

Methodology for FL-511 - Pensacola/Escambia, Santa Rosa 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	56%
Provider-level surveys	0%
Client-level surveys	44%
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
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

Sheltered Subpopulation

4. Looking at the change in your sheltered count from last year's count, please choose the three reasons you believe best explains these changes from the drop-down list below

- Change in emergency shelter capacity

- Change in transitional housing capacity

- Change in availability of affordable housing

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

The changes observed in the 2023 PIT Count can be explained by the collaborative efforts of the CoC and local government to embed homeless organizations with additional funding opportunities to expand shelter and transitional housing capacity and by the changes in the availability of affordable housing.

Expansion of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing bed capacity through the saturation of federal funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 resulted in the development of two rehabilitation projects that produced a 52-bed adult with-child and 36-bed, adult-only non-congregate shelter facility. In addition, one, eight-bed youth-only shelter project was integrated into the HMIS. Although the continuum experienced a reduction in Transitional Housing bed capacity for one of the historical TH facilities, federal funds boosted the development of an 80-bed low-barrier transitional housing facility. The CoC Lead also identified a new, 17-bed non-CHO transitional housing program that participated in the PIT count for the first time.

Various factors currently contribute to the low availability of affordable housing: lack of new construction and housing development and slow progress in the repair of homes damaged in Hurricane Sally (2020) due to scarce and costly building supplies. The viral pandemic exacerbated the preexisting low affordable housing inventory crisis, which lessened the ability of homeless providers to place individuals and families in homes. Subsequently, the CoC response to develop more shelters and transitional houses has been beneficial to safeguard more unhoused community members than in past years.

Unsheltered Population

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

- "Night of the count" - census

5a1. Did you cover the entire geography of your CoC during the night of the count?

5a1a. What were the reasons you were unable to cover the entire geography (select all th

- did not include uninhabitable areas
- did not include gated communities or other inaccessible areas of the CoC

- "Night of the count" - known locations only

at apply)?

5b. How did the CoC select the areas that were included for canvassing?

- An effort was made to use local knowledge (such as outreach workers and other local expertise) locations (e.g., areas with known concentrations of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness)
- Data from prior PIT counts
- Other:

- Service-based count

5d1. Where did you conduct the service-based count?

- Other: Some of the homeless HMIS participating service providers within the CoC

5d2. For how many days after the PIT date did you conduct a service-based count?

- Within 7 days after the count

- Administrative data

5e1. What administrative data did you use for your unsheltered count?

- HMIS
- CES data
- A "By-Name-List"
- Other:

6. Were certain areas within the CoC geography specifically excluded because the CoC had reason to believe there were no unsheltered people in those areas based on prior knowledge/experience?

- Yes

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

- No

8. Were certain areas within the CoC geography specifically excluded because of concerns related to safety?

- No

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The CoC worked with EMS to identify places that ambulances, fire, search and rescue, and code enforcement were called to. That information was then mapped with overlaid previous known PIT locations. The CoC also received unsheltered campsite information from Street Outreach teams.

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9. 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
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

Unsheltered Subpopulations

10. Looking at the change in your unsheltered count from last year's count, please choose up to three reasons that best explain these changes from the drop down list below. Please also provide a brief description of these specific factors (500 word limit).

- Change in basic PIT count approach (e.g., switched from census to sample, the addition or removal of an observation element or service-based sites/events, a change in sampling method such as the addition of an extrapolation element, or a change in the use of HMIS or other datasets)

Please provide a brief description of these specific factors and how these changes affected PIT implementation

The CoC opted for the removal of Social Security Number as a data element, the addition of multiple sites, used HMIS data from street outreach and supportive service only projects to collect and de-duplicate and used an external data set of client applications to collect surveys.

- Change in implementing the PIT count (Select all that apply)

- Other:

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

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- Change in PIT count training (e.g., more/less training options or online training)
- Change in volunteers for PIT count (e.g., increase or decrease in volunteers overall, increase or decrease in volunteers with prior experience, included volunteers from law enforcement in implementation but did not in prior year)

Please provide a brief description of these specific factors and how these changes affected PIT count implementation

HMIS Lead provided 6 training sessions leading up to the night of PIT to new and returning volunteers; and included volunteer participation from 20 health care clinics, three area hospitals and a local utility company affiliated with the City of Pensacola but did not in prior years..

Use of external GIS mapping from emergency management and code enforcement to overlay prior year count to identify new homeless encampments.

CoC FL-511 removed Social Security Numbers as a data element to encourage survey participation within the unsheltered population. In addition, the CoC identified five new service-based sites, including the addition of the jurisdiction's Federally Qualified Healthcare Clinic which has 20 satellite locations within the CoC. The HMIS Lead pulled in additional data from the HMIS of service-based sites using HMIS, including street outreach and supportive service-only projects to collect and de-duplicate surveys, and used an external data set of client applications for Coordinated Entry applications to collect surveys.

The HMIS Lead provided 6 training sessions leading up to the night of PIT to new and returning volunteers. It included volunteer participation from industries that had never participated in PIT before -- Nursing, Psychology, and Social Work interns of the local state university, healthcare clinics, three area hospitals, and a local utility company affiliated with the local government. The CoC used external GIS mapping from the county emergency management and code enforcement to overlay the prior year's count locations to identify new homeless encampments.

The unsheltered PIT count also included participation from CERT volunteers and Healthcare Street Navigators who helped extend the hours of the count from 10 hours in previous years, to 14 hours from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

