

# Methodology for ME-500 - Maine Statewide CoC

## Sheltered Population Total

**1. What data source(s) was used to produce the total number of people included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing) on the night of the count? Please indicate the percentage of the PIT count derived from each of the sources. (If a source was not used, please enter zero).**

HMIS Data	80%
Provider-level surveys	15%
Client-level surveys	5%
Observation	0%
Other	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2. Was the CoC able to collect information about the number of people being sheltered on the night of the count from all emergency shelters, Safe Havens, and transitional housing projects listed on the HIC or only some? listed on your HIC or only some?**

- Complete census count

**3. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the count of the total number of people included in the sheltered population?**

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)
- Blitz count of persons in shelters (i.e., count occurred at same time to avoid double counting)

## Sheltered Subpopulation

**4. What data source(s) was used to produce the demographic and subpopulation data included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing) on the night of the count? (select all that were used)**

- HMIS Data
- Provider-level surveys

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- Client-level surveys

**5. Was the CoC able to collect information about the demographic and subpopulation characteristics of all sheltered people or only some?**

- All sheltered people

**6. Looking at the change in your sheltered count from last year's count, please choose up to three reasons that best explains these changes from the drop down list below.**

- Change in transitional housing capacity
- Weather

**Please provide a brief description of these specific factors (500 word limit):**

Our 2020 Emergency Shelter count was down by 105 individuals compared to 2019, however, our overall PIT total was down by only 11 people. While there was an increase of 48 in the number of people in Transitional Housing, the number of people recorded as Unsheltered in 2020 was also up, by 46 people, in 2020 compared to 2019. We believe the weather to have been a key factor in this. In 2020, the night of the PIT and several days leading up to it, were relatively warm here, with temperatures above freezing, even at night. That was not the case in 2019, with temperatures dropping well below freezing that entire week.

## **Unsheltered Population**

**7. What approach(es) was used to count the total number of people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count. (select all that were used)**

- "Night of the count" - known locations

- Service-based count

**7a. Were certain areas within the CoC geography specifically excluded because the CoC had reason to believe there were no unsheltered people in those areas?**

Yes

**7b. How did the CoC select the areas that were included for canvassing?**

- Areas were not selected randomly, but an effort was made to use local knowledge to target known locations (e.g., areas with known concentrations of unsheltered homeless people)

**7b1. Did the CoC adjust the information in some way (e.g., statistical adjustment or extrapolation) to account for areas within the CoC geography that were not canvassed but where unsheltered people might have been on the night of the PIT count?**

No

**7c. In areas that were canvassed, did the CoC count all unsheltered people in those areas or a sample of people?**

- All people encountered during the count

**8. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the total count of people in the unsheltered population? (Check all that apply)**

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)



## **Unsheltered Subpopulations**

### **9. What approach(es) was used to collect demographic and subpopulation data about unsheltered people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count?**

- Surveys/interviews of people identified as unsheltered on the night of the PIT count
- Surveys/interviews of people identified within 7 days following the night of the PIT count night who may have been unsheltered on the night of the PIT count (e.g., “service-based” surveys at locations where people who are homeless go for assistance)

### **10. Were all people who were encountered during canvassing on the night of the count or during post night of the count PIT activities asked to complete a survey/interview?**

- All people encountered were surveyed

### **11. What information or method(s) was used to produce an unduplicated total count of homeless people across your sheltered and unsheltered populations?**

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Blitz count of unsheltered people (i.e., sheltered and unsheltered counts occurred at same time to avoid double counting)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

### **12. Looking at the change in your unsheltered count from last year's count, please choose up to three reasons that best explains these changes from the drop down list below**

- Weather

### **Please provide a brief description of these specific factors (500 word limit):**

Our overall 2020 PIT total was down by 11 people, but the number of people recorded as Unsheltered was up by 46 in 2020 compared to 2019. We believe the weather to have been a key factor in this. In 2020, the night of the PIT and several days leading up to it, were relatively warm here, with temperatures above freezing, even at night. That was not the case in 2019, with temperatures dropping well below freezing that entire week.

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- HMIS data from street outreach and/or other providers



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