# Crosswalk of California and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development System Performance Measures

The State of California has developed the California System Performance Measures (CA SPMs) to help state and local jurisdictions evaluate their progress towards preventing, reducing, and ending homelessness.  As required by Health and Safety Code §50220.7, the CA SPMs are based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development System Performance Measures (HUD SPMs), but the measures differ in several important ways. California's measures evaluate the performance of a broader set of services accessed by people experiencing homelessness and provide a fuller picture of outcomes for people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness in California.

Throughout this guide, "system" refers to the homelessness response system, which consists of projects that enter data into a local Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS).

The crosswalk below specifies the ways in which the CA SPMs and their analogous HUD SPMs differ. There are also several overarching differences between the CA and HUD SPMs:

1. **Inclusion of Non-Residential Projects:** All of the CA SPMs include data from Street Outreach (SO), Coordinated Entry (CE), Day Shelter (DS), Services Only (SSO), and Other projects (which are referred to as "non-residential projects") to ensure that the measures include information about people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, who would not otherwise be captured in most of the HUD measures.
   - The HUD SPMs only include one of the non-residential projects types, Street Outreach (SO), in two of the measures (2a and b. Returns to Homelessness After an Exit to Permanent Housing and 7a. Successful Placement from Street Outreach)
2. **Data Quality Adjustments:** The CA SPMs also include adjustments to account for more difficult data collection conditions in non-residential projects, which can lead to lower data quality. These data adjustments are:
   - <u>Determining Whether Someone is Experiencing Homelessness:</u> Non-residential projects serve both people experiencing homelessness and people who are not experiencing homelessness. To track whether a person is experiencing homelessness, a Prior Living Situation (PLS) or Current Living Situation (CLS) is recorded every time there is a contact with the person to document where they are staying. Only enrollments where the CLS or PLS status indicates homelessness (referred to in this guide as "homeless CLS" or "homeless PLS") are included in the report.
   - <u>Determining Length of Time Homeless:</u> For clients determined to be experiencing homelessness, enrollment start and end dates in non-residential project types are adjusted using calculations of "breaks" and "buffers." These adjusted enrollments in non-residential projects are used to determine the timeframe during which the person experiences homelessness, which is used across all the CA SPMs:
     - Breaks: Individual non-residential enrollments are separated into multiple enrollments whenever there are "Breaks" of 60 days or longer between the dates when a PLS or CLS indicating homelessness is recorded. A timeframe

with fewer than 60 days between contact dates would be considered one episode of homelessness and would remain a single enrollment.

- Buffers: Where enrollments are separated into multiple enrollments due to a "Break" between contact dates, an additional 15 days is added to the enrollment on either end (one recorded date of homelessness is counted as 30 days of homelessness). Even if a buffer is added, an individual never has an adjusted enrollment that is longer than their original enrollment. Please see the California System Performance Measures Guide for a more detailed explanation of buffers and breaks.
- Enrollments in Night-by-Night shelter are adjusted similarly to non-residential projects as described above, but Bed Night dates are used instead of CLS records.

3. **Data Disaggregated for Specific Population Groups:** CA SPMs include Measure 7 which provides breakout data on SPMs 1-6 for specific population groups. This includes disaggregating CA SPMs by race and ethnicity to support California's Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness which prioritizes pursuing racial equity in the state's responses to homelessness.

4. **Use of Data Across CoCs**: The statewide data warehouse, the California Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) generates the CA SPMs and contains data from every Continuum of Care in the state. HUD SPMs measure the experience of homelessness within each CoC separately.

5. **Types of Exits:** In some cases, HUD SPMs and CA SPMs use different combinations and definitions of project exits and system exits to calculate the outcome measures. For example, CA SPMs do not consider a break of fewer than 14 days between two projects to be an exit, but HUD SPMs do. This and other differences in methodology may ultimately result in differences between the two sets of performance measures. Please see the California System Performance Measures Guide for a full explanation of system exits.

For both the CA SPMs and HUD SPMs, the performance measures are limited to data collected in HMIS, so the performance results will not reflect the experience of people who do not interact with HMIS-participating providers.

| California System Performance Measures | HUD System Performance Measures |
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| **Reporting Period:** Calendar Year (can be generated for any 12-month period) | **Reporting Period:** Federal Fiscal Year (October to September) |
| **Universe:** All project types in HMIS available to a person experiencing homelessness. Measures include data related to all of the project types included in the HUD SPMs, as well as information from Coordinated Entry (CE) and other supportive services (SSO), such as access centers and day shelters. | **Universe:** Specific project types - Emergency Shelter (ES), Safe Havens (SH), Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and for certain measures Street Outreach (SO). Measures do not include people who only accessed services in other non-residential project types. |

| Measure 1a: Number of persons experiencing homelessness while accessing services. | Metric 3.2: Annual counts of sheltered homeless persons in HMIS. |
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| **Summary of differences:**<br>• CA SPMs use a broader set of project types than the HUD SPMs. | |
| • Includes people who were enrolled in ES, SH, TH, or who experienced homelessness in a non-residential project (based on CLS data).<br>• Includes people who were enrolled in RRH, PSH, and Other Permanent Housing (OPH) projects, if they experienced homelessness during the report period prior to their move-in date. Excludes people who were enrolled in PH projects who were housed (with a move-in date) throughout the entire report period. | • Includes people who were enrolled in ES, SH, and TH.<br>• Does not consider data from RRH or PSH projects.<br>• Does not consider data from non-residential projects. |
| **Measure 1b: Estimate of number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness on a daily basis.** | **Metric 3.1: PIT counts of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons.** |
| **Summary of differences:**<br>• CA SPMs only use data from the unsheltered homelessness PIT Count, while HUD SPMs use both the sheltered and unsheltered PIT counts. | |
| • PIT count of unsheltered homelessness. Does not include the sheltered PIT count. | • Includes the PIT counts of both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. |
| **Measure 2: Number of persons who become homeless for the first time.** | **Metric 5.2: The number of persons entering ES, SH, TH, and PH projects with no prior enrollment in HMIS.** |
| **Summary of differences:**<br>• CA SPMs use a broader set of project types than the HUD SPMs.<br>• For CA SPMs, people are counted as "newly homeless" if they had no enrollments in the prior 24 months in any CoC in the state. | |
| • Includes people who entered the homelessness system with an entry into ES, SH, TH, RRH, PSH, OPH project, or were recorded as experiencing homelessness in a non-residential project (based on CLS data) who were not served by projects entering data into HMIS (while experiencing homelessness) in the previous 24 months. | • Includes persons who entered ES, SH, TH, and RRH, or PSH projects in the year who were not served by ES, SH, TH, RRH, PSH, or OPH projects entering data into HMIS during the previous 24 months. Does not include entries into non-residential projects. |

| Measure 3: Number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing. | Metric 7b.1: Exits to permanent housing destinations and Metric 7b.2: Exits to or retention of permanent housing. |
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| **Summary of differences:** <br> • CA SPMs use a broader set of project types than the HUD SPMs. <br> • CA SPMs include everyone who moves into permanent housing in a single measure. HUD SPMs separate people into two measures based on project types and exit types. <br> • CA SPMs include people who exited the system and then returned to homelessness later in the report period. HUD SPMs do not include people who exited the system and then returned to homelessness later in the report period. | |
| • Counts the number of people whose destination is permanent housing in their last system exit from the homelessness system, as well as the number of people who are enrolled in AND have moved into a PSH or OPH project. <br> • Includes any system exits from PSH or OPH projects where the destination is PH. | • Metric 7b.1 counts the last project exit from ES, SH, TH and RRH, as well as PSH or OPH in which there was no housing move-in date. <br> • Metric 7b.2 reports exits from PSH and OPH with a move-in date separately from 7b.1, and combines these exits with people who are still staying in those project types at the end of the report period. |
| • Includes exits from non-residential projects. | • Excludes exits from non-residential projects. |
| • Includes people who were active on the last day of the reporting period, IF they have a prior system exit within the reporting period. | • Metric 7b.1 excludes people who were active on the last day of the reporting period, even if they have a prior project exit within the period. |
| **Measure 4: Average length of time persons remain homeless.** | **Measure 1a, Metric 2: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless (ES, SH, and TH)** |
| **Summary of differences:** <br> • CA SPMs use a broader set of project types than the HUD SPMs. <br> • For CA SPMs, the calculation of the length of time homeless for periods of homelessness that started before the beginning of the report period allows for breaks of up to 7 days between project enrollments. HUD SPMs do not allow for any breaks between enrollments that started before the beginning of the report period. <br> • For CA SPMs, a CoC's average length of time homeless includes days that a person experienced homelessness in that CoC, as well as days that the person experienced homelessness in any other CoC during or continuous with the same report period. | |
| • Includes days enrolled in ES, SH, TH projects, as well as days people are enrolled in RRH and PSH but are not yet housed (e.g., between project | • Includes days enrolled in ES, SH, and TH projects. <br> • For night-by-night shelters, only bed nights recorded between the entry date and exit date (or report end |

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| enrollment and housing move-in date).<br>• Includes days enrolled in non-residential projects while experiencing homelessness based on CLS data. | date, if earlier) are counted. There are no buffers or accommodations for project enrollments without a bed night recorded.<br>• Excludes days experiencing homelessness in non-residential projects. |
| • Calculation includes continuous time enrolled that starts anytime in the three years before the report period and overlaps with the start of the report period. Periods of less than seven days between project enrollments are included in the length of time homeless. | • Calculation includes continuous time that starts before the report period and overlaps with the report start date. Project enrollments must be contiguous (no days between one enrollment's end date and the next enrollment's start date) to be considered continuous. Time between non-contiguous enrollments is not counted toward length of time homeless. |
| **Measure 5: Percent of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing.** | **Measure 2a and 2b: The Extent to which Persons Who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness within 6, 12, and 24 months.** |
| **Summary of differences:**<br>• CA SPMs use a broader set of project types than the HUD SPMs.<br>• For CA SPMs, a CoC's returns include returns to homelessness in any CoC in the state (not just the CoC the person exited from homelessness in).<br>• CA SPMs only include returns within 6 months of an exit to permanent housing that occurred during the report period. HUD SPMS include returns within 6, 12, and 24 months after an exit to permanent housing that occurred two years prior to the report period. | |
| • Includes returns within 6 months of exiting the homelessness system from any project type during the report period, including non-residential projects (when CLS indicates homelessness). | • Measures include returns within 6, 12, and 24 months of exiting the homelessness system two years prior to the report period, from ES, SH, TH, SO, and RRH/PSH (when homeless at entry) project types only. |
| **Measure 6: Successful placements from street outreach.** | **Metric 7a.1: Street Outreach exits to permanent housing destinations.** |
| **Summary of differences:**<br>• CA SPMs include SO clients who exited during the report period even if they returned to homelessness and were enrolled in SO again at the end of the report period. HUD SPMs do not count prior exits for people enrolled in SO at the end of the report period. | |

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| • Includes anyone with an SO exit during the report period, including people who were active in SO on the last day of the reporting period IF they have a prior project exit from an SO project during the project year. | • Excludes people who were active in an SO project on the last day of the reporting period.<br>• Although the title of this measure is Street Outreach Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations, the calculation includes the same range of destinations included in the CA SPM. |
| **Measure 7: Breakout data for specific population groups.** | **No comparable HUD SPM.** |
| **Summary of differences:**<br>• CA SPMs use a broader set of projects than the HUD SPMs.<br>• CA SPMs include detailed breakouts for various groupings of people for Measure 1-6. HUD SPMs have no breakouts, only calculations for all people in the universe for the relevant measure during the report period. | |
| • Includes performance data for Measures 1-6 for different groupings of people including by:<br>   o Household composition<br>   o Gender<br>   o Ethnicity and race<br>   o Other sub-populations and characteristics | |