

## Tips for PIT Count Survey Questions

### Introductions:

Hi, I'm a volunteer with the PIT Count, we're doing a survey on housing, where did you sleep last night? (if they provide unsheltered response) Would you be willing to complete a longer survey to provide a little more information? It'll take about 5 minutes, you don't have to answer any questions you don't want to answer. The information helps with planning and funding for housing services in our area.

We're conducting a survey, and your participation will help the community provide better services and resources for people who might not have a safe home to sleep in at night. It'll take about 5 minutes, you don't have to answer any questions you don't want to answer. Are you willing to answer these questions?

### Survey Questions:

- ***Have you already been interviewed for the Point in Time Count?***

People staying in shelters may say 'no' because they are not interviewed for their information. When you ask for their sleeping location, if they say that they're staying in a shelter program, end the survey at this point. Thank them for their time and offer any resource materials.

*If incentives are available, we are only able to offer incentives to folks who are able to complete the survey. It is a thank you for their time.*

- ***New Question: What county are you located in?***

Ask the person what county they stay in primarily. This helps fix problems we've had when counting folks who cross boundaries for services, or when we cross county boundaries while out doing the Count.

- ***Name and Date of Birth***

Don't want to pressure people to provide their name if they don't want to, but we also have to balance with our need to make sure we can deduplicate our data collected.

**Ideal:** Full first and last name and DOB

**Next Best:** First name initial and last name and DOB

**Will work:** Initials and DOB

**Least Ideal:** Initials and age range

- ***Turned away for lack of available services***

Trying to collect information on people who have been turned away from shelter or housing services because the services were not available (meaning shelter beds were full, there was a waitlist, etc...)

**Try asking:** Have you tried to get shelter or housing help and been told there were no services available or were placed on a waiting list?

***These questions are determining if a person meets the HUD Chronic Homeless Definition***

- Is this the first time you've been homeless?
- How long have you been homeless this time
- How many months did you stay in shelter or on the streets over the past 3 years?
  - If this is the first time they've been homeless, this should match how long they've been homeless this time
  - If they have been homeless other times in the past three years, help them think about other times they've been without housing in the past three years, and estimate how many months they were without housing those times. Add these months to how long they've been homeless this time for the total in past three years
- How many separate times have you stayed in shelters or on the streets in the past 3 years?
  - Fewer than 4 or more than 4 (if someone has been in and out of staying outside or in shelter and staying with family/friends or in their own place)

**Health-Related Questions**

- Do you have a substance use disorder
  - Use of substances does not mean people have a Substance Use Disorder—this one may be best left as it is worded, or you can ask if someone is concerned about their drug or alcohol use, have attended or been referred to treatment
- Chronic Health Condition

- Chronic high blood pressure (hypertension), diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, Chronic kidney disease, Alzheimer's or dementia, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

If yes, additional question: impair your ability to work or live independently? (this is an **or** question so it would be yes if they are not able to be employed)

**Try asking:** Does your condition affect your ability to work? Are you able to live on your own without help? If yes to either question, answer is yes on survey.

- Mental Health disorder
  - Anxiety, Depression, Bi Polar, Post-Traumatic Stress, eating disorders, or Schizophrenia
- Physical disability
- Developmental disability
  - The main types of developmental disabilities include autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).