



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

AHAR Update: February 2010

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Questions and Answers for the AHAR-Vet Report

This document provides answers to common questions regarding participation in the AHAR Veterans Supplemental Report (AHAR-Vet). If you have any further questions, please contact your AHAR data reviewer.

1. Is my community eligible to submit data for the AHAR-Vet report?

Communities that submitted useable data to the 2009 AHAR are eligible to submit data to the AHAR-Vet report. If you have not yet been informed by your AHAR data reviewer regarding the usability of each AHAR reporting category, you can log into the AHAR Exchange to see the usability status of your data submission. If a reporting category is marked as “TBD” or “useable,” please proceed with data submission for the corresponding reporting category in the veteran reporting module. If a reporting category is marked “zero-provider,” you do not submit data for that category.

Communities that are complete “Zero Providers” in the 2009 AHAR—that is, they do not have any emergency shelters or transitional housing providers in the AHAR jurisdiction—do not submit data for the AHAR-Vet report.

2. What should I do if the providers in my AHAR jurisdiction did not serve any veterans in one or more of the AHAR reporting categories?

If your community reported zero veterans in one or more AHAR reporting categories, you should: (1) log into the AHAR Exchange; (2) navigate to the veteran reporting module; and (3) for each category with no veterans reported, please click the “No Veterans Reported” button. This will auto-populate all of the data fields in that category with zeros.

3. Who do I include in the AHAR-Vet report?

All persons served in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs who were identified as veterans should be included in the AHAR-Vet report. A veteran is any person who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

For each person, communities should use the “Veteran Status” data element (a universal data element in HUD’s HMIS Data Standards) to identify a veteran. If a person has multiple service records *during the AHAR reporting period*, communities should review all records and if any of those records indicate that the person is a veteran, then include the person in the supplemental report.

4. Do the counts of veterans in the AHAR-Vet report need to equal the counts of veterans in the AHAR?

Yes, the unduplicated counts of veterans in the veteran module should equal the unduplicated counts of veterans reported in the corresponding AHAR reporting categories (Question 9 of the 2009 AHAR). To streamline the reporting process, the veteran counts reported in the AHAR reporting categories will be automatically populated into the corresponding veteran reporting categories (Question 1a of the veteran reporting module.)

However, during the submission of data to the AHAR-Vet module, it is possible that communities will discover discrepancies between the total number of veterans in the regular AHAR and those reported to the veteran module. For example, a community may obtain updated HMIS information to reclassify a person as a “Veteran” who was previously reported as “Not a veteran” or as “Missing this information” in the regular AHAR. Reclassifications do not change the total number of persons reported to the AHAR, but rather provide more accurate data on a community’s veteran population. Communities that discover these types of discrepancies should inform their AHAR data reviewer and the reviewer will make the appropriate changes to the regular AHAR data.

5. What beds do I report in the AHAR-Vet report?

The total number of beds in your community was reported in the regular AHAR. For the AHAR-Vet report, communities should report beds targeted for veterans only. Communities should report the number of HMIS, year-round equivalent beds that are designated for homeless veterans in Question 1b and report the number of non-HMIS, year-round equivalent beds designated for homeless veterans in Question 1c. These veteran-only beds can be identified

using “Target Population B” from a community’s housing inventory.

However, all veterans meeting the criteria discussed in question 3 should be included in the AHAR-Vet report.

6. How do I count veterans that were served as part of a family? Do I include their family members in the AHAR-Vet report as well?

No. For veterans in families, communities should report on the veteran(s) only and exclude anyone in the household that is not a veteran. Accordingly, family members who are not veterans should be excluded from the AHAR-Vet report even if they were served with a veteran. For example, if a veteran is served with his wife and children in an emergency shelter for families, the veteran would be counted in the AHAR-Vet report but the wife and children would be excluded. Nonetheless, because he was served in an emergency shelter for families, the veteran would be reported in the ES-FAM reporting category.

7. Some questions from the regular AHAR seem to be omitted from the AHAR-Vet report. Why?

Several questions have been omitted because the questions pertain to children and thus do not apply to veterans who are adults: portions of Questions 4 (Age) and Question 5 (Gender), and Question 16 (Number of Nights – Children). A few other questions are unnecessary or not applicable for veterans: Questions 9 (Veteran Status), Question 11 (Persons by Household Type) and Question 22 (Veterans Status of Long-term Stayers). In addition, questions S2, S3 and S4 from the Summary Table are not applicable for veterans and have been omitted from the AHAR-Vet report.

8. How are the bed coverage and utilization rates used in the AHAR-Vet report?

Calculating accurate bed coverage and utilization rates for veterans only is difficult because veterans can use beds that are part of a community's general inventory as well as beds designated for veterans-only. The bed inventories reported by CoCs do not indicate how many beds in the general inventory are used by veterans. As a result, bed coverage and utilization rates will not be calculated for the AHAR-Vet report. However, communities can report veterans' data only in those reporting categories from the regular AHAR that had acceptable bed coverage and utilization rates. This restriction will help ensure that communities are submitting reliable HMIS data on homeless veterans.

9. Will participation in the AHAR-Vet report on homeless veterans affect a community's score on its CoC funding application?

HUD defines AHAR participation as the submission of useable data on at least one of the standard AHAR reporting categories (i.e., ES-IND, ES-FAM, TH-IND, and TH-FAM). For CoCs that complete one or more standard reporting categories, HUD will consider the total number of reporting categories—standard and supplemental—in scoring AHAR participation in the annual CoC competition.

10. Should I submit data for the Summary reporting category?

Any community submitting data on veterans for at least one of the four reporting categories (ES-FAM, ES-IND, TH-FAM, and TH-IND) should submit data for Questions S1 and S5 in the Summary reporting category. Questions S2, S3 and S4 are not applicable for veterans and have been omitted from the AHAR Exchange-Veterans.

Contacting the AHAR Research Team

If you have any questions, please call (1-877-789-2427) or e-mail the AHAR research team (AHAR@abtassoc.com).