

HMIS Data Standards March 2010 Summary of Changes

Data should start being collected as of June 1st 2010.

General change: Includes options for Don't Know and Refused for most questions. Should be completed only if client doesn't know or client refuses.

Note: Some changes were introduced in the fall with the start of HPRP. These include the "don't know" and "refused" options and some changes to income questions/format.

Universal Data Elements

1. Gender (3.6): Transgendered has been added as an official response. Options now include:
 - 0 = Female
 - 1 = Male
 - 2 = Transgendered Male to Female
 - 3 = Transgendered Female to Male
 - 4 = Other
 - 8 = Don't Know
 - 9 = Refused

2. Disabling Condition (3.8): Now required for all clients after program entry

3. Housing Status (3.11): New question required for all clients at program entry. Also required at program exit for non-emergency shelter programs. Slight changes in the question options and definition since the data standards used for HPRP were public in the fall.
 - 1 = Literally homeless
 - 2 = Imminently losing their housing
 - 3 = Unstably housed and at-risk of losing their housing
 - 4 = Stably housed
 - 8 = Don't Know
 - 9 = Refused

Persons who are ***literally homeless*** include people who at program entry or program exit are in one of the following:

- Places not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for homeless persons);
- A hospital or other institution, if the person was sleeping in an emergency shelter or other place not meant for human habitation (cars, parks, streets, etc.) immediately prior to entry into the hospital or institution;
- Fleeing a domestic violence situation.

Persons who are ***imminently losing their housing*** include people who at program entry or program exit:

- Are currently housed and not literally homeless, per above definition;
- Are imminently losing their housing, whether permanent or temporary;
- Have no subsequent housing options identified; and
- Lack the resources or support networks needed to retain current housing or obtain temporary or permanent housing.

Examples of imminent housing loss include:

- Being evicted from a private dwelling unit (including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations);
- Being discharged from a hospital or other institution;
- Living in housing that has been condemned by housing officials and is no longer considered meant for human habitation;

Persons who are ***unstably housed and at-risk of losing their housing*** include people who at program entry or program exit:

- Are currently housed and not literally homeless or imminently losing their housing, per above definitions;
- Are experiencing housing instability, but may have one or more other temporary housing options; and
- Lack the resources or support networks to retain or obtain permanent housing.

Housing instability may be evidenced by:

- Frequent moves because of economic reasons;
- Living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
- Being evicted from a private dwelling unit (including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations);
- Living in a hotel or motel not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations;
- Living in severely overcrowded housing;
- Being discharged from a hospital or other institution; or
- Otherwise living in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.

Persons who are ***stably housed*** are in a stable housing situation and not at risk of losing this housing (i.e., do not meet the criteria for any of the other housing response categories, per above definitions).

Program Specific Data Elements

These requirements apply to HUD funded programs only, although the format of income and disability questions is shared by all funding sources requiring them.

1. Income (4.1): Is required for all clients at entry, exit and a yearly update. HUD encourages this update to happen before the APR is due. Dollar amounts are required for earned income, but optional for other income sources.
 - a. A new question was added in the fall: Income received from any source in past 30 days?
 - b. Total monthly income from all sources is now recorded in a separate field
2. Non-Cash benefits (4.2): Are required for all clients at entry, exit and a yearly update. HUD encourages this update to happen before the APR is due. For households, non-cash benefits benefitting entire household (such as food stamps) should be recorded on all client's records. One new source has been added: Temporary rental assistance
 - a. A new question was added in the fall: Non-cash benefits received from any source in past 30 days?
3. Physical Disability (4.3): Required for all clients served. Collected shortly after program entry, at exit, and one yearly update. HUD recommends the yearly update take place close to the time of the APR. Documentation of disability is required.
 - a. A second question has been added: Currently receiving services or treatment for this condition. Also required at entry, exit, and annually.
4. Developmental Disability (4.4): Required for all clients served. Collected shortly after program entry, at exit, and one yearly update. HUD recommends the yearly update take place close to the time of the APR. Documentation of disability is required.
 - a. A second question has been added: Currently receiving services or treatment for this condition. Also required at entry, exit, and annually.
5. Chronic Health Condition (4.5): New question. Required for all clients served. Collected shortly after program entry, at exit, and one yearly update. HUD recommends the yearly update take place close to the time of the APR. Documentation of disability is required.
 - a. A second question has been added: Currently receiving services or treatment for this condition. Also required at entry, exit, and annually.
6. HIV/AIDS: (4.6): Required for all clients served. Collected shortly after program entry, at exit, and one yearly update. HUD recommends the yearly update take place close to the time of the APR.
 - a. A second question has been added: Currently receiving services or treatment for this condition. Also required at entry, exit, and annually.
7. Mental Health: Required for all clients served. Collected shortly after program entry, at exit, and one yearly update. HUD recommends the yearly update take place close to the time of the APR. Documentation of disability is required. Two questions have been added:
 - a. Currently receiving services or treatment for this condition. Also required at entry, exit, and annually.

- b. Expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs ability to live independently.
- 8. Substance Abuse (4.8): Required for all clients served. Collected shortly after program entry, at exit, and one yearly update. HUD recommends the yearly update take place close to the time of the APR.
 - a. The format has changed. Alcohol abuse and Drug abuse used to be separate questions. Now it is one question with the options of:
 - 0 = No
 - 1 = Alcohol abuse
 - 2 = Drug abuse
 - 3 = Both alcohol and drug abuse
 - 8 = Don't Know
 - 9 = Refused
 - b. Two question have been added:
 - i. Currently receiving services or treatment for this condition. Also required at entry, exit, and annually.
 - ii. Expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs ability to live independently.
- 9. Date of contact (4.11): New question required for street outreach programs only.
- 10. Date of Engagement (4.12): New question required for street outreach programs only.
- 11. Reason for leaving at exit is optional (4.15G)
- 12. Services are optional (4.15H)