Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Overview

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The Role of the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI)

AS THE METRO DENVER CONTINUUM OF CARE

We're designated by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to coordinate an end to homelessness in our region with the following:

REGIONAL DATA

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM

Houses the most vulnerable unhoused in our community

FEDERAL GRANTS

Bring in $35M+ annually to fund homelessness programs locally

POINT IN TIME COUNT

Annual count of everyone experiencing homelessness

AS A REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS NONPROFIT

We've adopted the Built for Zero methodology for ending homelessness. These activities are necessary to achieve our aim:

REGIONAL COORDINATION

Aligning local planning around a regional, data-driven strategy

RACIAL EQUITY & LIVED EXPERTISE

Acknowledging and elevating lived experience at all levels

REGIONAL RESOURCES

Working to fill the identified gaps in our homelessness to housing continuum.

Data Sources

Point in Time (PIT)

- One-night snapshot occurring each year during the last 10 days of January done since 2005
- ***Good***

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Data System used by service and housing providers to identify people experiencing homelessness in real time, launched in 2018
- ***Better***

By-Name List

- Ability to know, by-name, in real time, who is experiencing homelessness
- Currently veterans are only subpopulation nearing this threshold
- ***Best***

Data Summary: State of Homelessness 2022

03 STATE OF HOMELESSNESS

DATA SUMMARY

27,860

HMIS

People accessing services or housing related to homelessness at HMIS Partner Agencies

07/01/21 - 06/30/2022

6,884

POINT IN TIME

People counted experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on a single night

NIGHT OF 01/24/22

3,695

VI-SPDAT

People included in households assessed by the VI-SPDAT in our Coordinated Entry System

07/01/21 - 06/30/2022

8,240

MCKINNEY-VENTO

Students identified and reported by public school districts as experiencing homelessness

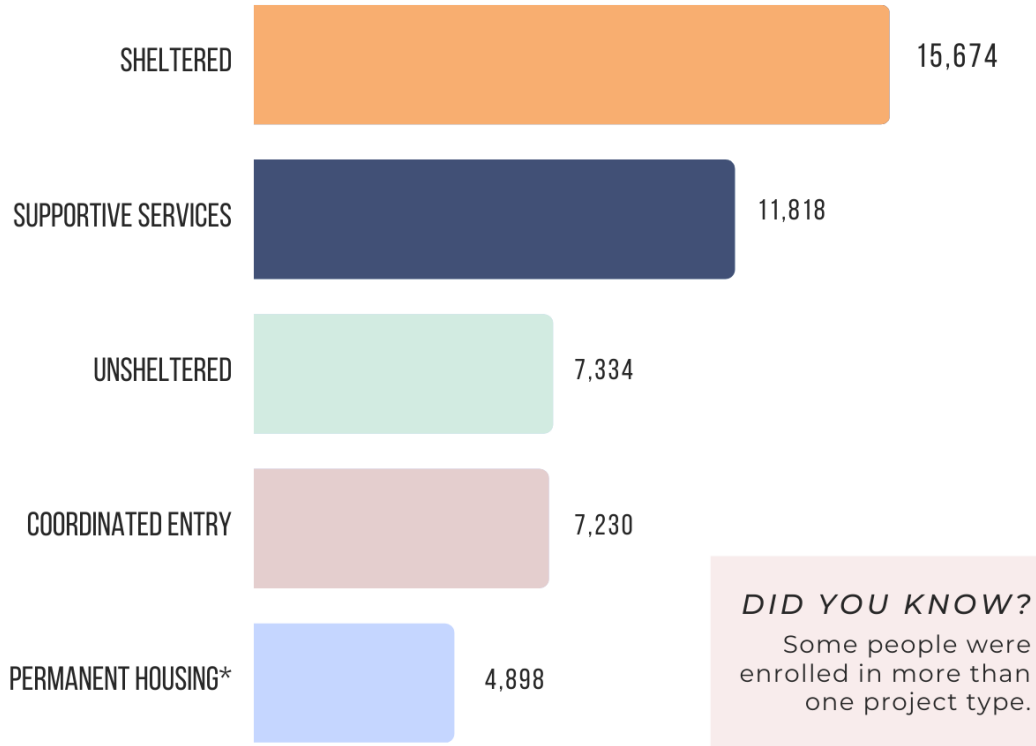
2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

HMIS Data: Yearly Snapshot

TOTAL HMIS DATA

27,860 PEOPLE
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

PEOPLE SERVED BY PROJECT TYPE



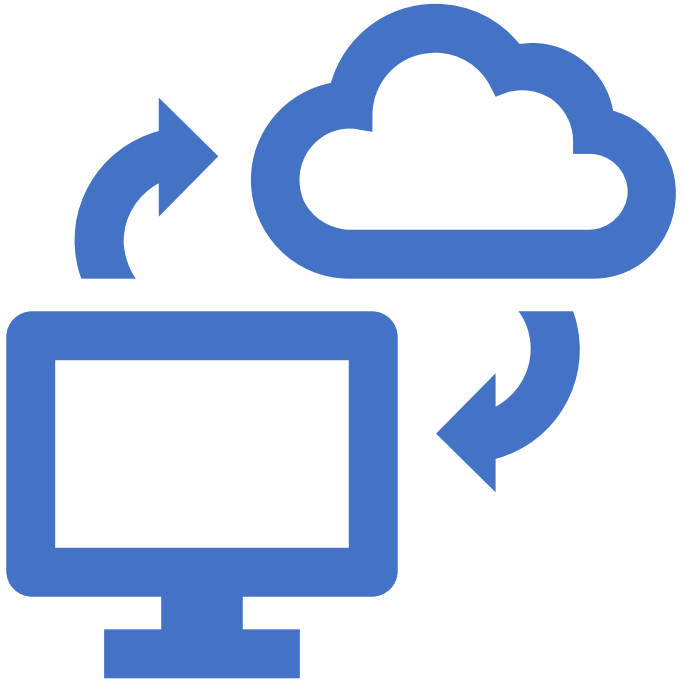
DID YOU KNOW?
Some people were enrolled in more than one project type.

HMIS

Overview, Governance & Use Cases

HMIS Overview

- Database required by HUD to collect unduplicated counts of individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- Community's tool to collect information from projects serving those experiencing homelessness for needs analyses and establish funding priorities
- Stores longitudinal, person-specific data related to those accessing homeless service system



*Source: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hmis/hmis-requirements/

HMIS in Colorado

- Uniform across all four Continuums of Care (CoCs)
- Bitfocus adopted statewide in 2018
- Strong focus on wide adoption by providers since 2018
- Working through data quality and dashboarding

HMIS Governance: Statewide Collaborative

- Creates statewide policies and procedures for all four Continuums of Care
- Governs who can access data, input data, research data sharing, creates Release of Information (ROI), etc.
- Collaborates on HMIS trainings, documents and forms, data integration, program manuals
- Chooses HMIS vendor collaboratively

COHMIS
Colorado Homeless Management Information System

STATEWIDE HMIS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES v2.0

Purpose

The *COHMIS Manual* comprises the policies and procedures and other documentation used to inform the operation of the Colorado Homeless Management Information System (COHMIS). These policies and procedures will inform the work of the Colorado HMIS Statewide Collaborative and the HMIS Lead Agencies within the Clarity Human Services HMIS Database, hosted by Bitfocus, which represent the state's four HUD-designated Continuums of Care (CoCs).

Update approved by HMIS Statewide Collaborative on: 8/8/2022

HMIS Vision and Use

- Ensuring that each CoCs Lead Agency is in **regulatory compliance** with HEARTH Act and HUD system requirements as outlined in current HUD Data Technical Standards.
- **Coordinated case management** across agencies, programs, and services that is designed to allow all service providers in the community achieve a “one-stop-shop” concept for participants.
- The **ability to track and measure outcomes** achieved by the four Continuums of Care (CoC) and other programs **within the CoCs**.
- The ability to **track and measure outcomes** for the goals outlined in **federal, state and local plans to end homelessness.**
- **Service coordination** within communities with a goal of **moving towards statewide service coordination.**
- **More information shared** with funders, boards, and other stakeholders that can be used **to inform and facilitate equitable and data-driven decisions**.
- **Observation and action informed by data** trends which identify problems, issues, and needs of persons experiencing homelessness and other at-risk populations; with a focus on populations who experience homelessness at disproportionately higher levels **due to systemically oppressive systems which are impacted by events like historic and structural racism, income inequality, etc.**
- The **development or modification of state and local policies** that can identify or reduce service gaps and help make homelessness rare, brief and one-time.

*Source: https://cohmis.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360013991371-Policy-Procedures

Benefits for Those Experiencing Homelessness

- Streamlined referrals
- Coordinated case management
- Decrease in duplicative intakes and assessments
- *In a system designed to protect their privacy*

Benefits for Homeless System, Public Policymakers, & Advocates

1. Identifying service gaps
2. Calculating unduplicated counts of clients served
3. Understanding the extent and nature of homelessness
4. Informing systems design and policy decisions
5. Measuring the performance of the community system to prevent and end homelessness

Benefits for Agency Directors & Program Managers

Measuring client outcomes

Analyzing performance of projects

Coordinating services internally among agency projects and externally with other providers

Preparing financial and programmatic reports for funders, boards, and other stakeholders

Benefits for Case Managers & Homeless Service Staff

KNOWING WAITLIST OR ENROLLMENT STATUS

VIEWING CLIENT HISTORY, ASSESSMENTS, INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER PROVIDERS

STORING AND SHARING DOCUMENTS SECURELY, SUCH AS ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION, ID'S, LEASES

Requirements of HOST Partners

01

Enrolling new clients into programs

02

Updating move-in date information (housing programs)

03

Doing status update or annual assessments

04

Exiting clients from the programs

05

Capturing service information

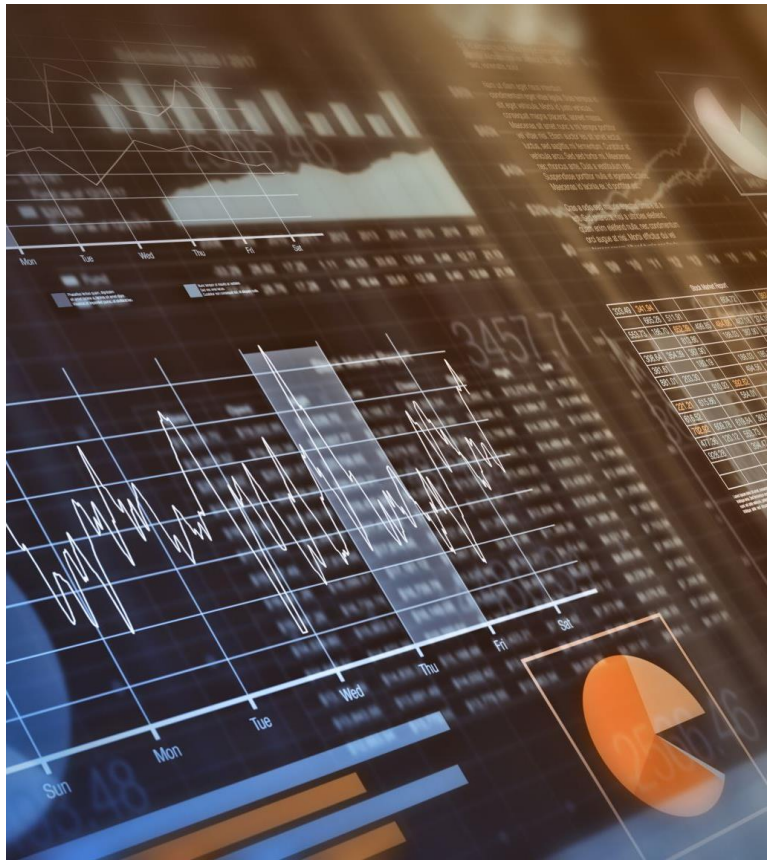
06

Utilizing OneHome (Coordinated Entry)

Data Use for Reporting and Performance Evaluation

- HUD Reporting
  - PIT for Sheltered Count
  - Annual Performance Reports (APR)
  - Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)

- HOST Reporting
  - Data Quality Reports
  - Tableau Reports
  - Performance Reports
  - HOST dashboards



Questions and Clarifications?

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