

TIP SHEET: POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

HOW TO INCLUDE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY'S POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

Identify an LGBTQ serving organization in your community and invite them to the planning table.

These providers can provide valuable insights related to:

- Locating LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness
- Promoting the count within the LGBTQ community
- Creating an environment where LGBTQ youth feel welcome
- Recruiting volunteers from the LGBTQ community

Bring all youth, including LGBTQ youth, to the planning table.

LGBTQ youth can provide guidance about how to locate, identify, and engage other LGBTQ youth.

Location, location, location.

Make sure your volunteers are in places where LGBTQ youth congregate. These places may or may not be the same places where non-LGBTQ youth hang out.

Think about safety from a homeless LGBTQ youth's point of view.

The way that you conceptualize safety and the way that youth experiencing homelessness think about safety may vary. One example is police presence. For youth experiencing homelessness, traveling to locations where security guards or police officers keep watch may be a significant deterrent to participation. This may be especially true for LGBTQ youth, trafficked youth, and undocumented youth – all subpopulations that we need to ensure are represented in our PIT counts.

Provide a visual sign of inclusion

LGBTQ youth may have experienced repeated rejection based solely on how they identify. As such, they may be less likely to self-identify as LGBTQ when participating in the PIT count.

You can provide a visual cue that you and your organization are safe, inclusive, and affirming. This may be in the form of a sticker on the back of the survey administrator's clipboard, or a poster inside the organization/community space.

If you'd like to use the stickers we made, you can order them for FREE at www.fortytonone.org/stickers.

Train staff and volunteers on the importance of asking about sexual orientation and gender identity, and have them practice saying the words out loud.

In the past, some interviewers have reported being uncomfortable asking questions about sexual orientation and gender identity. It is important that those administering the survey understand why these questions are important and are comfortable asking them.

Want assistance developing survey questions about sexual orientation and gender identity? We can help! Contact Jama Shelton, Forty to None Project Director, at jama@truecolorsfund.org.