# THN
## TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

# PIT Q&A Session

## Strategies For Change

thn.org

# Housekeeping

- Everyone will stay muted during the webinar

- Please type all questions into the chat box

- If need more detailed help, please email kyra@thn.org

# Agenda

- Reminders & Updates
- PIT Methodology
- Regional Command Center
- Tips
- Post Count Data
- Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
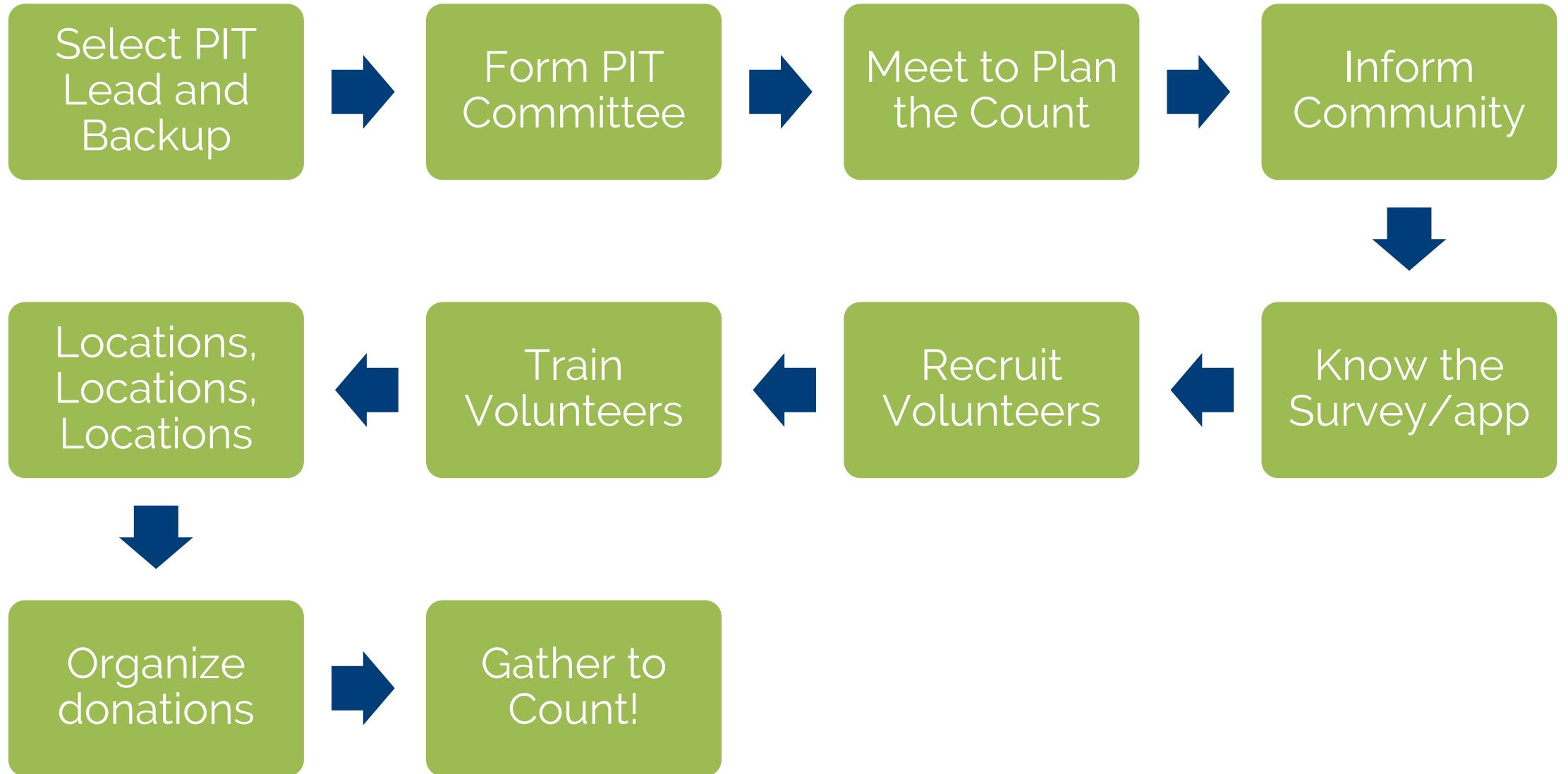- Q&A

# Reminders & Updates

# PIT Count Date

# 1/24/19

# Day of Count Set-Up Key

MAKE SURE ON THE DAY OF THE COUNT ALL SURVEYS ARE COLLECTED UNDER SET-UP KEY…

## TX2019

# SUCCESSFUL PIT COUNT

Select PIT Lead and Backup → Form PIT Committee → Meet to Plan the Count → Inform Community

↓

Locations, Locations, Locations ← Train Volunteers ← Recruit Volunteers ← Know the Survey/app

↓

Organize donations → Gather to Count!

# Before the Count

- Develop a Safety Plan
- Plan for Adverse Weather
- Set-up Headquarters Location
- Work with Shelter Leads

- Create map of "Hot Spots"
- Recruit and Assign Volunteers
- Train Volunteer
- Prepare Survey Kits

# Mobilizing the Community

- Forming PIT Committee
- Recruiting Volunteers
- Spreading awareness
- Media Engagement

# Volunteer Requirements

- Registration and Release Form
- Training
- Volunteer Hour Tracker Form
  - Complete by

# Volunteer Training

- Emphasize to volunteers the importance of complete surveys

- Missing data and incomplete surveys negatively impacts your final reports

- Make an effort to collect at minimum:
  - First and Last name (initials if hesitant)
  - DOB (age range if hesitant)
  - Demographic information

# Engaging Sub-population

- Youth

- Veterans

- Families

- Individuals with Lived Experience

*Click here for resources*

# PIT Methodology

# Sheltered PIT Count

- Emergency Shelters:
  - Domestic violence shelters
  - Hotel, motel, or apartment vouchers <u>paid</u> for by a public or private agency <u>because</u> the individual or family is homeless

- Transitional Housing

# Unsheltered PIT Count

- Street/sidewalk
- Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck)
- Park
- Abandoned building
- Bus, train station, airport
- Under bridge/overpass
- Woods/outdoor encampment

# Observation PIT Count

- This survey requires NO direct interaction and is used mostly as a head count

- Reasons why you would conduct an Observation survey:
  - The individual is sleeping
  - Refused to take the survey
  - If you do not feel comfortable approaching the participant

# Counting Us App Surveys

- SimTech Solutions updating Sheltered Survey
- New questions
- Updated Survey naming conventions
- Required questions

# Tips

# Surveys

- **Complete practice surveys** (don't be afraid to make mistakes, its all test data)
- If volunteers have technical issues, make sure they contact PIT Lead first to triage
  - Contact THN staff if need further help addressing issue
  - You will be assigned a THN staff member to contact
- Make sure all volunteers submit "Saved Draft" surveys once they have internet access and need to do so within 24 hrs of count.
  - NO surveys should stay on any device
- Decide how you want to check-in with volunteers at end of count
  - Make sure are safe and count was completed successfully

# Safety

## Do

- ✓ **Always work in teams**
- ✓ **Be respectful of space**
- ✓ **Ask a person to participate if you think they are homeless**
- ✓ **Introduce yourself and explain what you are doing**
- ✓ Be sincere and caring
- ✓ Remain calm
- ✓ Know how to de-escalate
- ✓ Know emergency numbers
- ✓ **Honor requests to not participate**
- ✓ Provide shelter information if possible
- ✓ Dress appropriately
- ✓ Leave valuables behind

## Don't

- ✓ **Wake up someone***
- ✓ **Approach if you don't feel comfortable***
- ✓ **Mandate participation**
- ✓ Invade personal space
- ✓ Cross barriers
- ✓ Promise anything you can't deliver
- ✓ Be judgmental
- ✓ Give money or offer rides
- ✓ **Share any confidential info or photos of participants**
- ✓ Panic
- ✓ Put anyone in danger
- ✓ **Deviate from the survey**

# Best Practices

- Familiarize yourself with the survey

- Communicate your intentions to prospective survey participants

- Obtain consent to administer the survey

- Express confidence and compassion

- When surveying individuals within a group, prioritize safety and protect participant's information

- Come up with a safety phrase for discomfort amongst your team

- Know volunteer expectations

- Know community resources

# Checklist
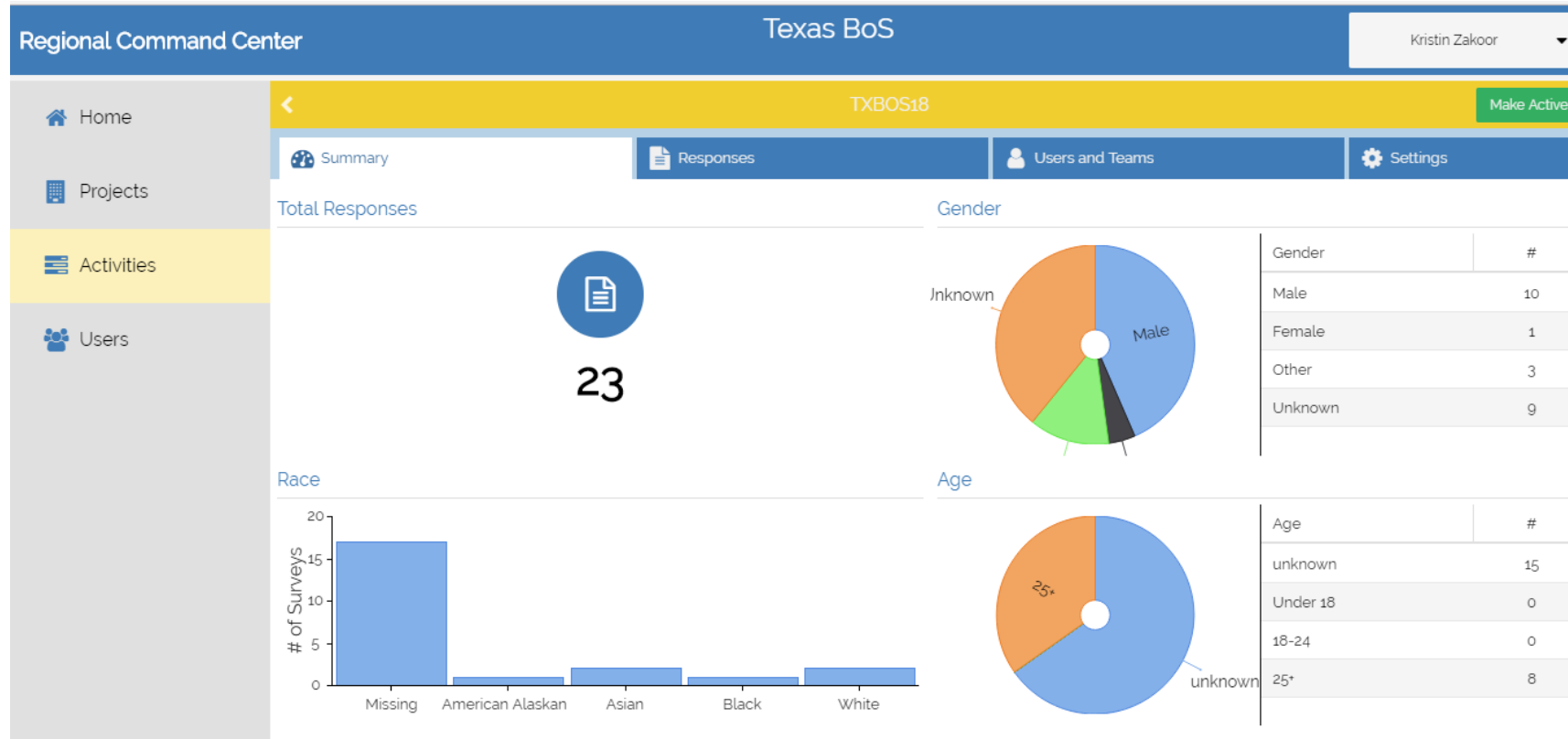
**Items to bring with you:**

- Comfortable clothes and shoes
- Fully charged cell phone (portable charger if possible)
- Flashlight (if conducting count at night or early morning)
- Pen and notepad
- Vehicle if necessary
- "Goodie bags" to pass out if provided

# Regional Command Center

# Regional Command Center (RCC)



**NOTE:** Please DO NOT share any of the preliminary reports until THN has given approval to do so. It is necessary for THN to further analyze each community's data before it can be shared with local agencies and the public.

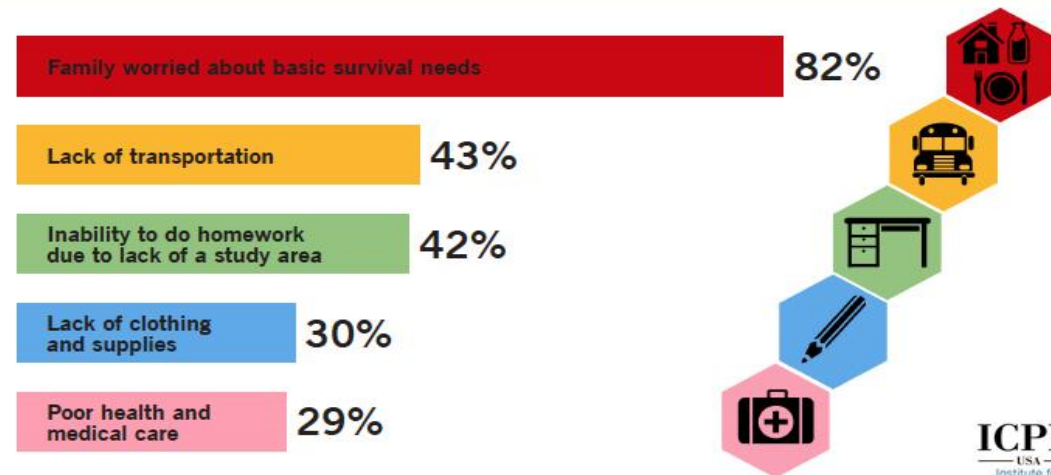Post Count Data

# What YOU can do with your data

- Infographics
- Go to Public officials
  - Identify what resources and services are needed most
  - Encourage incentive programs
- Raise public awareness
- Create a cumulative map of where your current services are
  - Domestic Violence shelters
  - Youth shelters
  - Supermarkets with incentive programs
  - Barbershops that serve people experiencing homelessness

- Contact us via datateam@thn.org

# Infographics

# Infographics



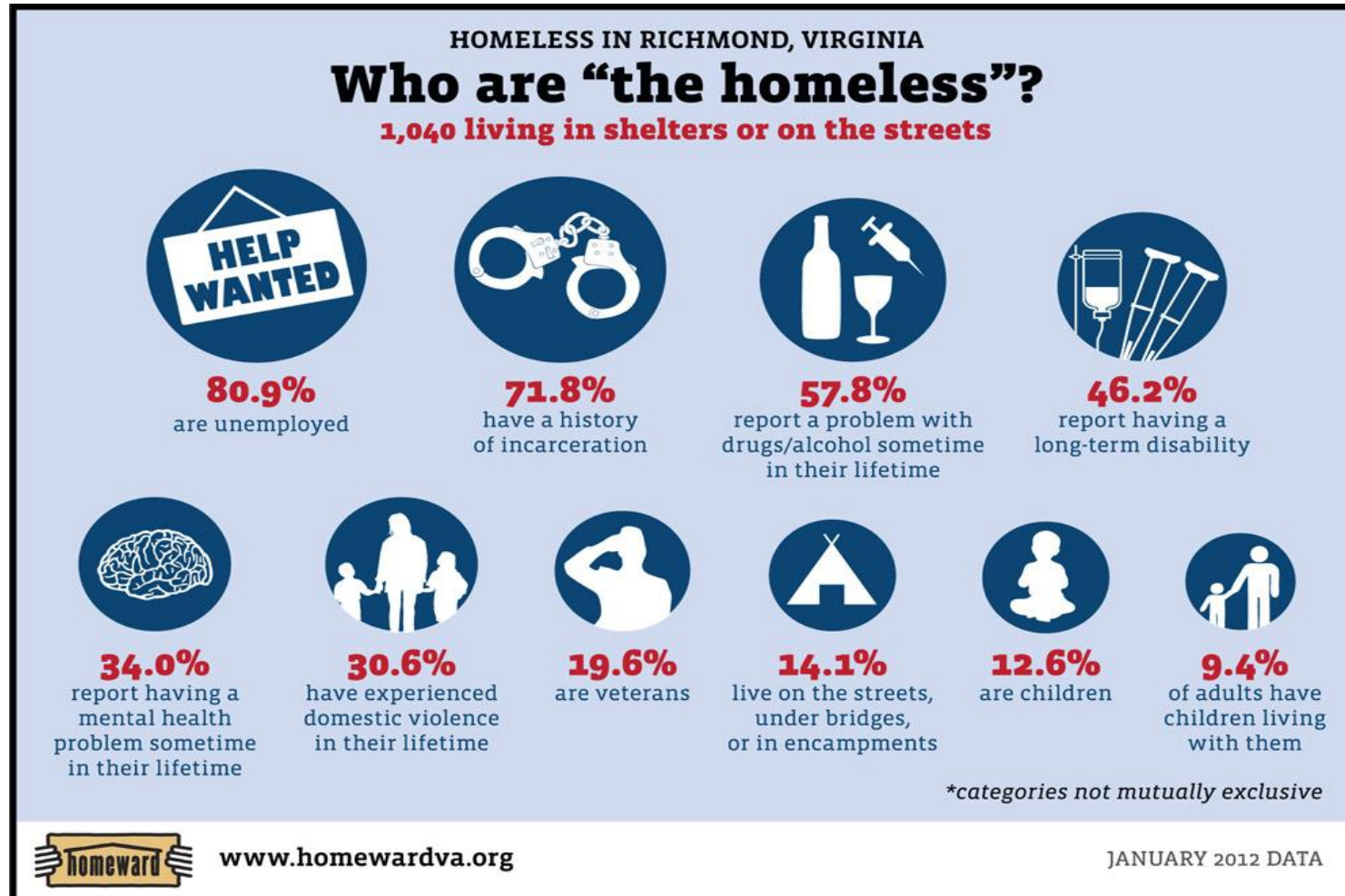HOMELESS IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
## Who are "the homeless"?
### 1,040 living in shelters or on the streets

**80.9%**
are unemployed

**71.8%**
have a history
of incarceration

**57.8%**
report a problem with
drugs/alcohol sometime
in their lifetime

**46.2%**
report having a
long-term disability

**34.0%**
report having a
mental health
problem sometime
in their lifetime

**30.6%**
have experienced
domestic violence
in their lifetime

**19.6%**
are veterans

**14.1%**
live on the streets,
under bridges,
or in encampments

**12.6%**
are children

**9.4%**
of adults have
children living
with them

*categories not mutually exclusive

homeward    www.homewardva.org    JANUARY 2012 DATA

# Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

The Project Types included in the HIC are:

- Emergency Shelter (ES)

- Transitional Housing (TH)

- Permanent Housing (PH)

- Beds and units in the HIC must be dedicated to serving homeless persons, or for permanent housing projects, dedicated for persons who were homeless at entry.

- To be completed on night of PIT Count, **1/24/19**

- THN will send out HIC worksheets along with instructions to be completed by responsible party

# Questions?

# Thank you!