Prior Living Situation Flowchart

This guide will help users with understanding the elements captured in the Prior Living Situation Data Element. Please refer to the 2020 HMIS Data Standards for a complete list of living situations and their corresponding setting.

For Clients Entering Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven

Type of Residence
1. Where was the client just before project start?

Length of Stay in Prior Living Situation
2. How long ago did the client start staying in that place?

Approximate Date Homelessness Started
3. How long has the client been in a “literal homeless” situation?

Number of times on the street, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past 3 years
4. How many times has the client been in “literal homeless” situations in the past 3 years?

Total number of months homeless on the street, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past 3 years
5. How many cumulative months has the client been in “literal homeless” situations in the past 3 years?

For Clients Entering all Other Project Types

Type of Residence
1. Where was the client just before project start?

Length of Stay in Prior Living Situation
2. How long ago did the client start staying in that place?

Is the client entering from a homeless situation?
   NO
   YES

Is the client entering from an institution?
   NO
   YES

If the client is entering from an institution, did they stay there for less than 90 days?
   NO
   YES

If the client is entering from a permanent or transitional housing, did they stay there for less than 7 days?
   NO
   YES

Approximate Date Homelessness Started
3. How long has the client been in a “literal homeless” situation?

Number of times on the street, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past 3 years
4. How many times has the client been in “literal homeless” situations in the past 3 years?

Total number of months homeless on the street, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past 3 years
5. How many cumulative months has the client been in “literal homeless” situations in the past 3 years?