

What changes could be made to the Point in Time Count next year to make the data more useful?

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 5.31.24

Song of Myself

I celebrate myself, and sing myself,
And what I assume you shall assume,
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you." ...
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you." ...
Long have you timidly waded
Holding a plank by the shore,
Now, I will you to be a bold swimmer,
To jump off in the midst of the sea,
Rise again, nod to me, shout,
And laughingly dash with your hair.

— Walt Whitman, 1892, and *Song of Myself* 46

How to Improve PIT Count

- Stop camping ban.
- PIT had very invasive questions.
- The health concerns that led to ban could be addressed by more use of purple bags.
- Need better narrative that provides more accurate data about why people continue to be on the street without housing.
- Why can't we use HMIS data better for accurate count? If PIT being run by county they would have access to HMIS should be able to be more accurate.
- PIT is more timely but less complete.
- Maybe doing count over a longer period of time?
- Complete an annual quantitative study (make this as consistent/durable/stable as possible) using ONLY HMIS and shelter reported information.
- Include how many people are turned away from shelters each year.
- Do a companion, qualitative study of people living unsheltered. Publish both together BUT be very clear that the quantitative data can be compared across years and the qualitative cannot.
- Educate the public about what the data can (and cannot) tell us.
- Supplies were handed out, so no one was approached empty-handed, which was a great improvement over prior counts, but would like to see more improvements on what's handed out: gift cards.
- Greatly undercounted – how was over 2 yrs ago over 4000 and Seattle's 1x count was over 16000. Math doesn't add up.
- Explore ways to get businesses involved in count, but that's problematic because people could be counted multiple times and businesses may have a different agenda.

- More programming for homelessness prevention. More needed around DV prevention as opposed to response to DV.

Notes and Resources List

New and Notable

Royal House Adult Family Home Info

Allan Ngugi 206-434-8550 royalhouseafh@gmail.com

RFP for Unified Regional Approach Consulting

<https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/piercecountywa/projects/96575>

WA State Homeless Draft Strategic Plan Link

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/homelessness/state-strategic-plan-annual-report-and-audits/>

Tacoma Pride Festival, Saturday, July 13, 2024 - Noon to 6 pm Downtown Tacoma (Pacific Avenue & 9th Street) <https://tacomapride.org>

Sign up link for Grants Pass Webinar

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DrTLiUU3QNKld7a041zBPQ#/registration

The link to join next week's IAB meeting, next Friday, can be found here:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7309/Comprehensive-Plan-to-End-Homelessness>

Pierce County PIT Count data can be found here:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/4719/Homeless-Point-in-Time-PIT-Count>

Kitsap County preliminary PIT data:

<https://www.kitsap.gov/hs/HOUSINGBLOCK/2024%20Kitsap%20County%20PIT%20Overview%20-%20Preliminary.pdf>

Thurston County preliminary PIT data: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/news/2024-point-time-count-homeless-census-preliminary-data-released>

Community Spotlight Opportunity: Please send suggestions for all partner spotlights to Theresa at tpdrutis@nctacoma.org

Common Good Supply Station @ FUMCOT, First United Methodist Church of Tacoma. Open Tuesday's Noon to 2PM, 621 Tacoma Ave S, Tacoma, WA 98402. Go to the back alley and come to the door between the 2 garages. Call Theresa at 253.617.1405 when you are at the door. The number above is a Line2 number; those who have my personal cell # are welcome to use that instead. Both numbers will ring through.

Ongoing Resources and Needs

Sign up to receive Action Alerts: <https://secure.everyaction.com/-gZPY8k0qkaHQyrUqmpC5g2>

SVdP is willing to store any items for sharing. Outreach workers can pick up supplies every day between 10am-5pm. Just text Dionne. 253-355-5868

To be added to the monthly Public Health email newsletter, please share your email here OR email me at: jschoeppe@tpchd.org

Outreach and Supply Need/Share Form:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Kh2OBOLT-SXN8cq7L7Z1Bb04iXxCf6Nfv_RBP-F0SZk/edit?usp=sharing

TPCHD has a webpage for homeless service providers and advocates

<https://tpchd.org/healthy-people/provider-resources/homelessness-providers-toolkit/>

Safe Sites

<https://ss4a.pchomeless.org>

Outreach Supply Need and Share form: <https://forms.gle/2zfK8Y5JvC1K5eXLA>

Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at

<https://www.pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>

Narcan Resources:

<https://www.tacomaneedleexchange.org/naloxoneWA> DOH Free Mail Order Naloxone

WA DOH Free Mail Order Narcan/Naloxone:<https://phra.org/naloxone>