



United Way Manitowoc County, Inc.

POINT IN TIME HOMELESSNESS COUNT Frequently Asked Questions

When is the PIT Count?

The Point in Time (PIT) Homelessness Count takes place in **January** and **July** each year during the overnight hours on a specific Wednesday of the month.

What is a PIT Count?

The PIT Count is an overnight street and known location count of people experiencing homelessness. PIT Counts, done twice annually, create a snapshot of what homelessness looks like in a neighborhood, city, or state. Results help establish future homelessness reduction programs, funding, and other supports.

What does it look like?

Teams of volunteers are assigned to areas. Teams tour their area looking for anyone unsheltered.

What is the purpose of the PIT Count?

The data collected through the PIT Count is reported to the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) that is provided to the U.S. Congress. Homeless information is also reported to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban development, and is utilized to develop the Housing Inventory Chart for the Balance of State Continuum of Care.

What is the definition of homelessness used for the PIT Count?

The PIT Count focuses on people who are unsheltered and sleeping in a place that is not intended for human habitation. This includes streets, sidewalks, parks, alleys, transportation depots or other parts of transportation systems, all-night commercial establishments (e.g., movie theaters, laundromats, restaurants), abandoned buildings, farm outbuildings, caves, campgrounds, vehicles (e.g. cars, trucks, RVs, trailers), and other similar places.

What are the duties of volunteers?

The primary task of volunteers is to collect minimal information on the homeless population in order to create a snapshot of what homelessness looks like. You will be responsible for searching an assigned area and approaching those that you suspect may be without shelter to complete a survey. You will also offer information regarding available resources in the community. If you are uncomfortable approaching someone, you will complete a different survey identifying what you observed and who you suspect with reasonable certainty meets the definition of homelessness. In addition, we ask that each team make contact with establishments that are open 24-

hours/day to hang up resources available in the community should they encounter someone in need. Posters will be provided for each team to distribute.

What type of gear/clothing should I wear?

Dress comfortably. Prepare for changing weather conditions. A flashlight, pen, and charged cell phone are all you should need.

Where are completed surveys turned in?

Bring completed surveys to the Wrap-up Breakfast. If you cannot attend the breakfast, drop off your folder and all of the contents at United Way Manitowoc County, 21 E. Waldo Blvd., Manitowoc within one business day of the Count.

What are the qualifications to be a volunteer?

The PIT Count is an important project. Volunteers must complete the training, accurately and carefully collect data and keep information confidential. In addition, volunteers are expected to respectfully and conscientiously work with people from diverse backgrounds. There will also be other forms that volunteers are required to fill out (i.e., confidentiality form, liability agreement).

What is the time commitment for volunteers?

Volunteers must complete a one-hour training the Wednesday before the Count and meet at the kickoff site the day of the Count. You must also complete a two-hour shift during the Count and complete/turn in all paperwork.

Will volunteers receive training?

Yes. All volunteers are required to complete the PIT Count training.

Do I need to complete training if I have volunteered in the past?

Yes. All volunteers are required to complete the training as some aspects of the PIT Count may have changed. If you have volunteered in the past, you are encouraged to attend an in-person training to share your expertise with those present.

Will I be asked to look for people experiencing homelessness by myself?

No. All volunteers go out in groups of two or more.

Will the Count be cancelled due to inclement weather?

No, the count will not be cancelled unless it is too dangerous to be outside.

Can I volunteer with a friend?

Yes. All volunteers are invited to request who they want to be partnered with and their preferred shift. Each person you bring with you must complete a separate registration.

What safety/security measures should volunteers take?

Volunteers are to work in teams of two or more and are not to separate from their teams. No one should conduct the survey without other team members within line of sight. Volunteers should not enter any abandoned building or non-public space. Law enforcement will be alerted and made aware that volunteers will be out that night. If you are in need of emergency assistance, call 911.

Do I need to use my own car?

Yes, each team will require a volunteer driver. If you do not have a car, you may still volunteer and will be assigned to a team with a volunteer driver.

Will I be paid to volunteer?

Unfortunately, volunteers are not paid or reimbursed for any expenses. Your time and any expenses, such as gas, are considered in-kind.

When will the results of the 2022 PIT Count be available?

Following the PIT Count, there is a significant amount of data entry, quality assurance, and deduplication that must be completed. PIT Count information is available to the public after all data has been reviewed and submitted following the count. It is released in a report called the Longitudinal Systems Analysis, which is released several months following the count. A Wrap-up Breakfast will be held after the second shift's count for story sharing and general conversation about the Count.

Day of the Count Contacts:

Primary: Ashley Bender (920) 860.1103

Secondary: Natasha Khan (920) 860.7615

Non-Emergency Police Department Phone Numbers:

- Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office (920) 683.4200
- Manitowoc Police Department (920) 686.6500
- Two Rivers Police Department (920) 686.7200
- Kiel Police Department (920) 894.2211

Emergency: 911