

Chronic by-name list FAQs

What is the chronic by-name list and how is it used?

The chronic by-name list (CBNL) is a data set containing information on all households in Hennepin County who meet the [definition of chronic homelessness](#). This information is in the form of a report pulled from HMIS, and is updated frequently to be as real-time as possible. The CBNL is used to accurately report our data on chronic homelessness as well as to help match people to housing resources quickly and efficiently. The CBNL is a tool used to end chronic homelessness and can be used by all HMIS users who are serving people experiencing chronic homelessness.

How is the CBNL connected to efforts to end chronic homelessness?

The CBNL is a tool our system uses to support our goal of ending chronic homelessness. The CBNL can tell us aggregate information like how many people at any given time are experiencing chronic homelessness, where they are staying, etc., and also person-level information like whether or not someone is working with a case manager and which resource types someone is interested in. This information allows us to both make strong housing referrals and identify cross-system gaps.

What recent changes have been made?

Changes have been made recently to the way people are included on the CBNL. Previously, sheltered households were added to the CBNL based on shelter stay data, and providers were asked to contact Hennepin County to request their unsheltered clients be added. Moving forward, the CBNL will be automated for both sheltered and unsheltered households and will include people based on HMIS data: entry/exits and current living situations. Additionally, the report was broadened to include families as well as single adults and restructured to include inflow and outflow data.

Do providers need to do anything differently because of these changes?

Providers should always prioritize real-time data entry in HMIS. While providers no longer need to contact Hennepin County to request their client be added to the CBNL, accurate data entry remains imperative to supporting a strong homelessness response system that serves people equitably and effectively.

What do these changes mean for the households we serve?

As a result of this change, chronically homeless households will be included on the CBNL based on HMIS data regardless of if they are sheltered or unsheltered. This will allow our system to better identify and serve households who may be unconnected to services or only eligible for very limited housing resources. As we move forward, we will build a stronger network of support for chronically homeless households.

Contact

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