

# Methodology for NY-508 - Buffalo, Niagara Falls/Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming Counties CoC

## Sheltered Population Total

**1. What data source(s) was used to produce the total number of people included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing) on the night of the count? Please indicate the percentage of the PIT count derived from each of the sources. (If a source was not used, please enter zero).**

HMIS Data	81%
Provider-level surveys	3%
Client-level surveys	16%
Observation	0%
Other	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2. Was the CoC able to collect information about the number of people being sheltered on the night of the count from all emergency shelters, Safe Havens, and transitional housing projects listed on the HIC or only some? listed on your HIC or only some?**

- Complete census count

**3. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the count of the total number of people included in the sheltered population?**

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)
- Blitz count of persons in shelters (i.e., count occurred at same time to avoid double counting)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

## Sheltered Subpopulation

**4. What data source(s) was used to produce the demographic and subpopulation data included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing) on the night of the count? (select all that were used)**



- HMIS Data
- Provider-level surveys
- Client-level surveys

**5. Was the CoC able to collect information about the demographic and subpopulation characteristics of all sheltered people or only some?**

- All sheltered people

**6. Looking at the change in your sheltered count from last year's count, please choose up to three reasons that best explains these changes from the drop down list below.**

- Change in emergency shelter capacity
- Impact of coordinated entry
- Change in availability of affordable housing

**Please provide a brief description of these specific factors (500 word limit):**

Starting last year, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order creating low-demand emergency shelters any day that is below 32 degrees. With Western New York's weather, we are utilizing these seasonal emergency shelters almost every day during the winter. With the increase of Rapid Rehousing capacity, we were expecting to see an decrease in the overall homeless population. However, we believe that an recent increase in real estate development in the City of Buffalo has caused the rent to increase significantly. It is reflected in the increase of the current FMR, and families and individuals who are living in poverty are having a difficult time affording housing. But we would still like to point out that if you exam the data further, even our overall sheltered population did not change much, we have significantly reduced the number of people who have mental illness and substance abuse. That's due to the impact of coordinated entry and our prioritization system.

## **Unsheltered Population**

**7. What approach(es) was used to count the total number of people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count. (select all that were used)**

- "Night of the count" - complete census
  
- HMIS

- Service-based count

**7a. Were certain areas within the CoC geography specifically excluded because the CoC had reason to believe there were no unsheltered people in those areas?**

Yes

**7b. How did the CoC select the areas that were included for canvassing?**

- Areas were not selected randomly, but an effort was made to use local knowledge to target known locations (e.g., areas with known concentrations of unsheltered homeless people)

**7b1. Did the CoC adjust the information in some way (e.g., statistical adjustment or extrapolation) to account for areas within the CoC geography that were not canvassed but where unsheltered people might have been on the night of the PIT count?**

No

**7c. In areas that were canvassed, did the CoC count all unsheltered people in those areas or a sample of people?**

- All people encountered during the count

**8. What information or method(s) was used to de-duplicate the total count of people in the unsheltered population? (Check all that apply)**

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)



- Blitz count of unsheltered people (i.e., canvassing of different areas occurred at same time to avoid double counting)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

## **Unsheltered Subpopulations**

### **9. What approach(es) was used to collect demographic and subpopulation data about unsheltered people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count?**

- Surveys/interviews of people identified as unsheltered on the night of the PIT count
- Surveys/interviews of people identified as unsheltered on the night of the count, but completed at a later date
- Surveys/interviews of people identified within 7 days following the night of the PIT count night who may have been unsheltered on the night of the PIT count (e.g., "service-based" surveys at locations where people who are homeless go for assistance)

### **10. Were all people who were encountered during canvassing on the night of the count or during post night of the count PIT activities asked to complete a survey/interview?**

- All people encountered were surveyed

### **11. What information or method(s) was used to produce an unduplicated total count of homeless people across your sheltered and unsheltered populations?**

- Comparison of personally identifying information (PII), such as name, date of birth, and Social Security Number
- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

### **12. Looking at the change in your unsheltered count from last year's count, please choose up to three reasons that best explains these changes from the drop down list below**

- Change in emergency shelter capacity
- Change in permanent supportive housing capacity
- Impact of coordinated entry

**Please provide a brief description of these specific factors (500 word limit):**

- HMIS data from street outreach and/or other providers



One drop-in center, Harbor House, became a cold-weather emergency shelter this year and thus its occupants are considered sheltered (29 people stayed there on the PIT night). Coordinated entry (with other system changes, like adopting housing first practices and prioritizing) and increases in PSH capacity helped prioritizing chronically homeless and high acuity clients. We have not only decreased the number of unsheltered persons, but we also have a significant reduction in chronically homeless people as well as people with substance and mental illness.









