

Only people who meet HUD's McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and are literally homeless should be included in the PIT count data submitted to HUD. This definition includes people who are staying in temporary shelter or who are unsheltered on the night of the count.

Temporary shelters include:

- Emergency Shelters,
- Transitional Housing, and
- Safe Havens.

Some CoCs choose to also use their PIT count as an opportunity to count other people who are homeless or precariously housed, but who are not literally homeless by the HUD definition. This could include people who are living doubled-up with friends and family or people currently in institutions, such as jails or treatment centers, and who have no other place to stay. While HUD supports communities in collecting data on these other living situations for local planning purposes, these data should not be reported to HUD.

Finding and gathering the information HUD requires about people experiencing homelessness presents different challenges for the sheltered and unsheltered PIT counts. The methods used to conduct the sheltered and unsheltered PIT counts are discussed later in this section. Sections 4 and 5 go into detail about the differences in how the sheltered and unsheltered PIT counts are implemented.