

What is the Point-in-Time Count (PiT Count)?

The Point-in-Time Count (PiT Count) is a federally-mandated, nationally coordinated strategy to help determine the extent of homelessness in communities across the country. The PiT Count is a method used to measure sheltered and unsheltered homeless by enumerating individuals in a community on a given night staying in shelters, transitional housing, or “sleeping rough” (i.e. on the street, in parks, etc.), to help provide a “snapshot” of homelessness in a community. The PiT Count will occur in communities all across Canada between March 1 and April 30, 2020. **The Great Victoria PiT Count will take place on March 11-12, 2020.**

Specific objectives of the PiT Count will include:

- **A count of people experiencing absolute homelessness:** It is intended to identify the extent to which people experience sheltered and unsheltered homelessness at a given time.
- **A survey of the homeless population:** Through an accompanying survey, the Count provides the community with demographic information and service needs of people experiencing homelessness. The data can be used to identify service needs and inform plans to prevent and reduce homelessness.

Contributing to a National Picture of Homelessness

The purpose of the PiT Count is to provide a national picture of homelessness by having communities conduct PiT Counts using a coordinated, consistent approach and methodology within a given time frame. A national lens of people experiencing sheltered (i.e. emergency shelters, transitional housing, hotels/motels, etc.) and unsheltered (i.e. sleeping in the rough, streets, alleys, parks, etc.) homelessness can provide a benchmark to measure, to reduce, and eliminate homelessness across the country.

A Better Understanding of Local Community Needs

Moreover, the PiT Count will also help broaden our understanding of the experiences of people affected by homelessness across the country and broaden our local understanding of the types of supports needed to help unhoused individuals and families secure stable housing.

Conducting a PiT Count allows us to:

- Better understand the extent and experiences of homelessness in our community
- Can be used to identify solutions to address the local state of homelessness
- Make contact with hard to reach individuals experiencing homelessness
- Raise public awareness about homelessness
- Support systems planning and program development to better serve unhoused individuals and families

Project Partners

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is the community entity responsible for the overall program. The PiT Count is being coordinated by the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria (CSPC) and supported by the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. CSPC will partner with the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (UVIC) on research methodology and ethics approval. The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness will be joining to partner on indigenous outreach and providing a cultural lens for the research methodology, volunteer training, and communication strategy. CSPC is also partnering with Volunteer Victoria to support volunteer recruitment, training and management.

Contact Info

If you have any questions, please get in touch with 2020 Point-in-Time Facilities Coordinator, Mikaila Montgomery, at research@communitycouncil.ca or 250-383-6166 ext. 111.