The University of Arizona

Tucson-Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness 2017 Point-in-Time Count Data Report

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Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness

SIROW
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Table of Contents

Pima County 2017 PIT Count Sampling Methodology for Counting Unsheltered Homeless Population

The Tucson-Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness (TPCH) Continuum of Care (COC) includes the entirety of Pima County which is 9,189 miles and has a population of approximately 1 million people. TPCH is tasked with covering a very large area during the annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT), and because Pima County contains areas that are urban, sub-urban, rural, Native American reservation land, uninhabitable desert, national parks, and mountainous areas, it is necessary to conduct the following techniques to obtain an accurate count of people who are experiencing homelessness in Pima County:

- **complete coverage count**

- **known locations count**

- **random sampling**

- **combination approach**

This approach was developed, based on guidelines provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and in consultation with social-science research professionals from the University of Arizona to ensure an accurate estimation of people experiencing homelessness in Pima County.

Initially, a map of Pima County is divided into areas of approximately equal size blocks or sections. These sections are then assigned into one of four categories. Assignment of sections into categories is determined by county data, information from homeless outreach workers, information from community-based service providers, and information from 2016 PIT count. The sections are as follows:

> 1. Sections with a relatively high number of expected unsheltered homeless persons.

> 2. Sections with a relatively low (or unknown) number of expected homeless persons.

> 3. Sections with no expected unsheltered persons (such as relatively inaccessible desert, or areas with few or no roads).

> 4. Sections designated as uninhabitable land, native lands, preserved lands or national/state forest.

Below is a detailed account of how each of the four categories will be counted during the 2017 unsheltered PIT count:

Sections with a relatively high number of expected unsheltered homeless persons.

The TPCH PIT count typically includes upwards of 300 community volunteers. Prior to the day of the count volunteers will be divided into teams which are each led by a "team leader." Team leaders will attend a team leader training prior to the count, where they will receive the map of the area they are charged with covering during the morning of the PIT count and a detailed training on how to serve as a team leader. Team leaders will be required to survey the areas to which they are assigned prior to the day of the count in order to give their team direction on how to best cover the area. Volunteers will meet with their assigned team lead and their team leader at one of several community-wide volunteer trainings. The number of volunteers assigned to each area is based on data from current outreach workers and data collected during the 2016 PIT count. A census count will be used in these areas and volunteers will attempt to canvass and either count or interview all people experiencing homelessness in these areas.

The volunteers are charged with the task of interviewing currently displaced people to learn about their lives and current situation. The interview participants receive a $5 gift card for their time, a cinch sack, and a pocket resource guide that lists community resources. The collected data is individual self-report data and is collected directly from people who were experiencing homelessness and were unsheltered the night prior to the morning of the count. While volunteers try to collect all of the data from each participant, each individual can decide not to answer individual questions. Thus, some of the HUD required data remains uncollected. HUD provides a data extrapolation tool that allows individual item data to be extrapolated when 80% or more people have responded to the item.

Sections with a relatively low (or unknown) number of expected homeless persons.

Random sampling will be used to collect data from areas or sections of the map that are expected to have low or unknown numbers of people who are experiencing homelessness. Areas in the communities surrounding the metro Tucson area have been selected and grouped with other areas that are similar with regard to size, socio-economic status, demographics and terrain. Randomly selected areas will be counted using a census method and data collected from the people experiencing homelessness counted and interviewed in these regions will be adjusted to represent the overall homeless population in these specific areas. Areas selected to be included in the subset of areas included in the random sample are based on information from current homeless outreach workers and from data collected

during the 2016 PIT count. The census count of sampled areas will be conducted in the same manner as detailed above.

Sections with no expected unsheltered persons (such as relatively inaccessible desert, or areas with few or no roads).

Extremely remote and rural areas that are accessible by car will also be randomly sampled. These sampling of these areas will be handled in the same manner as the areas expected to have low homelessness, however because there are not street maps for the entire county, it is possible that we learn that some of the areas initially assigned into this category are actually inaccessible. If this circumstance is the case, this information will be used to inform subsequent counts and these areas will be designated as uninhabitable.

Sections designated as uninhabitable land, native lands, preserved lands or national/state forest.

During the 2015 PIT count, only native lands, preserved lands and national/state forests were included in this category. Based on data collected through random sampling during the 2016 PIT count, we learned that there are several areas throughout the county that have no roads and are not connected to any thorough fares. Areas that are inaccessible by car will also be excluded from the PIT count as it is highly unlikely that people who are experiencing homelessness are residing in these areas.

Pima County 2017 Unsheltered Homeless Point-In-Time (PIT) Count Report

The Pima County Unsheltered Homeless point in time count occurred during the morning of January 25, 2017. There were approximately 205 volunteers, split into approximately 25 teams who explored the county between the hours of 6:30 and 10:30 AM in search of people who were experiencing homelessness. The volunteers were charged with the task of interviewing currently displaced people to learn about their lives and current situation. The interview participants received a $5 gift card for their time and a pocket resource guide that lists community resources.

The reported data is individual self-report data and was collected directly from people who were experiencing homelessness and were unsheltered the night prior to the morning of the count.

Households without children:

Table 1: Households without children	
	Unsheltered Count
Total number of households	384
Total number of Persons	384
Number of Young Adults	44
Number of Adults	340
Gender	
Female	82
Male	301
Transgender	1
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0
Ethnicity	
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	302
Hispanic/Latino	82
Race	
White	288
Black/African-American	23
Asian	1
American Indian / Alaskan Native	37
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	3
Multiple Races	32

Households with only children

Table 2: Households with only children	
	Unsheltered Count
Total number of households	1
Total number of children	1
Gender	
Female	1
Male	0
Transgender	1
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0
Ethnicity	
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1
Hispanic/Latino	0
Race	
White	0
Black/African-American	0
Asian	0
American Indian / Alaskan Native	0
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0
Multiple Races	1

Households with at least one adult and one child:
(None)

Veteran households with at least one child and one adult

(None)

<u>Veteran Households without children:</u>

Table 3: Veteran Households without Children	
	Unsheltered Count
Total number of households	56
Total number of persons	56
Total number of veterans	56
Gender (veterans only)	
Female	4
Male	52
Transgender	0
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0
Ethnicity (veterans only)	
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	34
Hispanic/Latino	5
Race (veterans only)	
White	32
Black / African American	2
Asian	0
American Indian / Native Alaskan	4
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	1
Multiple Races	0

Subpopulations of homeless individuals:

Table 4: Subpopulations	Unsheltered Count
Chronically Homeless Individuals	56
Chronically Homeless Families	0
Persons in Chronically Homeless Families	6
Chronically Homeless Veteran Individuals	11
Chronically Homeless Veteran Families	0
Persons in Chronically Homeless Veteran Families	0
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	98
Adults with a Substance Abuse Disorder	165
Adults with HIV/AIDS	3
Victims of Domestic Violence	102