

Point-In-Time (PIT) Count



McKinney-Vento

Frequently Asked Questions for Schools and Districts

What is the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count?

The PIT Count is an annual survey that counts people experiencing homelessness in a specific area.

- **Purpose:** To capture a snapshot of homelessness in the community.
- **When:** Data collection from January 22nd to February 7th, report where people were on **January 29th**.
- **Importance:** Informs federal funding for schools including support for homeless students under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Who is counted?

HUD's Definition of Literally Homeless

HUD defines someone as "literally homeless" if they lack a stable place to sleep, including:

- Sleeping in places not intended for living (e.g., cars, parks, abandoned buildings).
- Residing in temporary shelters (e.g., homeless shelters, hotels/motels funded by charities or government).
- Moving from an emergency shelter or inadequate housing to a hospital or facility for less than 90 days.

How can school districts and McKinney-Vento liaisons get involved in the PIT?

Report Data:

- Directly enter data into the CountingUs app; or complete a simple spreadsheet.
- Attend training sessions and office hours for guidance.

Advocate:

- Educate others about the importance of the PIT Count.

Why participate in the PIT Count?

- Directly shapes federal funding for schools in your community, including support for homeless students under the McKinney-Vento Act, and influences available community resources.
- Understand local homeless youth demographics better.
- Support programs for homeless students and families.
- Identify and assist homeless students while respecting privacy.
- Shape youth-specific services with collected demographic data.

What data is used, and how?

- All data collected for the count will be aggregated and **will not violate FERPA**.
- Individual or school-level data will not be displayed.
- Names do not have to be reported. Ages can be reported in age ranges.
- Not all MV students are reported.
- School staff can report the minimum data required to report.

Contacts | PIT 2026

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