

UNIVERSAL DATA ELEMENTS

The Universal Data standards are the basis for producing unduplicated estimates of the number of homeless people accessing services from homeless assistance providers, basic demographic characteristics of people who are homeless, and patterns of service use, including information on shelter stays and homelessness episodes over time. The universal data elements are:

- 3.1 Name
- 3.2 Social Security Number
- 3.3 Date of Birth
- 3.4 Race
- 3.5 Ethnicity
- 3.6 Gender
- 3.7 Veteran Status
- 3.8 Disabling Condition
- 3.9 Residence Prior to Program Entry
- 3.10 Zip Code of Last Permanent Address
- 3.11 Housing Status
- 3.12 Program Entry Date
- 3.13 Program Exit Date
- 3.14 Unique Person Identification Number
- 3.15 Household Identification Number

Program-Specific Data Elements

Program-Specific Data elements provide information about the characteristics of clients, the services that are provided, and client outcomes. These data elements must be collected from all clients served by programs that are required to report this information to HUD. Specifically, programs that receive funding through HUD's Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation for Single Room Occupancy Dwellings (SRO) Program, and the homeless programs funded through the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program are required to collect most of this information in order to complete Annual Performance Reports (APRs). Likewise, programs that are funded through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program are required to collect some of these data elements in order to submit Quarterly and Annual Performance Reports.

For programs with no such reporting requirements, these data standards are optional but recommended since they allow local Continuums of Care (CoCs) to obtain consistent information across a range of providers that can be used to plan service delivery, monitor the provision of services, and identify client outcomes.

The Program-Specific Data elements that are needed for HUD reporting include:

- 4.1 Income and Sources
- 4.2 Non-Cash Benefits
- 4.3 Physical Disability
- 4.4 Developmental Disability
- 4.5 Chronic Health Condition
- 4.6 HIV/AIDS
- 4.7 Mental Health
- 4.8 Substance Abuse
- 4.9 Domestic Violence
- 4.10 Destination
- 4.11 Date of Contact (required for street outreach programs only)
- 4.12 Date of Engagement (required for street outreach programs only)
- 4.13 Financial Services Provided
- 4.14 Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services Provided

Optional Data Elements

In addition to the data elements that are required for APR reporting, additional program-specific data elements have been recommended by a team of HMIS practitioners, federal agency representatives, and researchers. These data elements are based on best practices that are currently being implemented at the local level. They optional data elements include:

- 4.15A Employment
- 4.15B Adult Education
- 4.15C General Health Status
- 4.15D Pregnancy Status
- 4.15E Veteran's Information
- 4.15F Children's Education
- 4.15G Reason for Leaving
- 4.15H Services Provided