



CoC FL – 507 PIT Count Methodology

Each year, the FL – 507 or the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness (CFCH) conducts a Point in Time (PIT) Count to identify the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. Federally mandated by the Department of Housing and Development (HUD), the Count provides critical insights on the demographics, service utilization, and continued needs of our sheltered and unsheltered population.

Time and Scope

The PIT count takes place annually during the last 10 days of January. CFCH uses a “night of the count” approach whereby individuals are asked where they slept during a single night within this time frame. The count occurs across Seminole, Osceola, and Orange Counties and includes people experiencing both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. CFCH uses different methods to carry out the sheltered count and unsheltered count.

Sheltered Count

Sheltered homelessness constitutes living in temporary housing programs, such as emergency shelters, safe havens, or transitional housing programs. To count people experiencing sheltered homelessness, CFCH uses a complete census count, aiming to identify *all* individuals within this subpopulation. Individuals are counted using data from projects that participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). For all other projects, data is collected through provider-level surveys.

Unsheltered Count

Unsheltered homelessness includes individuals living outside or anywhere not meant for human habitation (e.g., cars, abandoned buildings, tents). CFCH uses both a census and service-based count methodology for this subpopulation. Over three days, hundreds of trained volunteers are split into small teams to survey participants across the entire geography of the tri-county area.

Prior to the count, the CoC creates and reviews a map with “known locations” of where people experiencing homelessness have been previously seen. With the support of CoC leaders and outreach workers, volunteers visit these sites and move systematically across all three counties to survey individuals. Participants are informed of the purpose of the count and its voluntary nature. After receiving consent, volunteers carry out a verbal

survey with participants, following a digital questionnaire. All individuals experiencing homelessness are counted. In addition to this census-style count, volunteers engage in a service-based count, surveying individuals at service provider locations across the CoC.

De-Duplication

To ensure participants are counted only once across the sheltered and unsheltered count, volunteers only survey individuals that report not being previously counted. Personal identifying information and unique client identifiers are also used to identify and remove duplicates after the count.

Limitations

Due to the voluntary nature of PIT count and other logistical limitations, the count is often an underestimate of people experiencing homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness. In addition, all responses are self-reported.

Results

Each year, CFCH publicizes its PIT Count results and publishes them on www.hmiscfl.org/reports/. Only aggregate, de-identified data is shared in the PIT Count results.