POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT IN THE DETROIT COC

WHAT THE PIT COUNT IS & WHY WE DO IT

- The PIT Count is a HUD-defined, one-night census conducted each January of people experiencing homelessness.
- It is used to track national and local trends using consistent HUD-required methods.
- HAND leads local PIT Count for accuracy, planning, and funding.
- HUD requires CoCs to count sheltered people annually and unsheltered people every other year to maintain funding eligibility.
- Planned and carried out locally, the PIT Count provides a critical snapshot of data to inform the homelessness response system.

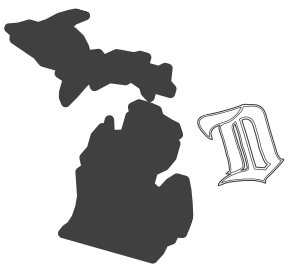


SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

- Sheltered homelessness includes those receiving help in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or Safe Havens and is counted every year. In 2025, 1,442 sheltered people were counted as experiencing homelessness in the CoC.
- Unsheltered homelessness includes those still not connected to CoC services and staying outside or in places not meant to live in, like abandoned buildings, cars, tents, and is counted every other year. The next count is set for January 28, 2026.







WHERE WE ARE NOW & COMMUNITY CONTEXT

- The current political climate makes strong data collection critical for setting priorities and advocating for resources.
- There has been community distrust around data, especially among people who've experienced trauma or inconsistent support.
- HAND centers confidentiality, transparency, and trauma-informed engagement—no identifying information is shared or used against anyone.
- 2025 data showed increases in mental illness and domestic violence survivors, underscoring the need for respectful and diligent outreach.



HOW PIT DATA HELPS US IMPROVE & ADVOCATE

- PIT data directly shapes the federal funding Detroit receives for shelters, housing programs, youth services, and street outreach.
- It helps identify trends, unmet needs, and service gaps—ensuring resources are directed where the community needs them most.
- PIT results also guide system planning, including shelter bed capacity, outreach strategies, and specialized resources.
- PIT data helps contextualize homelessness by turning interviews and data into stories and advancing more compassionate policy solutions.

GET INVOLVED



Volunteer for the Count
Email amanda@handetroit.org for inquiries on volunteering for the Detroit CoC PIT count



Share Accurate Information
Share why the PIT Count matters and remind others the **data is confidential and used only for funding.**



Support Outreach Teams
Donate winter supplies or connect teams with locations where people may need support.

SOURCES AND MORE INFORMATION:

- **DETROIT PAST PIT COUNT DATA (HAND): WWW.HANDETROIT.ORG/REPORTS#PIT4**
- **HUD PIT & HIC OVERVIEW: WWW.HUDEXCHANGE.INFO/PROGRAMS/HDX/PIT-HIC/**
- **MICHIGAN COALITION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS (MCAH): WWW.MIHOMELESS.ORG/**
- **NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS (NAEH): ENDHOMELESSNESS.ORG/**
- **PIT COUNT (HOMELESSNESS LEARNING HUB): HOMELESSNESSLEARNINGHUB.CA/POINT-IN-TIME-COUNTS/**

Provided by:
hand
HOMELESS ACTION NETWORK OF DETROIT
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