

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT MEDIA TALKING POINTS

NARRATIVE FOCUS:

The Minneapolis homeless encampment has made the issue of homelessness very visible in the state. While people living on the streets is the most visible type of homelessness, people you see and count on the street are only a small fraction of the total people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota. There are many more people experiencing homelessness in sheltered situations, such as Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, and doubled-up.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT INFORMATION

What is the Point-In-Time Count?

- The Point-In-Time (PIT) Count is the annual count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in sheltered and unsheltered situations on a single night in January. It takes place nationwide on the same night.
- The PIT illuminates the impact we as a community are having on reducing and ending homelessness. While it isn't feasible, or reasonable, to count every single person experiencing homelessness every day, counting on the same set of days each year provides a snapshot for comparison over time (similar to a census).

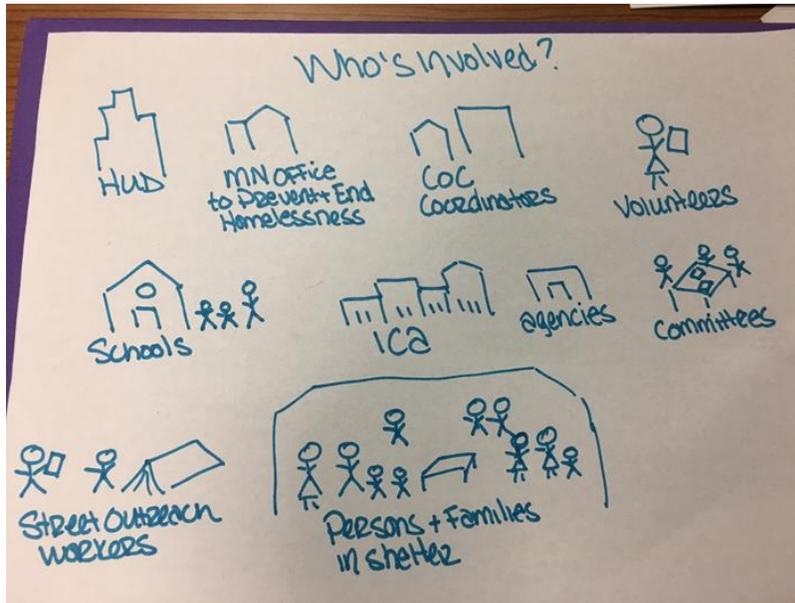
2018 PIT Data

- [One a single night in January in Minnesota, approximately 7,200 people experienced homelessness.](#) This is about a 14% decrease from 2017. 83% were in temporary sheltered situations (Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven).
- The demographic data from the 2018 PIT Count in Minnesota show that people of color experience homelessness at disproportionate rates.
- **CoCs/PIT Leads – are there any specific observations to share from your region's 2018 PIT data?**
 - [See data visualizations for more information](#) by CoC - can also create map with the number of people counted in each CoC. MHFA has a county by CoC map that can provide more county context

How does the whole thing work?

- The PIT Count in Minnesota is a large-scale collaboration that brings together many different stakeholders to ensure the count is coordinated, follows the directives set out by HUD, and that there is a clear path for the data from people experiencing homelessness sharing their stories with volunteers or intake workers to contribute to one final count at the level of the region, the state, and eventually nationwide.
- The PIT Count is a combination of street outreach workers and volunteers surveying people and information pulled from Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Who's involved?



How is PIT data used?

- Here are some ways PIT data is used:
 - At a national level by HUD and other agencies that fund Homeless Services initiatives
 - At the state level to inform Minnesota's statewide plan to prevent and end homelessness
 - By regions/CoCs and individual agencies to make plans for addressing homelessness
- The PIT Count is an important part of the statewide plan to end homelessness, as consistent questions asked every year across the state help us examine trends, watch for changes, and help better understand how to target resources.
- Demographic data from the PIT Count can show CoCs who is experiencing homelessness in their communities.

HMIS INFORMATION

- A large portion of the PIT Count data is pulled from Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The HMIS is a database that is used by homeless service organizations across Minnesota to record and store client-level information. The HMIS is a collaborative project of the 10 Minnesota Continuums of Care, the State of Minnesota, the Institute for Community Alliances, and participating partner agencies.
- Over a thousand users from more than 200 organizations providing homeless services use HMIS as a tool to capture trends and outcomes for over 20,000 homeless beds statewide. These beds span the continuum of homeless services, from Emergency Shelter to Permanent Supportive Housing. For the people served by these programs, HMIS captures basic demographics and needs, as well as program participation and outcome data.

REGION-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

- **CoCs/PIT Leads:** Are there any events surrounding the PIT in your CoC that you want to highlight?

For Immediate Release

[Date]

[Location]

[Contact]

Point-In-Time Count: Annual Count of Minnesotans Experiencing Homelessness

On the night of January 23rd, 2019, the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count will take place in Minnesota and across the United States. The PIT is the annual count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in both sheltered and unsheltered situations on a single night in January.

What? The PIT Count in Minnesota is a large-scale collaboration that brings together many different stakeholders. Street outreach workers and volunteers will be out in communities the night of January 23rd to count and survey those experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

While the recent Minneapolis homeless encampment has made the issue of homelessness very visible in the state, people living on the streets and in other unsheltered situations are only a small fraction of people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota. 83% of people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota on the night of the 2018 PIT Count were in temporary sheltered situations.

The PIT Count data for those experiencing sheltered homelessness is primarily pulled from Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS is a tool used by over 200 organizations providing homeless services and over a thousand users to capture trends and outcomes for over 20,000 homeless beds statewide.

2018 Results: On the night of the 2018 PIT Count, **approximately 7,200 people were homeless in Minnesota**, which is about a 14% decrease from 2017. The demographic data from the 2018 PIT Count in Minnesota shows that people of color are disproportionately affected and that 27% of the people experiencing homelessness on the night of the PIT Count were children. (Further statewide data breakdowns can be found here: https://hmismn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018breakdown_Statewide-1.pdf)

[CoCs and PIT Leads: add any observations you may have from last year's PIT count in your region]

[CoCs and PIT Leads: [See data visualizations for more information](#) - can also create map with the number of people counted in each CoC. MHFA has a county by CoC map that can provide more county context]

Why? The PIT Count illuminates the impact we as a community are having on reducing and ending homelessness. While it isn't feasible, or reasonable, to count every single person experiencing homelessness every day, counting on the same set of days each year provides a snapshot for comparison over time (similar to a census).

How is the data used? PIT Count data is used at the national level by HUD and other agencies that fund Homeless Services initiatives, at a state level to inform Minnesota's statewide plan to prevent and end homelessness, and by regions (each known as a Continuum of Care, or CoC) and individual agencies to make plans for addressing homelessness.

[CoCs and PIT Leads: add any PIT events in your region that you want to highlight]

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