



# San Francisco

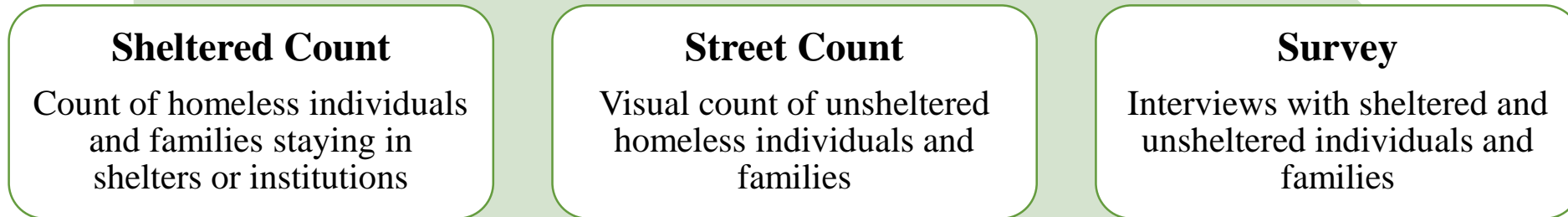
## 2021 Point-in-Time Homeless Count





# What is the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count?

- The Point-in-Time Count is an effort to measure the prevalence of homelessness in our community and collect information on individuals and families residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing, as well as people sleeping on the streets, in cars, in abandoned properties, or in other places not meant for human habitation.
- The count includes several components:





# Why conduct the PIT Count?

Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts of all persons experiencing homelessness are required to take place during the last 10 days of January by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

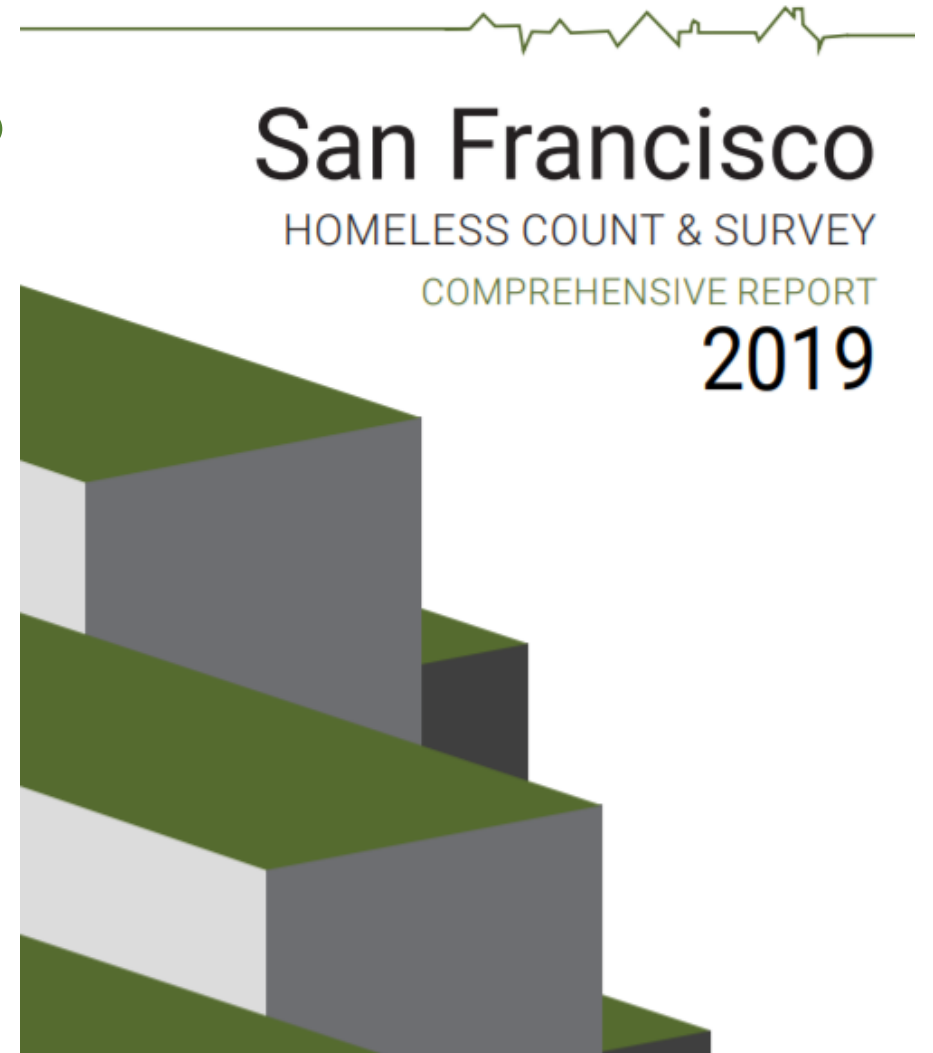
## PIT Counts...

- Increases community understanding of homelessness
- Impacts funding for homeless services, and meets federal data reporting requirements
- Generates data regarding individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our community



# Who conducts the PIT Count?

- HSH works with a consultant, Applied Survey Research (ASR), to conduct the PIT Count
- ASR is non-profit social research firm who has conducted the SF PIT Count since 2009
- Volunteers from the general public
- Partners from various city departments





# Status of HUD Guidance

- HUD has not issued formal guidance on the 2021 PIT Count to date
- HSH is planning under the assumption the Count will occur in the last 10 days of January as usual
- Our top priorities are to conduct a **safe** and **accurate** count
- Adjustments will be made to the 2021 Count methodology to minimize COVID-19 infection risks for all participants



# Partnership with DPH

- HSH has partnered with the Department of Public Health (DPH) for the 2021 PIT to ensure that the Count is conducted in accordance with public health directives and orders
- Additionally DPH will:
  - Provide guidance and methodology recommendations to minimize COVID-19 infection risk to all participants, including City staff, nonprofit providers, volunteers, and persons experiencing homelessness
  - Advise HSH on the appropriate use and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - Develop training and communication materials focused on health and safety protocols; administer trainings as needed

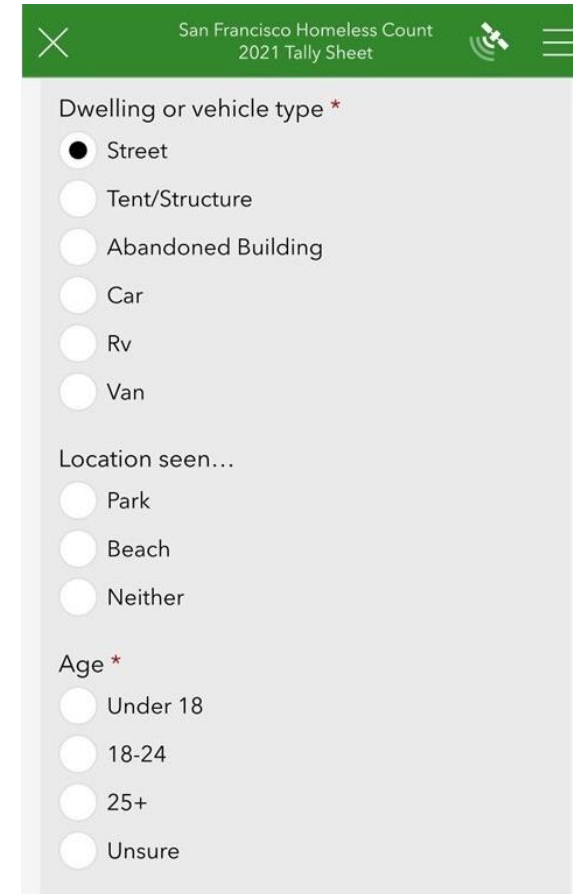
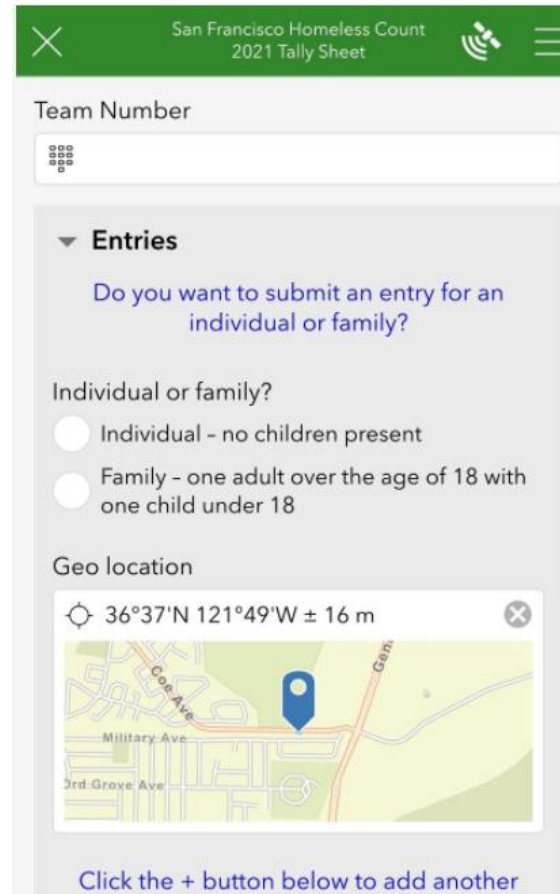


# Street Count

- What is the street count?
  - A visual count of the city's unsheltered population
- How is the count conducted?
  - Volunteer teams are assigned a specific route along which they count the people they see
- Where does the count take place?
  - San Francisco conducts a census count meaning all 47 square miles of the city are counted
- When is the count?
  - Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 4 AM-7 AM
- How will COVID affect the street count?
  - Reduction in the number of volunteers
  - Pre-assignment of routes
  - Restructuring of deployment centers
  - App-based tally count
  - PPE requirements
- Non-COVID related change
  - Removal of gender question from tally count form



# Street Count-App







# Sheltered Count

- What is the sheltered count?
  - A complete census of individuals and families staying in temporary shelter
- When is the sheltered count?
  - The same night as the street count
- How is the shelter count conducted?
  - HMIS data
  - Survey data
- How will COVID affect the sheltered count?
  - Data collection process will not change
  - Any operational SIP/I&Q and other sites operated through the COVID Command Center (CCC) will be included



# Survey

- What is the survey?
  - Interviews are conducted with a sample of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families
- Where is the survey conducted?
  - Surveys will be conducted with individuals throughout the city
- When is the survey conducted?
  - Over the course 2-3 weeks following the PIT count
- How is the survey conducted?
  - Transitional housing surveys will be conducted by program providers
  - Street and emergency shelter surveys will be conducted by homeless youth and adults
- How will COVID affect the survey?
  - Adding COVID and wildfire as response options for primary cause of homelessness
  - Working with DPH to develop additional guidance and safety protocols



# Youth Count

- Why conduct a separate Youth Count?
  - To improve data on the extent of youth homelessness.
- Who conducts the Youth Count?
  - Trained youth counters who are currently or recently experienced homelessness
- When is the Count conducted?
  - Same date and time as the general count
- Is there a survey component for the Youth Count?
  - Yes, there are supplemental survey questions for youth
- How will COVID affect the youth count?
  - The same processes and procedures developed for the general count will apply to the youth count



# Opportunities for Feedback

- HSH presented to LHCB in January 2020
  - At this meeting we reviewed feedback from the 2019 PIT count and requested additional feedback for 2021
  - We requested feedback be sent to the department via email by May 2020
  - Received feedback from the Homeless Emergency Service Providers Association (HESPA) and the Chronic Homelessness Initiative (CHI) at Tipping Point Community
- TAY and Family Provider Feedback
  - HSH held additional feedback meetings with TAY providers (8/25/2020) and family shelter providers (9/2/2020)
  - Asked providers to follow-up with any additional feedback after the meeting by September 25, 2020



# Feedback Summary

- Street Count Feedback
  - Change timing of the count from night to early morning
    - For 2021 we will be conducting an early morning count (4 AM-7 AM)
  - Use trained counters or counters with lived experience rather than (or in addition to) volunteers for the street count
    - Targeted recruitment
- Shelter & Institution Count Feedback
  - Incorporate the number of individuals who are “guests” in SROs
    - This is an important data point for HSH but is outside of the scope of the PIT
  - Incorporate families that are doubled-up or living in SROs
    - This is an important data point for HSH but is outside of the scope of the PIT



# How do I get involved?

We anticipate volunteer registration opening in mid-November. Check the HSH website for updates!



# Questions

## *General Questions:*

Valerie Caplan

Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

[valerie.caplan@sfgov.org](mailto:valerie.caplan@sfgov.org)

## *Youth Count Questions:*

Alison Schlageter

Department of Homeless and Supportive Housing

[Alison.Schlageter@sfgov.org](mailto:Alison.Schlageter@sfgov.org)