



Observation Count Tips

- Approach, Introduction & Consent
- Follow the same protocol you used with the interviews, and only use the observation form if the person says they don't want to answer your questions, or if they can't for some reason (e.g., if they're sleeping).
- If the person does not want to participate, consult with team lead about proceeding with an observation survey
- Fill out the observation survey in Counting Us
 - Enter as much information as possible without making assumptions about the demographics of the person being observed
 - ONLY record gender, gender, race, and ethnicity if the team lead has had previous contact with the person

Use the notes field to record additional details that helps to make the person identifiable and to provide clues on their housing status:

- What is the person wearing? (e.g., "Yankees baseball cap, navy GAP sweatshirt, jeans, and tan utility boots." or "bundled in a grey, puffy sleeping bag that covered their face.")
- What does the person look like? (e.g., "shoulder-length grey hair, white, female, 50-60 years old")
- Why were you unable to complete a survey with them? (e.g., "They said they did not want to complete a survey, but they were awake.")
- Where did you see them? (e.g., "On 20th St. NW between R St. and S St., sitting on the bench outside of X store.")
- What makes you think that they are or may be experiencing homelessness? (e.g., "They were sleeping on a park bench with a large bag of their belongings next to them.")