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# 2020 Point-in-Time Count Austin/Travis County

Sarah Duzinski, MPH

Vice President of Quality Assurance

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition



# PIT Count - Background

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- Required by Housing & Urban Development (HUD) of Continuums of Care (CoC) in each community in order to receive HUD funding.
- The Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count) is an annual census of the Austin/Travis County population experiencing homelessness. Data from this census contributes to both local and national efforts to end homelessness.
- Across the country, thousands of volunteers survey assigned areas to count and engage people experiencing homelessness to gather numbers and demographic information.
- Provides a “snapshot” of homelessness on one night in our community.



# PIT Count - Objectives

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- Determine the total number and characteristics of those who are experiencing homelessness in Austin.
- Understand sub-populations experiencing homelessness (veterans, unaccompanied youth, domestic violence victims, etc.).
- Compare results with previous count information to assess and improve community performance in preventing and ending homelessness.
- Provide information on people's experience with housing and homelessness, current living situation, age, characteristics (race/ethnicity, gender), and any self-reported disabilities that may be interfering with their ability to maintain housing or employment.
- Those who choose to provide contact information can be contacted by CoC Partners for services via outreach staff.



# PIT Count - Methodology

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- Prevalence estimate of sheltered and unsheltered individuals in Austin/Travis County at a single point in time
- New in 2020: web-based survey with geolocation capability
  - Anonymous
  - Mix of closed-ended, multiple choice, and open-ended questions
  - 11 items per respondent
  - Age, gender, veteran status, disability status, description of sleeping circumstance, history of homelessness, barriers to housing, history of benefits, prior involvement in Coordinated Assessment, pet ownership, contact info (optional)
  - Observation only option
- Six hour data collection timeframe on 1/25/2020 from 3am-9am
- 861 Volunteer Survey Administrators; 25 Command Center staff and volunteers (total 886 deployed)



# PIT Count – Limitations

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- Variations in count methodology year-to-year within and across communities.
- Unsheltered counts are subject to more variation in methodology due to geography, weather, and volunteer considerations.



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# PIT Count - Historical Data



# PIT Count Data - Sheltered and Unsheltered Persons in Austin/Travis County (2010 – 2019)

*Persons Counted Experiencing Homelessness in Point-in-Time Counts (PIT)*



# Housing Inventory Count (HIC) - Austin/Travis County (2019)

Project Type	Total Beds in 2019 (HIC)
Emergency Shelter	867
Safe Haven	15
Transitional Housing	317
Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Housing Only	2000
Grand total	3199

1	Emergency Shelter	A project that offers temporary shelter (lodging) for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless. Requirements and limitations may vary by program, and will be specified by the funder.	3	PH - Permanent Supportive Housing (disability required for entry)	A project that offers permanent housing and supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability (individuals with disabilities or families in which one adult or child has a disability) to live independently.
2	Transitional Housing	A project that provides temporary lodging and is designed to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families into permanent housing within a specified period of time, but no longer than 24 months. Requirements and limitations may vary by program, and will be specified by the funder.	10	PH - Housing with Services (no disability required for entry)	A project that offers permanent housing and supportive services to assist homeless persons to live independently, but does not limit eligibility to individuals with disabilities or families in which one adult or child has a disability.
11	Day Shelter	A project that offers daytime facilities and services (no lodging) for persons who are homeless.	9	PH - Housing Only	A project that offers permanent housing for persons who are homeless, but does not make supportive services available as part of the project.
8	Safe Haven	A project that offers supportive housing that (1) serves hard to reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who came from the streets and have been unwilling or unable to participate in supportive services; (2) provides 24-hour residence for eligible persons for an unspecified period; (3) has an overnight capacity limited to 25 or fewer persons; and (4) provides low demand services and referrals for the residents.			
13	PH - Rapid Re-Housing	A permanent housing project that provides housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help a homeless individual or family move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.			



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# PIT Count - 2020



# 2020 PIT Count – Preparation

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- September 2019
  - Engaged volunteers for donations (bus passes, bags, socks, hygiene kits, etc.)
  - Initiated new volunteer management system (Give Pulse) and updated volunteer page on ECHO website
  - Initiated new electronic PIT Count application (Hyperion)
  - Selected team leads and sub-leads for each of the 73 sections
  - Finalized training details (locations, times, trainers, materials)
- October 2019
  - Began hosting team lead orientations (ongoing)
  - Opened online volunteer registration in Give Pulse and began recruitment
  - Finalized and submitted PIT Count Methodology to Membership Council for Approval
- November 2019
  - Ensured PIT Count Materials were in compliance with any changes from HUD
  - Confirmed Housing Inventory Methodology and communicated with local shelters



# 2020 PIT Count – Preparation (Continued)

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- December 2019

- Trained volunteers (team leads, sub-leads, and general volunteers)
- Developed cold weather shelter contingency plan
- Began printing materials and making volunteer packets (including paper surveys for backup)

- January 2020

- Trained volunteers (team leads, sub-leads, and general volunteers)
- Coordinated with media outlets to cover the PIT Count
- Coordinated with donation volunteers to sort and organize items for distribution to PIT Count headquarter and teams
- Scheduled packet pick up for team leads
- PIT Count Implementation - Saturday, January 25th, 2020



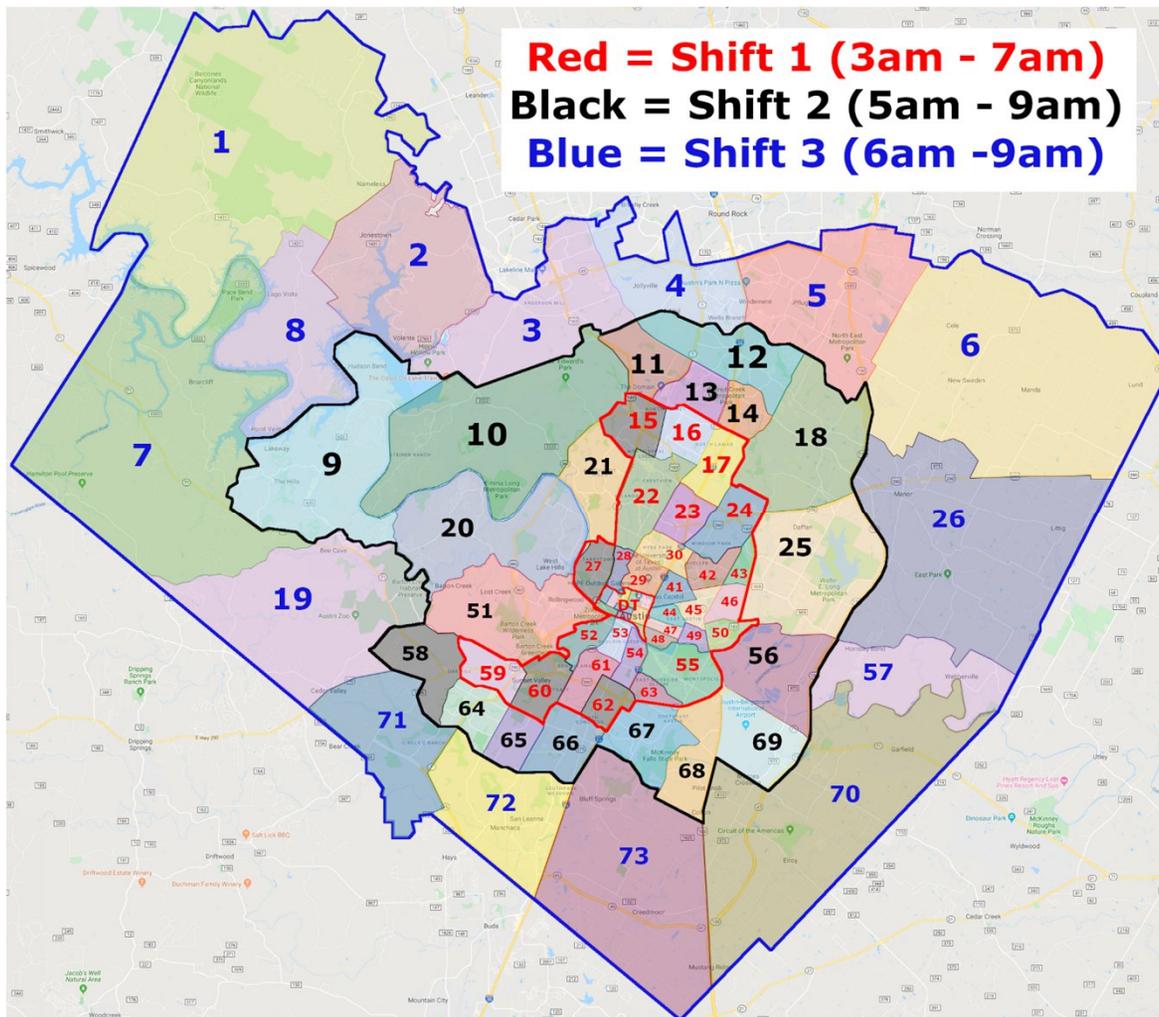
# PIT Count – Implementation

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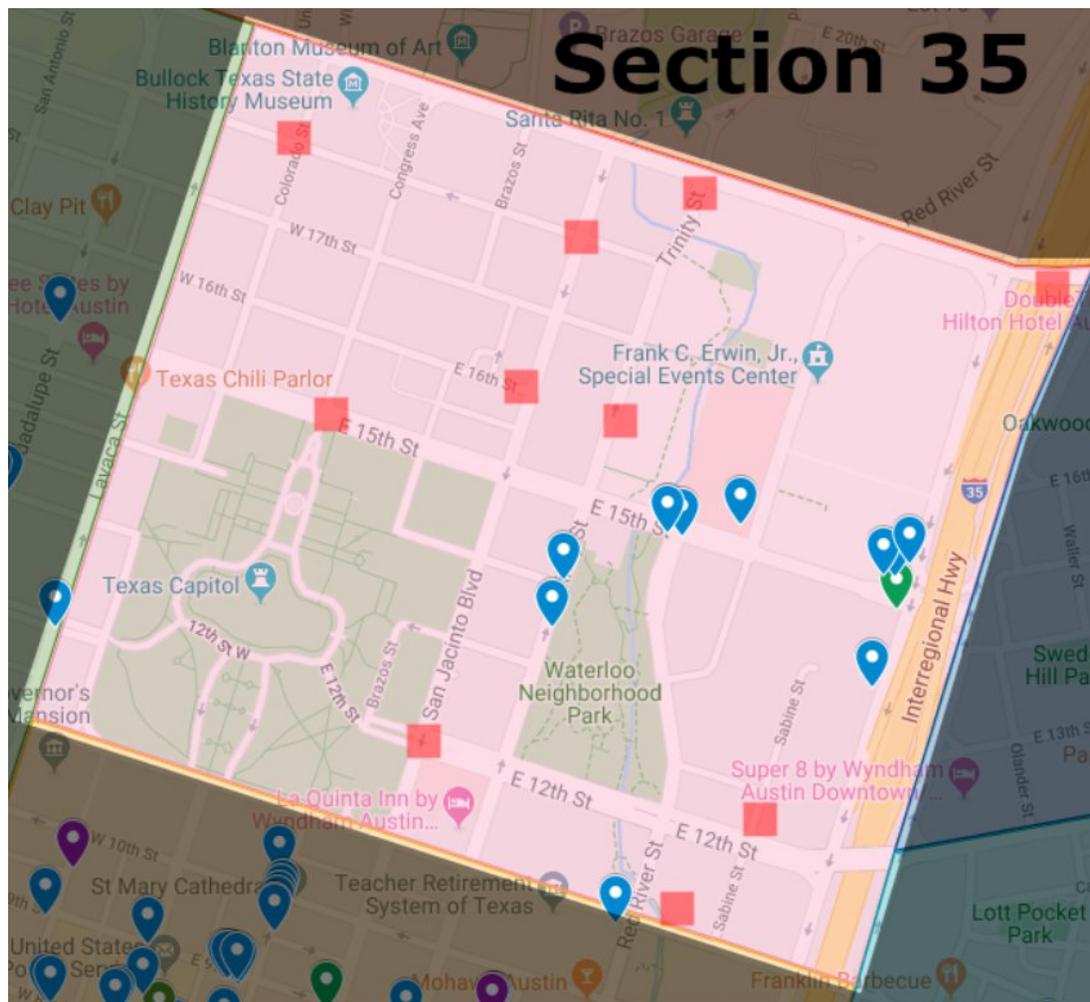
- ECHO engaged, trained, and deployed approximately 886 volunteers in Austin/Travis County on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for 3-hour shifts that started between 3am and 6am.
- In the 2019 PIT Count, 661 volunteers were deployed across Austin/Travis County as compared to 663 volunteers in 2018.
- In the 2020 PIT Count ECHO had a 34% increase in volunteer participation from the previous year.



# 2020 PIT Count – Section Mapping



# 2020 PIT Count – Hot Spot Mapping



- Blue pins represent individuals counted in the 2019 PIT Count
- Red squares represent homeless sites noted by Austin Police Department in 2019



MW5 checked with a couple of folks on this and yes, we are going to go with this. Am I 100% sure no... do I know they mean something different/ more significant than the blue dots - Yes!

Melissa Wheeler, 1/31/2020

# PIT Count – Analysis & Follow up

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- January & February 2020
  - Debrief with team leads, staff, and volunteers and provide feedback survey link
  - Review and incorporate feedback survey results into PIT Count process and team lead manuals
  - Review and clean PIT Count data (export and remove duplicates)
  - Conduct data analysis and prepare the PIT Count Report for HUD
  - Plan and host a volunteer recognition event
- March 2020
  - Begin preparing outreach materials for press, social media, sponsors
  - Share preliminary PIT Count results with stakeholders
- April 2020
  - Finalize PIT Count report, data visualizations, and PIT Count information sheet
  - Update ECHO website with results
  - Release outreach materials for press, social media, sponsors
  - Begin testing PIT Count app for 2021



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Thank you to all of our  
2020 PIT Count Volunteers!

