

# Methodology for MA-517 - Somerville 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	100%
Provider-level surveys	0%
Client-level surveys	0%
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?**

- Blitz count of persons in shelters (i.e., count occurred at same time to avoid double counting)

## 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

**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
- Other:

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

Emergency

The Just a Start House previously provided 27 emergency shelter beds in 2016. In May of 2016, the shelter was closed. In 2016 on the night of the PIT there were 21 people in the Just a Start House emergency beds. In 2017, we had 75 people in emergency beds on the night of the PIT. If Just a Start House were still open and had 21 people again in their beds, our emergency total would have been 96, which would be consistent with the past 4 years of the PIT emergency sheltered count (94-99 people). But, because of the reduction in emergency shelter capacity, our emergency total decreased.

Transitional

We have reclassified Somerville Homeless Coalition's PASS Program from transitional to permanent supportive housing. While the funding is temporary (up to two years), the housing is not. The PASS Program had 22 people in the program on the night of the count. If we were to add 22 to the total number of people in transitional housing, that would bring us to 67 people, which would be consistent with the total number of people in transitional housing in 2016, which was 65. But, because of the reclassification of the PASS Program from transitional to permanent, our transitional total decreased.

## **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" - known locations

Point In Time Methodology for MA-517 - Somerville CoC

Reclassification of a transitional housing program to a permanent supportive housing program.

**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)**

- Blitz count of unsheltered people (i.e., canvassing of different areas occurred at same time to avoid double counting)



## **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

**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?**

- A subset of people was surveyed

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

- Blitz count of unsheltered people (i.e., sheltered and unsheltered counts occurred at same time to avoid double counting)
- 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**

- More volunteers for PIT count
- Weather
- Other:

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

- HMIS data from street outreach and/or other providers

**10a. How did the CoC select those people?**

- People were not selected randomly, and the selection was driven by practicality or expediency (e.g., people willing and able to complete a survey on the night of the PIT count)

**10b. Did the CoC adjust the information in some way (e.g., statistical adjustment or extrapolation) to account for all persons in all projects?**

Yes

New locations canvassed as a result of reports from the Somerville Police Department



The weather was fairly mild in comparison to past years and was between 36-44 degrees on the night of the count. There was no snow on the ground.

In Arlington, volunteers found unsheltered homeless people in known locations where homeless people have been reported to sleep, whereas in the past on the night of the count, no unsheltered homeless people were encountered in the known locations. Seven unsheltered homeless people were counted in Arlington.

In Somerville, based on new information from last year primarily from the Somerville Police Department, new locations were added, which resulted in a new route. We recruited additional volunteers to canvass the new route in Somerville where police reported they had been finding homeless people at night. Fifteen unsheltered homeless people were counted in Somerville.









