

How to Count Vehicles and RVs

2027 WeAllCount | Training Material

WHY THIS MATTERS: For the unsheltered Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, verify that a person's primary nighttime residence is a place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodation (24 CFR 578.3). RVs require additional assessment because they can ordinarily be used for sleeping.

1 Assessment: Is a person staying in the vehicle on count night?

Look for possible signs of habitation

- Fogged, screened, or covered windows
- Lights, electrical connections, or generators
- Clothing, shoes, bags, or household items nearby
- Sounds of talking or music from inside
- Known Safe Parking sites or previously identified vehicles



Do not count a vehicle

These signs suggest someone might be present; they do not confirm an occupant, establish eligibility, or justify an Observation Tally.

2 Engagement: Confirm the person's housing situation

Approach only when safe. Stay with your team, knock gently once if appropriate, introduce yourself, and ask permission to talk. Never enter a vehicle or RV. If an interaction becomes unsafe, stop.

Suggested introduction

"Hi, I'm [name], a WeAllCount volunteer. Would you be willing to answer a few questions about where you are staying?"

Confirm residence

Confirm the vehicle is the person's current nighttime residence, rather than a temporary place to rest or sleep for another reason. Confirm they are experiencing homelessness and not simply traveling through San Diego.

3 Data Collection: Use the correct Counting Us survey

AGREED AND ELIGIBLE

Complete the Unsheltered Person Survey. For a household, record the number of members and answers for each eligible person. Check whether anyone was already interviewed. For households sleeping in an RV, an engagement is required for the household to be included in the count.

DECLINED OR UNABLE TO RESPOND

Use the Unsheltered Observation Tally only if you physically saw a person. Select the combined "Vehicle / Boat / RV" category, answer whether you actually saw the person sleeping in their vehicle, and describe their vehicle in the text field.