



# Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Data

## HMIS Beyond Data Collection

*Updated 9/15*

# Learning Goals

---

- Learn Privacy and Security Requirements
- Understand the extent of HMIS usage throughout the VA system
- Understand the role of your CoC and the importance of CoC coordination
- Learn how data is collected and reported when serving multiple HMIS implementations
- Learn how to use data to improve your program and benefit your participants

# Goals of HMIS

---

- Produce an unduplicated count of homeless persons for each Continuum of Care
- Help understand the extent and nature of homelessness locally, regionally, and nationally
- Understand patterns of service use
- Measure the effectiveness of projects

# VA Participation in HMIS

---

- The utility of HMIS data at the local level depends on participation by all projects that serve people who are homeless and at risk of homelessness, regardless of funding source
- VA is committed to grantee participation in HMIS to support community-based service planning and coordination for Veterans who are homeless and at risk of homelessness
- VAMC staff *can* access HMIS through direct-entry or read-only access, as stated in national guidance

# HMIS participation with other VA programs

---

- The VA released guidance in 2010 to all VA-funded homeless assistance providers regarding their participation in HMIS:  
[https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/HDX\\_VAI\\_nitiatesParticipationinHMIS\\_12.30.10.pdf](https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/HDX_VAI_nitiatesParticipationinHMIS_12.30.10.pdf).
- Communities are at varying stages of implementing the guidance.
- HUD-VASH and GPD projects - encouraged to contribute data to HMIS, but not required.
- Program specific guidance on HMIS participation of Grant and Per Diem Programs, VA Community Contract Beds, HUD-VASH and SSVF:  
[https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/VAHMIS\\_Webinar\\_5.3.11.pdf](https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/VAHMIS_Webinar_5.3.11.pdf)

# SSVF Data in Context

---



# Working with multiple HMIS Implementations

---

If your project operates within the jurisdictions of multiple HMIS implementations; your project has two options:

1. Enter client data into each CoCs HMIS implementation where the client resides, OR
2. Select a single HMIS for purposes of data collection and reporting and provide an export of client-level data to each HMIS implementation\*

*\*See VA Data Guide for more information.*

# Security & Privacy Standards

---

- What data needs to be protected?
- How should it be protected?
- Who do the standards apply to?
- Where is the full list of privacy and security standards located?

## HUD 2004 Data & Technical Standards

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1318/2004-hmis-data-and-technical-standards-final-notice/>

- Communities are expected to continue to use the 2004 Notice to implement their HMIS.
- HUD is in the process of finalizing draft notices on HMIS Governance, HMIS Privacy & Security and HMIS Data Quality and Functionality that will be released later this year for public comment.

# Security & Privacy: Minimum Standards

---

- Comply with other federal, state, and local confidentiality law
- Comply with limits to data collection (relevant, appropriate, lawful, specified in privacy notice)
- Have written privacy policy, which must be posted it on your web site
- Post sign at intake or comparable location with general reasons for collection and reference to privacy policy
- May infer consent for uses in the posted sign and written privacy policy\*

*\*See VA Data Guide for sample notification (consent) form*

# SSVF Data Security Policy

---

It is the responsibility of the grantee to take precautions to protect client information for all persons served; this applies to both hard copies and electronic data.

- Protect computers with identifying information with a username and password
- Don't share or write down passwords
- Log out or lock computer when away from desk
- Do not e-mail exported files

# Additional Security Measures for Sensitive Data

---

If there is reason to believe that the abuser of a victim of domestic violence has access to HMIS data, the grantee can:

- Contact their regional coordinator, who will help to develop a plan to enter data without compromising the participant's safety.
- It may be appropriate to delay data entry until after the participant has been discharged.
- If your HMIS tracks addresses and employers, opt out of these elements for these participants

# Grantee Roles and Responsibilities:

---

The SSVF Grantee is responsible for all activity associated with agency staff and use of the HMIS.

- CoC Participation
- HMIS Participation and Governance Compliance
- Privacy and Security Compliance
- HMIS Policy and Procedure Compliance
- Data Quality Compliance
- Community Planning/Use of Data

*Reference VA Data Guide, 9/15 for more information.*

# Continuum of Care (CoC)

---

- What is it?
- How does it function in the community?
- How does SSVF fit in?
- Why is CoC collaboration and coordination so important?

# CoC Coordination

---

- Coordinated Entry
- Coordinate Referrals
- Homeless Point-in-Time Count
- Housing Inventory Count
- Annual Homeless Assessment Report

# Make Data Work for You!

---

Data can be used for more than submitting reports for funders. Using SSVF Monthly Grantee Reports and local HMIS reports, your project can use HMIS to:

- Measure program outcomes
- Obtain and track follow-up information
- Target specific populations
- Determine appropriate staffing levels
- Determine appropriate level of services needed

# Other Resources

---

- VA Data Guide

[http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.asp?page=/program\\_requirements/hmis\\_and\\_data](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.asp?page=/program_requirements/hmis_and_data)

- 2014 HMIS Data Standards Manual (*for CoC's, HMIS Lead Agencies, HMIS System Administrators and users*) & Data Dictionary (*for HMIS Vendors and System Administrators*) – most recent version

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3826/hmis-data-standards-manual/>

- HUD OneCPD Resource Exchange

<https://www.onecpd.info/>