



TIPPING POINT
COMMUNITY

June 22, 2020

To whom it may concern,

The Chronic Homelessness Initiative at Tipping Point Community is reaching out in regard to the planned 2021 Point in Time Count and Survey. We would like to suggest three changes for the upcoming survey which we believe are of great importance.

1. Make the survey instrument and results available to the public.

Prior to 2011, the San Francisco survey instrument and results were included in the biennial PIT report. Making the survey and the de-identified results public and accessible ensures transparency, and facilitates additional analysis and responsive improvements in programming. This is especially important for sub-populations that are historically overrepresented and/or underserved in the homelessness response system, such as Black/African Americans, Latinxs, and transgender or gender nonconforming people.

2. Ask specific questions to identify inflow into chronic homelessness.

The survey as implemented in recent years does not provide sufficient information about inflow into chronic homelessness, which is a driver of high-cost interventions. People experiencing chronic homelessness are a priority group for the city, and a group characterized by high vulnerability. Consider clarifying or adding questions in the survey instrument to capture information about those who have newly experienced, since the last PIT count: a) homelessness for over 12 continuous months, b) a fourth episode of homelessness adding up to 12 months within three years, or c) a disabling condition.

3. Add specific questions about COVID.

COVID's health and economic effects are substantial. To capture the local impact, consider asking the following questions:

- Did you lose income or employment as a result of COVID?
- Were you evicted or asked to leave your home as a result of COVID?
- Were you unable to secure housing as a result of COVID?
- Were you ever tested for COVID? If so, did you test positive for COVID?

Please reach out to me at ncatalano@tippingpoint.org if you have any questions or want to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Nina Catalano
Senior Planner, Chronic Homelessness Initiative