Los Angeles Unsheltered Data Code Book: 2013

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

Note: In 2013 Transgender is an option for sexual orientation, but in later years it is moved to Gender

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Gender | Answer to: What is your gender identity? | Male;  Female;  Unknown; |
| Sexual\_Orientation | Answer to: Which of the following best represents your sexual orientation? | Straight;  Gay or lesbian;  Bisexual;  Unsure / questioning;  Transgender  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. While the definition of chronic homelessness has shifted over time, I have defined it using the current (2018) definition.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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  2 = Unknown |
| Have\_Child | Does the individual have a child under 18? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |

TIME HOMELESS/MOVEMENT IN AND OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

Note: It is important to note that the time intervals given in the survey are different from year to year due to changes in the survey.

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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 |
| 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: Including this time, how many separate times have you been homeless in the past 3 year? | 1 Time;  2 to 3 Times;  4 or More Times;  Unknown |
| Times\_Homeless\_Past\_Year | Answer to: Including this time, how many separate times have you been homeless in the past year? | 1 Time;  2 to 3 Times;  4 or More Times;  Unknown |
| Total\_Time\_Homeless\_Life | Answer to: What’s the total amount of time you have been homeless over the course of your lifetime? | 7 days or less;  8 - 29 days;  1 - 3 months;  4 - 5 months;  6 - 11 months;  1-5 years;  More than 5 years |
| 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\_Raw | Answer to: What city or neighborhood were you living in when you became homeless? | Raw Data |
| 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: The question pertaining to the variables Outside\_Majority\_Last\_Month and Indoor\_Majority\_Last\_Month was a question that asked people to only choose one outdoor or one indoor majority, but a good amount of people chose one of each or multiples of both. I standardized the Outside\_Majority\_Last\_Month to be consistent with later years, but I left Indoor\_Majority\_Last\_Month in its raw state. The reason for this is because in 2016 and 2017 people who spent the majority of their time indoors were not eligible to take the survey.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tent\_Past\_Year | Answer to: In the past year, have you lived in a tent? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Car\_Past\_Year | Answer to: In the past year, have you lived in a car? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Van\_Past\_Year | Answer to: In the past year, have you lived in a van? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |
| RV\_Camper\_Past\_Year | Answer to: In the past year, have you lived in an RV? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |
| Automobile\_Past\_Year | Has the individual lived in any type of automobile in the past year? | 0 = No  1 = Yes  2 = Unknown |
| 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;  On the streets in an alley parks the woods etc.;  Other outdoor location;  Unknown |
| Indoor\_Majority\_Last\_Month | Answer to: Where have you spent the majority of nights over the past month? | Raw input |

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 cites that answer as a reason for their homelessness a 1 is present, otherwise a 0 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\_HH\_Conflict | Household conflict is marked as a 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 “experienced or been diagnosed with” in the past year. 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\_Past\_Year | Individual experienced or has been diagnosed with a physical disability in the past year | 0 = No  1 =Yes |
| Mental\_Illness\_Past\_Year | Individual experienced or has been diagnosed with a mental disability in the past year | 0 = No  1 =Yes |
| Alcohol\_Abuse\_Past\_Year | Individual abused alcohol in the past year | 0 = No  1 =Yes |
| Drug\_Abuse\_Past\_Year | Individual abused drugs in the past year | 0 = No  1 =Yes |
| Tobacco\_Past\_Year | Individual has experienced tobacco addiction in the past year | 0 = No  1 =Yes |
| Severe\_Depression\_Past\_Year | Individual has experienced depression in the past year | 0 = No  1 =Yes |
| Long\_Term\_Health\_Past\_Year | Individual has experienced some other long term health issue in the past year | 0 = No  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 |
| 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 |
| 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\_Child\_Support | Individual receives child support 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 |

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 |

EMERGENCY ROOM AND HOSPITAL STAYS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ER\_Past\_3Mnths | Answer to: How many times have you been to the ER in the past 3 months? | 0;  1;  2;  3;  4+;  Unknown |
| Hospital\_Times\_Past\_Year | Answer to: How many times have you been admitted to the hospital in the past year? | 0;  1;  2;  3;  4+;  Unknown |

TURNED AWAY FROM SHELTER REASONS

Note: These are the reasons the individuals cite that they have been turned away from a shelter in the past month.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Turned\_Away\_Last\_Month | Has the individual been turned away from a shelter in the past month? | 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\_Previous\_Stay | Turned away because the individual had previously stayed there | 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 |