

PIT count data are the primary data source for measuring homelessness from year to year at both the national and local level. Collecting accurate PIT count data is critical to planning strategies and tracking outcomes both nationally and locally.

At the national level, progress towards the goal of ending homelessness are measured using data from PIT counts. CoCs can also use these data to gauge their progress toward preventing and ending homelessness locally. Additionally, the Annual Homeless Assessment Report, also known as the AHAR, is based on PIT count data. The AHAR is presented to Congress each year to demonstrate the need for federal money dedicated to homeless programs. PIT count data are also a valuable source for CoCs and Con Plan jurisdictions to inform local planning efforts. These data are also used by HUD during the CoC Program Competition to assess local progress.