



## INDIANAPOLIS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT (PIT)

### What is the PIT?

The PIT Count is an annual census of individuals experiencing homelessness **on a single night** in January. Nationally, all Continuums of Care (CoCs) must conduct PIT Counts, per the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Counts reflect individuals in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or Safe Havens, and folks experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Counts exclude folks couch-surfing or multiple individuals/families sharing a living space (“doubled-up”).

### What does (and doesn’t) the PIT tell us?

PIT data allows CoCs to see a snapshot of homelessness in the community. Single-night data cannot comprehensively describe individuals’ experience with homelessness (e.g., complete causality) nor year-long inflow and outflow within the system. However, the data allows us to see information such as drastic changes in the population, utilization of shelter services, and conditions making housing stability more challenging (e.g., a physical disability).

### How is the PIT used?

Historically, Black individuals comprise about 30% of Indianapolis’ residents, but over 50% of folks experiencing homelessness. In 2023, the Blueprint Council of the Indianapolis CoC set an 18-month goal to eliminate this disparity by reducing Black homelessness by 35%. The PIT Count is the primary tool for measuring progress toward this goal. Future system-wide strategies and goal setting may also be informed by and measured with the PIT Count.

Nationally, PIT Counts from every CoC are presented to Congress in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). These numbers are presented alongside other CoC data to inform national priorities on homelessness and critical funding decisions.

### How is the PIT conducted?

Throughout the year, CoC agencies use the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to manage program enrollments and shelter stays and collect necessary client data. On the night of the PIT, agencies provide counts of individuals and households sleeping at their facility, confirming data accuracy with HMIS. Providers not utilizing HMIS are trained to input data into an electronic submission portal. Domestic violence shelters provide aggregate data to protect clients.

Additionally, electronic surveys gather information directly from neighbors experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Volunteers, including the Professional Blended Street Outreach team, the IMPD Homeless Unit, and local service providers, administer surveys. On the night of the count, volunteers conduct surveys at locations where neighbors are known to stay. On four additional days, surveys were conducted at various social services and public places (e.g., libraries, local churches, and service providers) and within pre-determined geographic areas (e.g., Downtown Mile Square). On these days, neighbors report where they stayed on the night of the count.

Both sheltered data and data from unsheltered neighbors are cleaned, duplicate entries are removed, and community data is submitted to HUD.



## ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS

**Adults:** individuals aged 18 or over.

**Children:** individuals under age 18.

**Chronic Homelessness:** neighbors are considered chronically homeless if they (a) have been homeless for at least one year OR experienced four episodes of homelessness over three years, which total one year, (b) report a disability or vulnerability, and (c) are unsheltered OR staying in emergency shelters or safe havens.

**CoC:** the Indianapolis Continuum of Care (CoC) is a collaborative and engaged group of community partners dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in Indianapolis. CoCs are required by HUD for communities nationwide.

**Disability:** also referred to as vulnerability, these are diagnosed medical or other chronic conditions that impact one's daily life, including the ability to access and maintain housing.

**Emergency Shelter (ES):** facilities whose primary purpose is providing temporary shelter to folks experiencing homelessness or specific populations of folks experiencing homelessness. ES typically have shorter stays than other shelter options and generally do not provide wraparound service beyond basic needs.

**Family:** when reporting to HUD, "family" is self-reported by clients and can include only adults, married or not, and/or children (biologically related to adults or not).

**Housing Inventory County (HIC):** a federally required annual census of the number of available beds for individuals experiencing homelessness within a CoC.

**HIV/AIDS:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) damages one's immune system and interferes with the body's ability to fight infection and disease. Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome is a chronic immune system disease caused by HIV.

**Homelessness:** as defined by HUD, homelessness refers to (a) neighbors staying in emergency shelters, safe havens, or transitional housing, (b) neighbors staying in areas not meant for human habitation, such as cars, abandoned buildings, or outside, or (c) individuals fleeing domestic violence.

**HUD:** the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD is responsible for national policy and programs that improve and develop US communities and enforce fair housing laws. HUD provides funds to state and local governments and nonprofits to assist neighbors experiencing homelessness.

**Other Permanent Housing (OPH):** permanent housing not defined as Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Rehousing.

**Permanent Housing (PH):** a community-based housing model aimed at providing housing without a designated length of stay.

**Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** permanent housing in which housing assistance (e.g., long-term leasing or rental assistance) and supportive services are provided to households with at least one member (adult or child) with a disability in achieving housing stability

**Rapid Rehousing (RRH):** permanent housing projects providing short-term (up to 3 months) and long-term (4-24 months) tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services to households experiencing homelessness. HUD does not require individuals have a disability to qualify for Rapid Rehousing.

**Transitional Housing (TH):** provides temporary housing with supportive services to those experiencing homelessness with the goal of interim and stability to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. Clients must have a signed lease, sublease, or occupancy agreement, which (a) has an initial term of at least one month, (b) is automatically renewable upon expiration, except by prior notice by either party and (c) has a maximum term of 24 months.

**Unsheltered Homelessness:** individuals experiencing homelessness and staying in cars, outside, in abandoned buildings, or in other places not meant for human habitat, excluding ES, TH, or other HUD-recognized housing programs.

**Veterans:** refers to individuals who have served in the US military, excluding those in the National Guard who were not deployed.