

SAVE THE DATE

POINT IN TIME COUNT

JAN 24 2024

Annual Sheltered & Unsheltered Homeless Point-In-Time Count

WHAT?

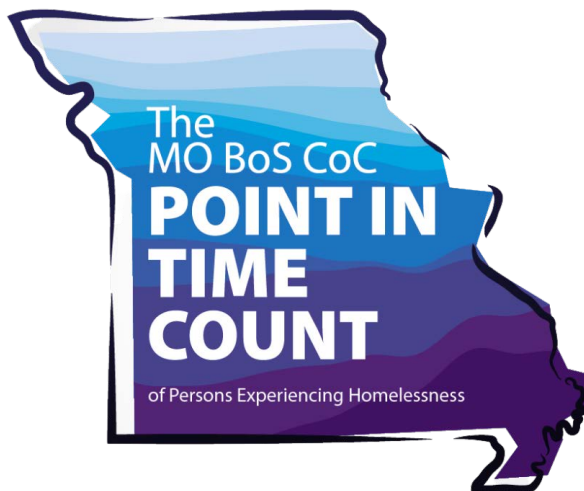
Point in Time (PIT) Count is a survey of individuals or families sleeping in places not meant for human habitation or in emergency housing situations

WHO?

Community providers, volunteers, business, faith-based organizations, people who are currently or have previously experienced homelessness, law enforcement, hospitals, and more

WHY?

PIT Count provides an opportunity for communities to better understand the needs of community members experiencing homelessness



Get involved!

If you are interested in finding out more, email PIT@moboscoc.org



We appreciate your time and energy, as well as your compassion for our community's neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. To prepare for the PIT count, please refresh yourself on the following tips.

LOGISTICS

[PIT Count date]: Arrive at **[location]** by **[8:30pm]**. Depart for PIT count by **[10pm]**. Return surveys to **[location]** by **[2am]**

BRING WITH YOU

- Weather-appropriate clothing, including layers
- Your vehicle, if you volunteered to drive
- Shoes: warm, sturdy, comfortable for walking, waterproof if possible
- Small backpack to carry survey items, snacks, water, and more clothing layers, if needed
- Flashlights and/or headlamp
- Cell phone (fully charged) and charger
- Energy and compassion; a good set of eyes (visual observation is key)

PIT COUNT DOs AND DON'Ts

- **DO** lead with respect for the person and their dignity
- **DO** have a conversation with the people you encounter
- **DO** get consent before asking PIT count survey questions
- **DO** remember that you may be entering into someone's personal or private space
- **DO** respect people's time
- **DO** write down where you saw the person and what they look like. This will help us make sure that no one is counted twice.
- **DON'T** hand the survey to the client to complete alone, go through the survey with them
- **DON'T** take photos of or with the people you survey
- **DON'T** assume you know the answer to survey questions
- **DON'T** insert yourself into the person's story
- **DON'T** force people to answer questions if they don't want to
- **DON'T** make promises you can't deliver, such as promising services or housing resources.

SAFETY

- ALWAYS stay with at least one other person.
- Maintain awareness of space around you – where other people are & ways to get in or out of the space you're in
- Remain standing. It's okay to squat down to speak with someone who is sitting or lying on the ground, but always maintain your balance.
- Stay in places that are lit, including alleyways. If you use a flashlight, be respectful (don't shine it in anyone's face)
- Prioritize your own safety. If you don't feel safe approaching someone or going somewhere, don't go.
- Do not transport anyone other than volunteers in your car
- If someone you encounter is not responsive when you approach, don't panic; they may be asleep and not want to be bothered. Check to see if you can see or hear them breathing, and (depending on weather) assess whether they have enough layers on and under them. If you are still concerned, say something like: "I'm sorry to bother you so late, but I want to make sure you are not in danger. Can you please say something so I know you are OK?"
- ALWAYS call 9-1-1- if you or someone else is in danger

For questions or concerns during the PIT count, call **[Contact Name]: [XXX-XXX-XXXX]**



Point in Time Count: Script and Tip Sheet for Domestic Violence

Use the following script in the event that the client has suffered from Domestic Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault.

“Have you been a victim of domestic violence?”

--- If they answer *Yes*, ask the following....

“Are you currently fleeing? “

---- If they answer *No*, provide a Domestic Violence Resource Sheet.

----If they answer *Yes*, ask the following....

“Are you currently safe?”

---- If they answer *Yes*, provide a Domestic Violence Resource Sheet

---- If they answer *No*, choose the best option of the following:

- 1.) If the client is not safe emotionally or due to living conditions, offer to call the National Domestic Violence Hotline.
- 2.) If the client is actively being pursued and domestic violence just occurred, offer to call the police.

Tips:

- Give them a resource sheet with local county resources: include food pantry, free medical/dental clinics if you have one, local hospitals, phone number to apply for food stamps/Medicaid, local law enforcement numbers, location of your county courthouse
- Embed somewhere on the resource page the local 24-hour crisis hotline for the domestic violence shelter serving your county. This can be found at www.mocadsv.org. If you do not have a domestic violence shelter in your county, put the national domestic violence hotline number.
- Contact your local shelter a few days before the count. Let them know you have a team of volunteers going out for PITC. Inform them that the Unsheltered Count asks individuals if they have been victims of domestic violence. Ask what their procedures are for making referrals if they have transportation to help get someone to shelter, and what services they can or cannot provide. Ask if the shelter has an advocate who can be part of the team in case you come across survivors who need help.
- Call the shelter on the day of the count and check their bed status. Are they full? Do they have openings to accept people? If they are complete, still make the referrals as trained advocates will be able to safety plan over the phone.
- Can your team afford to purchase one or two track phones loaded with 60 minutes to give to survivors who may be fleeing and in need of a telephone for safety? The phone can be used to call the National Domestic Violence Hotline later. If not needed, they can always be donated to a local community organization for re-gifting



Point-in-Time Homeless Count Volunteer Release and Confidentiality Agreement

Name: _____
Address: _____
Agency: _____

Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
County: _____

I WAIVE, RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE from any and all liability, including but not limited to, liability arising from the negligence or fault of the entities or persons released, for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft, or actions of any kind which may hereafter occur to me including traveling to and from this event, the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care (the “CoC”), and any other entity (including any respective directors, officers, employees, volunteers, representatives, and agents, the activity or event holders, activity or event sponsors, activity or event volunteers) involved in the Point-in-Time Homeless Count (the “Count”).

I INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE the entities or persons mentioned in the previous paragraph from any and all liabilities or claims made as a result of participation in this activity or event, whether caused by the negligence of release or otherwise. I acknowledge that the CoC, any other entity involved with the planning or administration of the Count (including their respective directors, officers, volunteers, representatives, and agents) are NOT responsible for the errors, omissions, acts, or failures to act by any party or entity conducting a specific event or activity on behalf of the CoC, or any other related entity. I acknowledge the contemplated activities or events may involve a test of a person’s physical and mental limits and may carry with it the potential for death, serious injury, and property loss. The risks may include, but are not limited to, those caused by terrain, facilities, temperature, condition of participants, equipment, actions of other people including, but not limited to, participants, volunteers, spectators, event officials, and event monitors, and/or producers of the event, and lack of hydration. These risks are inherent for all participants. I hereby consent to the administration of medical treatment to myself if it is deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident, and/or illness during this activity or event. The accident waiver and release of liability shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

I acknowledge and agree that all information obtained during the Count is confidential and is to be only used for the purpose of counting the number of unsheltered persons in _____ County, Missouri. I agree not to disclose any information I may receive during the Count except as strictly necessary to carry out the intent of the Count as directed by the CoC.

I CERTIFY THAT I AM EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT, AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Signature

Date

Please complete this form and return it to _____, Point-in-Time Count Leader at _____ no later than close of business on January 24th, 2024.

*Note for Coordinators: Ensure that you send a copy of all volunteer agreements to the Lead Agency at: PIT@moboscoc.org. Keep record of these files for 1 year, in the even the Lead Agency needs to confirm participation with the Point in Time Count for MHDC funding documentation.