Los Angeles Unsheltered Data Code Book: 2015

CODE BOOK FORMAT

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Variable Name | Description | Levels: If variables have been coded numerically, you will see the number on the left followed by an equals sign followed by the definition |

AGE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Age | Age of the individual at the time of the survey. | Raw data input (in years) |
| Birth\_Year | Year the individual was born. | Raw data input |

SEX/GENDER/ORIENTATION

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Gender | Answer to: What is your gender identity? | Male;  Female;  Transgender;  Unknown; |
| Sexual\_Orientation | Answer to: Which of the following best represents your sexual orientation? | Straight;  Gay or lesbian;  Bisexual;  Unsure / questioning;  Unknown |

ETHNICITY/RACE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ethnicity | What is the individual’s ethnicity? | European American;  African American;  Latino;  Other Ethnicity;  Unknown |
| Race\_full | What is the individual’s race | Raw data input |
| Race\_Recode | Recode of race by Economic Roundtable | European American;  African American;  Other Ethnicity;  Unknown |

VETERAN

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Veteran | Did they serve in active duty as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Note: An individual is considered chronically homeless if they have been homeless for at least a year continuously or they have had 4 episodes in the last three years that total to 1 year AND they have a disabling condition.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chronic\_Time | Does the individual meet the HUD requirement for time? | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| Chronic\_Condition | Does the individual have a long-term disabling condition? | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| Chronic | Is the individual chronically homeless? | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |

LIVING WITH CHILDREN/FAMILY STRUCTURE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adult\_With\_Child | Answer to: Are you living with your child or the child of someone you are traveling with AND is this child under 18? | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Have\_Had\_Child | Does the individual have a child? This is a recode of the question how many biological children do you have? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |

TIME HOMELESS/MOVEMENT IN AND OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

Note: It is important to take note of the time intervals because the choices in the survey are changed frequently. For example, in 2015 the options for Current\_Stint\_Duration include 4-6 months and 7-11 months while in 2017 they are changed to 4-5 months ad 6-11 months for some unknown reason.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Current\_Stint\_Duration | Answer to: How long have you been homeless THIS TIME? | Up to 1 Month;  1-3 Months;  4-6 Months;  7-11 Months;  12+ Months |
| Current\_Stint\_Duration\_Detailed | Answer to: How long have you been homeless THIS TIME?  This is a finer grain version of Current\_Stint\_Duration and is not recoded to match other years. | up to 1 week;  1-4 weeks;  1-3 months;  4-6 months;  7-11 months;  12+ months;  Unknown |
| Times\_Homeless\_3yrs | Answer to: In the past 3 years, how many times have you been housed and then homeless again? | 1 Time;  2 to 3 Times;  4 or More Times;  Unknown |
| Times\_Homeless\_Past\_Year | Answer to: In the past year, how many times have you been housed and then homeless again? | 1 Time;  2 to 3 Times;  4 or More Times;  Unknown |
| New\_to\_Homelessness | Is this the individual’s first homeless experience. (Excluding chronically homeless) | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Outside\_LA\_County | Answer to: In the past 7 day, have you spent one or more nights outside of LA County? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Location\_Before\_Current\_Stint | Answer to: Before the last time you lost housing, where were you living | Los Angeles County;  Other county in Southern California;  Other county in California;  Out of state;  Outside of US;  Unknown |
| LA\_Community\_Before\_Current\_Stint | If they answered Los Angeles County, this is the answer to: Which community in LA county? | Raw data input (formats vary widely) |
| SPA | The service planning area that the survey took place in. | Raw data input from interviewer |
| Census\_Tract | The census tract that the survey took place in. | Raw data input from interviewer |

LIVING SITUATION

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Outside\_Majority\_Last\_Month | If you have spent the majority of nights over the past month outside, Where have you spent the majority of those nights? | Car or Truck;  Van - RV or Camper;  Nonhabitable building or under bridge;  Outdoor encampment or tent or makeshift shelter;  Park, beach, riverbed, woods;  Street, sidewalk, or alley;  Other outdoor location;  Indoor majority of the past month;  Unknown |
| Indoor\_Majority\_Last\_Month | If you have spent the majority of nights over the past month inside, Where have you spent the majority of those nights? | Outdoor majority of the month;  On a couch or extra space at a home of a friend or family;  Emergency shelter;  Apartment or home;  Transitional housing;  Hotel or motel; Safe Haven; Hospital or treatment facility;  With someone unknown because you needed a place to stay;  Youth shelter;  Jail or Prison;  Hospital, substance abuse or psychiatric treatment facility;  Unknown |

REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

Note: The Individual was asked to mark all the reasons that they have lost their home. Since variations of possible answers are high, I separated every individual reason into its own column and if the individual sites that answer as a reason for their homelessness a 1 is present, otherwise a 0 is present. If the individual skipped the question a 2 is present.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Reason\_Homeless\_DV | Domestic violence is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Subs\_Abuse | Substance abuse is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Mental | Mental Illness is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Medical | Medical, physical disability, or illness is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Job | Job loss or financial reasons is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Breakup | End of relationship is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Child\_Support | Child support marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_HH\_Conflict | Household conflict is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Death\_Illness\_Fam | Death or illness in family marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Eviction | Eviction marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Sexual\_Orientation | Kicked out due to sexual orientation marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Foster\_Care | Left or aged out of foster care marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_No\_Fam | No friends or family marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Immigration | Recent immigration marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Released\_Treatment | Release from hospital or treatment center marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Jail\_Prison | Release from jail or prison marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Previous\_Housing\_Program | Timed out or left previous housing program marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Family\_Hmls | Family homelessness marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |

HISTORY OF PHYSICAL/SEXUAL ABUSE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Physical\_Sexual\_Abuse | Answer to: Have you been physically or sexually abused by a relative or someone you have lived with? | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |

DISABILITIES/ILLNESS

Note: The Individual was asked to mark any conditions they had had or been told they had by a healthcare provider at any point in their lives. Since variations of possible answers are high, I separated every individual condition into its own column and if the individual marks the condition a 1 is present, otherwise a 0 is present.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Physical\_Disability\_Ever | Physical disability experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| Physical\_Illness\_Ever | Physical illness experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| Alcohol\_Abuse\_Ever | Individual abused alcohol at any point in their life | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| Drug\_Abuse\_Ever | Individual abused drugs at any point in their life | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| Mental\_Illness\_Ever | Mental illness experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| Severe\_Depression\_Ever | Severe depression experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No/Unknwon  1 = Yes |
| PTSD\_Ever | PTSD experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| Traumatic\_Brain\_Injury\_Ever | TBI experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| Developmental\_Disability\_Ever | Developmental disability experienced (individual is over 18) | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| HIV\_Positive | Individual is HIV positive | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| Drug\_Alcohol\_History | Catch all variable for any reported or observed history of problematic drug or alcohol use. | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployed\_Looking | Individual is unemployed, but looking for work | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Unemployed\_Not\_Looking | Unemployed, not looking for work | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Full\_Time | Employed full time | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Part\_Time | Part time employed | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Seasonal | Has seasonal employment | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Unable\_To\_Work\_Disability | Unable to work due to disability | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Student\_Vocational | Individual is enrolled in school or vocational training | 0 = No  1 = Yes |

OTHER FORMS OF INCOME

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Panhandling | Individual makes money through panhandling | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Recycling | Individual makes money through recycling | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Day\_Labor | Individual makes money as a day laborer | 0 = No  1 = Yes |

CURRENT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Note: The Individual was asked to mark any government assistance they are currently receiving. Since variations of possible answers are high, I separated every individual service into its own column and if the individual marks the service a 1 is present, otherwise a 0 is present.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Gov\_Assist\_Unemployment | Individual is receiving unemployment payments | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_General\_Relief | Individual is receiving General Relief or Assistance | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_SSI\_SSD | Individual receives SSI or SSDI payments | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_Social\_Security | Individual receives social security retirement payments | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_Food\_Stamps | Individual receives food stamps | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_CAPI | Individual receives Cash Assistance for Immigrants | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_Women\_Infants\_Children | Individual receives WIC services | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_CalWorks | Individual receives calWORKS services | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_MediCal | Individual is enrolled in MediCal | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_Medicare | Individual is enrolled in Medicare | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_Vet\_Disability\_Payment | Individual receives veteran disability payments | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_Vet\_Other\_Benefit | Individual receives benefits related to being a veteran | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_Vet\_Pension | Individual receives veteran pension | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_Child\_Support | Individual receives child support from governement | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_Child\_Insurance | Individual receives children’s insurance from governement | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_Health\_Way\_LA | Individual received free health care for under and uninsured low-income residents of LA County | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Gov\_Assist\_Rental | Individual received rental assistance | 0 = No  1 = Yes |

OTHER CURRENTLY UTILIZED HOMELESS SERVICES

Note: The Individual was asked to mark any homeless services they are currently receiving. Since variations of possible answers are high, I separated every individual service into its own column and if the individual marks the service a 1 is present, otherwise a 0 is present.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Currently\_Access\_DropIn | Currently utilizes access or drop-in shelters | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Currently\_Job\_Training | Currently utilizes job training or job placement | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Currently\_Case\_Management | Currently has a case manager | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Currently\_Mental\_Health | Currently has mental health counseling | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Currently\_Housing\_Placement | Currently utilizes Housing location assistance or housing placement assistance | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Currently\_Legal\_Assistance | Currently utilizes legal assistance | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Currently\_Alcohol\_Drug\_Counseling | Currently utilizes alcohol or drug abuse services or counseling | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Currently\_Emergency\_Shelter | Currently utilizes emergency shelters | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Currently\_Emergency\_Food | Currently utilizes emergency food resources | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Currently\_Education\_Services | Currently utilizes education services | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Currently\_Health\_Care | Currently utilizing health care programs | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Currently\_HIV\_Testing | Currently receiving HIV testing | 0 = No  1 = Yes |

SCHOOL COMPLETED

Note: These levels lack the specificity of 2017.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| School\_Complete | Answer to: What is the highest level of education you have completed? | No schooling completed;  8th grade or below completed;  Some high school completed;  12th grade, no diploma;  High school diploma;  GED;  Vocational Degree or Certificate;  Some college;  Associate's degree;  Bachelor's degree;  Graduate school;  Unknown |

LEGAL SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Foster\_Care\_Involvement | Individual has been in foster care at some point in their life | 0 = No/Unknown  1 = Yes |
| Juvenile\_Detention\_Involvement | Individual has been in juvenile detention and/or probation at some point in their life | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Jail\_Prison\_Involvement | Individual has been in jail or prison at some point in their life | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Adult\_Probation\_Involvement | Individual has been on adult probation at some point in their life | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Homeless\_Ticketed | Has the individual been ticketed for an infraction related to homelessness (jaywalking, loitering, camping, sleeping in a public place, etc)? | 0 = No  1 = Yes |

The next variables are connected to justice involvement in the past year.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Justice\_System\_Past\_Year | Answer to: Where you released from a correctional institution in the past 12 months? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Justice\_System\_Services | Answer to: Where you offered services to help you find housing while you were in prison or shortly after? | 0 = No  1 = Yes |

TURNED AWAY FROM SHELTER REASONS

Note: These are the reasons the individuals cite that they have been turned away from a shelter at any time in the past. In 2013 individuals were only asked about the previous month.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Turned\_Away\_Ever | Has the individual ever been turned away from a shelter? | 0 = No  1 =Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Turned\_Away\_Drug\_Alcohol | Turned away because of substance abuse issues | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_Physical | Turned away because of a physical disability | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_Mental | Turned away because of a mental illness | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_NoID | Turned away for not having an ID | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_Criminal\_Record | Turned away because of a criminal record | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_Had\_Children | Turned away because of having children | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_Had\_Pets | Turned away because of having pets | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_Age\_Requirement | Turned away due to an age requirement | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_Immigration | Turned away to immigration status | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_No\_Beds | Turned away due to lack of beds | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_Lack\_Housing | Turned away due to lack of housing | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_Not\_Foster | Turned away for not being a former foster care youth | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_Partner | Turned away due to a partner or friend getting turned away | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |
| Turned\_Away\_Pregnant | Turned away due to pregnancy | 0 = No/Unknown  1 =Yes |

INTERVIEWER OBSERVATIONS

Note: The interviewer is asked to record their observations of the homeless individual.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Observed\_Mental | Did you observe/detect signs or symptoms of mental illness? | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Observed\_Substance | Did you observe/detect signs or symptoms of substance abuse? | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Observed\_Physical | Did you observe/detect signs or symptoms of a serious physical health concern? | 0 = No  1 = Yes |

WEIGHTS

Unlike in 2016 and 2017 there is only one variable related to weights, which is “Weights” (no “Weights\_rescale”). The “Weights” were supplied by LAHSA, but about 1/3 of the records are missing weights. They may not be reliable, and we did not attempt to re-scale them. Weights for earlier years were not provided.