Los Angeles Unsheltered Data Code Book: 2017

Note: In 2017, a shortened version of the demographic survey was given to youth 18-24 and any children that accompanied them. Any variable followed by the \* symbol corresponds to a question that was only asked in the adult survey.

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 = No1 = Yes2 = 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chronic\_Time | Does the individual meet the HUD requirement for time? | 0 = No/Unknown1 = Yes |
| Chronic\_Condition | Does the individual have a long-term disabling condition? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Chronic | Is the individual chronically homeless? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |

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/Unknown1 = Yes |

TIME HOMELESS/MOVEMENT IN AND OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

Note: Times\_Homeless\_3yrs has changed this year in that it is no longer asking how many times the individual has been housed and then became homeless again. It is instead asking how many total episodes the individual has been homeless. In 2017, if a person was briefly housed once that would be recorded as 2 Times because they were homeless, housed, and then homeless again whereas in previous years it would be recorded as once because they housed and became homeless again once.

Note: It is important to take note of the time intervals because the choices in the survey are changed frequently. For example, in 2015 the options for Current\_Stint\_Duration include 4-6 months and 7-11 months while in 2017 they are changed to 4-5 months and 6-11 months for some unknown reason.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | Total number of episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years?  | 1 Time;2 to 3 Times;4 or More Times;Unknown |
| Times\_Homeless\_Past\_Year | Total number of episodes of homelessness in the past year? | 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/Unknown1 = Yes |
| Age\_First\_Homeless\* | Answer to: At what age did you first experience homelessness? | Raw data input (in years) |
| LA\_County\_Years\* | Answer to: How long has it been since you moved back to 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: Previously, individuals were asked about their living situation over the past year and it has been switched to the past 6 months in 2017. In 2015 and 2016 these variables are omitted due to poor wording on the survey.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tent\_Past\_6Mnths | Answer to: In the past 6 months, have you lived in a tent? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| MSshelter\_Past\_6Mnths | Answer to: In the past 6 months, have you lived in a makeshift shelter? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Car\_Past\_6Mnths | Answer to: In the past 6 months, have you lived in a car? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Van\_Past\_6Mnths | Answer to: In the past 6 months, have you lived in a van? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| RV\_Camper\_Past\_6Mnths | Answer to: In the past 6 months, have you lived in an RV? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Automobile\_Past\_6Mnths | Has the individual lived in any type of automobile in the past 6 months? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = 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;Park, beach, riverbed, woods; Street, sidewalk, or alley;Other outdoor location |
| Tent\_Count | Total people in the tent including themselves | Raw data |
| Car\_Count | Total people in the car including themselves | Raw data |
| Van\_Count | Total people in the van including themselves | Raw data |
| RV\_Camper\_Count | Total people in the van including themselves | Raw data |
| MSshelter\_Count | Total people in the makeshift shelter including themselves | Raw data |

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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Reason\_Homeless\_DV\* | Domestic violence is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Subs\_Abuse\* | Substance abuse is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Mental\* | Mental Illness is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Medical\* | Medical, physical disability, or illness is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Job\* | Job loss or financial reasons is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Breakup\* | End of relationship is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Child\_Support\* | Child support is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_HH\_Conflict\* | Household conflict is marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Death\_Illness\_Fam\* | Death or illness in family marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Eviction\* | Eviction marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Sexual\_Orientation\* | Kicked out due to sexual orientation marked as a reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Foster\_Care\* | Left or aged out of foster care marked as reason for homelessness  | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_No\_Fam\* | No friends or family marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Immigration\* | Recent immigration marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes  |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Immigration\* | Recent immigration marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes  |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Jail\_Prison\* | Release from jail or prison marked as reason for homelessness  | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Safety\* | Safety concerns (e.g. escaping a gang) marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Homeless\_Previous\_Housing\_Program\* | Timed out or left previous housing program marked as reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =Yes |
| Reason\_Previous\_Uninhabitable\_Housing\* | Uninhabitable living situation sited as reason for homelessness | 0 = No1 =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/Unknown1 =Yes |
| Sex\_Traffic | Answer to: Forced sex with payment to someone other than yourself? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = 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. If the individual left the entire question blank, a 2 is present.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Physical\_Disability\_Ever | Physical disability experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Physical\_Illness\_Ever | Physical illness experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Alcohol\_Abuse\_Ever | Individual abused alcohol at any point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Drug\_Abuse\_Ever | Individual abused drugs at any point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Mental\_Illness\_Ever | Mental illness experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Severe\_Depression\_Ever | Severe depression experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| PTSD\_Ever | PTSD experienced by individual at any point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Traumatic\_Brain\_Injury\_Ever | TBI experienced by individual at any point in their life  | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Developmental\_Disability\_Ever | Developmental disability experienced (individual is over 18)  | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| HIV\_Positive | Individual is HIV positive | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Drug\_Alcohol\_History | Catch all variable for any reported or observed history of problematic drug or alcohol use. | 0 = No1 = Yes2= Unknown |

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployed\_Looking\* | Individual is unemployed, but looking for work | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Unemployed\_Not\_Looking\* | Unemployed, not looking for work | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Full\_Time\* | Employed full time | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Seasonal\* | Has seasonal employment | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Unable\_To\_Work\_Disability\* | Unable to work due to disability | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Temp\_Work\* | Has temporary employment | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Retired\* | Individual is retired | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Student\_Vocational\* | Individual is enrolled in school or vocational training | 0 = No1 = Yes |

OTHER FORMS OF INCOME

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Panhandling\* | Individual makes money through panhandling | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Recycling\* | Individual makes money through recycling | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Day\_Labor\* | Individual makes money as a day laborer | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Performance\* | Individual makes money as a performer | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Sex\_Worker\* | Individual makes money as a sex worker | 0 = No1 = Yes |

BARRIERS TO WORK

Note: For those who indicated that they were searching for work, they were asked what barriers where keeping them from employment. Anyone who did not indicate that they were looking for work is marked as a valid skip.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Work\_Barrier\_No\_Interview\* | Individual was unable to get an interview | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Turned\_Down\* | Individual was interviewed and then turned down | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Lack\_Ed\* | Individual lacks educational requirements | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Experience\* | Individual lacks experience | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_No\_Access\* | Individual does not have access to services that could connect them to a job | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Gaps\* | Individual is turned down due to gaps in employment | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Child\_Care\* | Individual needs child care services | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Discrimination\* | Individual feels that they are experiencing discrimination (race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age)  | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Transportation\* | Individual needs transportation | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Clothes\* | Individual needs clean clothes | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Physical\* | Individual is limited by physical health problems | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Mental\* | Individual is limited by mental health problems | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Substance\* | Individual has substance abuse problems | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_NoID\* | Individual needs an ID or Driver’s License  | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_No\_SSCard\* | Individual needs a social security card or birth certificate | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_Criminal\_Record\* | Individual is turned down because of a criminal record | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |
| Work\_Barrier\_nonUS\* | Individual is not permitted to work in the U.S. | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |

CURRENT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Note: The Individual was asked to mark any government assistance they are currently recieving. 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. If the individual left the entire question blank, a 2 is present.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Gov\_Assist\_Unemployment\* | Individual is receiving unemployment payments | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_General\_Relief\* | Individual is receiving General Relief or Assistance  | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_SSI\_SSD\* | Individual receives SSI or SSDI payments | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_Social\_Security\* | Individual receives social security retirement payments | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_Food\_Stamps\* | Individual receives food stamps | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_CAPI\* | Individual receives Cash Assistance for Immigrants | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_Women\_Infants\_Children\* | Individual receives WIC services | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_CalWorks\* | Individual receives calWORKS services | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_MediCal\* | Individual is enrolled in MediCal | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_Medicare\* | Individual is enrolled in Medicare | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_Vet\_Disability\_Payment\* | Individual receives veteran disability payments | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_Vet\_Other\_Benefit\* | Individual receives benefits related to being a veteran | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_Vet\_Pension\* | Individual receives veteran pension | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Gov\_Assist\_Child\_Support\* | Individual receives child support or survivor benefits  | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |

SCHOOL COMPLETED

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| School\_Complete\* | Answer to: What is the highest level of education you have completed?  | No schooling completed;Less than 5th grade;Grades 5-6;Grades 7-8;Grades 9-11;12th grade, no diploma;High school diploma;GED;Some college;Associate's degree;Bachelor's degree;Graduate school;Unknown |

EMERGENCY ROOM AND HOSPITAL STAYS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ER\_Past\_Year\* | Answer to: Have you been to the ER in the past year? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| ER\_Homeless\* | Answer to: Were you homeless AT THE TIME that you entered the ER or hospital? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| ER\_Homeless\_Services\* | Answer to: Were you offered services to help you find housing while in the ER? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = 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. If the individual left the entire question blank, a 2 is present.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Foster\_Care\_Involvement\* | Individual has been in foster care at some point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Juvenile\_Detention\_Involvement\* | Individual has been in juvenile detention at some point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Juvenile\_Probation\_Involvement\* | Individual has been on juvenile probation at some point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Mental\_Treatment\_Mandate\_Involvement\* | Individual has been mandated to a stay at a mental health treatment center at some point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Jail\_Prison\_Involvement\* | Individual has been in jail or prison at some point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Adult\_Probation\_Involvement\* | Individual has been on adult probation at some point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Parole\_Involvement\* | Individual has been on parole at some point in their life | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |

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 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Justice\_System\_Homeless\* | Answer to: Where you homeless at the time you entered jail or prison in the past year? | 0 = No1 = Yes2 = Unknown |
| Justice\_System\_Services\* | Answer to: Where you offered services to help you find housing while you were in prison or shortly after? | No;Yes;Unknown;Valid Skip |

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 = No1 = Yes |
| Observed\_Substance\* | Did you observe/detect signs or symptoms of substance abuse? | 0 = No1 = Yes |
| Observed\_Physical\* | Did you observe/detect signs or symptoms of a serious physical health concern? | 0 = No1 = 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.