



Point In Time (PIT) Count 2025

Performance Monitoring Committee

About Me



- ◆ Director of Operations at ECHO
- ◆ Began at ECHO in September, 2021
- ◆ Managed 2023 PIT Count
- ◆ Fun Fact: I've already begun decorating for Halloween



Requirements

- CoCs are responsible for planning and conducting, at least biennially, a PIT count of unhoused persons within the geographic area that meets HUD's requirements.
- The unsheltered PIT count must be conducted during the last 10 days in January and represent all homeless persons who were unsheltered on a single night during that period.
- CoCs must be able to verify that the unsheltered homeless people identified in the count are unsheltered on the night designated for the count.
- CoCs must ensure that during the PIT count homeless persons are only counted once. It is critical that the counting methods be coordinated to ensure that there is no double-counting. Therefore, CoCs must also collect sufficient information to be able to reliably deduplicate the PIT count (i.e., ensure that the same unhoused person was not counted more than once).



Requirements

- ◆ CoCs are required to conduct an on-the-ground, in-person count of the unhoused community. An HMIS snapshot will not suffice HUD's requirements.
- ◆ CoCs must be able to verify that the unsheltered people identified in the count are unsheltered on the night designated for the count, as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 of the Homeless Definition Final Rule: "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."



Constraints

- ♦ Each option will require volunteer support for conducting the count.
- ♦ Count **MUST** be completed in the last 10 days of January 2025
- ♦ Methodology must be approved by Leadership Council
- ♦ Change in unhoused community/encampment locations and increased difficulty in locating new camps
- ♦ Time of day/night of count will determine accessibility to unhoused community.
- ♦ Smartphones are needed to run the app or access the website used to conduct the count



METHODOLOGY OPTIONS



Option 1

- ◆ **Full Census Count:**
 - ◆ Simultaneous full census count of all locations with interview data requested of each observed unsheltered individual
- ◆ **Pros:**
 - ◆ Completed within one night
 - ◆ The most “accurate” due to it being the most comprehensive
 - ◆ Allows for observational count
- ◆ **Cons:**
 - ◆ Will require the highest number of volunteers and service provider support
 - ◆ Count is conducted in the evening/late night



Option 2

- ◆ **Geographic Sampling**
 - ◆ Random sample of geographic sections where full count of those sections is completed.
- ◆ **Pros:**
 - ◆ Completed in one night
 - ◆ Requires fewer volunteers
 - ◆ Still provides a thorough count for HUD
- ◆ **Cons:**
 - ◆ May unintentionally underestimate scale of subpopulations due to the extrapolation needed to finalize the count



Option 3

- ◆ Interviewee Sampling
 - ◆ All sections are fully counted with random selection for interviews.
- ◆ Pros:
 - ◆ Completed in one night
 - ◆ Count process occurs more quickly than Option1 due to reduced number of interviews
 - ◆ Still provides a thorough and inclusive count for HUD
- ◆ Cons:
 - ◆ Requires many volunteers in order to cover the entire Austin/Travis County area
 - ◆ Captures slightly less complete data than Option 1



Option 4

- ◆ Known locations count
 - ◆ Only visit known encampment sites. This requires a statement to HUD declaring that at least 80% of the unsheltered population has been captured by this method
- ◆ Pros:
 - ◆ This will require fewer volunteers than a full census count
 - ◆ Count could take place over the course of a few days given the nature of the count
- ◆ Cons:
 - ◆ You will likely miss counting some people or an entire encampment given that we no longer have a firm idea of where communities have moved.
 - ◆ Higher risk of duplication



Option 5

- ◆ **Service based count**
 - ◆ A survey of people at various social service locations or other public or private locations
 - ◆ Requires that interviews are taken during the day, across several days
- ◆ **Pros:**
 - ◆ Would greatly reduce volunteer need because implementation would be managed in partnership with service providers
- ◆ **Cons:**
 - ◆ Requires thorough data collection and assumes people will be able to recall and communicate clearly their previous whereabouts in order to prevent or limit duplication
 - ◆ Only captures people who are service engaged and find a way to reach the service provider



Recommended Dates

- January 23 (Thursday)
- January 24 (Friday)
- **January 25 (Saturday)**



Proposed Plan Night of Count

- Begin count earlier
 - 7PM or 8 PM
- End count earlier
 - 2AM or 3AM
- Possibly 2 shifts for general volunteers



Volunteer Needs

- Team Leads
 - 74 needed
 - One per section
- General Volunteers
 - ~1000 to secure coverage



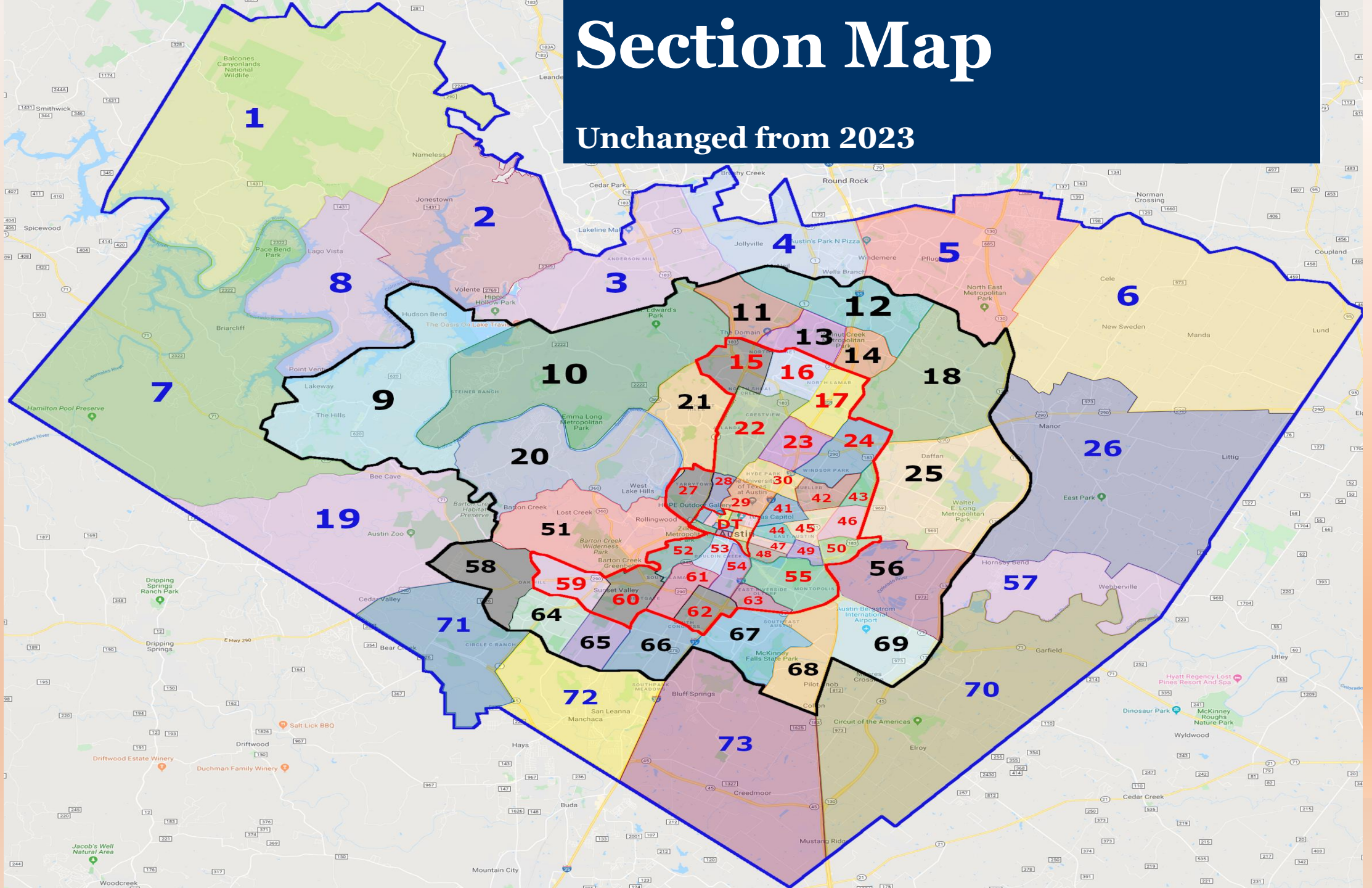
Historical Volunteer Data

Year	# of Volunteers	Change in # of Volunteers	Total Count
2017	517	N/A	2036
2018	550	33	2147
2019	661	111	2255
2020	886	225	2506
2021	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023	693	-193	2374

- Political context has an impact, for example 2020 after Prop B passed, we were able to recruit additional volunteers.
- 2020 vs 2023 Count volunteer decrease factor in decrease of total count
- Biennial count impacts our ability to locate encampments

Section Map

Unchanged from 2023





TIMELINE

July/Aug

- PMC makes PIT Methodology recommendation to LC for vote
- Begin communicating plan to community
- Begin seeking partner(s) for Count
- Develop Comms plan for HRS PIT Coordination
- Develop Asana project plan
- Develop Volunteer Recruitment Plan (who, where, how)

Sept./Oct.

- Publicize volunteer and Team Lead recruitment
- Develop communication toolbox (Volunteers, Team Leads, Partners, Media)
- Update/confirm section map
- Update/confirm volunteer count
- Confirm corporate partner(s)
- Finalize/Confirm HQ Location
- Create Volunteer Interest form

November

- Recruitment of volunteers and Team Leads Begins
- Update and finalize PIT Training
- Announce PIT date and methodology publicly
- Secure HEB as care kit partner
- Schedule trainings
- Finalize section map

December

- Finalize training schedule and trainers.
- Assign Team Lead Sections
- Begin assigning volunteers to teams, prioritizing groups
- Start heavy client outreach with PIT date and info
- Finalize community/corporate partnerships
- Note: short month (Holiday)

January '25

- Continue trainings
- Finalize care kit details
- Continue to build section groups
- Develop run of show
- Heavy volunteer comms
- Finalize Service Count details and run of show.
- Complete Count