

CoC Summary Data View: Conditions Tool – Video Training Transcript

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Hello and welcome to this short training on the LSA Summary Data Table.

I'm Julia Brown and I work for Abt Associates, a TA provider for HUD.

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By now, you're probably familiar with the LSA Report, which is the replacement for the AHAR. Unlike the AHAR, which showed the final results right when you downloaded it from your HMIS, the LSA Report from your CoC is, essentially, a series of building blocks that can be recombined into many different outputs in the HDX 2.0. For now, the HDX 2.0 displays Summary results and produces a detailed downloadable analysis file, but in the future, it will be able to generate data visualizations and other resources.

The way all these pieces fit together is confusing, so I wanted to give a quick overview of all the pieces that go together to produce the LSA as you see it on screen in the HDX 2.0. The first piece is the report programming specifications. These are written instructions that tell HMIS software providers which projects to include, which clients to include, and how to categorize those clients based on their patterns of project use in your HMIS.

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This resource is mainly intended for HMIS vendors, but it's accessible to anyone who's interested on the HUD Exchange...

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...on this page. It's a long, technical PDF document as you can see here.

SCROLL THROUGH THE PDF OF THE SPECIFICATIONS DOCUMENT

Again, this is mainly intended for vendors, but if you really want to understand the full logic for each of the columns in the LSA report files, you can find that here.

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The next building block is LSA Data Dictionary.

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It's on the same page with the Specifications document.

DEMO OF THE DATA DICTIONARY

And, it's a list of all the possible values that could be included in each of the ten LSA Report files within the zip file export. You can see the files and the file names, you can see the columns within each of the files, and you can see the values that are allowed to appear within each of the columns. This data dictionary tells the HDX 2.0 whether or not to accept your LSA Report file. As long as every column

contains only the values that are listed here in the Values tab for each of the columns that are in your file, the HDX 2.0 will consider your upload to be valid and accept it. The Dictionary also briefly describes what each of these values mean. So, the Dictionary is basically a summary of all the detail described in the reporting specs. Again, both of these tools are intended for HMIS vendors, but are accessible to anyone who's interested on the HUD Exchange.

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Once the HDX 2.0 accepts your LSA Report file, the next tool that is relevant is the set of CONDITIONS the HDX 2.0 applies to your upload file in order to calculate the LSA Summary Data available on the screen in the LSA module.

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These are applied invisibly on the backend as you upload so you can immediately see the results on screen, but we have also made them visible in the Summary Data Download file.

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The companion Summary Conditions Tool can help you read these conditions to better understand how we got the numbers displayed onscreen. Later in this video, we'll walk through the Summary Conditions Tool in detail.

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And finally, the HDX 2.0 can also produce a "Full Data Analysis file," which recombines the data in thousands of combinations. These follow the same logic of the LSA Summary Data, but there are just a lot more of them. Once you get familiar with how the LSA Summary file works, you'll be prepared to start digging into the full richness of your LSA.

So, now let's take a look at the Summary Conditions Tool. I'm going to look at a sample dataset and choose three data points from the summary data view that I want to understand more fully.

So, let's login to HDX 2.0 and choose a CoC to look at.

DEMO HDX 2.0 LOGIN and NAVIGATE TO A SAMPLE SUMMARY DATA VIEW

Let's say I really want to understand how the HDX came up with the number 15 when talking about the total number of 55-Plus households that were served in PSH during the reporting period. This is a subset of the Adult Only tab on the Summary Data View.

On the Adult and Child data tab, let's imagine that I am interested in the number of households whose prior living situation was street homelessness and who were served in emergency shelter, safe haven, or transitional housing during the reporting period.

And finally let's imagine that on the system use tab, I'm particularly interested in understanding the source for the data point 'The Average Length of Time Child Only Households spent Homeless in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Pre-housing Enrollments in Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Rehousing.' The data point that the HDX displays here is 25 days, and I want to understand where that 25 days came from in my upload files.

VIEW OF SUMMARY CONDITIONS TOOL

In order to understand the source of these data points, I'm going to take a look at the CoC Status Summary Conditions Tool. In this tool, I will then take a look at the tab that I'm interested in, the table that I'm interested in looking at, the breakout or column header for that table that I'm interested in, and then the row that I'm interested in. So the first data point that I was interested was in the Adult Only tab, so I'll filter for Adult Only households. This was under the Summary drop down accordion portion of the AO tab, so I'll filter for Summary here. Again, I was interested in understanding the total number of 55 and over households in PSH, so I'll go ahead and choose the table column header PSH since that's the group I'm interested in looking at. And finally, again, interested in this data point: the total number of 55 and over households.

As a side note, the total number of 55 and over households means the total number of households where every member in the Adult Only household population type is 55 and over.

Now, the file provides me with a variable name. This is provided just for reference and you can use it to refer to this variable later on, if you want to.

So the subsequent columns then tell us how we actually get the data out your report files and into this particular data point. We start with Column F which tells us which CSV file in your LSA report download this data point is populated from. In this case, we'll be looking at the LSAHousehold file.

VIEW OF HDX 2.0 SUMMARY DATA

You probably have your source file loaded onto your computer somewhere. If you don't, or you're not quite confident which version of the upload it was, you can go to the HDX 2.0, click on the Export drop-down menu, and choose 'Download Original Submitted Zip' and this will provide you with the exact LSA report file that was uploaded to produce this particular display.

VIEW OF LSA REPORT ZIP FOLDER

Once you open that file up, you'll go to the LSAHousehold file because that's the file the Tool tells us this data point was populated from.

VIEW OF TOOL

Returning to the tool then, we move on to the next column. Here, we see that what we're going to do with the data once we find the conditions is sum the column 'RowTotal' when the condition in Column H is true. The conditions in Column H then tell us what we should be filtering for in the LSAHousehold file. So here we see that HHAdultAge, which is a column header in the LSAHousehold file, needs to equal 55.

VIEW OF LSAHOUSEHOLD FILE

So I'm going to return to the LSAHousehold file, and I'm going to turn filtering on, and I'm going to find the column HHAdultAge. Ah, here it is, Column N. I'm going to select from this dropdown only Age 55. Now HHAdultAge has a very particular meaning in the context of the LSA. You don't need to know this information, but if you were curious to understand what 55 means as opposed to any of these other age categories that are provided here, you would then look at the LSA Data Dictionary.

VIEW OF DATA DICTIONARY

You would find the file LSAHousehold, you would again find the column name HHAdultAge, and you would look at the values that might be there. Just like the file we just looked at, you can see that there are five possible values. One is that it's not applicable. One, value 18, means that the oldest adult in the household is between 18 and 21. The value 24 means that the oldest adult in the household is between 22 and 24. The value 25 means that at least one adult is 25 or older and at least one is under 55. And then the value 55, which is the value that we're looking at, means that all adults in the household are 55 or older.

VIEW OF LSAHOUSEHOLD FILE

Again, that's not information you need to know. All you really need to know to pinpoint the data you need to be summing is that this value in column N needs to be set to 55.

VIEW OF TOOL

Let's go look at the rest of the conditions for this data point. In addition to the Household Age being 55, we also need HHType to be 1 and PSHStatus to be greater than 2.

VIEW OF LSAHOUSEHOLD FILE

Back in the raw data file, we'll look for HHType. Here it is. It needs to be set to 1. That's the only value available here. And PSHStatus needs to be greater than 2. Here's the PSHStatus column, and we'll set it to be any of the values that are greater than 2.

And then, as we said before, the action that we're going to take is sum the RowTotal column where all the conditions in Column H are true. We've set those conditions, now we'll sum the RowTotal column, which as you can see here, sums to a total of 15.

VIEW OF HDX 2.0 SUMMARY DATA

Let's check again in the HDX and, yep, here we see, there are those 15 households served in PSH where every member of the household was 55 and over. Now, that doesn't tell you who those 15 households are. That's because the data that are uploaded to HDX do not contain any identifying information. As long as your data quality is solid within your HMIS, the dates of birth will dictate who falls into this 55-and-over age range.

The second example I was interested in looking at was in the Adult and Child household type: the number of households served in ES, SH, and TH whose prior living situation was street homelessness. The HDX reports that there are 20 households in that category.

VIEW OF TOOL

Again, I would choose the Summary Data View that I would like to see, which was Adult and Child. The table header, or the drop down, that I was looking at was Prior Living Situation. The table column header that I was interested in, again, was ES, SH, TH. And I was interested in seeing the number of households whose prior living situation was street homelessness. Again, the variable name is provided for your reference. And again, this particular value is populated from the LSAHousehold file. The variable, again,

will equal the sum of the RowTotal where the conditions in column H are true. And here are the conditions that are provided in Column H: HHType is 2 and ESTLivingSit is 1.

VIEW OF LSAHOUSEHOLD FILE

So let's go back to our LSAHousehold file. We can clear the filters, because we're going to start a new process. The HHType was 2; 2 is Adult and Child which, again, you can look up in the Data Dictionary if you'd like to. And ESTLivingSit is 1. I'll scroll through the file to find ESTLivingSit and I'll choose all the rows for which that is set to 1. Again, I'll scroll back over to RowTotal. As you can see, the sum of this is 20, which matches the number we saw in the HDX.

VIEW OF HDX 2.0 SUMMARY DATA

For our last example, we'll look at something a little bit more complicated. In the System Use tab, we'll look at the average length of time households spent homeless. In particular, we'll look at the average length of time that combines emergency shelter days, safe haven days, transitional housing days, and any days in rapid re-housing or permanent supporting housing that were prior to a housing move-in date. All of these days are unduplicated. So, we'll look at the average number of days that those households spent homeless. Let's say, for this example, that we want to look at the Child-Only average.

VIEW OF TOOL

Again, we'll go to the CoC Status Summary Conditions Tool, clear the filters, and narrow down which conditions we want to be looking at. The tab we want to look at is the system use tab in this case. And again that drop down that we were looking at is 'Average Length of Time Homeless.' We wanted to look at the Child Only data point and, in particular, we wanted to look at the average length of time combining all sheltered and pre-housing enrollment days.

This time, the data's populated from the LSACalculated file. Instead of summing anything, we'll simply be displaying the value from the Value column where the conditions in Column H are true. There are quite a few conditions in Column H, so let's go through them one at a time. The cohort needs to be set to 1.

VIEW OF LSACALCULATED FILE

In case you're interested, a cohort of 1 in the LSACalculated file means active in the current period.

VIEW OF TOOL

The system path needs to be set to negative 1.

VIEW OF LSACALCULATED FILE

Again, in case you're curious, a system path of negative 1 in the LSACalculated file means that there's no particular system path applied. We're looking at the group of people who used any combination of projects, so we do not need to set a system path.

VIEW OF TOOL

The HHType should equal 3.

VIEW OF LSACALCULATED FILE

That's the Child Only household type.

VIEW OF TOOL

The Population should be set to 0.

VIEW OF LSACALCULATED FILE

A Population of 0 simply means that there's no particular subpopulation.

VIEW OF TOOL

The universe should be set to negative 1.

VIEW OF LSACALCULATED FILE

There are lots of possible universes, including returner universes that are applicable to exit groups, project-level or project-type level measures that are applicable to inventory records. In this case, we'll be using a universe of 'All.'

VIEW OF TOOL

And then finally we'll be looking at ReportRow 5.

VIEW OF LSACALCULATED FILE

The LSACalculated file is the file that's most similar to a typical report from your HMIS in that it produces an actual value.

VIEW OF DATA DICTIONARY

So, ReportRow 5 in the LSACalculated file is going to tell us a particular result. If we scroll down, we can see that ReportRow 5 tells us the average days documented in ES, SH, TH, or homelessness before move-in, which is the data point that we're looking for.

VIEW OF LSACALCULATED FILE

The resulting value we get for that ReportRow, then, is 25. So, on average, Child Only households spent 25 days homeless in emergency shelter, safe haven, transitional housing, and pre-housing time in PSH and RRH.

VIEW OF HDX 2.0 SUMMARY DATA

And that is indeed the data point you can see here: 25.

I hope you found that brief discussion about how to use the Summary Conditions Tool useful. If you have any questions about the LSA or the process of trying to interpret your Summary results in the LSA, please feel free to submit a question via HUD's Ask A Question function on the HUD Exchange. Make sure you choose the category 'HDX.'