

HMIS Lead / Sys Admin – Q&A

Questions from 12/21/2022 Webinar

For any questions that were not addressed on the webinar, or if there are specific questions to your own systems, please submit an HMIS AAQ to receive a thorough answer:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

Q: Where are the HMIS CSV Export specifications for the Hashed version that Eva uses?

A: Find HMIS CSV Export specs here: <https://hudhdx.info/vendorresources.aspx>

Q: Does HUD want feedback on data elements other than Universal Data Elements (UDEs)?

A: Yes. All feedback should be submitted by December 31, 2022 to the HMIS AAQ:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

Q: Will comparable databases be required to produce the hashed csv file needed for Eva?

A: A comparable database needs to produce a hashed CSV; however, not for the purpose of Eva. Eva is intended to assist HMIS Administrators in Continuums of Care in assessing the accuracy and completeness of data within an HMIS and is not required by HUD.

Q: Will Eva address client level data quality issues?

A: Yes, client-level data quality issues are addressed with Personal IDs.

Q: Is a hashed csv file an existing requirement for HMIS?

A: Yes, and the requirements are outlined in the [HMIS CSV specifications](#).

Q: For Eva, is it recommended to break down the exports by project type, like we did with the Data Quality tool, or can we export on system wide data?

A: You can download a system-level analysis that will aggregate what kinds of data quality issues exist in your system as a whole. You can also download an organization-wide analysis that aggregates down to the project level to help target clean-up efforts. Both exports give enough data to make HMIS data quality corrections so HMIS Leads can send these to organizations.

Q: Has it been discussed having comparable databases be able to produce a Point in Time (PIT) or Housing Inventory Count (HIC) report?

A: There are no HMIS programming specifications for a PIT or HIC Report at this time. If and when programming specs are released, comparable database providers will be provided with these specifications.

Q: How do we know if a program needs to use a comparable database?

A: Victim Service Provider (VSP) is an agency level designation - HUD produced this decision tree to help navigate these questions: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HMIS-When-to-Use-a-Comparable-Database.pdf>

Q: Do you recommend that Data Quality standards for completeness or benchmarks for VSPs are different than HMIS participating organizations?

A: Identifying benchmarks for your Data Quality Plans and Funding Scorecards can be locally informed and can include the voices of VSPs and survivors in your community to find benchmarks that are responsive to both the safety needs of survivors and the performance determination needs for VSP projects. HUD is working with VSPs, survivors, advocates, CoCs, HMIS Leads, and other partners to develop recommendations, but it will take some time before official guidance is released.

Q: Our vendor can't produce a hashed CSV. Would it be possible to delete PII from the full CSV and then upload into Eva as a trial while we wait for the hashed version?

A: No. You will need to wait for your vendor to apply the correct hashing. We are working with vendors currently to get their exports ready.