

**What is the Point in Time Count?** Here in the TN Valley region we have one of the best-established point-in-time counts in the nation. The total number comes from these two main sources:

1. A count of people who are inside (in shelter or transitional housing)  
*Information about people who have shelter or transitional housing is compiled by staff from service providers in the TN Valley Community and Human Services Division through provider surveys.*
2. A count of people who are outside (without shelter or in a place not fit or meant for people to live).  
*People who have no shelter are counted by service providers, advocates, volunteers, peers, and the TN Valley Coalition for the Homeless through the street count and other methods (see below).*

**Who counts as homeless during the Point in Time Count?** People who lack fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residences; are in a shelter or transitional living situation designed to be temporary; or are in a public or private place not meant to be a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. (This is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness.)

**Who is NOT counted as homeless during the Point in Time Count?** People who are doubled up or couch surfing; people who can pay for a motel that night; children in foster care; people in the hospital; people in jail; and others whose circumstances may be very unstable but who *on that night* are not homeless.

## How does the CoC document homelessness during the Point in Time Count?

- **The TN Valley Coalition organizes and carries out the count of *people who are homeless and without shelter*.**

Sometimes this is called the Street Count. The Mayor of each county appoints a PIT representative to lead their county's 24-hour count. The PIT representative organizes volunteers into teams to carry out a head-count of people they interact with during that 24-hour period. Teams count in publicly-accessible areas such as streets, alleys, parks, parking lots, shopping centers, wooded areas, and waterfront. Each team has a trained captain.

- **The TN Valley Continuum of Care also takes special care to include people in certain circumstances:**

1. We survey staff in emergency departments of major hospitals in our County areas that are open that night, including people who are in the waiting area and likely homeless, but not seeking medical care;
2. We work with school systems and youth groups to help provide peer support and locate hot spots;
3. We work with organized Tent Cities to count people living in those locations;
4. Special events, such as soup kitchens, clinics where services will be provided, warming station, help us reach more individuals who are living outside;
5. In some areas, key informants help answer our surveys to document special groups of people outside overnight: veterans, families with children, and people who are chronically homeless, based on HUD's definition