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Tools and Techniques for Conducting Reliable Point In Time Counts in Large Areas

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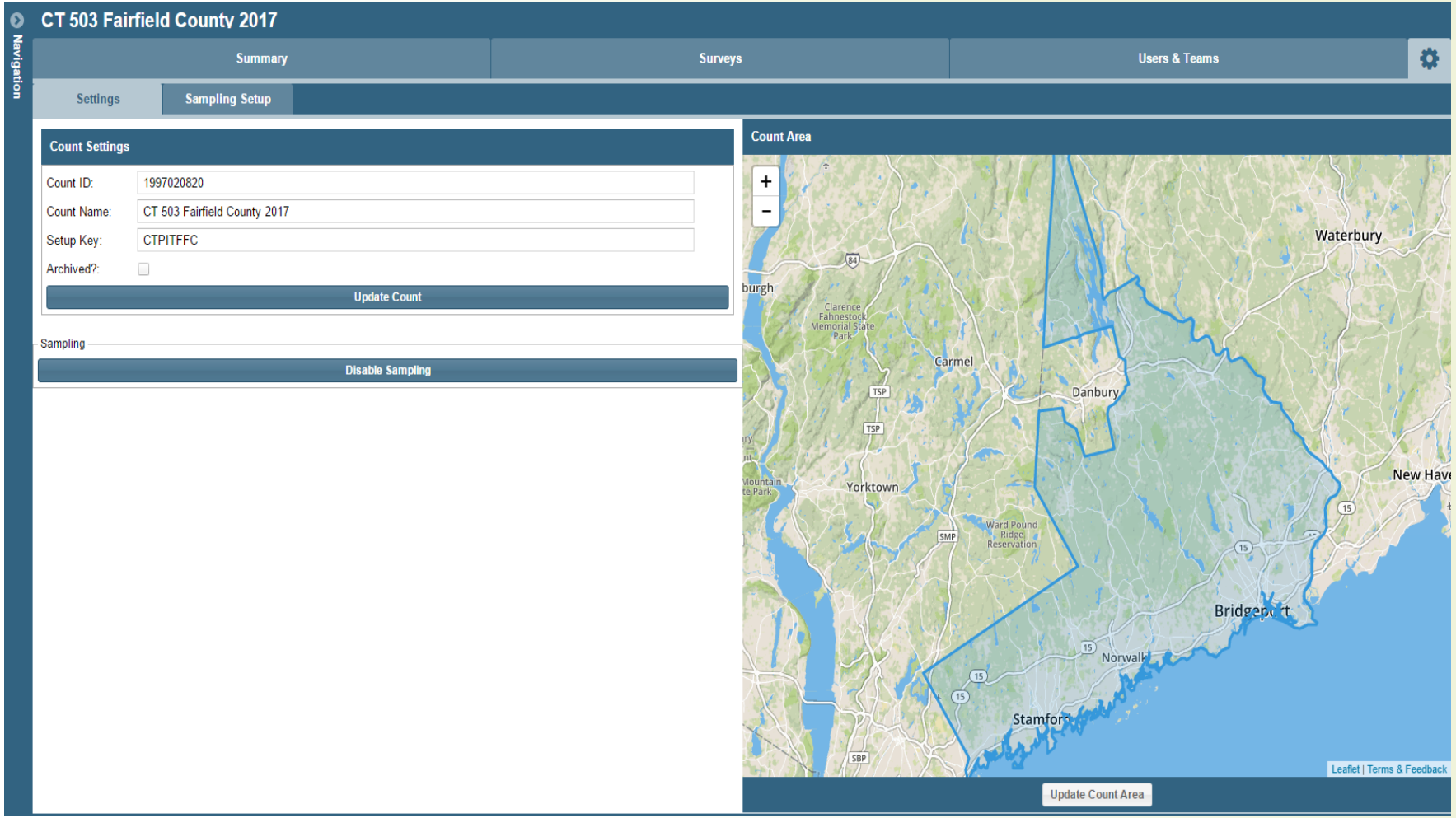
Putting It All Together:
Uniting Data, Technology, and People

Challenges with Conducting Counts in Large Areas

- Mix of urban and rural settings
- Requires a significant number of count volunteers
- Massive amounts of paper (if you don't automate)
- Transcription of surveys is time consuming
- Data not used operationally

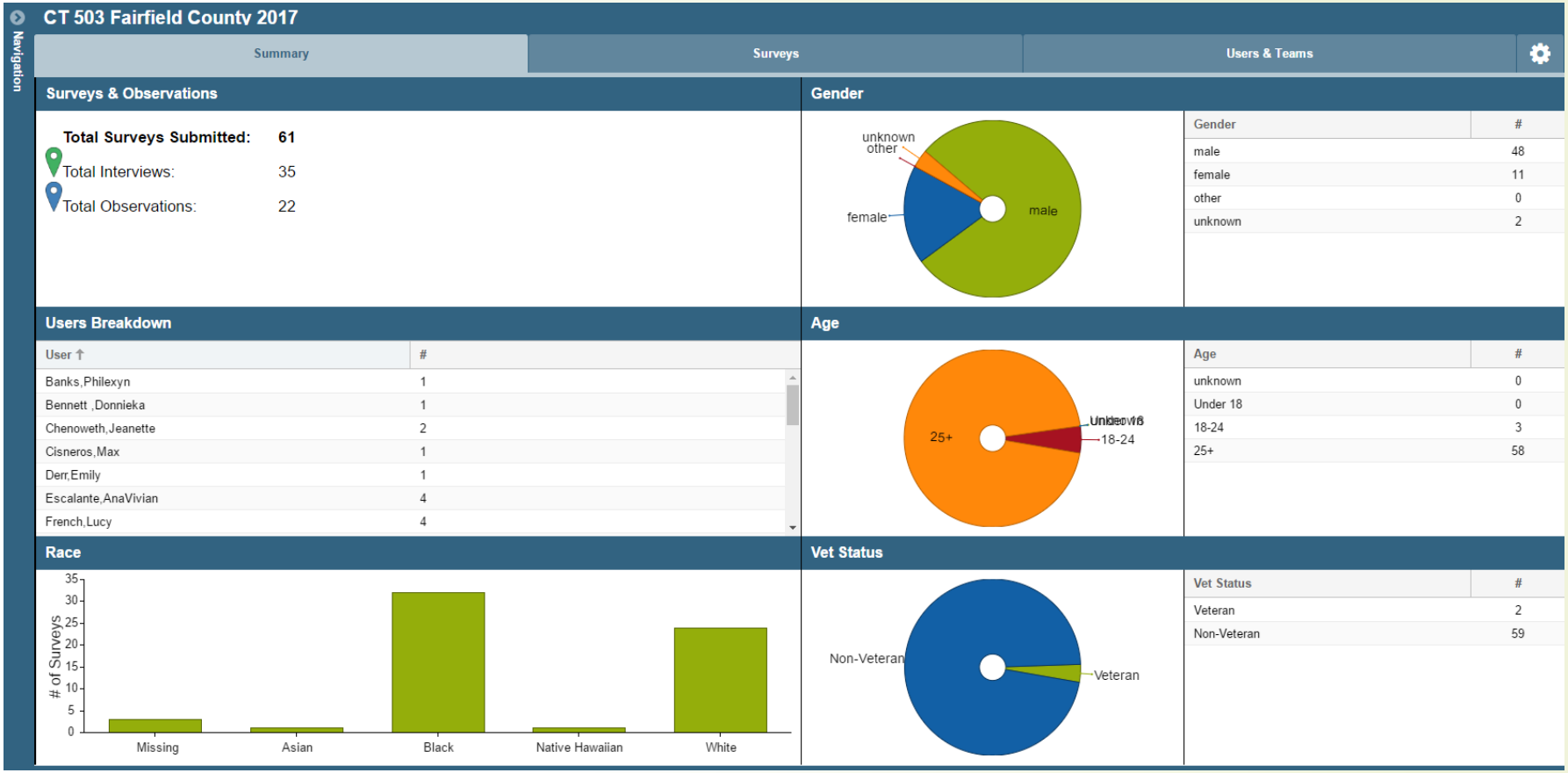
The Tech

Each Continuum of Care is Set Up

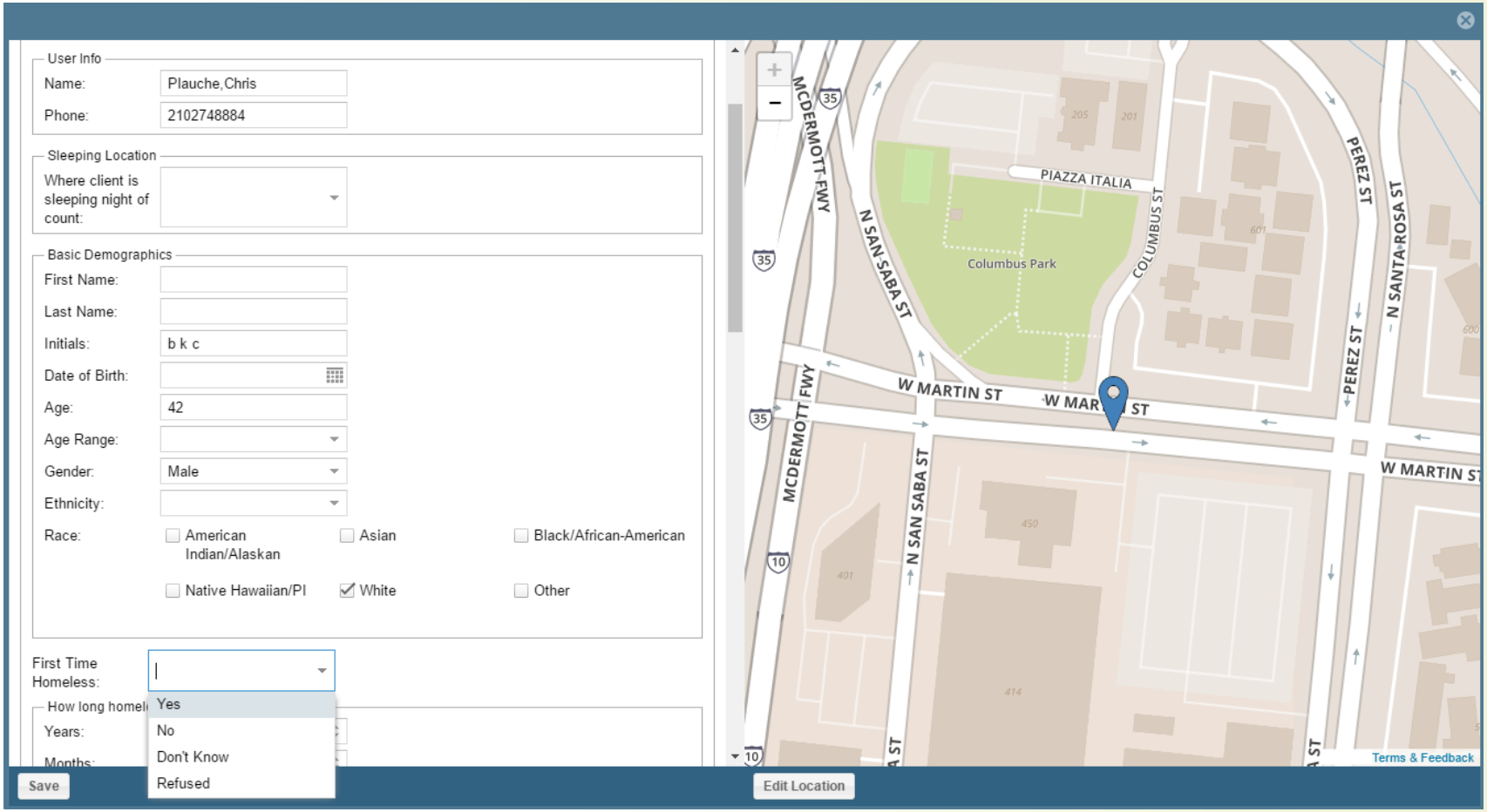


Mobile Tech Used for Surveying

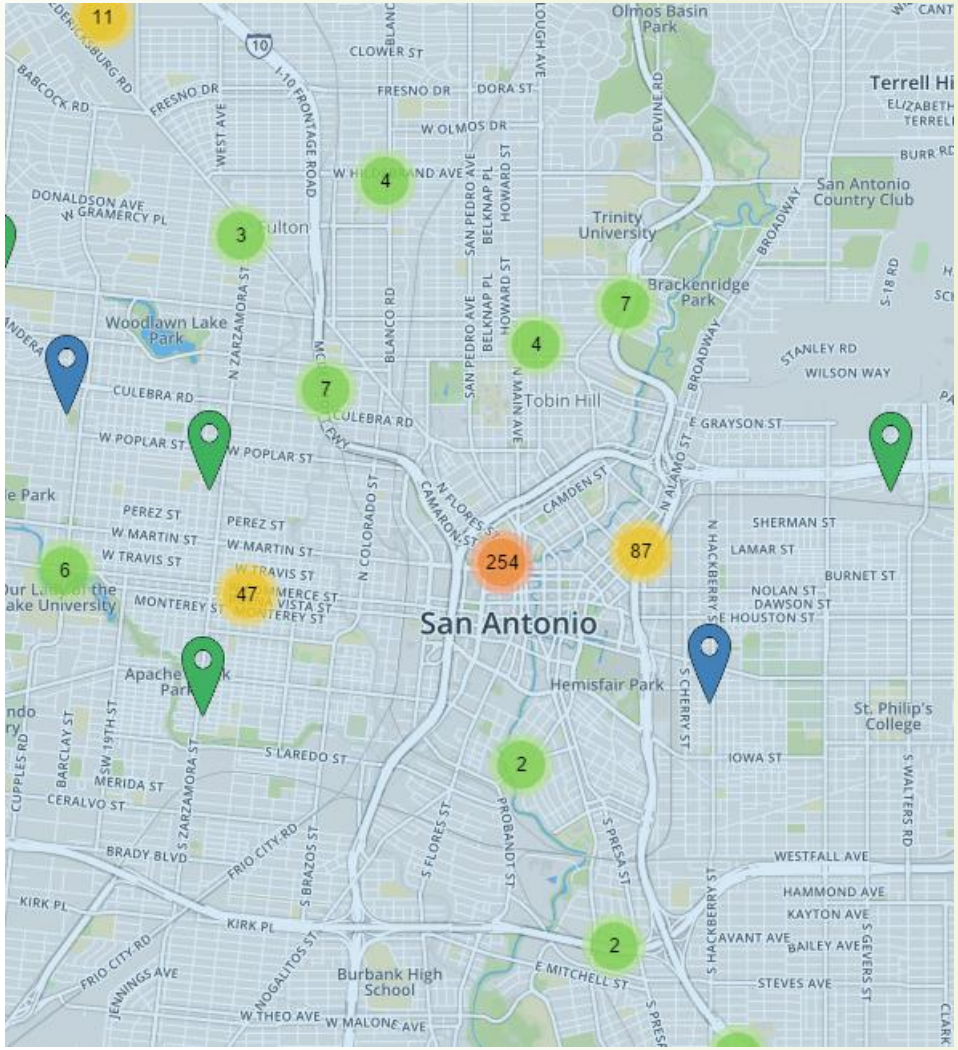
Results are Monitored in Real-Time



Data Cleanup is Performed



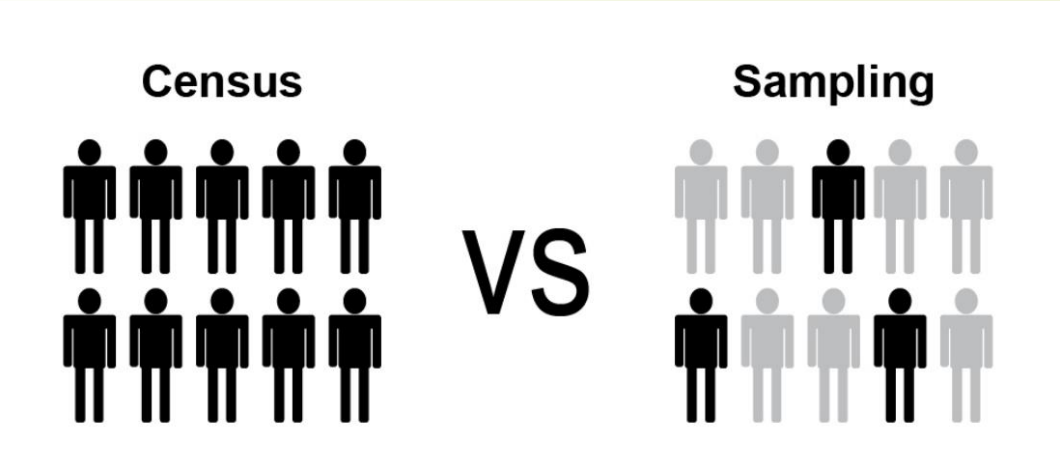
Results are Produced



Results are Produced

Households without Children	
Total number of Households	185
Total Number of Persons	193
Persons aged 18-24	15
Persons over age 24	178
Gender (adults and children)	
Female	46
Male	141
Transgender	2
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	1
Ethnicity (adults and children)	
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	157
Hispanic/Latino	24
Race	
White	132
Black or African American	45
Asian	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	3
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3
Multiple Races	2
Chronically Homeless	
Total number of persons	71

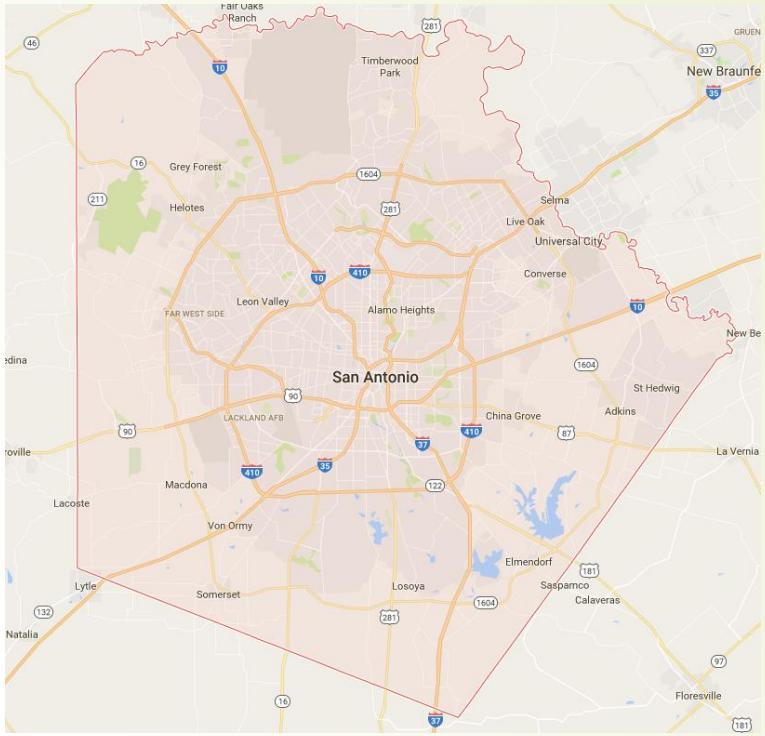
Count Methodologies



- A **census** count is an enumeration of all homeless people or a distinct subset of homeless people (e.g., households with adults and children) in CoCs.
- **Sampling** is a partial enumeration of the entire homeless population (or a subset of the homeless population) and can be more feasible for some CoCs or for certain required data (e.g., substance use disorder)

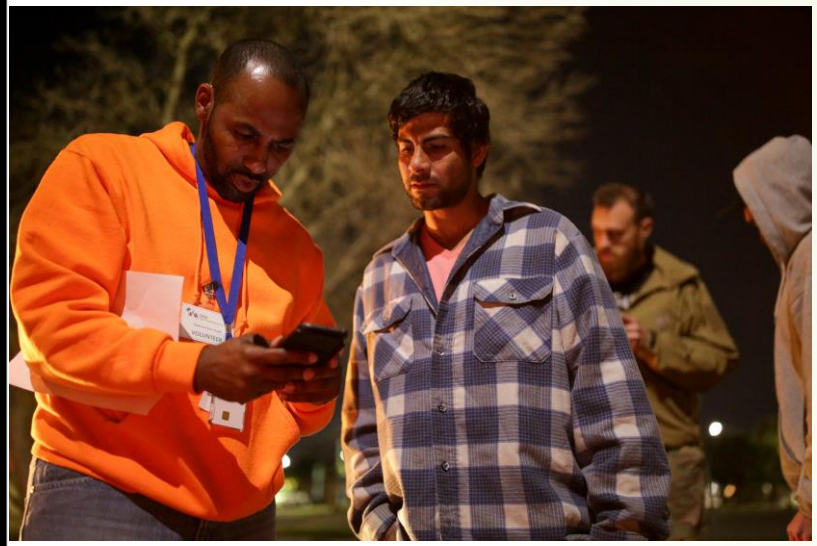
Source: https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PIT-Count-Methodology-Guide.pdf

Large Region 1: Bexar County, TX



Region Size:	1,256 square miles
Estimated Population:	1.7 million
Total CoCs:	1
Count Approach:	Census Count with No Sampling
Number of Count Teams:	81 Teams (325 total volunteers)
Survey Tools:	Mobile App Only

Bexar County, TX PIT Timeline



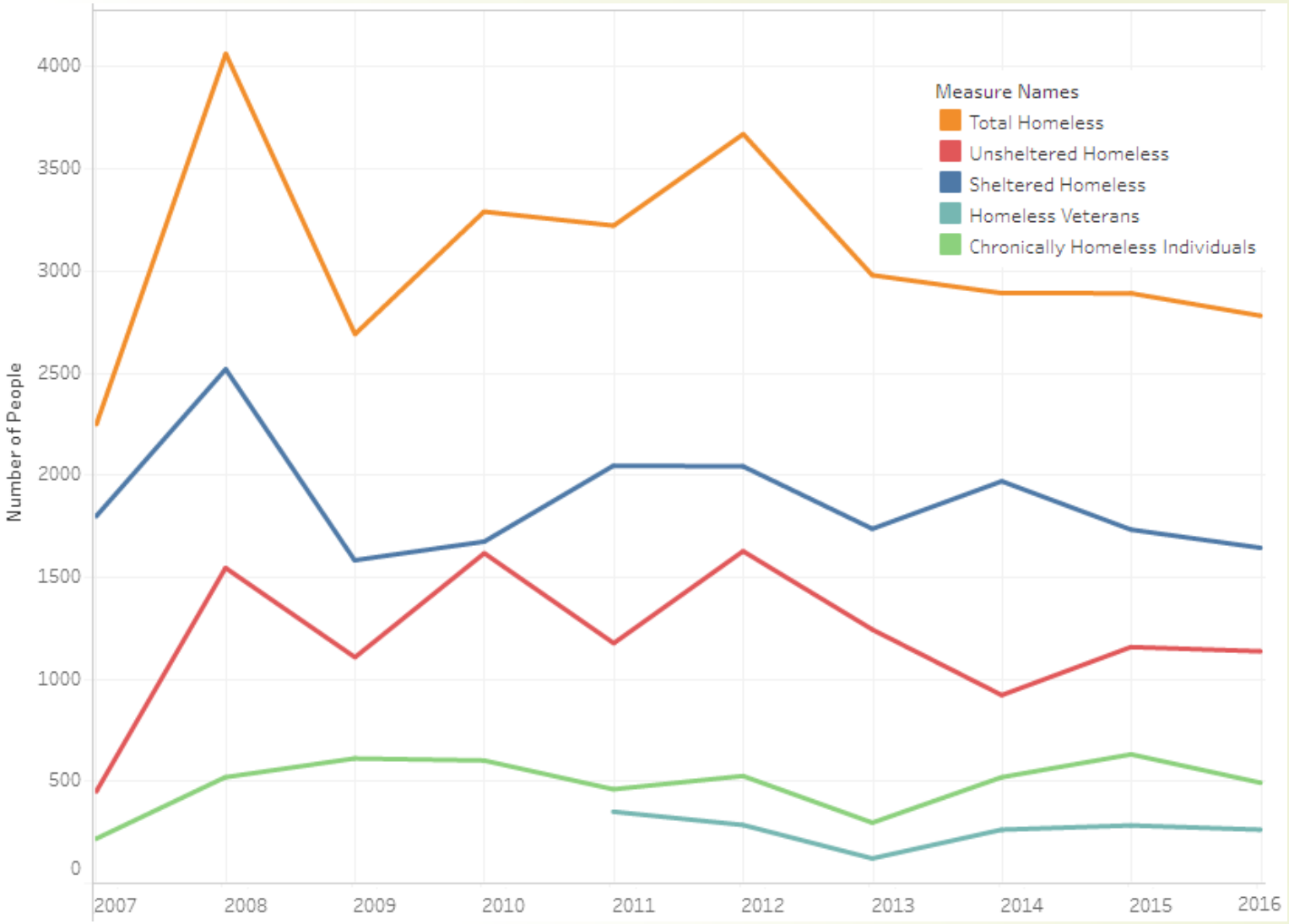
Jan 23rd
- 6pm to 10pm - Youth Event Count

Jan 26th
- 6:00am – 5:00pm Encampment Count
- 6:00pm – Street Count
- 10pm – Downtown Count

Jan 28th Morning
- Unaccompanied Youth (<18 years old) Count

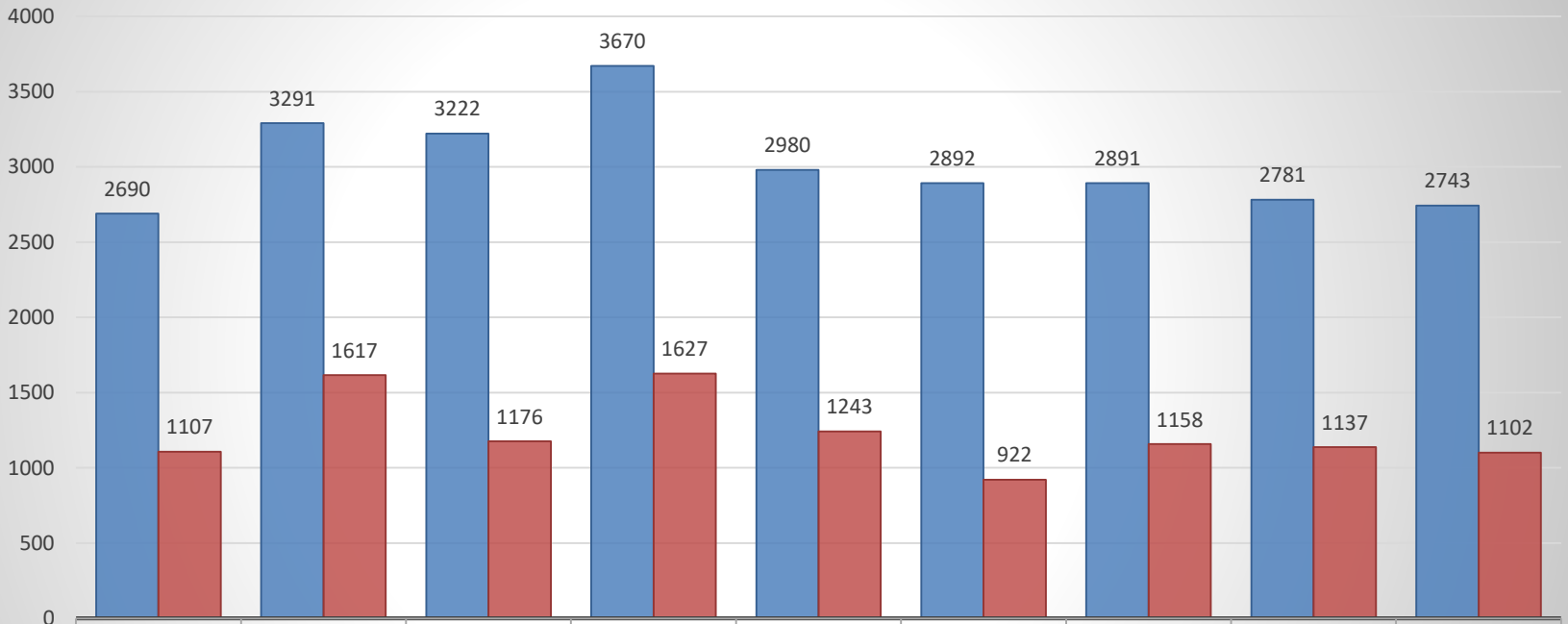
Any duplicates between counts are identified almost in real time using the command center software.

Bexar County PIT Trends 2007 - 2016



Bexar County PIT Trends 2007 - 2017

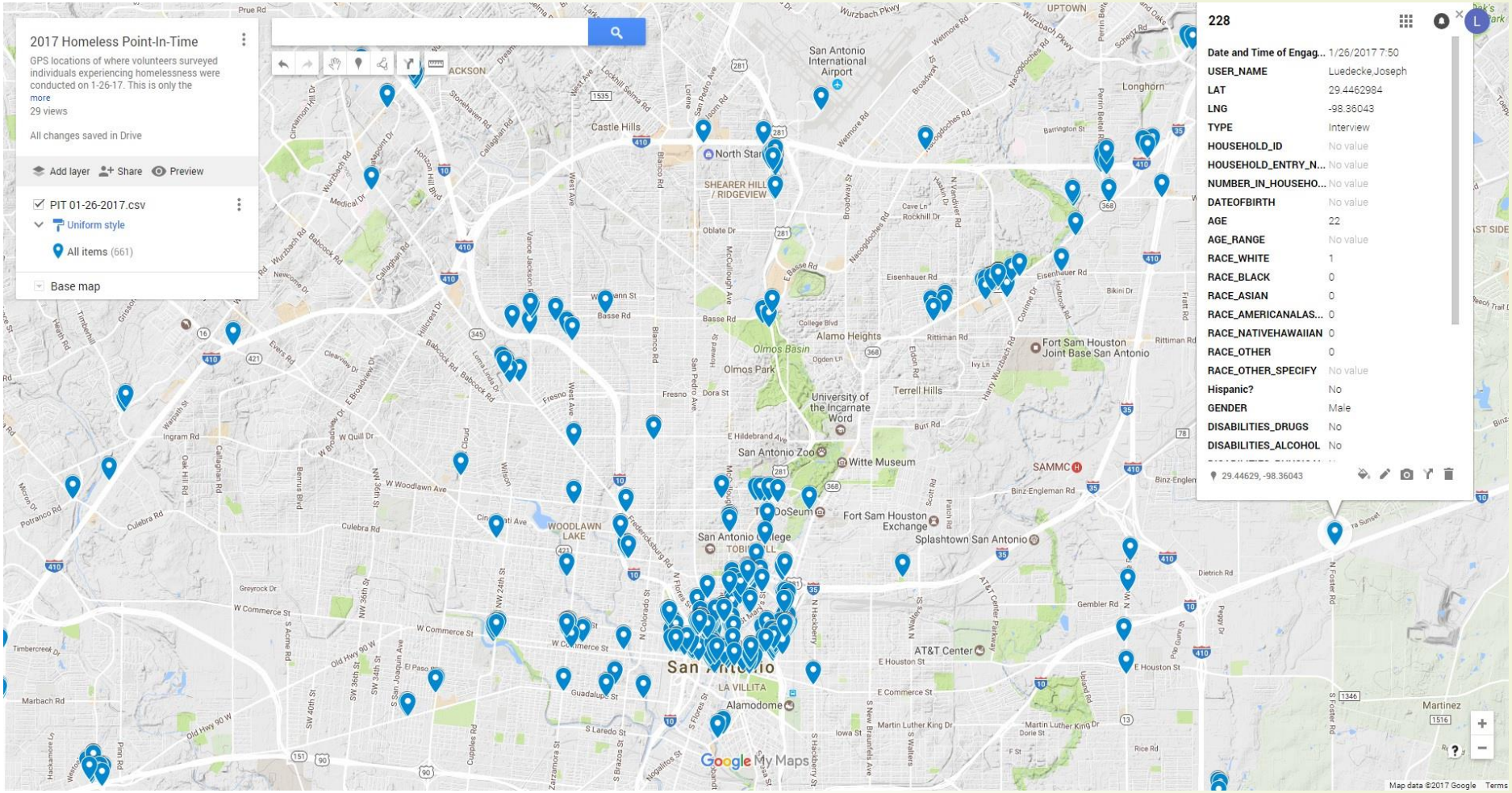
Relationship Between Unsheltered and Total PIT Counts



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Count	2690	3291	3222	3670	2980	2892	2891	2781	2743
Unsheltered Count	1107	1617	1176	1627	1243	922	1158	1137	1102

Total Count Unsheltered Count

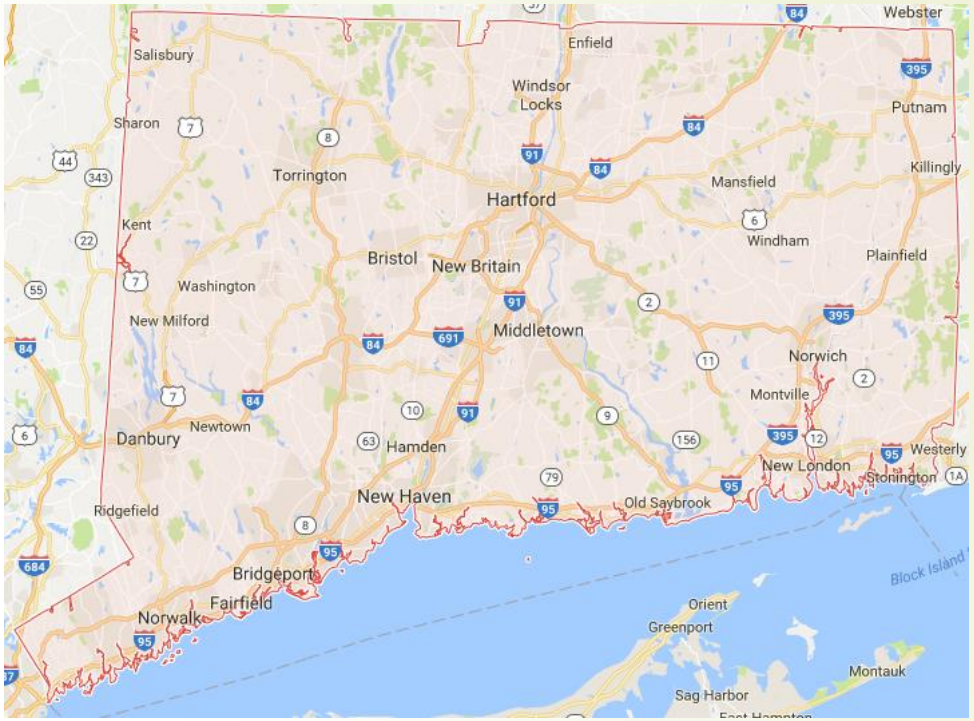
Bexar County Transformed PIT into a Crisis Response Event



CT Point In Time Count 2017:

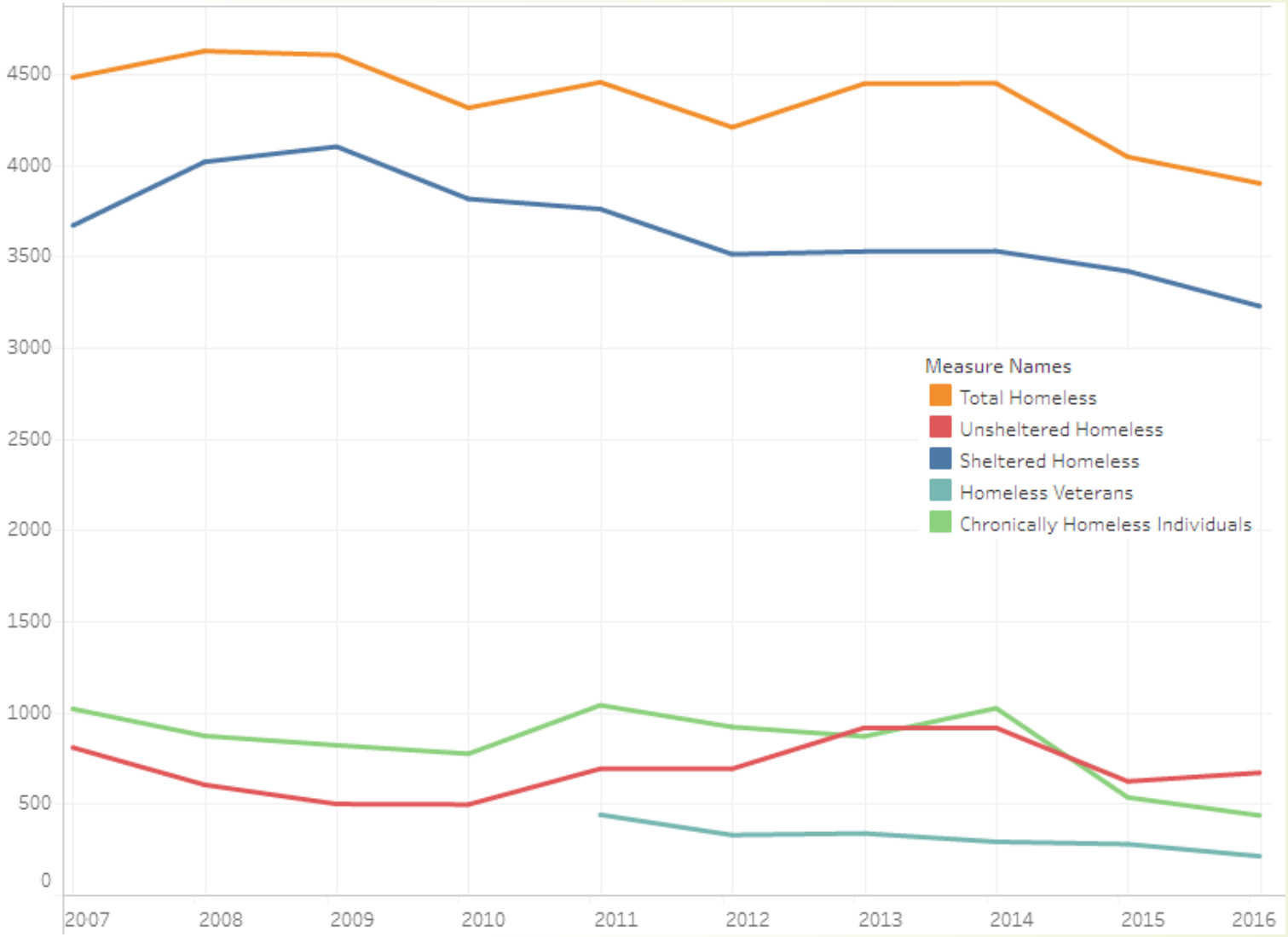
Statistical Models and Methodologies for an Accurate Count

Large Region 2: State of Connecticut

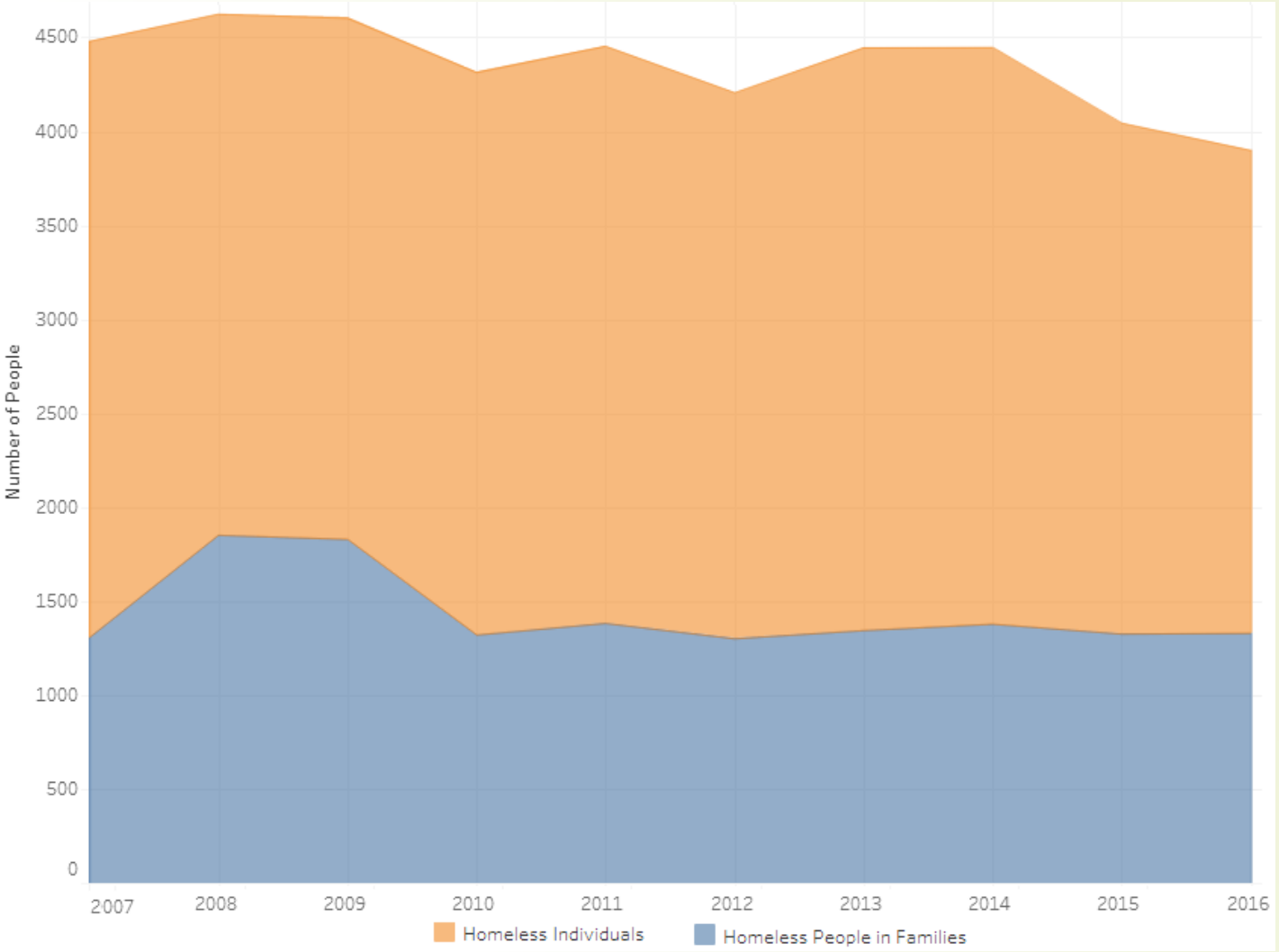


Region Size:	5,543 square miles
Estimated Population:	3.6 million
Total CoCs:	2 (formerly 9)
Count Approach:	Geographic-Based Sampling
Number of Count Teams:	18
Survey Tools:	Mobile App and Paper

Connecticut PIT Trends 2007 - 2016



Connecticut PIT Trends 2007 - 2016



Coordinating PIT across a State

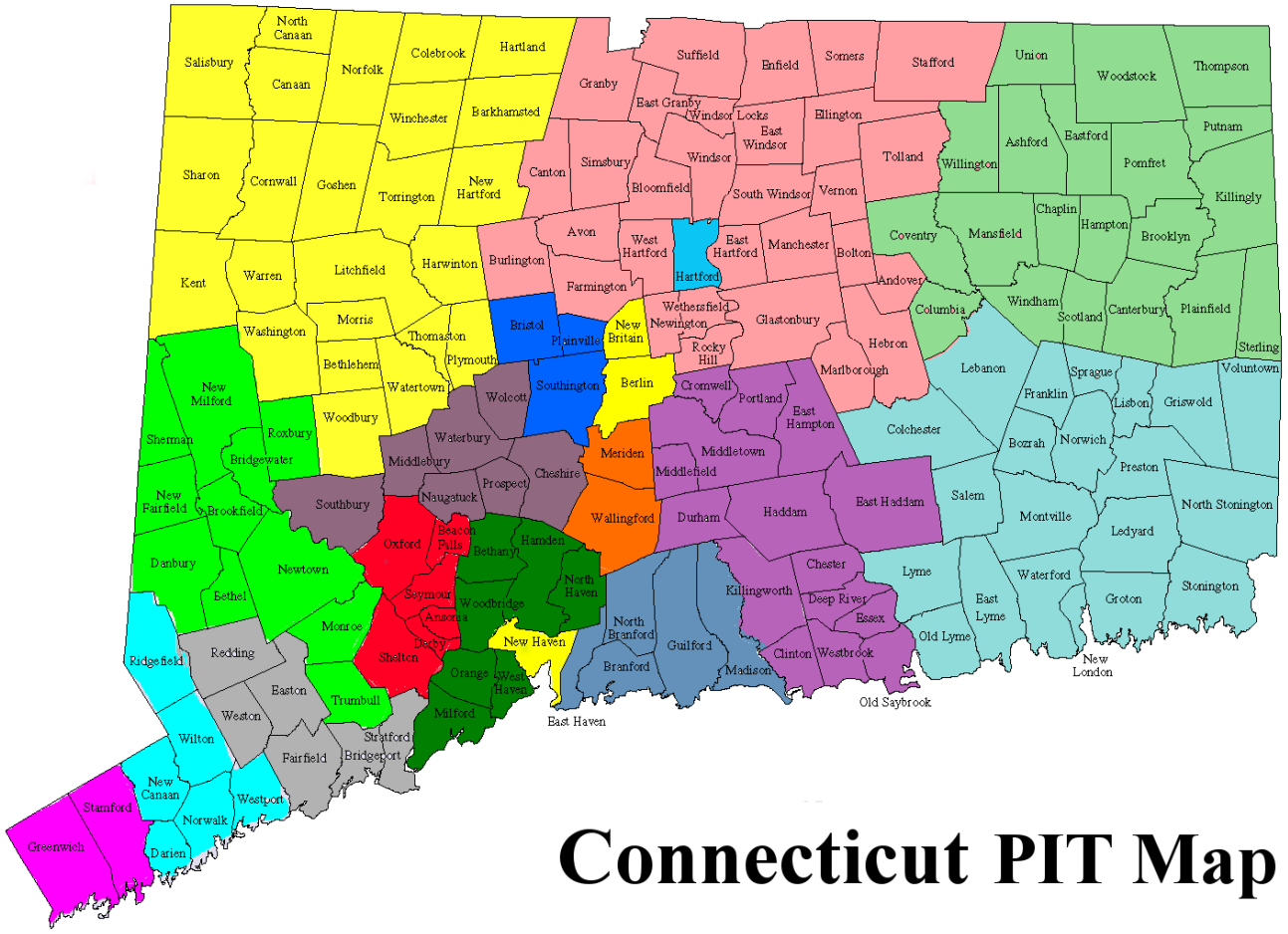
Statewide coordination of a PIT count takes a large amount of work. Some keys to success include:

- Having a Detailed Timeline
- Collaboration and Communication
- Learn from Previous Counts
- Use technology to your advantage

Data Collection

- Make your trainings easier
- Make data collection easier
- Make everyone's life easier

Coordinating PIT across a State



Connecticut PIT Map

The Statistical Sampling Methodology

Creating the Sample

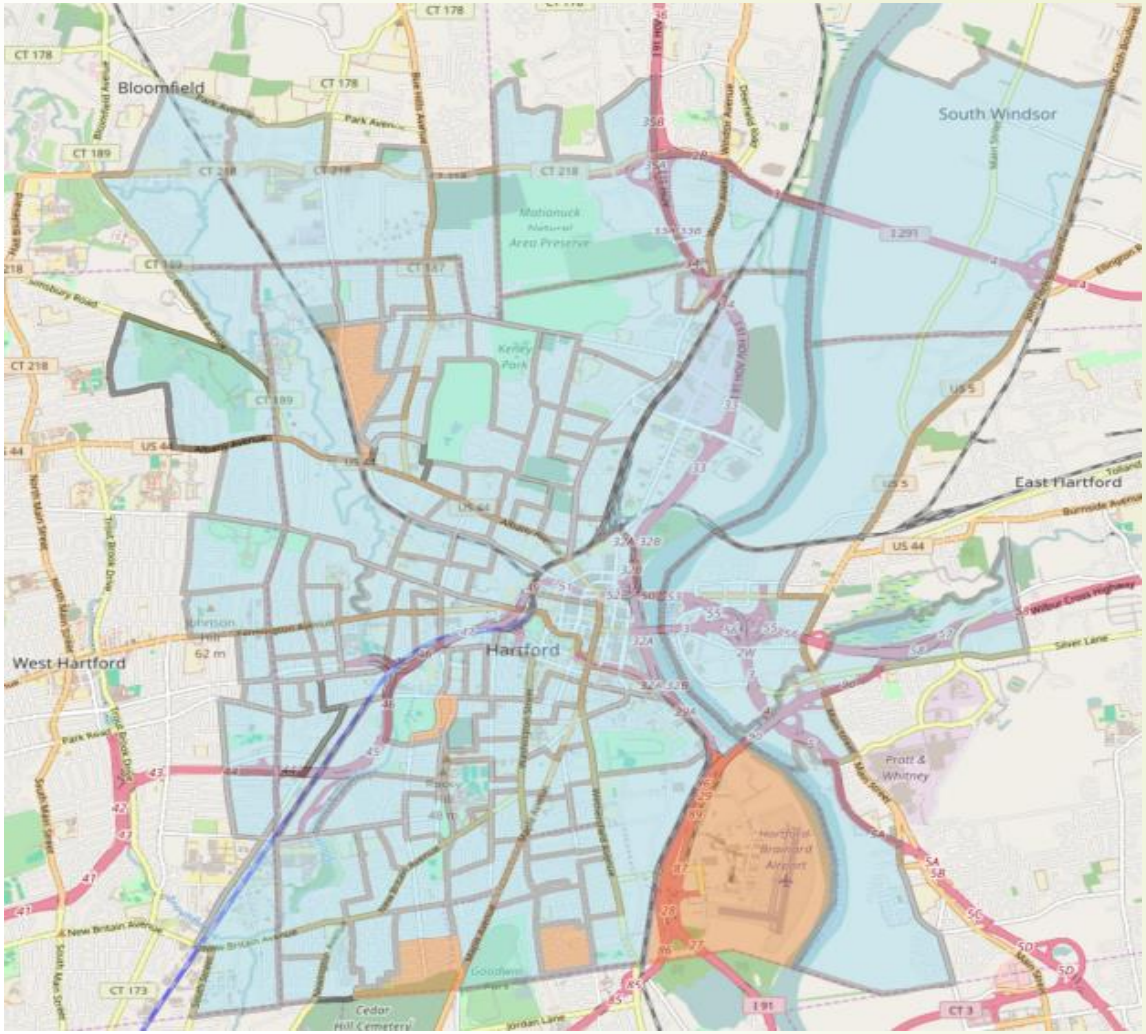
Connecticut uses a geographically stratified sample to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness throughout the state.

- Use prior year results to create default designations
- Regional Coordinators receive large maps of their areas and select locations in Census Tract Block Groups likely to have a high probability of encountering a person experiencing homelessness
- Low probability sample areas determined after selection of high probability areas
- Finally, maps of each high probability and low probability sample areas are created and given to Regional Coordinators so they can assign count teams to canvas the areas

Sampling Methodology: Designating High Probability Block Groups

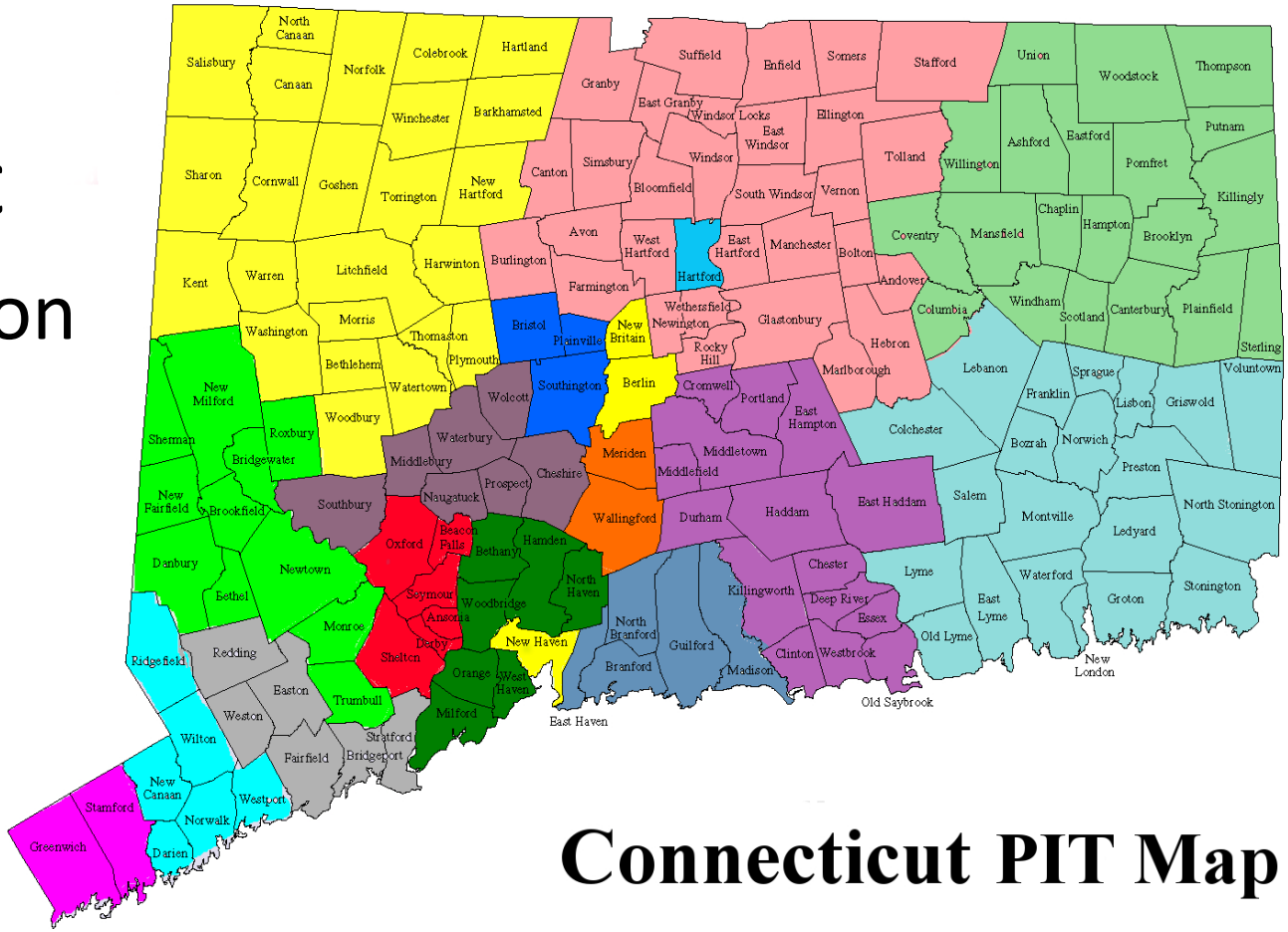
PIT Region	People Found in 2016	No one Found in 2016	Total
Bristol	7	85	**92**
Danbury	4	152	**156**
Greater Bridgeport	12	182	**194**
Greater Hartford	8	470	**478**
Hartford	10	86	**96**
Litchfield County	6	123	**129**
Meriden Wallingfor	1	80	**81**
Middletown	4	114	**118**
New Britain	3	57	**60**
New Haven	26	81	**107**
New Haven East	4	124	**128**
New Haven North So	3	123	**126**
New Haven West	1	59	**60**
Northeast	0	120	**120**
Norwalk Area	6	157	**163**
Southeast	6	181	**187**
Stamford Greenwich	15	122	**137**
Waterbury	11	138	**149**
Total	**127**	**2454**	**2581**

Maps for Regional Coordinators



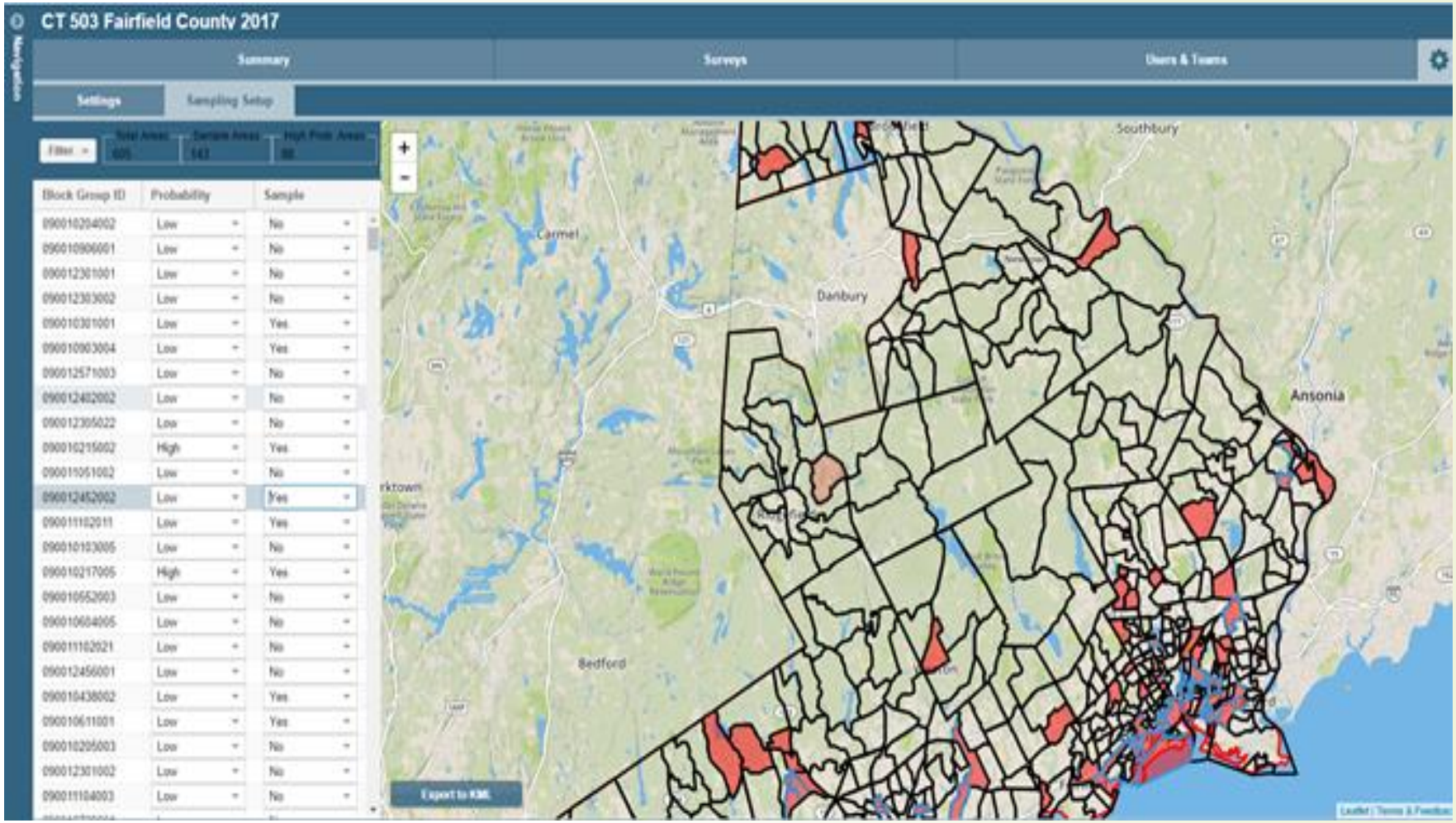
Sampling Across Sub-CoC's

- CAN
- Sub-CoC
- PIT Region

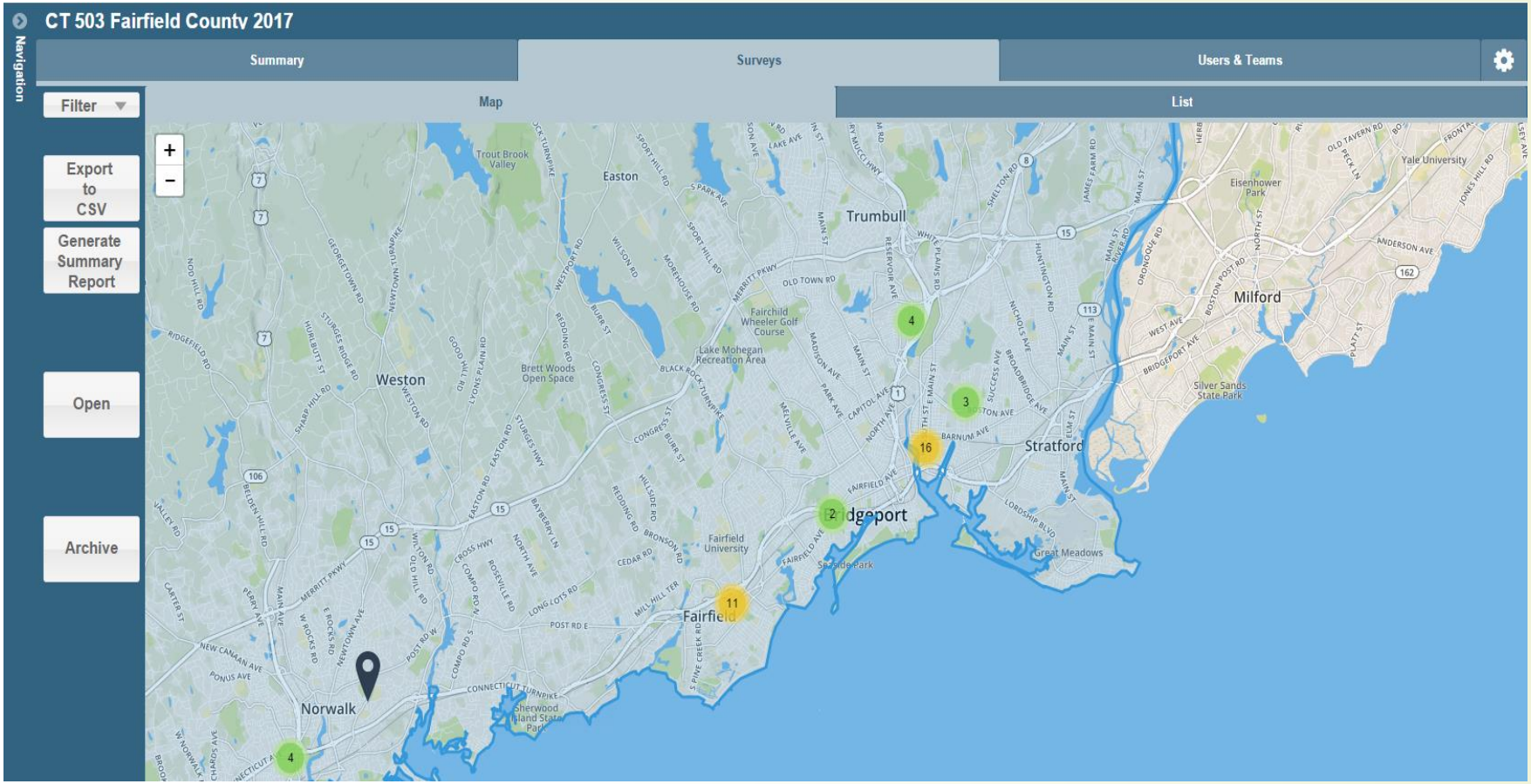


Connecticut PIT Map

Designating High and Low Probability Areas



The Night of the Count



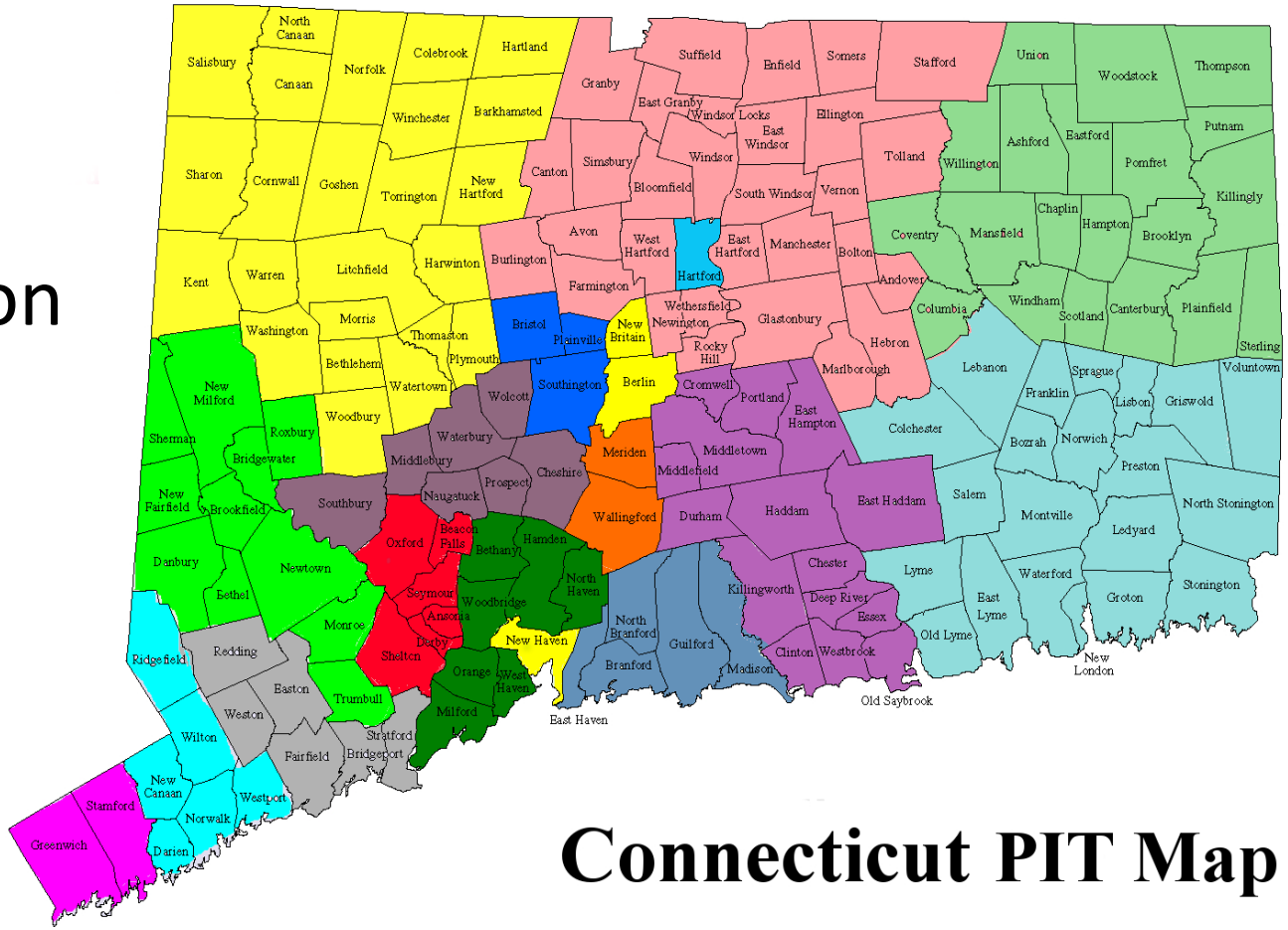
Deriving the Final Count Estimates

CoC Details	
Total Block Groups:	605
High Probability Block Groups:	88
Low Probability Block Groups:	517
Low Probability Sampled:	55
Low Prob Weighting Factor:	9.400

Households and Age Breakdown	High	Low	Low-Extrap.	CoC Total
Total Number of Households	54	2	19	73
Total Number of Persons (Adults)	54	2	19	73
Number of Persons (age 18-24)	2	1	9	11
Number of Persons (over age 24)	52	1	9	61

Estimates below the CoC Level:

- CAN
- Sub-CoC
- PIT Region



Connecticut PIT Map

Determining the Percentage of Low Probability Block Groups within the Sub-Region

Geographic Information for the Selected Region			
CoC Details		***Sub-Region Details***	
Total Block Groups:	1880	Total Block Groups:	574
High Probability Block Groups:	231	High Probability Block Groups:	58
Low Probability Block Groups:	1649	Low Probability Block Groups:	516
Low Probability Sampled:	152	Low Probability Sampled:	55
Low Prob Weighting Factor:	10.849	Sub-Region % of CoC Low BGs:	31.29%

Estimated Count Figures for Greater Hartford

Households and Age Breakdown	High	Low	Low-Extrap.	CoC Total	Sub-Region High	Sub-Region Low	Sub-Region Total
Total Number of Households	154	9	98	252	5	31	36
Total Number of Persons (Adults)	159	11	119	278	5	37	42
Number of Persons (age 18-24)	11	1	11	22	0	3	3
Number of Persons (over age 24)	148	10	108	256	5	34	39

The Count Itself

Using a mobile app with an accompanying command center allows for real time data monitoring. This has a lot of benefits, just a few of which include:

- Updating missing information with a phone call to a volunteer
- GPS level accuracy allows outreach to revist new encampments
- Monitoring the activity of count teams in the field
- Ability to cross reference PIT data with BNL (By Name List) data to be sure the community has everyone on their prioritized list for housing

Data Cleanup-Lessons Learned

- When using a geographically stratified sampling approach, location of surveys matters!
- Encourage volunteers to collect as much survey data as possible

Feedback from the Field

2016 was the first year for the PIT Mobile App in CT and it was optional. Those who used it loved it.

2017 the PIT Mobile App was required and many parts of the state still used paper forms (they later data entered them directly into the mobile app). The feedback from those who used the app in the field and those who data entered information into it was all positive.

People found that using the mobile app made the survey process faster.

My favorite part? I don't have to data enter 300+ surveys anymore! All of the data related follow up happens with the original data file and I get the results!

Questions?

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