

This document highlights the most prominent changes in the 2014 Data Standards. It is a summary intended to help front end users get acclimated to the upcoming changes in HMIS data collection. For complete information, please refer to the [HMIS Data Standards Manual](#) on HUD's website.

*Denotes a new data element or response choice

Projects vs. Programs - Since more federal partners are expected to participate in HMIS, it was necessary (in the context of HMIS Data Standards) to adjust the terminology from *Programs* to *Projects*. Federal funding sources, e.g. HUD, VA, PATH, etc. are referred to as **programs**, and agencies within CoCs operate **projects** that serve a particular population and enter client and **program specific** (i.e. CoC, ESG, etc.) data elements into HMIS.

DATA ELEMENT CHANGES

Name Data Quality Field* - This element allows for responses for whether full name, street or code name (sometimes used as a placeholder for street outreach workers).

Data Entry location: Demographics (participant info)

Relationship to Head of Household* - With response choices:

- Self (head of household)
- Head of household's child
- Head of household's spouse or partner
- Head of household's other relation member (other relation to head of household)
- Other: non-relation member

Note: Cambridge HMIS has used a custom demographic element entitled: "Single Individual or Part of Family Household." This element will be disabled and no longer available.

Data Entry location: Demographics (participant info)

Veteran Status - Change from previous standards to now be collected at a client's first project entry (first record entered into HMIS), rather than with each enrollment within an Intake Assessment. As this answer is likely to be static, this point of data entry will save time. Note: If you are entering a new client record for a veteran, you will need to complete the

Data Entry location: Demographics (participant info)

Gender - Change of answer choice from *Transgendered* corrected to *Transgender*

Data Entry location: Demographics (participant info)

Client Location/Continuum Code* – This identifies the CoC in which the client is served. The information is populated on the first page of the client’s entry assessment, but the user must type it in its own field on the next line. Some projects operate in other CoCs, but use Cambridge’s instance of HMIS to enter their data. Most HMIS users will see one choice provided in A-4 for this element, and that is the one that they need to enter into A-5. (The code for Cambridge is MA-509.)

If you have more than one CoC code to choose from when completing a client assessment and are not clear on how to answer, please ask your HMIS Agency Administrator or Marianne Colangelo for guidance.

Data Entry Location: HUD Assessment (Entry/Update/Annual/Exit)

Residence Prior to Project Entry - Answering this data element used to be required for all adults in a household. The new standard is to collect it only for the Head of Household. Some of the wording on the response choices for this question has also changed:

- Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, *bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside*)
- Length of stay at Prior Residence is now *Length of Stay in Previous Place*
- There are more hospital type answer choices

Data Entry location: HUD Assessment (**Entry**/Update/Annual/Exit)

Length of Time on Street, in an Emergency Shelter, or Safe Haven* - This is comprised of five new questions, and is a replacement of the yes/no Chronically Homeless question, in order to better track and calculate persons’ episodes of homelessness and chronic homelessness status.

Data Entry location: HUD Assessment (**Entry**/Update/Annual/Exit)

Is the Client Covered by Health Insurance?* - This question comes with many response category choices in order to determine a client’s status and coverage type.

Data Entry location: HUD Assessment (Entry/Update/Annual/Exit)

Destination (Where did the client go upon exit?) - Now a Universal Data Element

This element has some new response choices, including more specific subsidy choices and most notably: “No exit interview completed.”

Data Entry location: HUD Assessment (Entry/Update/Annual/**Exit**)

OTHER CHANGES

Status Documented*

Some new and already existing questions now have a sub question regarding whether or not there is documentation to support the answer given. For example: *“Is there documentation of the client's disability and severity on file?”* is now a follow-up to the disability questions asked in the HUD Assessment (Entry/Update/Annual/Exit).

Data Not Collected*

This has been added in some elements as a response in addition to the already existing “client doesn't know” and “client refused to answer.” Having this additional answer choice allows front end users to supply a more accurate answer when they simply did not have the information to answer a specific question at the time of entering data into HMIS. *Data not collected* responses will be reported as *missing/null data*.