

Every Surveyor Has a Story

Help us tell the world about the “Point in Time Count” as we join with others one night in January to determine the number of homeless & unstably housed people in the United States.

If you’re a “Point in Time Count” surveyor and you have a Twitter account, share your experiences by tweeting brief impressions and including @CSHinfo and spreading #CSHpitc.

While tweeting, remember these rules:

1. Under NO circumstances should count surveyors who are tweeting take actions that pose a significant safety risk to themselves or others. Please DO NOT use your cell phone (other electronic devices) in an isolated location. Keep it secure at all times.
2. Tweet from a common meeting location/training site where other count surveyors and supervisors are present.
3. Please DO NOT tweet any personal information about yourself or the people you survey. NO names of those surveyed, specific locations, etc. Keep it general and use generic names such as “John Doe” or “Jane Doe.”
4. Tell the story of what you saw in 140 characters or less.
5. In your own words, tell the public why the “Point in Time Count” is so vital to helping homeless people access the housing and services they need to get off the streets.

Here are safe sample tweets:

Surveying in Manhattan shelter w/ @CSHinfo. Clear we need more supportive housing for New Yorkers to call home #CSHpitc

Surveyor w/ @CSHinfo 4 Point in Time Count to ID # of homeless people. Freezing temps. Too many living on streets this winter. #CSHpitc

Care to submit a video, we’d love to see it & maybe we’ll post it, but:

1. Please read the rules above. They apply to video-taping as well. Capture your experience; please DO NOT compromise the survey or those being surveyed. Tape yourself or colleagues at a training site, before and after survey. Providing your first name and organization is just fine.
2. Most importantly, please DO NOT take actions that pose a significant safety risk to you, your colleagues or anyone being surveyed.
3. Send your video to info@csh.org
4. Before your video is posted, you will receive a release form (with instructions) you must sign authorizing use of your video.

The Point in Time Count

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities receiving federal funds from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program to conduct a Point-in-Time Count to identify homeless individuals and families. The first of these counts was conducted in January 2005.

Point-in-time Counts are snapshots. They are important because they establish the dimensions of the problem and help policymakers and program administrators track progress toward the goal of ending homelessness. Collecting data and tracking year-to-year progress can inform public opinion, increase public awareness, and attract resources and refine services that will help us end homelessness.

