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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2025

Annual Count of Indianapolis Residents Experiencing Homelessness to Be Conducted January 22, 2025

The Yearly Point-in-Time (PIT) Count will take place over the course of a week, building on the methodology used in 2024

INDIANAPOLIS (January 22, 2025) – [The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention \(CHIP\)](#), in collaboration with [Professional Blended Street Outreach \(PBSO\)](#) and other [Indianapolis Continuum of Care \(CoC\)](#) partners, announced it will conduct the 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count on **Wednesday, January 22, 2025**. The annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a federally mandated, single-night census of residents experiencing homelessness in Marion County. Conducted every January, the PIT Count identifies neighbors sleeping in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or unsheltered locations. This vital data informs local and national strategies to address homelessness, measures progress toward equity goals, and supports funding decisions for critical housing solutions. Annual PIT Counts also ensure Indianapolis remains eligible for federal resources to support permanent housing and services for those experiencing homelessness.

Utilizing methodologies from the prior two Counts, the 2025 PIT Count will implement a night-of count followed by a multi-day service center survey methodology to provide consistency with year-to-year comparisons. Data for unsheltered residents on the night of January 22nd will be collected via a survey by professional outreach teams. Per federal guidelines, surveys will be conducted beginning at dusk on the night of the PIT Count. Outreach teams collaborated with CHIP to build a virtual map of known locations to ensure a comprehensive count. Locations are vetted for continued accuracy up to the night of the PIT Count. From Wednesday, January 22, through Sunday, January 26, community volunteers will conduct the same unsheltered survey at day centers, service centers, and other service locations working with residents experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, changes to the PIT Count process are being implemented to improve the 2025 count of highly transient populations, namely youth experiencing homelessness and residents sleeping in vehicles. Volunteers will conduct surveys at youth-serving organizations for an extended period. CHIP and PBSO staff will also collaborate with CoC partners to encourage individuals sleeping in their vehicles to visit service sites to be surveyed. Data collected via surveys will reflect where people stayed the night of Wednesday, January 22. This data will be coupled with single-night data provided by emergency shelters and transitional housing providers.

“The annual Point-in-Time Count is an example of what community collaboration looks like and the impact we can have when we come together in a coordinated and unified way. Every year we strive to have a comprehensive and inclusive count because we know the human lives behind these numbers need to be seen and represented. The PIT Count not only elevates the issue of homelessness in the community but also helps inform strategy, target interventions, secure funding, and advocate for greater impact. We are grateful for all the community partners and advocates who make this count possible and who embrace the vision that everyone deserves to be housed and connected to care.” - **Chelsea Haring-Cozzi, CHIP Executive Director**

The annual PIT Count highlights a critical need for collaboration among service providers, stakeholders, and advocates within and beyond the Indianapolis homelessness response system. Outreach teams conducting surveys will be equipped with care kits containing cold-weather gear, wool blankets, and other essentials, generously sponsored through a Cummins Community Development Grant. Teams will be able to distribute lifesaving doses of naloxone, courtesy of Overdose Lifeline, and 24-hour bus passes, supported by a Mobility Access Grant from the IndyGo Foundation. During the kickoff event, Outreach teams will also enjoy a warm beverage cart and snacks, generously provided by Anthem, ensuring they are fueled and ready to engage with individuals experiencing homelessness.



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“PBSO is incredibly grateful for all this support that allows our teams to provide critical lifesaving supplies as we survey neighbors in a compassionate, person-centered way. Our collective efforts in the PIT Count give us greater insight into the scope of unsheltered homelessness as well as the barriers to be overcome in order to navigate people into safe housing. We need and appreciate ongoing support from the community to address the housing crisis faced by Marion County.” – Niki Wattson, Horizon House Street Outreach Manager/PBSO Coordinator

Data quality is a top priority for the 2025 PIT Count. All data will undergo thorough analysis and cross-referencing to eliminate duplication for sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families. CHIP and community partners rely on this data to better understand the scope and demographics of homelessness in Marion County. This information is crucial in planning, evaluating progress, and shaping strategies within our homeless service system. Additionally, the Count provides valuable insights into the age, family status, gender, race, and veteran status of residents experiencing homelessness to identify barriers and intentionally target resources and interventions where they are most needed.

“Between the new master leasing program, the continuous work to add more permanent supportive housing units, and our progress toward building the Housing Hub, the City of Indianapolis is focused on utilizing its resources and community partnerships to end chronic homelessness,” said Mayor Joe Hogsett. “The Point-in-Time Count is crucial to this effort, ensuring the City and our partners have the necessary data to inform our continued efforts to improve housing access in our community.”

Key findings from the January 24th, 2024 PIT Count included:

- On January 24, 2024, 1,701 neighbors slept in Indianapolis emergency shelters, transitional housing, or were unsheltered (sleeping in abandoned buildings, outdoors, vehicles, etc.). This represented a 5% increase from the 2023 Count.
- The number of neighbors who were unsheltered remained historically high. 339 of the neighbors surveyed on the night of the PIT were sleeping outdoors. While this is a 5% decrease from 2023, it is 72% higher than the number of unsheltered neighbors counted in 2022 and triple the number of neighbors surveyed in 2019.
- Black residents remained overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness. 53% of residents in the 2024 PIT Count were Black, compared to just under 30% of Marion County’s population. This disparity was higher among residents in shelters and among families with minor children, where 57% and 67% of residents experiencing homelessness were Black.
- 79 unaccompanied young adults (age 18 - 24) were counted in the 2024 PIT. 59% of these young adults were Black, compared to 45% in 2023, reflecting another area of racial disparity among neighbors experiencing homelessness.
- 90% of unsheltered residents reported living in Indianapolis when their current episode of homelessness began. Lack of income and job loss were the most frequently cited contributing factors to their current episode of homelessness.
- 2024 PIT Counts [found a historic rise in homelessness](#) in the United States. The full 2024 PIT Count report, as well as historical Count data, can be accessed via [CHIP’s website](#).

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CHIP partners with the Indianapolis community to advance a shared vision to end homelessness by inspiring collective action and advocating for permanent housing solutions. We envision an Indianapolis where everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable home and is embraced by compassionate care and an inclusive community. Visit www.chipindy.org or follow @CHIPIndy to learn more.