



DuPage County Continuum of Care Volunteer Training 01/27/21

ONE NIGHT POINT IN TIME STREET COUNT
OBSERVATION ONLY METHODOLOGY

Volunteer Training Agenda

1. Purpose of the Unsheltered Point in Time Street Count
 - Why, Who, When & Where
2. Goals of the 2021 Count
3. Getting Involved in the Count
 - How to Prepare for the Night of the Count
 - Street Count Safety
4. Survey Review

Why Do We Count?

- All homeless persons across the U.S. are counted in the last 10 days during January 2021
- Data collected is provided to Congress, HUD and other stakeholders to understand extent of homelessness within a community
- Assists local CoC in planning for homeless housing supports and other services
- Accurate counts play a critical role in annual CoC Program Funding Competition

Who Do We Count?

The Unsheltered Homeless

This includes:

“An individual or family with 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, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.”

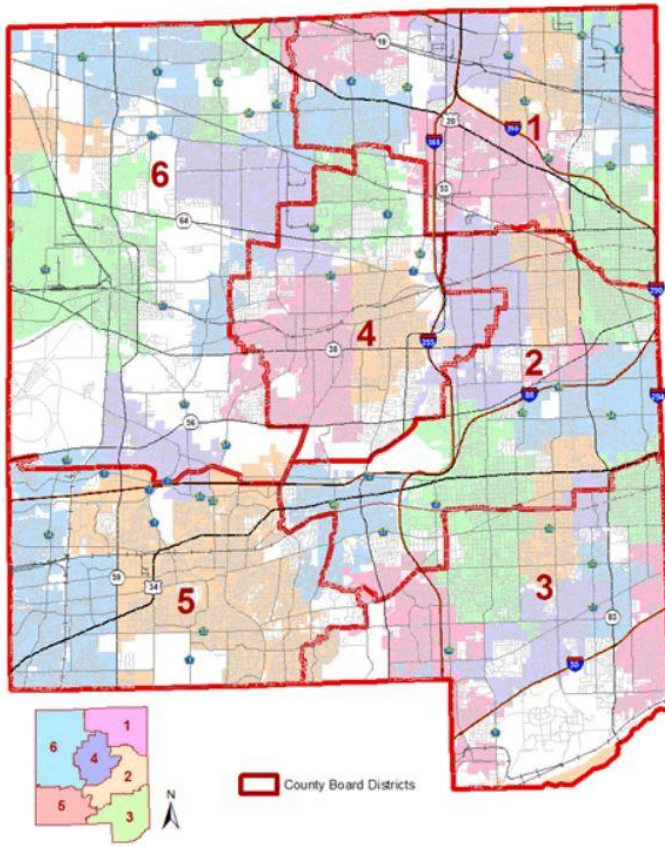
Who We Don't Count

- People temporarily staying with friends or family (“couch surfing” or “doubled up”)
- People residing in institutions (i.e., jails, hospital beds, detox or treatment centers, staying in a hotel shelter or other congregate shelter)
- People “sleeping it off” in their cars near a bar
- People on their way home late at night from work

When Do We Count?

- January 27, 2021 (Wednesday) 10:00 pm to January 28 (Thursday) to approximately 1:00 am
- Work with your “team” ahead of time to determine where you meet up
- How large your geography is, how many identified hot spots are located in your area, and weather conditions will all contribute to time involved

Where Do We Count?



Addison, Aurora (*), Bartlett, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Bolingbrook (*), Burr Ridge (*), Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Hanover Park (*), Hinsdale, Itasca, Keeneyville, Lemont (*), Lisle, Lombard, Medinah, Oak Brook, Oak Brook Terrace, Roselle (*), Naperville(*), Villa Park, Warrenville, Wayne (*), West Chicago, Westmont, Wheaton, Willowbrook, Winfield, Woodridge, and Wood Dale.

(*) indicates cities, towns or villages which span two counties

Where Do We Look?

Every community is different.

Employees at known locations make a great resource.

Make a plan ahead of time.

train station ihop hotel lobby
community park
walmarts gas station
hospital er parking garage
outdoor shopping mall prairie path
grocery store dupage crisis unit mcdonalds
police station lobby forest preserve
restaurants vehicle

Street Count Goals

- Identify where persons experiencing unsheltered homeless are in DuPage County
- Using observation only methodology, document the number of unsheltered homeless individuals we observe
- Provide complete and accurate information on each survey

Street Count Preparations

- Safety in all areas is a priority
- Familiarize yourself ahead of time with your covered area
- Review “hot spots” known to be frequented by homeless persons in your covered area ahead of time
- Make your plan before you go out

Street Count Team Approach

- Teams are made up of at least two persons. One driver and one count member
- Each team is assigned a community(s) to search for the night
- Many teams provided with locations (“HOT SPOTS”) in that town to begin their search – it looks different this year

Street Count Preparation (Cont.)

- Check in with the local Police Department before you head out for the evening (or earlier)
- Bring a flyer with you to leave behind with your contact information (include car/license plate if comfortable)

<https://dupagehomeless.org/street-count/>

- Explain what you are doing, how long you will be out, who is with you (bring them in with you if you can)

Street Count Preparation (Cont.)

- Fully charged mobile device for survey purposes
- Ensure access to survey link ahead of time
- Additional paper survey forms and pens
- Dress appropriately

Conducting an Observation Only Count – HUD Guidance

- Does take place only during the overnight hours to ensure some certainty there is homelessness involved
- Does include information (i.e., person's exact location, appearance, possessions, etc.) to aid in deduplication
- Does not include physical or verbal interaction with persons experiencing homelessness and those conducting the count
- Does not use observations to collect demographic (i.e., gender, race, ethnicity, etc.) PIT count data so no need to include in the survey

Survey Review – Kevin Piraino DuPage County GIS

Different than in previous years

Focused on the number of persons and location

Complete the survey using critical thinking and observation skills

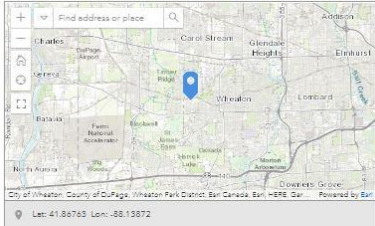
Point In Time Survey Unsheltered Homeless 2021

Name Of Person Completing This Form

Date and Time of Observation

1/15/2021 10:29 AM

Location of Individual*



Closest Cross Street

Number of People Observed in Household

Unsure of the number of people to count
Persons experiencing homelessness may be in a vehicle or tented encampment making it difficult to determine the number of persons visible during an observation only count

Yes

No

What was occurring at the time you observed the person/s experiencing homelessness?
(i.e. sleeping, walking, warming up in a location, etc.)

Survey Review

- Please fill out survey COMPLETELY and as accurately as possible
- Observation only counts rely on the thoroughness of detail provided
- You will only be contacted if there are questions

Q & A



THANK YOU!



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