

### 3.11 Housing Status

*Rationale:* To identify persons who, at program entry and program exit, are literally homeless; housed, but at imminent risk of losing their housing; housed, but at-risk of losing their housing; or in a stable housing situation. This data element allows programs that serve homeless and non-homeless persons to separate these two populations for reporting purposes. This data element is not intended to be used for program eligibility determination purposes, as program eligibility criteria may vary by program and/or funding source. This information can help homelessness prevention programs target their resources appropriately.

*Data Source:* Client interview or self-administered form.

*When Data are Collected:* Upon initial program entry or as soon as possible thereafter and at program exit for all programs except emergency shelters. This information may be needed prior to admission to determine program eligibility.

*Subjects:* All clients.

*Definitions and Instructions:* For each client, determine whether the client is: literally homeless; imminently losing their housing; unstably housed and at-risk of losing their housing; or stably housed at program entry and exit. A client must be coded to a single response category. For clients exiting a program, the Housing Status should reflect their housing status immediately after exiting the program as determined by the client's housing destination and anticipated housing stability.

Persons who are **literally homeless** include people who at program entry or program exit are in one of the following:

Places not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;

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A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for homeless persons);

A hospital or other institution, if the person was sleeping in an emergency shelter or other place not meant for human habitation (cars, parks, streets, etc.) immediately prior to entry into the hospital or institution;

Fleeing a domestic violence situation.

Persons who are **imminently losing their housing** include people who at program entry or program exit:

Are currently housed and not literally homeless, per above definition;

Are imminently losing their housing, whether permanent or temporary;

Have no subsequent housing options identified; and

Lack the resources or support networks needed to retain current housing or obtain temporary or permanent housing.

Examples of imminent housing loss include:

- Being evicted from a private dwelling unit (including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations);
- Being discharged from a hospital or other institution;
- Living in housing that has been condemned by housing officials and is no longer considered meant for human habitation;

Persons who are ***unstably housed and at-risk of losing their housing*** include people who at program entry or program exit:

- Are currently housed and not literally homeless or imminently losing their housing, per above definitions;

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- Are experiencing housing instability, but may have one or more other temporary housing options; and
- Lack the resources or support networks to retain or obtain permanent housing.

Housing instability may be evidenced by:

- Frequent moves because of economic reasons;
- Living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
- Being evicted from a private dwelling unit (including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations);
- Living in a hotel or motel not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations;
- Living in severely overcrowded housing;
- Being discharged from a hospital or other institution; or
- Otherwise living in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.

Persons who are ***stably housed*** are in a stable housing situation and not at risk of losing this housing (i.e., do not meet the criteria for any of the other housing response categories, per above definitions).

*Required Response Categories:*

**Universal Data Element**

### **3.11 Housing Status Response Categories**

1 = Literally homeless

2 = Imminently losing their housing

3 = Unstably housed and at-risk of losing their housing

4 = Stably housed  
8 = Don't Know  
9 = Refused

*Special Issues:* For programs that serve only persons who are literally homeless, the HMIS software application may default the value of this data element to “1 = literally homeless.”

*Changes from Previous Notice:* This is a new data element.