



2021 Unsheltered Youth Point in Time Survey Guide

General Tips:

Confidentiality and Privacy:

- No youth should be made to feel guilty for not participating or coerced into providing information, they do not feel comfortable sharing.
- The youth can choose not to take the survey, not to answer any question within the survey, or to stop taking the survey at any time.
- The youth does not need to answer all questions for their survey to be counted.
- No information will be released about a single person

Obtaining Consent:

You must ask the people you approach if they are willing to participate in the survey. If they say no, do not push them further. Thank them for their time and make sure to count them using the "Observation" survey. Also, know that an individual can refuse to participate in the survey at any time. If you have already answered questions for the individual, respect their decision and thank them for their time, delete the survey answers and complete an "Observation" survey.

Respect and Courtesy:

While the interview is generally only lasts approximately 5-10 minutes there is still an opportunity to develop feelings of trust.

You can do this by:

- Avoiding judgement
- Showing participants that you are interested in what they have to say. Maintain eye contact, have open body language, and listen to their answers.
- Using familiar, everyday language that will be easily understood. Ask survey questions as written, but feel free to provide clarification if the participants has questions.
- Make sure to practice social distancing while asking the survey questions and wear your mask at all times

Asking Sensitive or Seemingly Obvious Questions:

There are a few questions that could be deemed to be very sensitive or obvious, for example questions about gender and ethnicity. **While you are conducting the survey, do not assume any characteristics about a person including ethnicity, gender, age or any other qualities.**

If you are uncomfortable asking certain questions, you may want to start the survey with something like:

"I need to ask every person the same set of questions using the same language. As a result, I will be asking you a number of questions that you may think are obvious. We ask these questions to gather important information. I don't want to make any assumptions."

Be aware of your surroundings:

You and your team should be aware of your surroundings. Pay close attention to the body language of everyone that is near. If you feel uncomfortable, nervous or threatened in a shelter, service or on the street, let your PIT Leader know and withdraw from the situation.



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Beginning Suggested Script:

Hi, how are you? My name is _____, I use [she/he/they/___] pronouns, and I'm working with the Dallas and Collin County CoC as part of Metro Dallas Youth Committee. The youth point in time count is a project to help us better understand the experiences of youth and young adults in Dallas and Collin County who are unstably housed, and how we can better help youth who may not have a stable or safe place to stay at night. To do this, we are surveying people under 25 so that we can better understand their experiences with unstable housing and couch surfing. Do you mind if I ask you a few questions? Are you under 25?

If the youth is 25 or older, you can stop here. Thank them for their time and provide them with any materials or resources available to them.

If they are under 25, continue: If you choose to participate, all your answers will remain confidential. We will not share any information specifically about you with anyone and your answers will never be associated with your name. You can skip any questions you don't want to answer or stop the survey at any time. You will receive a youth pack for taking the survey. It usually takes about 10 minutes to complete and your participation is completely voluntary. Do you have any questions? Would you like to participate?

If the youth says no, stop here. Thank them for their time and provide them with a youth pack and resources available to them. If the youth says yes, continue:

Question Guide:

1. **Have you already been interviewed for the 2021 Youth Point in Time Count?** Yes No (If Yes, STOP)

If the youth is unsure if they have been interviewed or not, you can ask them if they would like to go ahead and take the survey and remind them, they are able to stop at any time.

2. **How old are you?** _____ **What is your date of birth?** _____ Person doesn't know Person Refused

If the youth is 25 or older, you can stop at this question. Thank the youth for their willingness to participate and provide them with any incentives and materials or resources available to them.

Give them the option to answer both or one of the questions.

3. **What is your preferred name or initials?**

a. Preferred Name: _____ or

b. First Initial: _____ Last Initial: _____ Person Refused

If the youth ask why this information is needed, you can explain that this helps us to make sure we are not counting the same person twice, and that it will not be used to identify them. As with all questions, if a youth feels uncomfortable giving this information, you can remind them that their answers are confidential, but do not pressure a youth to answer the question.

4. **What is your gender?**

Youth may be more sensitive to being asked these questions due to their personal nature. If the youth express discomfort with these questions, you can advise them to select the 'refused' option. As with all questions, youth are not required to answer. If the youth agree to answer these questions, advise them to select all that apply. If the youth's identity/orientation is not one of the given options, advise the youth to use the 'other' option and to describe their gender identity in the space provided.



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Cisgender Female Cisgender Male Trans Male Trans Female Gender Queer Intersex Non-Conforming/Non-Binary Other Don't Know Refused

5. What is your race? (select all that apply)

If the youth identifies as having more than one race or ethnicity, advise them to select all that apply to them.

American Indian or Alaska native Asian Black or African American
 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander White Other: _____
 Person doesn't know Person Refused

6. Are you Hispanic/Latino? Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

7. Where are/were you sleeping on the night of October 7th, 2021

Youth should select the answer that best describes where they stayed that night. If none of the given answers describe where they stayed, advise the youth to select 'other' and to describe where they stayed in the space provided. If asking this question on October 7th, youth can select where they are currently spending the night.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned building | <input type="checkbox"/> Under bridge/ overpass | <input type="checkbox"/> Jail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus/ Train station | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle/ Boat / RV | <input type="checkbox"/> Motel/Hotel paid for w/ own \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motel/Hotel paid for by agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> Motel/Hotel paid for by organization: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor encampment | <input type="checkbox"/> House or apt – rent/own | <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> Treatment program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street or Sidewalk | <input type="checkbox"/> In a place being evicted | <input type="checkbox"/> w/ friend or family (couch surfing) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

8. How long have you been homeless this time? (Only include time in shelters and/or streets, not couch surfing)

0 to 3 months 4 to 6 months 7 to 11 months 1 to 2 years 2 to 3 years 3 years or more

If youth are unsure of how to answer this question, ask them to make their best guess.

9. How old were you when you first experienced homelessness?

<5 5-12 13-17 18-24 Person Doesn't Know Person refused

If a youth is unsure how old they were the first time they did not have a safe and stable place to sleep at night, ask them to estimate or make their best guess. The first time they did not have a safe and stable place to sleep at night may have happened while they were in the custody of a parent, guardian, or foster parent.

10. Which of these has contributed to your current situation?

Select all that apply if the youth describe more than one situation and if it is not listed, please describe it in the other category.



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| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Death of family member/ guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment or neglect | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Problems | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Use | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Hardship | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Rejection | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aged out of Foster Care | <input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ran away from Foster Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

11. Do you have any children that live with you? Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

Youth may be more sensitive to being asked these questions due to concerns about child protective services, so it is good to remind them that survey responses are confidential and individual question responses will not be shared with anyone. Youth should never be pressured to provide an answer with which they are uncomfortable providing.

12. Are you currently pregnant? Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

If a youth express having a partner who is pregnant, advise them to select 'no' for this question and ask if there is a way we may be able to also survey their partner.

13. Were you ever in Foster Care? Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

If a youth is unsure as to the answer to any of these questions, advise them to select 'no'.

14. Are you or have you ever been involved in the juvenile/criminal justice system?

Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

If a youth is unsure as to the answer to any of these questions, advise them to select 'no'.

15. Are you currently enrolled in school?

Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

If the youth is currently enrolled in school, they should select the 'yes' response that corresponds with the level of school in which they are currently enrolled, even if they are not frequently attending.

16. Do you have any source of income?

Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

Youth may be more sensitive to being asked this question due to concerns about being reported, so it is good to remind them that their survey answers are confidential. Explain that learning about their sources of income helps us understand how to best improve their access to the money and resources they need to find a stable place to live. Do not pressure youth to answer the question.



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HEALTH HISTORY

Let the youth know that the next set of questions are more sensitive and remind them that their information is confidential, and they can refuse to answer.

17. Do you have a history of Substance Use?

- No Alcohol Abuse Drug Abuse Both Alcohol and Drug Person Doesn't Know Person Refused
If yes, is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?
 Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

Youth may be more sensitive to being asked this question due to concerns about being reported, so it is good to remind them that their survey answers are confidential. Explain that the information will be helpful to identifying gaps in resources. Remind them that they have the option to refuse.

- 18. Do you have a Chronic Health Condition?** Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused
If yes, is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?
 Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

If the youth express discomfort with these questions, you can advise them to select the 'prefer not to answer' option. As with all questions, youth are not required to answer.

- 19. Do you have any Mental Health Concerns?** Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused
If yes, is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?
 Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

If the youth express discomfort with these questions, you can advise them to select the 'prefer not to answer' option. As with all questions, youth are not required to answer.

- 20. Do you have a Physical Disability?** Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused
If yes, is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?
 Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

- 21. Do you receive disability benefits?** Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

- 22. Have you ever received any treatment for HIV/AIDS?** Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

If the youth express discomfort with these questions, you can advise them to select the 'prefer not to answer' option. As with all questions, youth are not required to answer.

- 23. Are you experiencing homelessness because you are fleeing Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking?** Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused

If the youth express discomfort with these questions, you can advise them to select the 'prefer not to answer' option. As with all questions, youth are not required to answer.



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24. **Are you a veteran?** *(Served in the US Armed Forces OR been called into a duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist):* Yes No Person Doesn't Know Person refused