

Safe Harbors Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Tips to Improve your Data Quality

Tip #4: Residence Prior to Program Entry/Length of Stay in Previous Place

'Residence Prior to Program Entry' is a HUD Universal Data Element and helps us know where individuals and families were staying before entering a program. You should record the place where the client stayed **the night before** they entered your program.

'Length of Stay in Previous Place' is also a HUD Universal Data Element and refers to the amount of time the client stayed at the location recorded in 'Residence Prior to Program Entry'.

'Residence Prior to Program Entry' and 'Length of Stay in Previous Place' are on the Program Entry screen in HMIS.

The screenshot shows the 'Program Entry' screen for a homeless client. The 'Residence Prior to Program Entry' dropdown menu is set to 'Emergency shelter' and the 'Length of Stay in Previous Place' dropdown menu is set to 'One to three months'. Both dropdown menus are circled in red. The 'Program Status' is 'Enrolled', the 'Case Manager' is 'STAGwen', and the 'Program Entry Date' is '05/09/2010'. The 'Entry Questions' section is visible at the bottom, with a table of questions and answers.

Question	Answer	Comment	Rec
Housing Status	Literally homeless		
What circumstance	Eviction		
Have you been co	No		
How many episod	Less than 4 episod		
Are you currently	Yes		
If the client is not			
If currently workin	40		
If employed, is th	No		
Is work permanen	Permanent		
Currently in schoo	No		
If a client has rec	None		
Received vocatio	No		