

This data standard should be treated as a protected personal identifier, and is subject to the security standards for personal identifiers set forth in Part 4 of this notice.

#### 2.4 Ethnicity and Race

**Rationale:** Ethnicity and race can be used to count the number of homeless persons who identify themselves as Hispanic and to count the number of homeless persons who identify themselves within five different racial categories. In the October 30, 1997, issue of the **Federal Register** (62 FR 58782), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published "Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity." All existing federal recordkeeping and report requirements must be in compliance with these Standards as of January 1, 2003.

**Data Collection Methods:** Interview or self-administered form. Staff observations should not be used to collect information on ethnicity and race.

**When Data Are Collected:** Upon initial program entry or as soon as possible thereafter.

**Subjects:** All adults and children served.

**Recommended Interview Questions and Required Response Categories:**

##### Ethnicity

Q: "Are you Hispanic or Latino?"

- 0—No (Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino)
- 1—Yes (Hispanic or Latino)
- 88—Don't know
- 99—Refused

##### Race

Q: "What is your race (you may name more than one race)?"

- 1—American Indian or Alaska Native (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America—including Central America—and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.)
- 2—Asian (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.)
- 3—Black or African American (A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Terms such as "Haitian" or "Negro" can be used in addition to "Black or African American".)
- 4—Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii,

Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.)

- 5—White (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.)

- 88—Don't know
- 98—Not applicable
- 99—Refused

**Special Issues:** The HMIS should treat race as five separate fields to account for multiple race responses. For instance, if a respondent identifies herself as White and Asian, code "5" is recorded in the first data field, "2" is recorded in the second data field, and "98" (Not applicable) in the remaining data fields.

#### 2.5 Gender

**Rationale:** To create separate counts of homeless men and homeless women served.

**Data Collection Methods:** Interview, observation, or self-administered form.

**When Data Are Collected:** Upon initial program entry or as soon as possible thereafter.

**Subjects:** All adults and children served.

**Recommended Interview Questions and Required Response Categories:**

Q: "Are you male or female?"

- 0—Male
- 1—Female
- 88—Don't know
- 99—Refused

**Special Issues:** The gender questions are meant to capture the self-perceived sexual identity of the person interviewed and the caregiver's perception of the children who are with him/her. If the person replies that he/she is unsure of gender for any member of the household, the interviewer should record "Don't know."

Programs may add a "transgender" category as needed. However, for reporting purposes this category will be represented as "Don't know."

#### 2.6 Veteran Status

**Rationale:** To determine the number of homeless veterans.

**Data Collection Methods:** Interview or self-administered form.

**When Data Are Collected:** Upon initial program entry or as soon as possible thereafter.

**Subjects:** All adults served.

**Recommended Interview Question and Required Response Categories:**

Q: "Have you ever served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States?"

- 0—No
- 1—Yes
- 88—Don't know
- 99—Refused

**Special Issues:** The "Armed Forces" do not include inactive military reserves

or the National Guard unless the person has been called up to active duty.

#### 2.7 Residence Prior to Program Entry

**Rationale:** To identify the type of residence experienced just prior to program admission.

**Data Collection Methods:** Interview or self-administered form.

**When Data Are Collected:** Upon initial program entry or as soon as possible thereafter.

**Subjects:** All adults and, if necessary, children served.

**Recommended Interview Questions and Required Response Categories:**

Q: "Where did you stay last night?"

- 1—Emergency shelter
- 2—Transitional housing for homeless persons
- 3—Permanent housing for formerly homeless persons
- 4—Psychiatric facility
- 5—Substance abuse treatment facility
- 6—Hospital
- 7—Jail
- 8—Prison
- 9—Hotel or motel
- 10—Foster care home
- 11—Own room, apartment, or house
- 12—Living with someone else (family and friends)
- 13—A car or other vehicle
- 14—An abandoned building
- 15—At a transportation site (bus station, airport, subway station, etc.)
- 16—Anywhere outside (streets, parks, campgrounds, cardboard boxes, etc.)
- 17—Other
- 88—Don't know
- 99—Refused

Q: "How long did you stay at that place?"

- 1—Less than one week
- 2—One to two weeks
- 3—Three weeks to one month
- 4—Two to three months
- 5—Four to six months
- 6—Seven months to one year
- 7—More than one year
- 88—Don't know
- 99—Refused

**Special Issues:** This standard does not preclude the collection of residential history information beyond the residence experienced the night prior to program admission.

#### 2.8 Zip Code of Last Permanent Address

**Rationale:** To identify the former geographic location of persons experiencing homelessness.

**Data Collection Methods:** Interview or self-administered form.

**When Data Are Collected:** Upon initial program entry or as soon as possible thereafter.