



Focus on Data

Current Focus on Federal Reporting and the Homeless Management Information System

Catherine Huang Hara, Clark County Social Service
Tauri Royce, Bitfocus

System Drivers



Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- HUD and other planners and policymakers at the federal, state and local levels use aggregate HMIS data to obtain better information about the extent and nature of homelessness over time
 - Can be used to produce an unduplicated count of homeless persons, understand patterns of service use, and measure the effectiveness of homeless programs
 - Each CoC must implement an HMIS
 - The software used in Nevada is Clarity Human Services, produced by Bitfocus, Inc.
 - Bitfocus is also contracted as Administrator of the Nevada HMIS, serving as a liaison, analysis, and technical support to the CoCs at every level as it pertains to HMIS

Annual Process



Current Focus

Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)

- The HIC collects information about all of the beds and units in each CoC homeless system
 - Categorized by Provider Project Types
 - Bed totals by household designation
 - households with children
 - households without children
 - households with only children
 - Dedicated Bed Counts by Subpopulation
 - Domestic Violence
 - Veteran
 - Chronically Homeless
 - Meeting the HIC deadline is a factor considered in the annual CoC Program Competition
- **Due April 30th**
 - **HDX open for data submissions March 1st**

Current Focus

Point-in Time Count (PIT)

- Provides counts of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night within the last 10 days of January
 - Counts are provided by household type
 - Individuals
 - Families
 - Child-only households
 - Subpopulation categories
 - Veterans
 - Chronically homeless.
 - Meeting the PIT count data submission deadline is a factor in the annual CoC Program Competition.
- **Due April 30th**
 - **HDX open for data submissions March 1st**

Current Focus

Homeless Census Report

- Not required by HUD
- Bitfocus composes the annual Homeless Census comprehensive report after both the HIC and PIT have been submitted
- Generally released in early Summer

Current Focus

System Performance Measures

- Seven measures to help communities gauge their progress toward the goal of ending homelessness
- Each CoC is expected to use these measures to evaluate how well homeless systems are functioning and where improvements are necessary
- Data is taken directly out of HMIS by HUD specifications and submitted to the data exchange (HDX) for previous years data.
- In 2018, the date range reported is 10/1/2016 – 9/30/2017
- **Due May 31st**
 - **HDX open for data submissions March 1st**

Current Focus

System Performance Measures

- Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless
- Measure 2: The Extent to which Persons who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness
- Measure 3: Number of Homeless Persons (PIT counts and HMIS data)
- Measure 4: Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in CoC Programs
- Measure 5: Number of Persons who Become Homeless for the First Time
- Measure 6: Homeless Prevention and Housing Placement of Persons Defined by Category 3 of HUD's Homeless Definition (homeless only under other federal statutes)
- Measure 7: Successful Placement from Street Outreach and Successful Placement in or Retention of Permanent Housing

Current Focus

HUD HMIS Data Quality

- HUD released a new data quality framework in 2017 to help communities assess the accuracy of their data.
 - Previously, HUD's expectations for data quality in HMIS have been primarily focused on HMIS bed coverage, "don't know/refused" responses, and "null/missing" values.
 - New framework provides additional measures of data quality across a number of HMIS data elements
 - program income and housing data, chronic homelessness, inactive records and data entry timeliness.
- **Due May 31st**
 - **submitted as part of the System Performance Measures**

What is the data telling us?

- **Housing Inventory Chart**
 - Increase agency awareness of the required information regarding the project and bed/unit inventory
- **Preliminary PIT** totals – anticipate increase in persons experiencing homelessness
- **System Performance Measures**
 - Missing Program Enrollments – Emergency Shelter/Outreach
 - Housing Move-in Date – Permanent Housing Projects
 - Overlapping Housing Projects
- **HMIS Data Quality**
 - Disabling Status vs Disability Type is Long Term
 - Inactive Shelter and Outreach project stays – Auto-exit

Partner Agency Data Leads are key!

Partner Agency Data Leads (PADL)

- **Quarterly meeting and training**
 - First mandatory meet took place on March 22nd. Great attendance and engagement.
- **Who are the PADLs?**
 - HMIS users who have been identified by the CEO or the Executive Director at their agency as having the experience and ability to ensure accurate and complete HMIS data entry, communicate well across all of their agency programs, and serve as the on-site experts and trainers to other HMIS users within the agency. The designated PADL has responsibility for the administration of the HMIS in his/her agency.