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:

  Sheltered Count
  Count of homeless individuals and families staying in shelters or institutions

  Street Count
  Visual count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families

  Survey
  Interviews with sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families

http://hsh.sfgov.org
2021 HUD PIT Count Guidance

• Prioritize safety:
  • HUD has indicated that CoCs should, “Prioritize the safety of people experiencing homelessness, staff, and volunteers” in planning the 2021 Count.

• Unsheltered PIT Count Exceptions:
  • For 2021, CoCs can request an exception to some or all components of the unsheltered count.
  • CoCs are still expected to report information on sheltered persons experiencing homelessness by the end of April 2021.
Unsheltered Count Components

• **2019 Street Count**
  - Over 700 community volunteers and City staff registered to participate in the street count.
  - Volunteers in teams of 2-4 canvassed all 47 square miles of the city between 8 PM and midnight.

• **2019 Survey**
  - A survey of 1,054 unique individuals was conducted between January 28th and February 13th.
  - Surveys were conducted by individuals with lived experience of homelessness to those currently experiencing homelessness.

• **2021 Street Count Challenges**
  - Limited volunteer participation
  - Increased risk of COVID transmission
  - Diversion of limited staff resources

• **2021 Survey Challenges**
  - Increased risk of COVID transmission
DPH Recommendation

• The Department of Public Health (DPH) issued a recommendation on December 18th that the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) cancel the unsheltered count and survey.
  • This applies to the general count and the youth count.

• Reasons for recommendation:
  • San Francisco’s assignment to Tier One (Purple) county risk level.
  • Modeling from the COVID Command Center (CCC) indicating San Francisco will likely remain in Tier One through the end of February.
  • Projections from the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) indicating hospital utilization will peak in mid-February.

http://hsh.sfgov.org
COVID Tier Assignment

STATEWIDE METRICS
- 93.1 New COVID-19 positive cases per day per 100K
- 14.5% Positivity rate (7-day average)
- 0.0% ICU availability

Find a county
Highlight County

Click on the map for updated metrics

COUNTY RISK LEVELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Level</th>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Widespread</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>39,973,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>153,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3,115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last Updated 12/29/2020

Source: https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/
Additional Considerations

• NOFA score
  • While HUD cannot guarantee the impact of requesting an exception on future NOFAs, they have strongly signaled that this will not cause point deductions in subsequent years.

• Impact on other funding streams
  • Based on feedback from consultants and statements from state officials we do not believe that state funding for homelessness will be affected by a decision to pursue a full exception to the unsheltered count.
Other Communities

• Many West Coast CoCs have already requested and been granted a full exception to the unsheltered count or are planning to request an exception.

Exception requested and granted:
• Los Angeles
• Seattle, King County
• San Diego
• Santa Barbara
• Ventura
• Fresno/Madera
• Pasadena
• San Bernardino
• San Joaquin
• Orange County
• Sacramento
• Riverside

Planning to request an exception:
• Long Beach
• Kern County
• Imperial County
• San Luis Obispo
• Glendale
• Kings/Tulare County
• Merced
• Alameda County

http://hsh.sfgov.org
Ongoing and Future Data Collection

• Conduct full PIT count in 2022 to ensure there is not a large gap in unsheltered data collection.

• Conduct full PIT count in 2023.

• Continue to improve tracking of unsheltered population in ONE System (HMIS).
Feedback and Questions