

EVERYONE COUNTS

**Durham Region
2021 Point-in-Time Count
October 20th-21st**

What is PIT count?



The Point-in-Time (PiT) Count captures a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness in the Durham Region. Conducted over a 24-hour period in October, the count will gather information on the number of persons/families experiencing homelessness. This will be done by visiting shelters such as emergency shelters, transitional housing, unsheltered areas such as outdoor and public locations, and service count, which would be conducted at key non-profit and public institutions.

Why is the PIT Count important especially during a pandemic?

Every year, the number of people experiencing homelessness changes and it is crucial to understand how homelessness has been affected by the pandemic. Therefore, we need to gather reliable estimates for each community. This will help in determining whether homelessness is increasing or decreasing. Results from the PiT Count will help to demonstrate the housing and service needs specific to the Region of Durham. This is important as the most recent national picture of homelessness is from Spring 2018. Further delays increases the gap in data. It will also provide information to aid organizations, funders and levels of government in planning for the funding and service needs of persons/families experiencing homelessness.

When will it be conducted?

The count will be conducted October 20-22, 2021. This will be done in coordination with staff and volunteers visiting the various municipalities: Ajax, Brock, Clarington, Oshawa, Pickering, Scugog, Uxbridge, Whitby.

What time will the PiT Count be conducted?

The PiT Count will be conducted over a 24-hour period and resume the following day at 9:00 am.



Dates:

October 20th (9pm-1am)
October 21st (9am-5pm)

Locations:

Sheltered, Unsheltered, and
Transitional Areas

How will we reach everyone experiencing homelessness in Durham? Where will the survey be done?

Any enumeration of persons/families experiencing homelessness is an estimate. This is because many of those experiencing homelessness are hidden from plain view. Instead of sleeping on the streets or staying in an emergency shelter, many persons/families experiencing homelessness will use their social networks (i.e. friends or family) to find somewhere to sleep. This is sometimes referred to as 'couch-surfing' or being 'double bunked'.

The PiT Count uses the following methodology to provide the best possible estimate:

Street Count

The street count will reach people living in public/outdoor places and indoor locations that are not suitable for human habitation.

Sheltered Count

The sheltered count includes all emergency/domestic shelters and transitional housing in Durham region.

Service Count

The service count includes local public institutions (i.e. libraries, civic recreational centres, etc.) and non-profit service providers (i.e. drop-in centres, food banks, meal programs, etc.)

Data from agencies/government – includes those residing in institutions (e.g. hospitals, holding cells, detox clinics) who do not have a permanent address.



How will we be gathering and using the data?

The data gathered will include history of homelessness, current situation and other social issues. The data will be used to understand the nature and extent of homelessness in Durham Region. Understanding the needs of individuals enable service providers to plan services and measure progress towards ending homelessness in our community.

What steps are in place to protect the privacy of respondents?

The name of the person will not be recorded, and participation in the survey is voluntary. Individual data will not be shared publicly and will be entered into a secure database.

How do I get involved and what will I be doing?

Volunteers sign up for one or more 3-hour shifts, attend a two-hour training session in advance of the event, and must be 18 years of age or older to participate.

Volunteers will canvass the community in teams of 3-5 persons and collect survey data through interviewing homeless persons.

Interested? Volunteer link provided below.

<https://tinyurl.com/durhampitcount>

For more information, call or email:
(905) 686-2661, ext 107 or dsquire@cdcd.org