Los Angeles Unsheltered Data Code Book: 2016

CODE BOOK FORMAT

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 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.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 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/Unknown  1 = Yes |

TIME HOMELESS/MOVEMENT IN AND OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

Note: The intervals for Current\_Stint\_Duration changed from 2015.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Current\_Stint\_Duration | Answer to: How long have you been homeless THIS TIME? | Up to 1 Month;  1-3 Months;  4-5 Months;  6-11 Months;  12+ Months;  Unknown |
| 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. | Number of days individual reported to be homeless during their current stint. |
| Times\_Homeless\_3yrs | Answer to: In the past 3 years, how many times have you been housed and then homeless again? | 0 times (not been housed in the last 3 years);  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 |
| Age\_First\_Homeless | Answer to: At what age did you first experience homelessness? | Raw data input (in years) |
| LA\_County\_Years | Answer to: How have you been living in LA County? | Raw data input (in years) |
| 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

Note: People who spent the majority of their time indoors were disqualified from taking the survey in 2016 and 2017.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Outside\_Majority\_Last\_Month | Answer to: Where have you spent the majority of nights over the past month? | Car or Truck;  RV or Camper;  Van;  Nonhabitable building or under bridge;  Outdoor encampment or tent or makeshift shelter;  Park, beach, riverbed, woods;  Street, sidewalk, or alley;  Other outdoor location |

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 entire question, a 2 is present.

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

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  1 = Yes |
| Physical\_Illness\_Ever | Physical illness experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Alcohol\_Abuse\_Ever | Individual abused alcohol at any point in their life | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Drug\_Abuse\_Ever | Individual abused drugs at any point in their life | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Mental\_Illness\_Ever | Mental illness experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Severe\_Depression\_Ever | Severe depression experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| PTSD\_Ever | PTSD experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Traumatic\_Brain\_Injury\_Ever | TBI experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Developmental\_Disability\_Ever | Developmental disability experienced (individual is over 18) | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| HIV\_Positive | Individual is HIV positive | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Drug\_Alcohol\_History | Catch all variable for any reported or observed history of problematic drug or alcohol use. | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2= Unknown |

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 |

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.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 or survivor benefits | 0 = No  1 = Yes |

EMERGENCY ROOM AND HOSPITAL STAYS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ER\_Past\_Year | Answer to: How many times in the past year have you visited the emergency room or hospital? | 1;  2;  3;  4+ |
| ER\_Homeless | Answer to: Were you homeless AT THE TIME that you entered the ER or hospital? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |

LEGAL SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

Note: The Individual was asked to mark any legal system they have ever been involved with. Since variations of possible answers are high, I separated every individual system into its own column and if the individual marks the system a 1 is present, otherwise a 0 is present.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Foster\_Care\_Involvement | Individual has been in foster care at some point in their life | 0 = No  1 = Yes |
| Juvenile\_Probation\_Involvement | Individual has been on juvenile probation or in juvenile detention 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 |
| Parole\_Involvement | Individual has been on parole at some point in their life | 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\_Homeless | Answer to: Where you homeless at the time you entered jail or prison in the past year? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |

INTERVIEWER OBSERVATIONS

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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 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

There are two variables related to sampling weights, “Weights” and “Weights\_rescale”. The “Weights” were supplied by LAHSA, and account for the non-random sampling of census tracts where demographic surveys were conducted, as well as the fact that the number of demographic surveys conducted in a census tract might not have been proportional to the number of people who were counted there in the overnight count. “Weights\_rescale” is our rescaling of the “Weights” so that the weights for youth (18-24) add up to the estimated unsheltered youth total and the weights for others add up to the remaining total. Thus, overall the sum of “Weights\_rescale” equals the estimated unsheltered population in the year’s PIT count. This facilitates data visualization and other tasks.