



DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELESSNESS AND
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

2021 Point-in-Time Homeless Count



HSH's goal for the 2021 PIT Count

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- Design a count **safe** and **accurate** PIT count
- Be responsive to stakeholder and community feedback
- Adhere to HUD PIT methodology guidelines



Official HUD Guidance on Count Timing

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- HUD guidance indicates that the unsheltered count component of the PIT Count should occur between sunset and sunrise
- Why is this important?
 - The PIT Count is an enumeration of both sheltered and unsheltered individuals
 - Data is collected on all individuals sleeping in shelters on the night of the count
 - Conducting the count between sunset and sunrise protects against double counting individuals between the sheltered count and street count



Bay Area CoCs

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Continuum of Care (CoC)	Street Count Time
Alameda	5 AM – 10 AM
Contra Costa	6 AM – 9 AM
San Francisco	8 PM – 12 AM
San Mateo	Early morning (exact time not specified)
Santa Clara	4:30 AM – 10 AM
Santa Cruz	4:30 AM – 10 AM
Solano	5 AM – 9 AM
Marin	5 AM – 9 AM
Sonoma	5 AM – 9 AM
Napa	Early morning (exact time not specified)

Note: Some of these time ranges may extend past sunrise due to delays in start times or allowing for all volunteer teams to return materials to deployment centers, but the majority of the counting occurs in the earlier range.

<http://dhsh.sfgov.org>



Comparison of Count Times

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Pro's	Con's
Early Morning (4/5 AM – 7/8 AM)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There would likely be fewer non-homeless people outside in the early morning, making it easier to distinguish those who are experiencing homelessness• Many other CoCs with large unsheltered populations, including all other Bay Area CoCs, conduct an early morning count	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change in timing could affect unsheltered count numbers• It may be more challenging to recruit volunteers/partners to participate in a count beginning early in the morning• May be more difficult to locate and observe persons asleep
Late Evening (8 PM – 12 AM)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistency with prior San Francisco PIT counts• Per feedback from the LHCB, certain districts may be safer for volunteers during this time period• There may be less people inside their tents and vehicles earlier in the evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It may be more challenging for volunteer enumerators to distinguish those experiencing homelessness from those who are not, specifically in denser areas



HSH Recommendation

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- Conduct the count within the HUD designated timeframe of sunset to sunrise to avoid double counting between the street count and sheltered count
- We are requesting guidance from LHCB on whether to pursue the normal timeframe (8 PM – 12 AM) or switch to an early morning count (4/5 AM – 7/8 AM)