



United Community Services  
of Johnson County

**KS-505 Johnson County**  
**Continuum of Care on Homelessness**  
**Point in Time Count of Homelessness**  
**Training 2021**

# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS



Hello  
my name is



Name, Title, Agency, Pronouns

\*meeting is now being recorded

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2021 Point-in-Time Count**

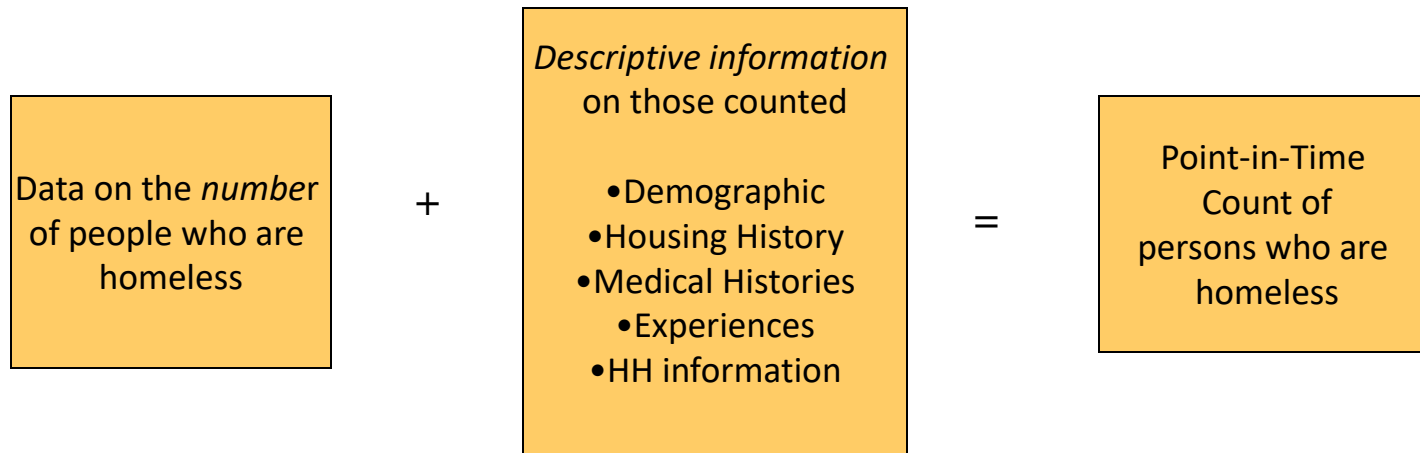
**Housing Status on Tuesday night Jan 26th**

**into Wednesday the 27th**

**Data to be collected January 27-29, 2021**




# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO COUNT PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?



A “Count” means collecting the number of **sheltered and unsheltered** homeless individuals and families in your community along with demographic and sub-population information.

# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE COUNT?

- To obtain **current and accurate data** on the number and characteristics of homeless individuals and families
  - To provides **information for policy and planning decisions** at local, state and federal levels
  - To increase **public awareness** and education
  - To connect **homeless** individuals and families with local resources, opportunities for housing
  - To **comply with funder requirements** - Continuum of Care application and other non-HUD funding
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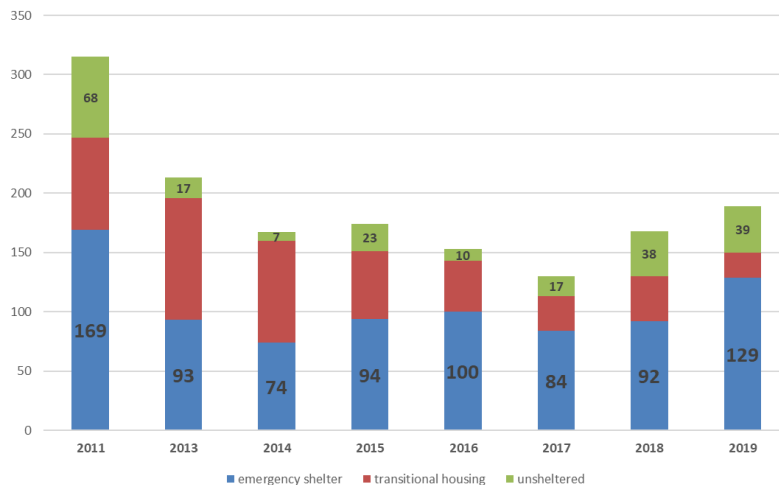
# THINGS TO CONSIDER

HUD has stressed that particular attention be given to collecting homeless data on **veterans, chronically homeless households, unaccompanied children, and 18-24 yr old young adults**, as point-in-time count data will be used to track progress against the goals and objectives contained in *Home, Together: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (2018)*

The Johnson County CoC is also interested in how many of those who experience homelessness in our community are **employed**, have been **recently evicted**, what percent have been involved in the **foster care system**, and **if a past criminal history is contributing to their current homelessness**.

# HOW KS-505 USES COLLECTED DATA

PIT Count totals 2011-2019 by  
Housing Status



- To determine the **size and scope** of homelessness at the local level
- To track **local trends** of homeless population (age, race, household type, etc)
- To **plan services and programs** to appropriately address local needs, identified gaps
- To **measure progress** in addressing homelessness
- To **measure performance** of individual programs and the CoC system as a whole

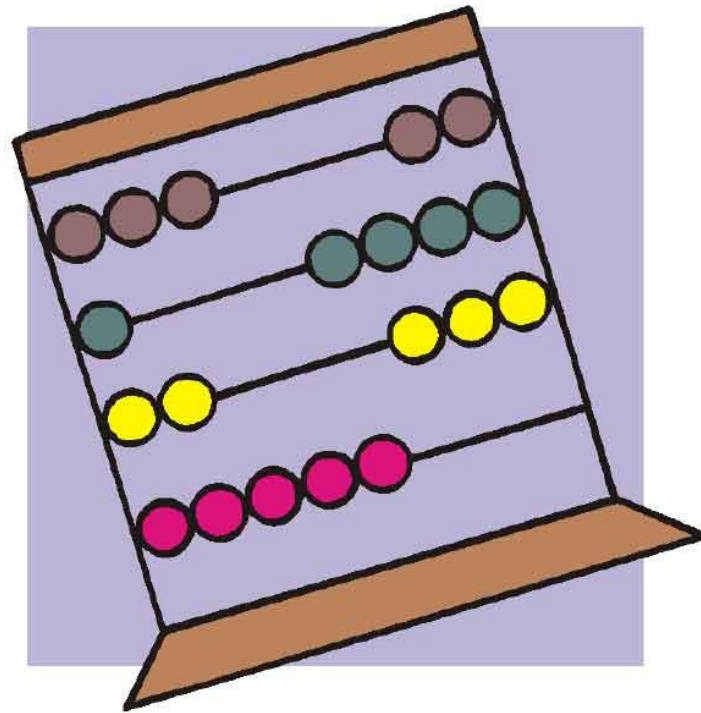
# HUD'S POINT-IN-TIME COUNT REQUIREMENTS

Continuum of Care (CoC) must conduct a count every year

- One-night count must occur during **last ten days in January**
- CoC must collect information to assess **chronic homelessness** from all homeless households – individuals and families
- CoC must use **statistically acceptable methods**
- CoC must collect and submit **information on sheltered and unsheltered adults**, children and unaccompanied children experiencing homelessness to **report in HUD Data Exchange and annual CoC NOFA application**



# ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF COUNTING



# METHODS FOR COUNTING-UNSHELTERED

**HUD's Definition** – unsheltered homeless people reside in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, on the street etc.

**The Jo Co CoC will only count and report respondents that have completed a survey. Surveys not fully completed require enough information to assure there is no duplication.**

## **Street Interviews**

Interviews at places not meant for human habitation where persons living unsheltered are found

**\*\*NOTE:** A shorter survey has been approved for surveys administered out of doors only to lower possible COVID exposure risk

## **Service-based Count**

Interviews at non-shelter service locations that unsheltered homeless individuals and families rely on to meet basic needs (soup kitchens, food banks, drop-in centers, healthcare centers, emergency rooms, churches, etc.)

# METHODS FOR COUNTING - SHELTERED

HUD's Definition –sheltered homeless people reside in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs (including hotel or motel vouchers provided by homeless services providers).

## **Service Provider Report or Survey**


- Provider completes count of people in program
- Extract subpopulation information or estimate for entire population through records or HMIS data

## **Client Level Survey Utilizing Instrument**

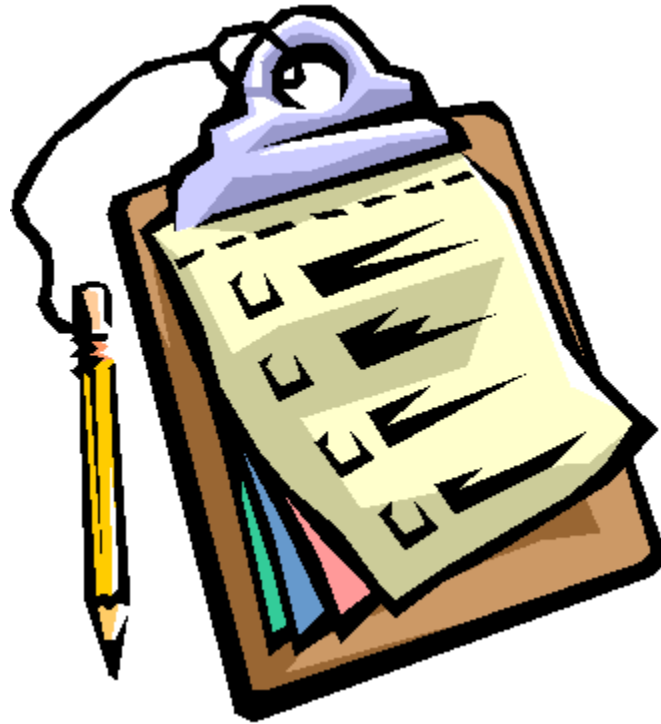
- Provider interviews each client
- Program staff completes survey based on case records or knowledge of client
- Client completes survey independently or with assistance

# 2021 PIT Methods – COVID-19 Precautions

## When administering the unsheltered survey:

- Bring extra masks and hand sanitizer with you
  - Wear a mask at all times while conducting surveys
  - Offer the person you are surveying a mask if they do not have one
  - Maintain distance, be courteous in explaining the purpose of the survey
- 

# GETTING READY FOR THE COUNT




# Roles for Volunteers – at agencies and in the community

- Assist with education and **making others aware** of upcoming count
- Assist in the **collection of surveys** from agencies
- On the day of the count, **conduct interviews** of homeless individuals and families in assigned “hot spots”
- Turn in all hard copy survey forms to Christina Ashie Guidry by end of day Wednesday February 3rd
- Assist in entering survey **data into survey database**

**To limit exposure to COVID-19, we will not be recruiting outside volunteers to assist with PIT this year. Instead, agencies will be using existing staff and volunteers who already work with their populations.**

# **Documents to help with the count**

- Point-in-Time Training Power Point (request if needed)**
  - 2021 PIT Count Survey Form (hard copy or pdf)**
  - Emergency contact list for questions, definitions, etc.**
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# WHEN TO COUNT?

## Time period for data collection:

- According to HUD, a CoC must choose **ONE NIGHT** to ask persons about their homelessness status
- We are asking about where people slept Tuesday night, January 26th into Wednesday morning, January 27th**
- According to HUD, data about persons' housing status may be collected for more than the next day
- Thus we will be collecting survey data

**Wednesday Jan 27 thru Friday Jan 29**

**BUT** we are always asking about Tuesday night, the 26th



# CONDUCTING THE SURVEY



# WHAT YOU MAY ENCOUNTER AND THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN ASKING TO INTERVIEW PEOPLE:

- Persons may be hesitant or resistant to talking
- Persons who may be very talkative
- Persons may ask for additional help or resources
- Persons may not look at you when they answer
- Persons who ask to fill out the survey without help – let them do so if they wish or with your assistance. If the person fills it out, please review it for any missed or unclear responses

# WHAT YOU MAY ENCOUNTER AND THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN ASKING TO INTERVIEW PEOPLE

## Asking about TRAUMA:

Q15. Are you currently experiencing homelessness because you are fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault,.....

Q18. d. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Q22. Are you a survivor of physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse?

**RECOGNIZE** that such questions may result in a person feeling detached – separating themselves emotionally from the conversation – or to shutting down. Be trauma informed!

**Watch for signs of distress or ‘disconnecting’ – do not push**

# NOTES FOR COUNTING UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

## Unsheltered Homeless Definition:

Sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation—cars, parks, tents, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, etc.

## **Please Note:**

This does NOT include those temporarily staying with family and/or friends; this is considered “doubled-up.”

If someone is in a hotel or motel that **they or friends/family or a non-homeless service provider paid for**, they are considered “sheltered” and would not count for the unsheltered portion of the count.

# NOTES FOR COUNTING SHELTERED

Sheltered Homeless Definition: Persons residing in:

1. emergency shelters,
2. domestic violence shelters
3. **transitional housing** who originally came from an emergency shelter or the streets
4. a **hotel/motel being paid for by a homeless services organization** to prevent them from being in a place not meant for human habitation etc. (**NOT** family and/or friends)

# WHO NOT TO COUNT IN JOHNSON COUNTY

## Do not count people that are:

Formerly homeless persons living in permanent supportive housing (permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing programs)

Households living in doubled up situations

Children or youth who are temporarily residing in institutions due to a parent's homelessness or abandonment (foster care, treatment facilities)

Adults staying in mental health, chemical dependency or criminal justice facilities for more than 90 days

# WHERE TO COUNT SHELTERED IN JOHNSON COUNTY

- **Emergency Shelters** – Salvation Army Family Lodge, Jo Co Interfaith Hospitality Network, Project 10♥20 Cold Weather Shelter
- **DV Shelters** - SAFEHOME
- **Transitional Housing Programs** (for those who originally came from shelter or streets only)- SAFEHOME, Catholic Charities, Johnson County Mental Health, Salvation Army, Hillcrest Transitional Housing, reStart youthStart TLP
- In **Hotel/Motel** (**ONLY** IF being paid for by an agency to prevent household from being on the streets)

# REVIEWING THE JOHNSON COUNTY 2021 POINT IN TIME SURVEY

## OF NOTE:

- Several questions about **veteran's** status (#11-13)
- **If yes** to a disability, must ask **if the problem limits** the person's ability to hold a job or live in stable housing (#18h,i)
- Questions about whether any adults in household were in **foster care** as children (#23), whether **employed** (#26), whether **criminal history affects** stable employment or housing (#24)
- Questions about **trauma** history (#15, #18d, #22)



**Please – Don't forget to fill out the top part of each survey you complete**

2020 Point In Time Count Form

Program/Location: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

Multiple times in prior years we needed to go back to the interviewer to clarify a response in an interview. Having that information helped us get the data right –  
**THANKS!!**

# First: Establishing whether the household fits the criteria of homeless

- Were they on the streets, in a car, in a tent, a park or such?
- Were they in one of KS-505's shelters or transitional housing units?
- Did they sleep in a bed dedicated for someone who is homeless?



# Establishing whether the household can be counted in Johnson County

- (Q1.a) Did they sleep overnight somewhere in Johnson County Kansas on Tuesday night January 26th? (If not, end the survey)
- If so, *move forward*
- (Q2.) Have they already been asked these same questions?
- If so, end the survey
- If not, *move forward*

# Establishing who is in the household

- Everyone who was in the household the night of the 26th and slept in the same location as the respondent
- Does **NOT** have to be related by blood
- **Verify** that all stayed together the 26th

## Categories:

1. Child
2. Spouse
3. Other family
4. Non-married partner
5. Other, Non-family

If there are other household members that were not with them, do not include in survey

# Capturing Basic Demographics: Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Race

- These questions need to be asked of **EVERYONE** listed in the household
- Do not assume that all household members are of the same race, etc
- Someone who identifies as Hispanic/Latino can be of *any race*

## Definitions:

**Transgender** – gender identity is different than biological gender

**Gender Non-conforming** – identity not exclusively male or female

**Hispanic/Latino** – of or related to Spain or Spanish speaking countries, esp. Latin America; defines a region of origin, not race

# Establishing History of Homelessness and Chronic Status

- **First time** homeless?
- How long they have been homeless **this time**?
- **ONLY** count amount of time unsheltered or in ER shelter, NOT time since lost own housing or in TH
- If **yes** to Q14, **do not complete** Q17, 17a.
- How many times have they been homeless in past **three** years (Jan '18)
  - **4 times** or more
  - **Less than 4** times
- In **total time**, how long did they stay in shelters or on the streets?  
**Combine all episodes to qualify for CH status**

# CHRONIC HOMELESS DEFINITION

As a CoC, we prioritize all permanent housing for those who meet the definition of CHRONICALLY HOMELESS, as they have experienced the longest histories of homelessness and have the most severe needs.

**CHRONICALLY HOMELESS definition:** A “homeless individual/head of household with a disability,” as defined as one who:

- **Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and**

- **Has been homeless (as described above) continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined occasions must total at least 12 months**

Occasions separated by a break of at least seven nights

Stays in institution of fewer than 90 days does not constitute a break

- **PLUS** Must have an ongoing disability that is a barrier to holding a job or maintaining stable housing

# **CHRONIC HOMELESS DEFINITION – BREAKING IT DOWN**

## **WHO can be chronically homeless?**

- An individual adult
- A couple made up of adults
- A household with children headed by one or more adults
- A household with children headed by a minor/person less than 18 years of age

For those households made up of more than one adult/HH, the CH housing and disability status must be for the same adult (or head of household if a minor heads the household)



# CHRONIC HOMELESS DEFINITION – BREAKING IT DOWN

## WHERE CAN THEY BE?

- Lives in a place not meant for human habitation (on streets, in a tent, in a car or abandoned building),
- in an emergency shelter

## Does NOT include:

- Those living in Transitional Housing at this time
- Those residing in an institution UNLESS they have been there less than 90 days and met the criteria above *before* entering the facility (e.g. jail, hospital, prison, etc) *and after*

# CHRONIC HOMELESS DEFINITION – BREAKING IT DOWN

## FOR HOW LONG?

Has been homeless (as described previously) continuously for at least 12 months **OR** on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined occasions must total at least 12 months

- Occasions separated by a break of at least seven housed nights, if less then there is *no break*
- Stays in institution of fewer than 90 days *does not constitute a break*

# Chronic Homelessness: Defining a disability

## (Question 18 a.-g.)

1. Alcohol use/abuse
2. Use of illegal drugs – including someone else's prescription medications
3. Chronic/ongoing health conditions (diabetes, cancer, heart disease, AIDS or HIV-related illness)
4. Post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD
5. Psychiatric or emotional conditions such as depression or schizophrenia
6. Physical Disability
7. Traumatic injury to the brain

# Chronic Homelessness: Defining a disability (continued)

These conditions are *only* a **disability** if the respondent **ALSO** states that the situation/condition prevents them from holding a job or living in stable housing – **MUST ASK 18h., MUST SAY YES, and MUST IDENTIFY WHICH ONE(s) (18i.)** to meet criteria!

# Establishing additional historical data for priority populations

Only to be asked of *adult household members*

- Receiving **disability benefits** (SSI, SSDI, Veterans) currently (#21)
- History of **violence or trauma** by a family member (#15,22)
- Prior service in **Armed Forces** (if 'no', ask about being called to active duty as National Guard, Reservist) (#11-12)
- Ever received health care or benefits from a **VA Medical Center** (#13)


# Johnson County Specific Questions

Only to be asked of *adult household members*

Based on prior surveys and this community's interests, the Jo Co Survey will continue to ask:

- Whether any adult in the household was in **foster care as a child or youth**
- Whether **past criminal history or history of eviction in past five years** among household member(s) is a barrier to employment/housing
- Whether someone in the household is **currently employed** and if so, how many hours a week

# THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Complete as much information as possible** on the survey form
  - Complete **one form per individual/household**
  - Put an “**x**” for any letter of the person’s name he/she does not provide
  - Check the box for **DK/REF for all questions that a respondent declines to answer**, to indicate it was asked and intentionally not answered
  - If in doubt, **ask a clarifying question**
- 


# AFTER THE COUNT?



*Data ninja.....*



# WHAT HAPPENS TO THE DATA?

- **All surveys must be submitted to Christina Ashie Guidry/CoC Lead Agency by Wednesday February 3rd – this data in turn will be entered into a survey monkey program for compilation and analysis**
  - **Tentative release date for final report - late April 2021**
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# CONTACT INFORMATION

Please assign a point person at your organization where interviewers at your organization can go *first* for questions and/or assistance.

If you still need assistance, contact:

Rita Carr: 816-472-5664 x223, [rcarr@restartinc.org](mailto:rcarr@restartinc.org)

Christina Ashie Guidry: [christinag@ucsjoco.org](mailto:christinag@ucsjoco.org)

Matt Clark: [matt.clark@jocogov.org](mailto:matt.clark@jocogov.org)

**QUESTIONS?**



**Referring those Surveyed to  
KS-505's Coordinated Entry  
System**



United Community Services  
of Johnson County

# Coordinated Entry System Components

- Access
- Assessment
- Prioritization
- Referral

# Getting the word OUT!

**Get those in a housing crisis connected to an organization that can offer:**

- Triage screening
- Diversion – creative housing conversation
- If literally HUD homeless-
  - HMIS intake
  - Referral to Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing/Emergency motel vouchers
  - Safety planning if refuse above options
  - Opportunity to be assessed with the DESC VAT for Permanent Housing (PH) prioritization

## Coordinated Entry System Changes During COVID-19 Pandemic

Triage and screening for those who are experiencing homelessness and living in places not meant for human habitation is available at the Salvation Army-Olathe Corps, Catholic Charities, and Johnson County Mental Health Center in Shawnee. However, all triage and screenings during the COVID-19 Pandemic must be conducted virtually instead of in person - please see the table below with information on how to access these organizations.

<b>Coordinated Entry HUB</b>	<b>COVID-19 format</b>	<b>Days of the Week</b>	<b>Time to call</b>	<b>Contacts, to schedule</b>
Salvation Army – Olathe Corps	Phone only, will do on demand or schedule appt	Monday – Thursday Friday	8:30-12:00, 1:00-4:30 pm 8:30-12:00, 1:00-3:00 pm	913-782-3640 ask for a VAT for homelessness
Catholic Charities of NE Kansas	Phone only, call to speak w case manager who will do on demand or schedule appt	Mondays, Tuesday, and Thursdays	9:00-12:00, 1:00-3:30	913-384-6608 Overland Park 913-782-4077 Olathe ask to complete a VAT
Johnson County Mental Health Center	Phone or Zoom, other options may also be available, call for details	Monday – Friday	8:00-5:00 pm	913-826-4075 Shawnee offices, leave contact #
<i>SAFEHOME</i>	<i>ONLY for DV clients, internally referred and scheduled</i>	<i>As arranged</i> <i>daytimes &amp; evenings</i>		<i>Within Safehome staff only</i>

# KS-505 Housing Prioritization By-Name List

- 7 organizations participate
- By-Name List meetings are biweekly
- All HUD Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing participants are referred from the By-Name List
- Receive referrals, monitor progress towards housing, identify barriers, collaboration