geography that were not canvassed but where unsheltered people might have been on the night of the PIT count?

No

7c. In areas that were canvassed, did the CoC count all unsheltered people in those areas or a sample of people?

- All people encountered during the count

8. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the total count of people in the unsheltered population? (Check all that apply)

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)

- Blitz count of unsheltered people (i.e., canvassing of different areas occurred at same time to avoid double counting)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)
- Other: Entered all unsheltered individuals into HMIS to ensure de-duplication if they were housed in a shelter on the day of the PIT

Unsheltered Subpopulations

9. What approach(es) was used to collect demographic and subpopulation data about unsheltered people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count?

- Surveys/interviews of people identified as unsheltered on the night of the PIT count
- Surveys/interviews of people identified as unsheltered on the night of the count, but completed at a later date
- Surveys/interviews of people identified within 7 days following the night of the PIT count night who may have been unsheltered on the night of the PIT count (e.g., “service-based” surveys at locations where people who are homeless go for assistance)

10. Were all people who were encountered during canvassing on the night of the count or during post night of the count PIT activities asked to complete a survey/interview?

- All people encountered were surveyed

11. What information or method(s) was used to produce an unduplicated total count of homeless people across your sheltered and unsheltered populations?

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)
- Blitz count of unsheltered people (i.e., sheltered and unsheltered counts occurred at same time to avoid double counting)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

12. Looking at the change in your unsheltered count from last year's count, please choose up to three reasons that best explains these changes from the drop down list below

- Change in emergency shelter capacity
- Change in rapid re-housing capacity
- Change in permanent supportive housing capacity

Please provide a brief description of these specific factors (500 word limit):

- HMIS data from street outreach and/or other providers

In the last year, the CoC has fully implemented the provisions of CPD-16-11 to prioritize placement of chronically homeless and the most vulnerable persons who experience homelessness into permanent supportive housing programs, either CoC funded or locally funded. As a result, we have added 11 additional chronically homeless dedicated beds to our CoC funded PSH programs in this year's HIC. But, we are serving even more chronically homeless individuals and the most vulnerable in our RRH, CoC funded, HUD VASH vouchers and locally funded PSH programs. As a result, we saw a decrease in the number of unsheltered individuals this year from 42 last year to 30 this year. For our veterans, we meet monthly to conduct case conferencing of homeless veterans on our by-name list with the goal of placing them in permanent housing within 90 days. Even when a veteran refuses a HUD VASH voucher or other permanent housing, SSVF and VA case managers and outreach staff continue to engage them to encourage them to agree to being housed. We have also increased outreach staff in our CoC to engage individuals living outdoors. We are seeing the success of these efforts in the reduced number of unsheltered individuals identified in the last year.

