

HMIS Data Element Collection Training

03/19/26

Agenda

HMIS Data Element Collection Training slides, and recording are available on the OC HMIS Website:

OCHMIS.org > HMIS Help > [HMIS Recorded Trainings](#)

Using & Disclosing Client Information & Client Privacy Best Practices

- [HMIS Client's Record Sharing Decision Pathways](#)
- [Accessing and Completing Release of Information \(ROI\) Page](#) Knowledge Base Article
- [Creating Client Records without Client-Identifying Information](#) Knowledge Base Article
- [Refusing/Revoking Consent to Share Personal Information](#) Knowledge Base Article

HMIS Data Elements 3.01-3.07 (Client Profile and Demographic Data)

- [Adding Client Profiles to HMIS](#) Knowledge Base Article

HMIS Data Element 3.917 (Prior Living Situation)

- [Prior Living Situation 3.714A & 3.714B](#) Knowledge Base Article
- [Appendix A of the HMIS Data Standards Manual](#)
- [Type of Residence](#) Knowledge Base Article
- [HUD's Four Categories of Homelessness](#)
- [Approximate Data Homelessness Started](#) Knowledge Base Article
- [HUD HMIS Data Standards Manual](#)

Q&A

Q: If we are the first contact with PT and they are self-reporting years of homelessness but had just got out of hospital when we met them, how would we appropriately capture chronicity if we are only reporting from time left hospital to us meeting them?

Also, if we are going based on self-reported approximate date of homelessness starting and prior living situation, would we just ensure to upload the self-certification of homelessness form to confirm this information so it doesn't appear as a data error?

A:The Type of Residence question should capture where the client stayed the night before intake. If they spent the night prior in hospital, the response, 'Hospital or other residential nonpsychiatric medical facility,' should be selected.

This will prompt additional questions to appear asking whether the stay in hospital was less than 90-days and whether the client was staying on the Street, in ES, or Safe Haven, the night prior to intake. These additional questions help determine if the client is experiencing a new episode of homelessness.

In order to capture possible Chronicity, users will enter the number of episodes that have occurred in the past three years as well as the total number of months the participant has been homeless in the past three years for the episode in the fields, 'Number of times homeless on the streets, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past three years,' and 'Number of months homeless on the streets, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past three years.'

Q: Will we be putting the approximate date of homelessness based off of the clients statement as opposed to their actual program history reflected on HMIS?

A: The approximate date homelessness field should reflect the person's self-reported information. However, if the participant's self report does not correspond with HMIS Program History (e.g. the client was or currently is enrolled in a Permanent Housing Program), then the intake staff should review with the client and decide which date is more accurate and record it for the enrollment.

Q: If there is a break of homelessness, will that mean they will be considered "literal homeless?"

A: Literal homelessness is defined by HUD as an individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Please review HUD's website to review the full definition of [Category 1 Homelessness](#).