

# Data Collection Guidance for 3.917 -- Length of Time Homeless Elements on HUD Enrollment



Watch this 15 minute [HUD Video](#) on collecting this set of data points in HMIS. (Start at the 3 minute mark if you want to save time).

## *Prior Living Situation 3.917A*

*This data element applies specifically to the following project types;*

*Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, and Safe Haven*

Intake staff should ask clients about their homeless history, including specific instances the client spent on the street, in an Emergency Shelter, or Safe Haven project. This may require explaining what each of these situations are, relative to the HUD definition for each. It will be beneficial to keep the [HMIS Data Standards Manual](#) available while completing these questions with clients.

1. Record the type of living arrangement the head of household and each client was residing in just prior to entry into the Street Outreach, ES, or SH project. For projects that do not provide lodging, the 'last' living situation will be the same as the current living situation. For projects that do provide lodging, this will be the client's living situation prior to moving into the project-provided residence. Members of the same household may have different prior living situations.
  - Please review [Appendix A: Living Situation Response Categories and Descriptions](#) for a completed list of all available options and classification.
2. Record the length of time the client was residing in just their previous place of stay.

3. Record the Approximate date this homeless situation began. Have the client look back to the date of the last time the client had a place to sleep that was not on the streets, ES, or SH and enter that date.
4. Record the number of times the client has been homeless on the streets, in ES, or SH in the past three years including today (Note – if this is the first time the client has been homeless in the past three years then the response is One Time).
5. Record the total number of months homeless the client has been on the streets, in ES or SH in the past three years (The number of cumulative, but not necessarily consecutive months spent homeless).