

HMIS Data Collection Explained What we collect and why.

Data Point	Why we collect
Name	First and Last name are asked for, at minimum full last name is required. Helps to identify clients and avoid duplication.
Date of birth	Helps to identify clients and avoid duplication. Also helps to understand the age ranges of the homeless population.
SS#	Helps to identify clients and avoid duplication.
Gender	Provides demographic information on the population.
Race	Provides demographic information on the population.
Ethnicity	Provides demographic information on the population.
Head of Household ID	This helps us to identify a person as part of household.
Unaccompanied Youth	Tracks the number of youth under 18 who enter programs without an adult guardian.
Disabling Condition	Identifying a person with a disabling condition helps to determine chronic homelessness status.
Veteran	Veteran status can help us determine outcomes for new veterans who have recently returned home and link vets to services.
Housing status	Tracks clients housing stability and can help to track outcomes.
Residence Prior to Program Entry	Helps to identify where people are sheltering.
Length of stay	Duration of homelessness is an indicator of chronic homeless and lack of shelter or other services.
How many times homeless	Helps determine chronic homelessness.
Last place stayed 3 months or more	Helps track where clients last had a permanent home and how far clients are from where they are currently homeless.
Special Needs	Helps understand client needs which will help plan for services
Receiving/Received Services	Helps to determine if a client is receiving support for any special needs prior to entry into a program and helps to track whether that support continued during their time in the program or if support was received after program entry.
Domestic Violence	Helps to protect your client and staff and to help meet their needs by knowing if the client has experienced DV and when this experience occurred.

Income & Benefits	Helps to track client resources which can support client's ability to be self-sufficient and helps to ensure clients are accessing benefits which may be available to them.
Destination	Helps track outcomes for clients, monitors movement to permanent housing and other destinations.