

Community Analysis Dashboard

User Help Guide

Overview

The Community Analysis Dashboard gives organizations a straightforward way to explore the data behind their CoC Annual Performance Report without reading through pages of tables and numbers. Built on the APR exported directly from HMIS, the dashboard takes those same familiar metrics and presents them in a visual format that works for both technical HMIS users and people newer to the data.

The scope of the dashboard is determined entirely by how the APR was run. Run it for a full reporting group and the dashboard shows system-level data. Run it for a single agency or one project and it becomes a view of just that agency or project. The same goes for date range: one month, a full year, multiple years. Whatever the APR covers is exactly what the dashboard displays. There are no filters inside the dashboard itself.

You can access the dashboard and a demo at gaitherdyn.com by navigating to Products > Community Analysis Dashboard.

Navigation Icons

In the top right corner of the dashboard, you will find an information icon that covers the basics of how the dashboard works, including how to interact with KPIs and what the APR connection means. It is worth reading before diving into the data.

Note: Hover Tooltips

Most KPIs and charts throughout the dashboard include layered hover tooltips. Hovering over any metric will reveal additional detail such as non-rounded numbers, APR section references, and secondary breakdowns. This is one of the most useful features of the dashboard and worth exploring throughout.

Dashboard KPIs and Visualizations

The dashboard presents key metrics from the APR using natural language labels and abbreviated numbers for readability. Hovering over any KPI shows the full unrounded

number for accuracy. Tooltips also identify which APR section the metric is drawn from, so users familiar with HUD reporting can cross-reference easily.

Active Homeless Population

Shows the total number of adults who entered from homeless living situations during the reporting period, based on APR Q15 living situations. Hover over the KPI to see the exact count and the specific APR section it references.

Vulnerable Populations

Tracks key subpopulations served during the reporting period, displayed together in a single view. This includes:

- Children
- Survivors of domestic violence
- Veterans
- Chronically homeless individuals

Hover over any population group to see the full count and additional breakdown detail. Seeing all of these groups in one place removes the need to run separate reports for each subpopulation.

Ways People Are Helped

Shows outcomes for clients served during the reporting period. This section covers exits to permanent housing, increases in income, and other positive outcomes tracked through the APR. Hover over each outcome for counts and percentage breakdowns.

Length of Time

Shows how long clients experienced homelessness during the reporting period. Both average days and median days are displayed side by side. Median is particularly useful because it removes the effect of outliers on the overall picture. Comparing both figures gives a more complete view of system performance over time.

Data Quality

Highlights data quality flags collected during the reporting period. Common flags include Social Security number errors and destination fields. A few important notes on interpreting this section:

- **Social Security number flags:** A high volume of SSN errors does not always indicate a real problem. Some projects only collect the last four digits of a Social Security number for security purposes, which HMIS may flag as incomplete. If a project intentionally collects partial SSNs, those flags are expected and not a concern.
- **Destination flags:** Exit destination errors generally do indicate data that needs attention. These should be reviewed and corrected in HMIS.
- **Relationship to Head of Household:** Also a high-priority flag worth reviewing, as errors here can affect household-level reporting accuracy.

Hover over any flag category for additional detail on what is contributing to the count.

Tips for Getting the Most Out of the Dashboard

- Hover over every KPI. Non-rounded numbers, APR section references, and secondary breakdowns are only accessible through the hover tooltips.
- The dashboard reflects exactly what the APR was run against. If the scope or date range is not what you need, re-run the APR in HMIS and reload the dashboard with the new export.
- When reviewing data quality, consider the project types included in your reporting group before drawing conclusions about error rates.
- Check the information icon page if anything in the dashboard is unclear. It walks through the basics of the APR connection and how to interact with each section.

Contact

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