

2.7 Living Situations

From the previous exercise, we learned which living situations may qualify a client as "literally homeless", "chronically homeless", and "at risk of homelessness".

Now, let's take a look at the categories in HMIS that we'll select for (Prior) Living Situation and see how that relates to being in "literally homeless" and "imminently at risk of homelessness" situations. Image 1 shows how the dropdown menu looks in HMIS.

Homeless Situation

Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside)
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher, Host Home shelter
Safe Haven

Institutional Situation

Foster Care Home or Foster Care Group Home
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility
Jail, Prison, Juvenile Detention Facility
Long-term care facility or nursing home
Psychiatric Hospital or Other Psychiatric Facility
Substance Abuse Treatment or Detox Center

Temporary Housing Situations

Transitional Housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)
Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria
Hotel or Motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher
Host Home (non-crisis)
Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house
Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house

Permanent Housing Situations

Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy
Rental by client, with ongoing housing subsidy
Owned by client with ongoing housing subsidy
Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy

Other

Client doesn't know
Client prefers not to answer

Image 1 - HMIS Prior Living Situation Dropdown Menu

Now let's see how that looks if we break it down based on the information we learned regarding defining homelessness.

Non-permanent living situations	Homeless Situation Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside) Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher, Host Home shelter Safe Haven	Literally Homeless	Literally Homeless
	Institutional Situation Foster Care Home or Foster Care Group Home Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility Jail, Prison, Juvenile Detention Facility Long-term care facility or nursing home Psychiatric Hospital or Other Psychiatric Facility Substance Abuse Treatment or Detox Center Temporary Housing Situations Transitional Housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)	Literally Homeless <i>if</i> certain criteria are met.* <small>*See Definitions of Homelessness diagram</small> 	
	Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria Hotel or Motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher Host Home (non-crisis) Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house	At risk of homelessness <i>if</i> certain criteria are met. <small>*See Definitions of Homelessness diagram</small> 	At imminent Risk of Homelessness
	Permanent Housing Situations Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy Rental by client, with ongoing housing subsidy Owned by client with ongoing housing subsidy Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy		
	Other Client doesn't know Client prefers not to answer		

Image 2 - HMIS Prior Living Situation Dropdown with References

So now you can see it's possible with the right information (which you now have) to accurately define a person's homeless status as well as their living situation in HMIS.

We highly recommend printing out the above image to keep it as a reference. To do so, either save and/or print this document or simply click on the image above and it will take you to a printable PDF version of the image.

Also, don't worry if you don't completely understand all the current living situations at this very moment. There are a lot of variables to consider. You'll have another opportunity to practice later in the course when you'll choose a "Current Living Situation" during the project exit.

Of course, if you have any questions, ask a supervisor or reach out to us at hmis@changinghomelessness.org and we can help!