TX BoS CoC General Meeting

December 11, 2019, 2:00-3:30 P.M.

NOTES

Lobby poll: Give an update on what is happening in your community around addressing homelessness.

I.   Welcome, Introductions, Staff Photos & Map of Attendees

II.   Data Snapshot – Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) data from STELLA
Stella is a visualization of the LSA data that CoCs submit to HUD every year and that HUD reports to Congress. Stella shows system-level performance data on households experiencing homelessness. It can be used to make system changes in the CoC. (see the attached presentation slides for more information, including 2018 and 2019 data)

III.   How we are Ending Homelessness
   a. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count – PIT Counts show the number of people experiencing homelessness on one day in January. The Count will be held on January 23, 2020. PIT Counts can show the extent of homelessness in a community, raise awareness of people's needs, and provide data showing the need for funding housing and services. BoS CoC communities conduct local PIT Counts, and communities' data is combined to create the CoC's count. THN will provide a data report and a data visualization for each community that participates in the PIT Count. In March THN will hold a webinar showing how to use PIT Count data.

   The 2020 Census will take place this year, and it's important for all people to be counted, including people experiencing homelessness. Local homeless coalitions can partner with their Complete Census Count Committees: https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/2020-complete-count-committees.html.

   b. Housing Inventory (HIC) – The HIC shows the number of emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing beds available to serve people experiencing homelessness on the same night as the PIT Count.

   (See the attached presentation slides, PIT infographic, HIC infographic, and Census Fact Sheet for more information)

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TX BoS CoC General Meeting

IV. **Community Conversation –** PIT Count Community Spotlight – Vineta Byrd with SAFE-T in Mt. Pleasant spoke about their summer PIT Count.

Staff invited members to comment and give input on any issue pertinent to the CoC, but no verbal comments were received.

V. **Committee Updates**
   a. Coordinated Entry Steering Committee (CESC)
   b. Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) – give your input on challenges at https://forms.gle/nCVQSneuUWEMTJo76; (see the attached Challenge Statements and visualizations for more information)
   c. Data Committee –The Data Committee will ensure that CoC decisions are data-driven and have input from HMIS Users; the committee will be comprised of the chairs of seven subcommittees that will each focus on a different housing intervention; recruiting members now; if interested, email data@thn.org
   d. Victim Services Provider Committee – The committee's goals is coordination between victim services providers and the CoC's housing crisis response system. Currently, membership is open only to members who serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
   e. recruiting members now: if interested, email vspc@thn.org
   f. Performance Evaluation Committee – The committee will set performance targets and evaluate performance of projects in the CoC. CoC-, ESG-, and SSVF-funded service providers, public housing authoritites (PHAs), and Community Development staff are especially invited to join; recruiting members now: if interested, email pec@thn.org

VI. **Announcements**
   a. Monday, January 6, 2020, through Friday, January 17, 2020 — Round 1 of 3 for Public Comment on TX BoS CoC Coordinated Entry Written Standards; see more information at https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/coordinated-entry/
   b. THN office closed from December 20th through January 5th

VII. **Next Meeting**
   a. No January meeting.
   b. Next meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Register at https://thn.adobeconnect.com/feb20gm/event/event_info.html

The meeting adjourned at 3:15.

TX BoS CoC General Meeting

Become a CoC Member!

Anyone who works or lives in the CoC's geographic area, and all housing and homeless services projects in the CoC's geographic area, are considered to be members of the CoC. The CoC has an open invitation process, so people may join at any time.

THN invites members to participate in the CoC's activities. Learn more on the email list, the website, and social media.

CoC General Meetings include presentations by and conversations between CoC members and staff on topics that are important to preventing and ending homelessness. See the schedule for dates, topics, and registration links. Meeting notes and recordings are posted on THN's website at https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/get-involved/.

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TX BoS CoC General Meeting

Agenda
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II. **Data Snapshot –** Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) data from STELLA

III. **How we are Ending Homelessness**
   a. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count
   b. Housing Inventory (HIC)

IV. **Community Conversation –** PIT Count Community Spotlight

V. **Committee Updates**
   a. Coordinated Entry Steering Committee (CESC)
   b. Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) – give your input on challenges at https://forms.gle/nCVQSneuUWEMTJo76
   c. Data Committee – recruiting members now: if interested, email data@thn.org
   d. Victim Services Provider Committee – recruiting members now: if interested, email vspc@thn.org
   e. Performance Evaluation Committee – recruiting members now: if interested, email pec@thn.org

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Staff will be available on the webinar for 15 minutes after the meeting ends for an open discussion on topics that attendees want to discuss.

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TX BoS CoC General Meeting

Give your feedback!
Please complete the anonymous survey you will receive after the meeting ends, to let us know what was helpful and what would could be better for the next meeting.

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www.thn.org

12/11/19 CoC General Meeting Attendance		
Name	**Attendance Status**	**Company Name**
Alanna Richardson	Attended	Longview Housing Authority
Alexzandra Hust	Attended	Abilene Hope Haven
Alyssa Mostaffa	Attended	United Way of Denton County
Anne Spanyers	Attended	Advocacy Outreach
Beth Rolingson	Attended	ADVOCACY OUTREACH
bethany thomas	Attended	Kaufman County Homeless Coalition
Breall Baccus	Attended	Texas Council on Family Violence
Chesley Knowles	Attended	Community Healthcore
Christy Plemons	Attended	The Salvation Army
Damian Clark	Attended	Advocacy Outreach
Daphnea Ryan	Attended	City of Texarkana
Deanna Lowrey-Green	Attended	Combined Community Action
Debra Huffman	Attended	Neighborhood Development Corp
DEBRA WASHINGTON	Attended	THE CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC.
Ebby Green	Attended	Taylor Housing Authority
Elena Lusk	Attended	United Way of Denton County
Faith Ochoa	Attended	Abilene Hope Haven, Inc.
Gloria Luna	Attended	United Way of Brazoria County
Jade Fite	Attended	Mission Texarkana
Janeal White	Attended	SETRPC
Jay Morgan	Attended	Community Healthcore
Jenny Wilson	Attended	United Way of Lamar County
Jordan McCarty	Attended	Denton County MHMR Center
Karah Witzsche	Attended	Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities
Kemberley Calk	Attended	Golden Crescent ADRC
Kyle Knutson	Attended	The Salvation Army
Marsha Wilson Rappaport	Attended	The Children's Center,inc
Martha Santos	Attended	Women's Center of East Texas
Melanie Thornton-Lewis	Attended	The Salvation Army of Galveston County
Melissa Escamilla	Attended	Endeavors
Mercedes Cardenas	Attended	Galveston County Homeless Coalition
Nathaniel Dears	Attended	Denton County MHMR Center
Rebecca Bromley	Attended	Neighborhood Development
Ruby DeJesus	Attended	The Salvation Army
Sherry Murphy	Attended	Family Crisis Center
Steven Lara	Attended	StarCare Specialty Health System
Susannah Bird	Attended	Abilene Hope Haven
Vineta Byrd	Attended	Shelter Agencies for Families in East Texas
Wes Bell	Attended	Kirbyville HA & Rural Homeless Network
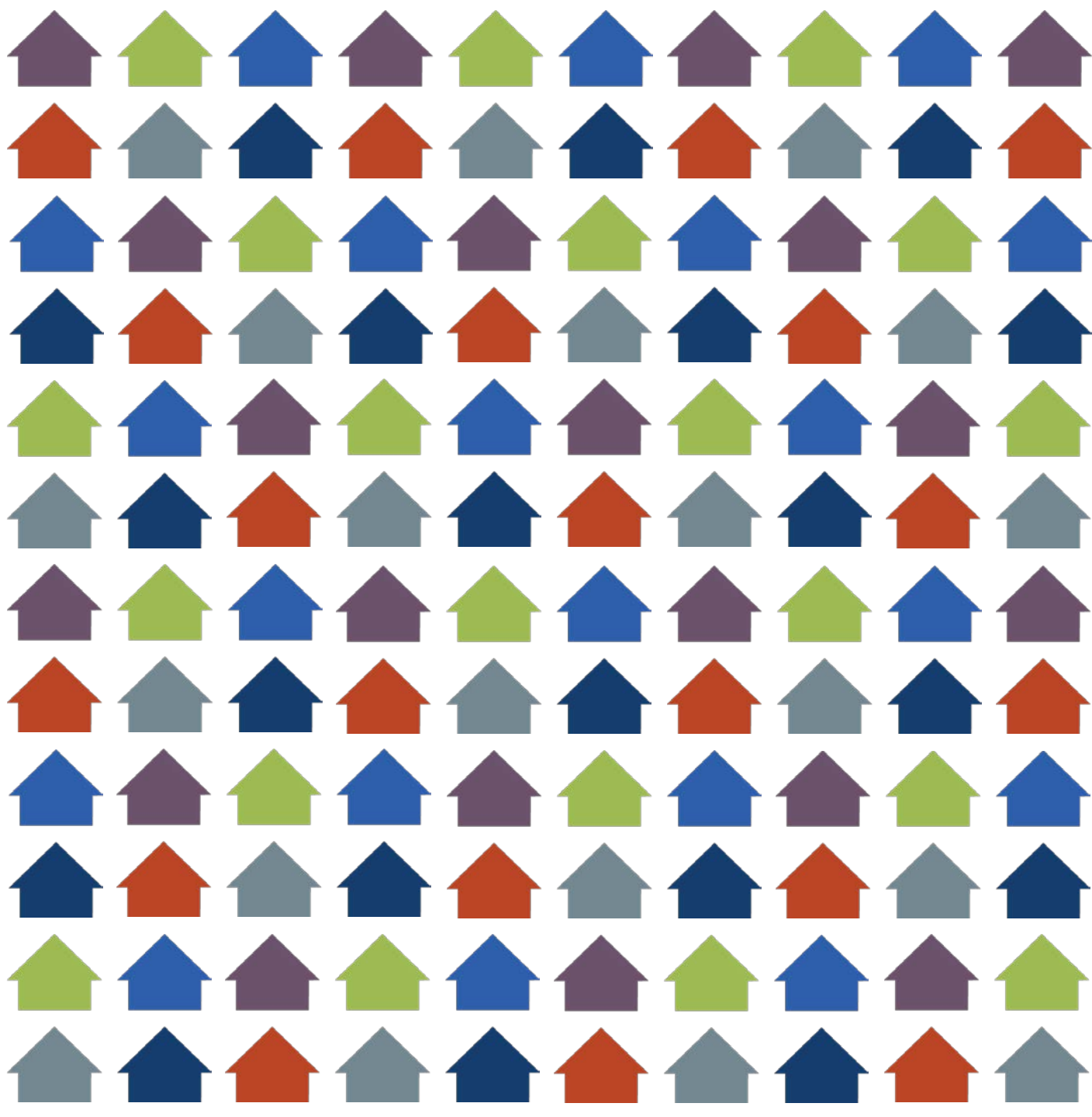
Agenda

- Data Snapshot: LSA and Stella
- PIT Basics
- PIT Methodology
- Census Count and PIT Count
- Training
- Counting Us Mobile App
  - RCC Teams
- Housing Inventory Count
- Community Sharing

Data Snapshot

Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Data and Stella

Data Snapshot: What is the LSA?

- The LSA can be used by local communities who want to better understand the number, characteristics, and service needs of people using homeless services. For example, the LSA can provide local communities with a data-driven understanding of their homeless population, which can be used to inform local homeless assistance planning efforts.

- We can use LSA data with PIT data to get a better understanding of homelessness in the Texas Balance of State CoC.

- It's the "new" Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR).

Data Snapshot: What is Stella?

- *Stella* is a strategy and analysis tool that helps CoCs:
  - Understand how their system is performing
  - Model an optimized system that fully addresses homelessness in their area
  - Broken up into two modules: Stella P and Stella M

- **Stella Performance** (Stella P) provides dynamic visuals of CoCs' Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) data to illustrate how households move through the homeless system, and to highlight outcome disparities. It looks at your system's past performance to identify areas for future improvement. Stella P does the analytical heavy lifting, so your CoC can focus on strategies to improve your homeless system.

PIT Date

January 23rd, 2020

PIT Basics

- How many people are currently homeless in your community?

- How many of them are families, youth, or veterans?

The answers to these questions and more can be answered by point-in-time counts.

A point-in-time count is an unduplicated count on a single night of the people in a community who are experiencing homelessness

WHY A POINT-IN-TIME

FUNDING

- Eligibility to apply for CoC funds

EXTENT

- Trends of homelessness in the local area
- Characteristics of those experiencing homelessness
- New programs

AWARENESS

- Raise community awareness
- Raise political awareness

Types of Volunteers

- Planning
- Headquarters
- Team Leads
- Sheltered
- Unsheltered
- Service-Based

Mobilizing the Community

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

Joining Efforts: Census and PIT Count

Census Count: April 1st, 2020

Service-Based Enumeration

- Service-Based Enumeration provides an opportunity for people without conventional housing and people who may be experiencing homelessness to be counted in the census. Through this process, people who are not included in counts of traditional household-type living arrangements or group quarters are enumerated where they stay or receive services or at predetermined outdoor locations.

Why the Census is Important

- Many programs that impact people experiencing homelessness are funded based in whole or in part on census-derived data:

- When people experiencing homelessness are undercounted, political boundaries may not accurately represent reality. Undercounting results in people experiencing homelessness being denied a full voice in policy decision-making. As a result, their community's different needs may not be represented or prioritized according to their real share of the population.

Joining Efforts: Census and PIT Count

Join your local Count Committee/attend the census planning meetings.

- Educate state and local leaders about the issues people experiencing homelessness face in the census.

- Recruit volunteers that can do the census and PIT counts

- Train volunteers on how to successfully approach and engage individuals experiencing homelessness

- Share your list of unsheltered locations

PIT Methodology

WHO TO COUNT

Individuals & Families Living In:

- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Domestic Violence Shelter
- Hotel/Motel paid for by voucher
- Places not meant for human habitation

WHO NOT TO COUNT

Individuals & Families Living In:

- Doubled-up situations
- Substandard housing
- PSH program
- Rapid Re-housing program
- Hotel/Motel paid for with own funds
- Locations using HUD-VASH vouchers
- Shelters designed for foster care or DFPS children

Unsheltered PIT – Where to Count

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

Definition: Homeless Children and Youths

- U.S. Department of Education (ED) Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homeless children and youths as follows: The term "homeless children and youths"—

  Meaning individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 11302(a)(1) of this title); and includes—

  i. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

  ii. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 11302(a)(2)(C) of this title);

  iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and iv. migratory children (as such term is defined in section 6399 of title 20) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

Unsheltered And Sheltered Counts

Do's
- If you have obtained consent

Don'ts
- Do not complete a survey without consent
- Do not continue the survey if the individual has expressed the desire to end the survey
- Do not complete a survey based on an intake form unless you have specifically obtained consent to do so.

Observation Survey

Do's

- Someone is sleeping
- You do not feel comfortable going to a certain area
- A person did not give their consent to participate in the survey or they don't want to complete the survey in it's entirety
- Someone does not seem to understand the consent process and cannot reasonably consent to the survey.

Don'ts

- Do not fill out an observation survey if you have not laid eyes on the individual that day

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

- Only use the survey that you have received from THN

- 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

- Know volunteer expectations
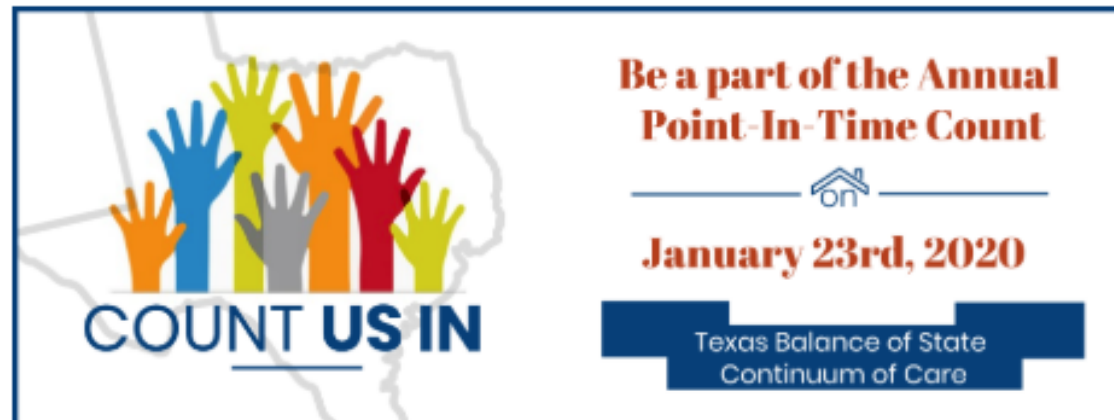
- Know community resources

Volunteer Training

ONLINE

- Training
- Google Form:
  - Volunteer Registration Portal
  - Quiz

IN-PERSON

- Training
- Google Form:
  - Volunteer Registration Portal

Be a part of the Annual
Point-In-Time Count

on

January 23rd, 2020

Texas Balance of State
Continuum of Care

COUNT US IN

The Point-In-Time Count is a snapshot of how many homeless individuals are in your community on a single day.

On the local level, point-in-time counts help communities plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs, measure progress in decreasing homelessness, and identify strengths and gaps in a community's current homelessness assistance system.

Register

Update Registration

Volunteer Hour Tracker
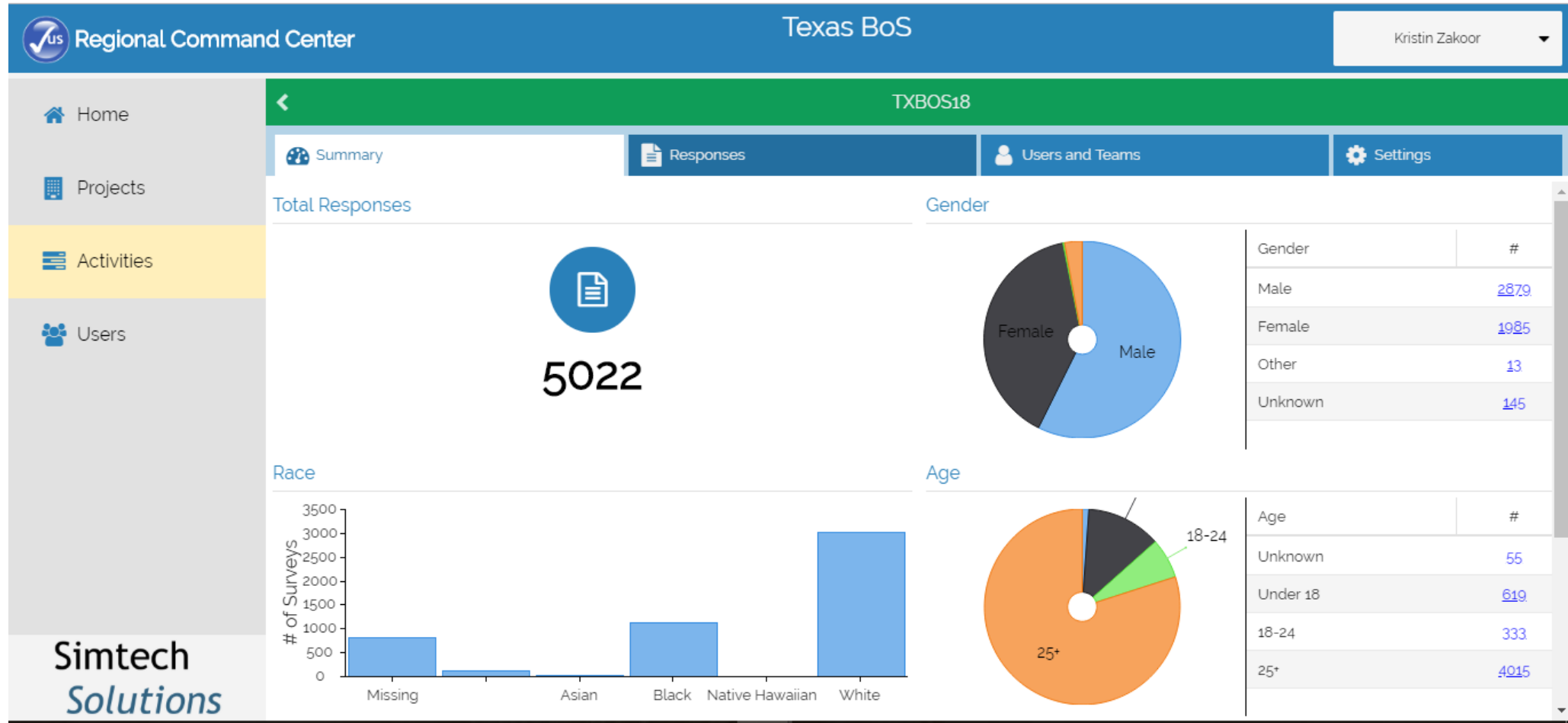
ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST FILL OUT ONLINE FORM!

Please have volunteers fill out on the day of the count after completing their shift

Counting Us Mobile App

Team Command Center

Day of Count Set-Up Key

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

TX2020

Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

What it is...

- Each year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires each Continuum of Care (CoC) to count its Housing Inventory Count (HIC) on the same night as the annually required Point-in-Time (PIT) count.

- The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve people experiencing homelessness on January 23rd, 2020.

- HIC to be submitted to THN by **January 30th, 2020.**

What we Count...

- The HIC includes inventory and capacity information about all programs dedicated to serving homeless persons in a community, regardless of the source of funding. The HIC captures inventory information for the following program types:

Shelter:

- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing

Permanent Housing:

- Rapid Re-Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing

PIT + HIC = ❤️

PIT Measures People + **HIC Measures Housing** = **Who & Capacity for Crisis**

THN

2019 Housing Inventory

Capacity to respond to Homelessness Crisis in TX BoS CoC

A glimpse at a single night in January

Emergency Shelter
ES

Transitional Housing
TH

Rapid Rehousing
RRH

Permanent Supportive Housing
PSH

196 Projects

90
32
49
25

7,033
year-round beds

4212 Beds
985 Beds
859 Beds
977 Beds

2019 Point In Time Count

Who Is Experiencing Homelessness in the Texas Balance of State

A glimpse at a single night in January

Gender

♂ ————— 2792 Men

⚥ ————— 1756 Women

⚧ ————— 14 Transgender

4,570 surveys collected

Race/Ethnicity

White 3,068	Black 1,092	Asian 18
American Indian 42	Native Hawaiian 9	Multiple Races 116

Non-Hispanic/Latino 2,879
Hispanic/Latino 1,379

2020 Winter Point-in-Time Count

External Timeline

November

11/1/2019:
Deadline to join count

11/7/2019:
Mandatory PIT Lead Webinar at 1:30 pm

11/15/2019:
Deadline to notify THN if using service based count and/or paper surveys

11/22/2019:
Verify Agencies for the sheltered count

December

12/5/2019:
PIT Q&A/ App Walk through webinar

12/6/2019:
Deadline to notify THN if you are interested in having a staff member on site for day of count.

12/9-12/13/2019:
Round one of PIT Check in calls

January

1/13-1/17/2020:
PIT Office Hours

1/23/2020:
PIT Count Date

1/30/2020: (Back up Date)
-Volunteer Hour Tracker deadline
-Last day for Service Based Count
-Paper survey deadline
-Housing Inventory Count deadline

February

2/7/2020:
Deadline to Complete PIT Debrief Survey

12/10-2/14/2020:
PIT Debrief Calls

2/27/2020:
Tentative Deadline for THN to send final PIT reports

THN will hold a webinar in March about how to use your PIT Data

I MUSTACHE YOU

A QUESTION

Community Sharing: Vineta Byrd

- Will this count be your first time being the PIT lead for your region?
  - If not, how long have you been the PIT lead for your area

- How did you conduct your Unsheltered count for the Summer count? Is it different from what you plan to do for your upcoming Winter Count?

- Do you plan to form a PIT committee? If so, have you determined how you will divvy up responsibilities?

- Where do you get your volunteers from? What do your outreach efforts look like?

- How did you conduct the trainings for the Summer Count (did you do in person or opt for the online volunteer training?)
  - Is this the same tactic you will use for your Winter Count?

- What important changes, if any, did your community make between your 2019 Winter Count to your 2019 Summer Count? How do you feel like these changes affected your count?
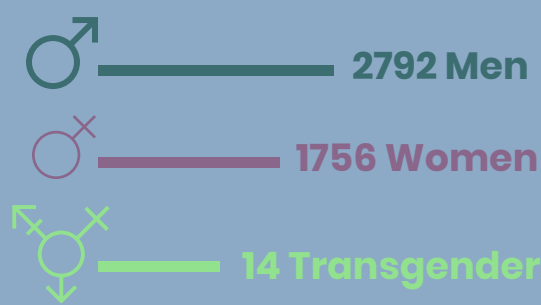 - What changes do you plan to implement for this count?

Any additional advice for out PIT communities on this call?

2019 Point In Time Count

Who Is Experiencing Homelessness in the Texas Balance of State
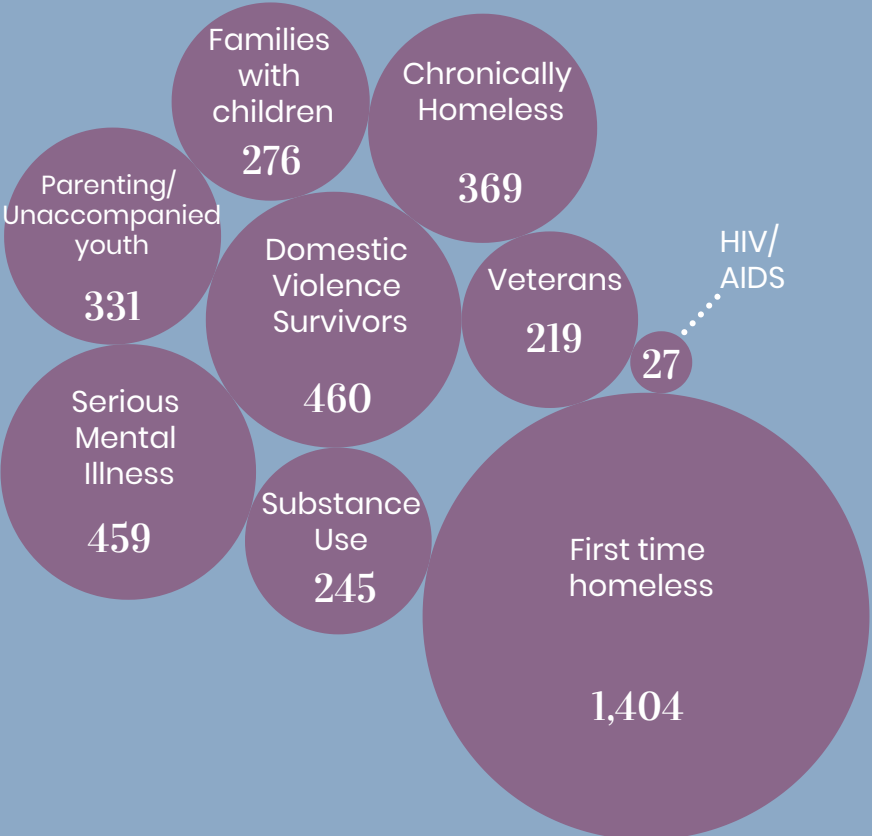
A glimpse at a single night in January

Gender

♂ **2792 Men**

♀ **1756 Women**

⚧ **14 Transgender**

4,570 surveys collected

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Subpopulations

- Families with children **276**
- Chronically Homeless **369**
- Parenting/Unaccompanied youth **331**
- Domestic Violence Survivors **460**
- Veterans **219**
- HIV/AIDS **27**
- Serious Mental Illness **459**
- Substance Use **245**
- First time homeless **1,404**

Location

58% of participants are residing in the same city where they became homeless

90% of participants reported they became homeless in Texas

Disability

35% of participants with a disability reported they have health insurance

27% of participants with a disability reported they have disability benefits

Top Three Reasons for Homelessness

- Unemployment
- Unable to pay rent/mortgage
- Domestic Violence

(scale: 0, 500, 1,000, 1,500, 2,000)
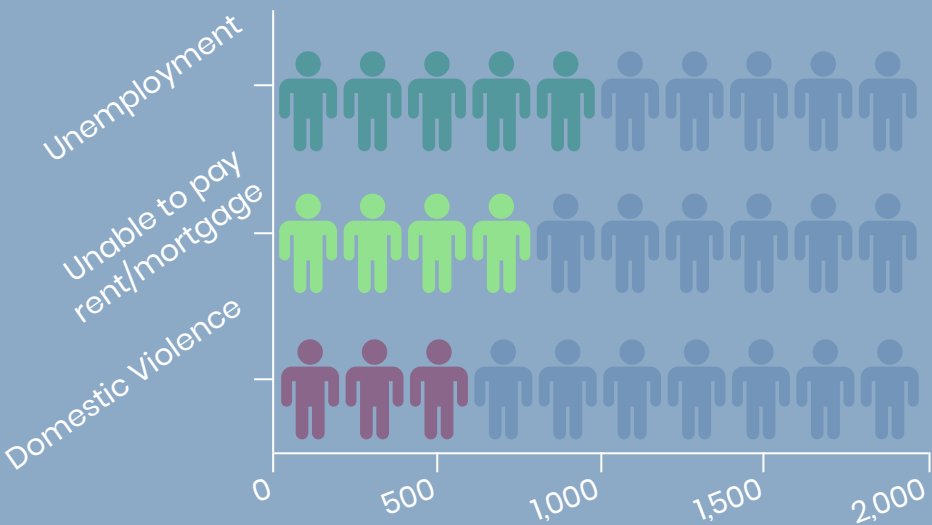
Top Three Barriers to Housing

- Lack of funds
- Lack of assistance
- Didn't know what resources to access

(scale: 0, 500, 1,000, 1,500, 2,000)
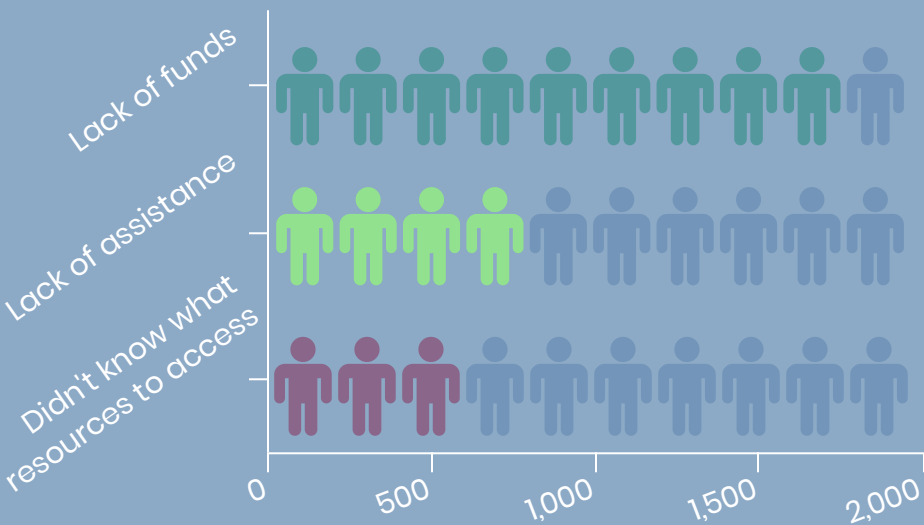
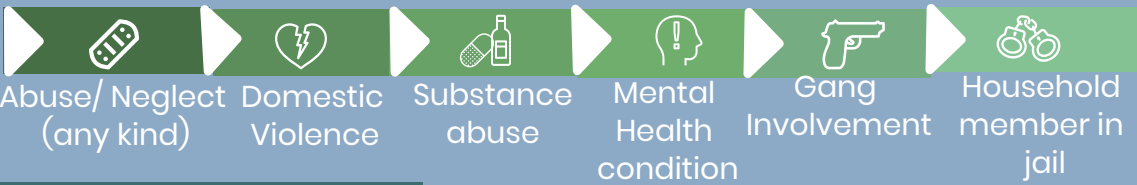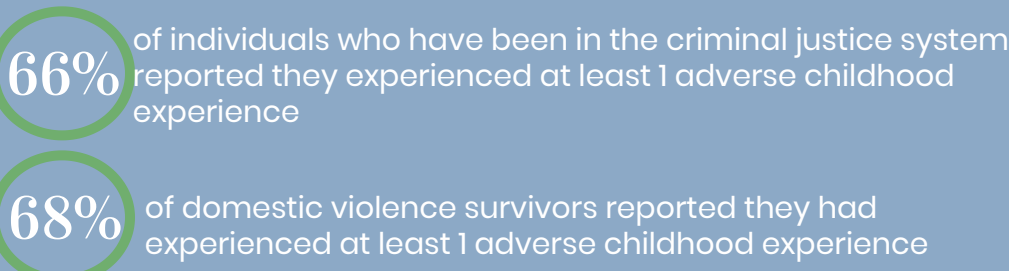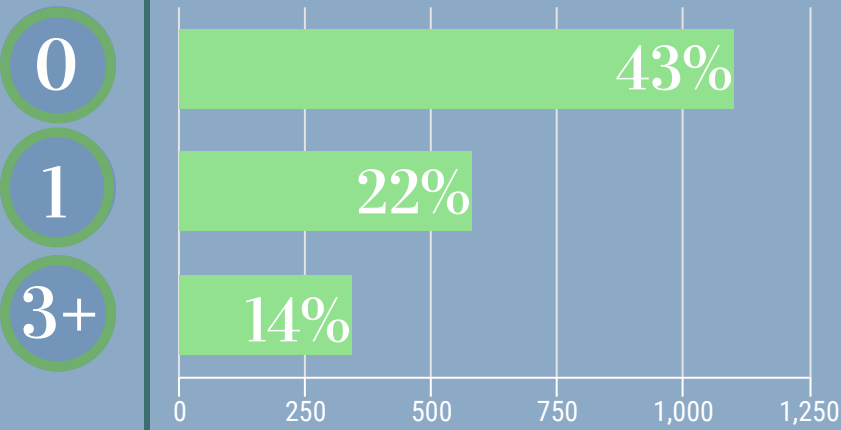## ACES

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is the term used to describe all types of abuse, neglect, and other potentially traumatic experiences that occur during childhood.

- Abuse/Neglect (any kind)
- Domestic Violence
- Substance abuse
- Mental Health condition
- Gang Involvement
- Household member in jail

Number of ACEs

- **0** — 43%
- **1** — 22%
- **3+** — 14%

(scale: 0, 250, 500, 750, 1,000, 1,250)

66% of individuals who have been in the criminal justice system reported they experienced at least 1 adverse childhood experience

68% of domestic violence survivors reported they had experienced at least 1 adverse childhood experience

* As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for chronic health conditions, unsafe behaviors, and shorter life expectancy.

THN

2019 Housing Inventory

Capacity to respond to Homelessness Crisis in TX BoS CoC

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Transitional Housing
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The Leadership
Conference
Education Fund

CENTER ON POVERTY and INEQUALITY
GEORGETOWN LAW

ECONOMIC SECURITY and
OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVE

Will You Count? People Experiencing Homelessness in the 2020 Census

Why is the census important?

The decennial census is the most inclusive civic activity in our country, covering every person in every household. The U.S. Constitution requires an accurate count of the nation's population every 10 years. Moreover, the census is integral to our democracy. The data collected affects our nation's ability to ensure equal representation and equal access to important governmental and private sector resources for all Americans, including across racial and ethnic lines. Census results are used to allocate seats and draw district lines for the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures, and local boards; to target more than $800 billion[1] annually in federal assistance to states, localities, and families; and to guide community decision-making affecting schools, housing, health care services, business investment, and much more. These functions depend on a fair and accurate census.

Unfortunately, certain population groups – referred to as "hard-to-count" – are at a higher risk of not being fully counted in the decennial census. Some of these groups have been historically underrepresented in the decennial census for decades; some may experience new or increased vulnerability due to major changes in methodology, such as relying on the internet as the primary way for households to respond to the 2020 Census; and some may be reluctant to respond due to concerns about data confidentiality.[2] Being hard-to-count can lead to unequal political representation and unequal access to vital public and private resources for these groups and their communities.

People experiencing homelessness are at risk of being undercounted.

An estimated 3.5 million people experience homelessness annually in the United States.[3] In 2016, families with children experiencing homelessness accounted for 35 percent of the homeless population.[4] In 2010, African-American family members were 7 times as likely to stay in a homeless shelter as White family members.[5] Veterans were also disproportionately represented amongst those experiencing homelessness, making up about 9 percent of homeless adults in 2016.[6] People experiencing homelessness have been undercounted in the decennial census for decades.[7]

It is vitally important to educate people who are homeless about the census and those who give them shelter to ensure they are included on the census form completed for each household.

What are the hard-to-count characteristics of people experiencing homelessness?

People experiencing homelessness typically share certain characteristics that compound their risk of being undercounted, including:

- **Transitory Status:** The Census Bureau attempts to count households by sending materials to every known residential address.[8] The person filling out the form is prompted to include all people who live in that household, whether or not they are family members and regardless of how long they have been staying or will stay there, as long as they do not have a usual home elsewhere or another household that would include them.[9] People experiencing homelessness often are temporary members of a household.[10] It is vitally important to educate this population and the people who give them shelter to include them on the census form completed for that household.
- **Hard-to-Reach Locales:** People experiencing homelessness can be hard to locate through census methods,[11] in part because of where they live. In 2016, 68 percent of the homeless population was in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens, and 32 percent were in unsheltered locations.[12] In 2015, 31 percent lived on the street, in a car, or in an abandoned

building.[13] Furthermore, local ordinances that prohibit begging or sleeping in public force people experiencing homelessness into less conspicuous locations.[14]

- **Internet Access:** People experiencing homelessness are far less likely to have internet access than the general population.[15] The Census Bureau plans to promote an internet response form as the primary way for households to respond to the 2020 Census.[16]
- **Age:** Young children are traditionally very hard to count[17] and about 22 percent of people experiencing homelessness are children.[18]

The Census Bureau has designed methods, like its Service Based Enumeration (SBE) operation, to count people who are experiencing homelessness based on the services they use, rather than at their place of residence.[19] However, Census Bureau officials will rely on input from local authorities and community-based organizations to make sure that everyone is counted using this method.[20] Furthermore, the results from the SBE operation do not provide a complete or geographically disaggregated count of those experiencing homelessness,[21] since people who are experiencing homelessness will likely be included in the areas' population counts and under a catch-all "other non-institutional group quarters" category.[22] Nevertheless, the SBE operation may be the best opportunity to count people experiencing homelessness.

What are the consequences of undercounting people experiencing homelessness?
When people experiencing homelessness are undercounted, political boundaries may not accurately represent reality. Undercounting results in people experiencing homelessness being denied a full voice in policy decision-making. As a result, their community's different needs may not be represented or prioritized according to their real share of the population.

Undercounting people experiencing homelessness in the 2020 Census could also impact how federal funding is allocated to states and localities. Many programs that impact people experiencing homelessness are funded based in whole or in part on census-derived data:[23]

Child Care, Education, and Employment
- **Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies – $13.9 billion.** Title I provides financial assistance to local educational agencies and schools with high numbers or percentages of low-income children.[24] In school year 2014-15, Title I served more than 24 million children in U.S. public schools.[25] In 2015, the Department of Education said Title 1 funds should be used to employ local homeless liaisons and to take homeless youth to and from school.[26]
- **Head Start Program – $8.3 billion.** This program provides grants to local public and private nonprofit and for-profit agencies to provide child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop the early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school.[27] In the 2012-2013 school year, Head Start helped 46,800 total families experiencing homelessness and assisted 15,696 of those families find housing.[28]
- **Child Care and Development Fund – $2.9 billion.**[29] This fund assists low-income families, families receiving temporary public assistance, and those transitioning from public assistance in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training and education.[30] The program specifically targets children experiencing homelessness by conducting outreach and by granting them a grace period on their documentation for enrolling in the program.[31]
- **Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs – $114 million**.[32] These programs support emergency shelter, transitional housing, and street outreach programs for the over 31,000 young people who experience homelessness each year.[33]

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- **McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program – $65 million.**[34] This program is based on each state's share of Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies, Part A funds, and helps schools to improve the enrollment, attendance, and academic success of children and youth who are homeless in their district.[35]

Health Care and Nutrition
- **SNAP – $69.5 billion.** SNAP is the most important tool to prevent hunger and malnutrition among families in the United States. More than 40 million low-income families rely on federally-funded SNAP subsidies that are administered to them through state governments.[36] Not only are homeless families eligible for SNAP, but those who live in shelters are eligible for a homeless shelter deduction in about half of the states.[37]
- **Health Care for the Homeless Program – $366 million.**[38] This program provides primary health care, substance use treatment, emergency care, and outreach services to people experiencing homelessness, and also assists in establishing eligibility for the homeless population for entitlement programs and housing. In 2015, 890,000 in the homeless population were served by this program.[39]
- **Medicaid – $312 billion.** Medicaid is a federal-state insurance program that provides health coverage to low-income families and individuals, children, parents, seniors, and people with disabilities.[40] With the Affordable Care Act's expansion of Medicaid, the rate of uninsured people experiencing homelessness has gone down.[41]
- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) – *$6.3 billion.*** The WIC program gives nutrition assistance through vouchers that are used to buy nutrient-rich food for pregnant women and children under the age of five.[42] Program adjustments are made for those who are experiencing homelessness and may not have access to water, cooking, or refrigeration.[43]
- **Child Nutrition Programs – $19.2 billion.**[44] These programs assist state and local governments and private non-profit organizations in ensuring that children in schools and child care – and adults in adult day care programs – receive meals that meet their nutritional needs.[45] At least 21 million kids receive free or reduced priced meals while school is in session, and less than 3 million do when school is closed.[46]

Housing
- **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance funds for Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, and Safe Havens – $2.1 billion.**[47] HUD's McKinney-Vento programs cover outreach, shelter, transitional housing, supportive services, short- and medium-term rent subsidies, and permanent housing programs for those experiencing homelessness, and for some people at risk of homelessness. In 2015, these programs served 773,000 people.
- **Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers Program – $19.1 billion.** Section 8 vouchers are the nation's leading source of housing assistance for low-income seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children, helping approximately 2 million households to secure affordable rental housing in the private market.[48] Vouchers have been shown to reduce homelessness[49] and almost one-fourth of the vouchers are used by those with disabilities, including those who have experienced homelessness.[50]

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You can help – right now.

There are many ways in which stakeholders, including advocates, funders, and civic leaders, can improve the count of people experiencing homelessness in the 2020 Census. There are opportunities to join or support work on policy development, community organizing, and "Get Out the Count" campaigns for the 2020 Census. Here are some ideas:

- **Help your members of Congress understand why it's important to support adequate resources for the Census Bureau to conduct the 2020 Census in a way that will count all people experiencing homelessness**. The Census Bureau needs a major funding ramp up several years before a decennial census to perform critical tests and build out a massive infrastructure. Already – due to funding constraints – important activities needed for a fair and accurate 2020 Census have been postponed or canceled, putting people who are experiencing homelessness at risk of being severely undercounted. Without a sufficient increase in the Census Bureau's budget, a complete count will be in jeopardy, and census costs could increase by billions of dollars.

- **Stay informed about key census policy and operational developments.** The Census Project (https://thecensusproject.org/) provides regular updates on census-related activities in Congress and the administration. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights also publishes many helpful resources at https://civilrights.org/census/.

- **Educate state and local leaders about the issues people experiencing homelessness face in the census.** As the 2020 Census approaches, advocates can join Complete Count Committees that will be established in many states and localities to help ensure a complete census.[51] It is important that Complete Count Committees include voices for people experiencing homelessness to remind leaders and local census staff of this critical constituency.

- **Become a Census Bureau partner and help ensure that the Census Bureau's partnership program gets the resources it needs**. Budget shortfalls are also putting this important program at risk. Partners (organizations, associations, institutions, and the like) get timely updates from the Census Bureau as well as promotional material (https://www.census.gov/partners/).

If you would like to learn more about these or other ways you and your organization can be involved, contact Debbie Weinstein, Coalition on Human Needs Executive Director, at DWeinstein@chn.org, or Sonum Nerurkar, Get Out the Count Manager, at Nerurkar@civilrignts.org.

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Challenge Statements

These responses were gathered from the October 8th, 2019 CoC General Meeting, and from the *TX BoS CoC 2020 - 2023 Strategic Plan Challenge Statements Survey* that was emailed to general members.

Theme 1: Homelessness Prevention -this was identified as a priority by 4 teams during the general meeting and 4 respondents to the survey.

From General Meeting:

How do we help prevent homelessness in youth and young adults that have grown up in poverty?

How do we provide spiritual supports, mental supports, and physical supports into our communities that can help prevent homelessness? communities that can help prevent homelessness? communities that can help prevent homelessness? communities that can help prevent homelessness?

How can we insure that we are preventing homelessness for anyone who finds themselves at risk?

How might we develop a comprehensive, yet flexible Homelessness Prevention Strategy?

From Survey:

The challenge affects low-income households at risk of homelessness. The challenge is taking place in neighborhoods with low-income housing. The challenge should be fixed by local efforts to mitigate the effects of gentrification (medium-term goal). It is important because it is unsustainable to a healthy city.

Homeless Prevention is - in my opinion - equally as important as RRH and PSH. It is a proactive measure to homelessness - not a reactive measure. It is preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place. More focus and funding should be allocated to homeless prevention.

How do we get legislation to limit the amount of late fees being charged by landlords? Especially, once an organization has reached out in an attempt to assist a client. This is important as the late fees can equal up to being more than the actual rent preventing agencies from assisting or the client from ever catching up.

How to maintain stable housing for mental health population

Theme 2: Housing Interventions - this was identified as a priority by 5 teams during the general meeting and 4 respondents to the survey.

From General Meeting:

To identify the gaps in the local housing system and then fill those gaps with the necessary interventions, including housing and supportive services.

How do we develop affordable housing to prevent people from dying on the street (chronically homeless)?

How do we move people from unsheltered to permanent housing?

How do we connect our neighbors to permanent supportive housing with high barriers?

How might we increase the number of affordable housing options?

From Survey:

Affordable housing for the chronically homeless

Aiming to make homelessness a rare occurrence

The individuals that come to our door daily that are losing their housing

How do we develop transitional housing facilities that target men with children or families? Many families are not willing to split up in shelters and or do not accommodate men with children.

Theme 4: HMIS and Data - this was identified as a priority by 2 teams during the general meeting and 0 respondents to the survey.

From General Meeting:

To get broad agency involvement in order to quickly connect all people experiencing homelessness with the appropriate interventions.

How can we better share data across local boundaries knowing that people experiencing homelessness move between local systems?

Theme 5: Homeless Subpopulations - this was identified as a priority by 1 team during the general meeting and 6 respondents to the survey.

From General Meeting:

How to empower subpopulations that feel their voices are not being heard due to discrimination, so that they will seek help?

From Survey:

The mentally ill who are homeless throughout Texas are in immediate need of accessible mental health care. So many of our homeless became and remain homeless because of undiagnosed or untreated mental illness.

Homeless subpopulations in rural Communities, Now. It is important in the mission to make homeless rare and brief within our communities.

Lower chronic homelessness

Homeless Youth, in our area, homelessness in this group is increasing.

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault

Ending chronic homelessness from unaccompanied youth by reaching functional zero with unaccompanied youth

Theme 6: Working with mainstream partners and programs - this was identified as a priority by 2 teams during the general meeting and 1 respondent to the survey.

From General Meeting:

To develop a broad coordinated system which appropriately includes and engages mainstream partners and programs within the housing crisis response system.

How do we find affordable mental health providers?

From Survey:

The Challenge effects our homeless population that are struggling with mental or behavioral issues but have not been diagnosed. This group is on the streets and in shelter, but often are hard to move through the system to a solution. They do not show a disability on the assessments but there is one there. They say homeless because they do not qualify for many programs without the disability.

Theme 7: Funding to address homelessness - this was identified as a priority by 3 teams during the general meeting and 3 respondents to the survey.

From General Meeting:

To find diverse funding sources for diverse populations which correspond to the specific needs of each population within an achievable timeline.

Improve the level of organizational capacity in our regions in order to attract or retain funding that can meet the specific needs of the community.

How do we get more money?

From Survey:

Our challenge is to build capacity with training, in order to improve the capacity of nonprofits to qualify for the funding needed to help the increasing number of homeless in our communities.

No income and very low income individuals throughout Texas are in immediate need of affordable housing because HUD housing doesn't have enough units to accommodate the number of families in need of subsidized housing. Therefore; many families are in danger of homelessness or are already homeless because they can't afford to pay rent on a home.

Homeless subpopulations in rural communities need assistance immediately. Our community has limited funding to assist clients who are requesting assistance with mental health and drug abuse issues which makes it challenging to assist the client with remaining housed when they are not able to gain access to basic safety needs such as medication and necessary medical care.

Theme 9: Performance, evaluation, and capacity building - this was identified as a priority by 2 teams during the general meeting and 0 respondents to the survey.

From General Meeting:

What can we do to increase capacity of organization to identify, apply, and monitor funding sources?

How might we improve communication with funders about organizational needs around building capacity?

Theme 10: Special focus areas (lived experience, racial disparities, rural homelessness) - this was identified as a priority by 1 team during the general meeting and 0 respondents to the survey.

From General Meeting:

How might we improve collaboration and communication among communities (rural communities)?

Other or Uncategorized:

Public Perception (this theme was extrapolated from the statements, and was not identified by the respondents):

From General Meeting:

How might we positively influence public perception of people experiencing homelessness?

How might we incorporate education and humane policies to positively impact public perception?

How might we decriminalize and destigmatize the experience of homelessness?

How do we change citizens views of people experiencing homelessness?

Person-Centered Approach (this theme was extrapolated from the statements, and was not identified by the respondents):

From General Meeting:

How do we build a sense of community in scattered site housing?

How might we develop a person-centered approach to all strategies?

Systemic Poverty in Clients of Subpopulations:

From General Meeting:

Not enough resources/ quality housing

Not enough funding

Mental Health and Substance Use in Homeless Population:

From Survey:

No challenge statement.

Themes Selected as Priorities

Theme	Responses from Survey	Responses from Meeting
Mental Health and Substance Abuse	1	0
Special Focus Areas (Lived Experience, Racial Disparities, Rural…	0	1
Systemic Poverty in Subpopulations	0	2
Person-Centered Approach	0	2
Performance, Evaluation, and Capacity Bui	0	2
HMIS and Data	0	2
Working with Mainstream Partners and Programs	1	2
Public Perception	0	4
Funding to Address Homelessness	3	3
Homeless Subpopulations	6	1
Homelessness Prevention	4	4
Housing Interventions	4	6