

Section 1 of this training provides a high-level overview of the Point-in-Time count, also known as the PIT count. This section covers the federal requirements for conducting PIT counts, as well as who should be included in the PIT count.

Sheltered and unsheltered PIT counts provide a snapshot of how many people are considered "literally homeless" on a single night. The time period for conducting the count is limited to one night during the last 10 days of January. That way, people experiencing homelessness are consistently counted throughout the nation. The count is set at the end of January intentionally. Because it's winter, each CoC is likely maximizing its resources to serve people's needs. Thus, this timing can provide a more precise picture of who is unable to access emergency shelter or other crisis response assistance.

The count is also intentionally conducted at the end of the month. That way, people who can only pay for temporary housing for part of the month are generally included in the count. For example, some people can afford to stay in a motel, but only for the first few weeks after receiving their public benefits payment at the beginning of the month.