

San Bernardino County 2013 Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the San Bernardino County 2013 Point-in-Time Homeless Count?

The 2013 Point-in-Time Homeless Count (PITC) is a one-day street-based and service-based count and survey of sheltered and unsheltered individuals to identify how many people in San Bernardino County are homeless and their subpopulation characteristics at a given point-in-time.

Why a Point-in-Time Homeless Count?

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the largest source of homeless program funding, requires that continuum of care (CoC) communities that receive HUD CoC funding (such as San Bernardino County) perform a “one-day, point-in-time” count and subpopulation survey of sheltered (every year) and unsheltered (every other year) homeless individuals during the last week of January. Results of the 2013 Homeless Count and Subpopulation Survey will provide benchmark numbers that will serve as the basis for developing local community and countywide strategies to help people exit life on the streets and by which the success of our efforts to provide effective programs serving homeless individuals and families can be measured.

When will the 2013 Point-in-Time Homeless Count take place?

The 2013 Point-in-Time Homeless Count will be conducted on a designated day at the end of January 2013 (exact date to be determined).

Where will the 2013 Homeless Count be conducted?

The 2013 Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey will be conducted on the streets, and at residential and non-residential service locations in every city and unincorporated area in San Bernardino County.

Who will be counted in the 2013 Homeless Count?

Those individuals who on the day of the point-in-time count fall within the HUD definition of a homeless person which is as follows:

“An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- (i) An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- (ii) An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for

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- by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
- (iii) An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

How will the 2013 Homeless Count be conducted?

The 2013 Point-in-Time Homeless Count will involve conducting a count and subpopulation survey of both sheltered and unsheltered individuals on the streets, and at residential and non-residential service locations in every city and unincorporated area in San Bernardino County. On the day-of-the-count, teams of local volunteers, service providers and others will visit pre-identified locations and use a count/survey instrument to record required information collected from each homeless individual encountered.

How will the 2013 Homeless Count be organized?

The County of San Bernardino Office of Homeless Services shall recruit Community Key Persons from every public and private stakeholder in the county to help organize and conduct the 2013 Homeless Count and Survey. Community Key Persons include representatives of both public and private entities who are knowledgeable about homelessness and where homeless people live, spend time and receive services in the community. Community Task Forces made up of local Key Persons will be established in Planning Communities made up of incorporated cities and/or unincorporated jurisdictions in order to identify street and service locations where homeless people can be found and to help implement the count in their area.

Who should participate in the 2013 Homeless Count?

In order to conduct a comprehensive count of homeless individuals and families in San Bernardino County, Community Key Persons and other volunteers are needed from every city and unincorporated area to help organize and implement the count in their communities. Key Persons and Volunteers shall include representatives of local government, social service providers, law enforcement, municipal agencies, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, local business, civic groups, neighborhood associations, nonprofit agencies, and current and formerly homeless individuals.

How can I get more involved in the 2013 Homeless Count?

For more information and to sign-up to participate in San Bernardino County 2013 Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey, go to www.sbcounty.gov/sbchp or contact one of the following individuals:

- Michele Bletcher, County of San Bernardino, mkbletcher@dbh.sbcounty.gov
- Don Smith, Institute for Urban Initiatives, dmsmith62@hotmail.com