

Q&A: 2011 VERMONT POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF THE HOMELESS

“Let’s Make Everyone Count!”

www.helpingtohouse.org/resources.php

Q: What is the PIT count and why is it needed?

A: A chance to make sure every person experiencing homelessness in Vermont is recognized and to help communities best determine how to direct local, state and federal resources.

Q: When is the PIT count in Vermont?

A: The PIT is a one-day count held 12am-12pm on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 to determine someone’s homeless status, where they slept the previous night, by asking a few simple questions.

Q: How and Who coordinates the PIT count and Who should be involved?

A: Local Continuum of Care coalitions (see website to locate a CoC coordinator) organize a wide range of community providers such as: Vermont 2-1-1 (simply dial 2-1-1), emergency shelters, community action/food shelf, churches, libraries, law enforcement, school homeless education liaisons, veteran groups, youth & family centers, hospitals & health centers, older Vermonter & disability services, housing providers, municipal/state/federal government agencies and more.

Q: Where do I mail completed PIT forms and get assistance with questions on the PIT count?

A: Check out www.helpingtohouse.org to find the list of local Continuum of Care coordinators, PIT survey forms, training materials and more. Send all questions and completed forms to your local CoC contact person OR mail directly to: VSHA, 1 Prospect St., Montpelier, VT 05602.

Q: Who is included in the PIT count and what is the definition of “homeless”?

A: A person or family is defined as homeless if they are sleeping in:

- 1) Place not meant for human habitation (living on streets/tents/cars/abandoned building/etc.);
- 2) Emergency Shelter/Program (Overflow/HPRP or ESG motel vouchers/DV/Vets/Youth);
- 3) Transitional Housing for the Homeless or Safe Haven (see HIC).

*Vermont also counts persons who are “precariously housed” in its PIT count to determine how many people are couch-surfing or otherwise have unstable housing. *

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Q: How does HUD define “chronically homeless”?

A: A Chronically Homeless Person or Family [NEW] is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition or a family with at least one adult member who has a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. The term homeless in this case only means a person sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets), in an emergency homeless shelter, or in a Safe Haven as defined by HUD.

Q: Why do we ask for a person’s 1st letter of first name, date of birth, etc.?

A: This unique identifying information is critical in making sure we get the most accurate count and don’t double count. IMPORTANT: All individual information will be kept confidential.

Q: How do we include Victims of Domestic Violence who are homeless on day of the count?

A: If you are a Domestic Violence Organization wanting to safeguard privacy and ensure everyone is counted, contact VT Domestic & Sexual Violence Network (Auburn Watersong) who will collect data (only from DV programs/agencies) and compile an aggregate, non-identifying PIT count for VSHA. ***If you are a non-DV agency and working with someone who is also receiving services from a DV program do not include them in your count. ***

Q: Who is considered a Veteran?

A: A Veteran is someone who has served on **active duty** at any time in the Armed Forces of the United States, military reserves or National Guard. This does not include inactivated members. ***Veteran’s Affairs Offices, VA Administration (Kathy Browne), Veteran’s Place (Northfield), Dodge House/Open Door Mission (Rutland) and Veteran Service Organizations (American Legion, VFW’s, Friends of Vets, Disabled American Veterans, etc.) are great local resources.***

Q: What is the definition of Unaccompanied Homeless Children?

A: HUD defines unaccompanied homeless children (previously called “unaccompanied youth”) as any person under age 18 who presented for homeless services alone. ***Local homeless youth programs and VT Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs (Calvin Smith) and VT Homeless Children & Youth Project (Jane Munroe-south/Sally Williams-north) are great resources to ensure an accurate and non-duplicated count.***