

## **District of Columbia Prioritization Process in HMIS**

Distributed by David Tweedie, The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness

**Once your community gets to its 21st VI-SPDAT assessment, you'll need to determine a prioritization process for assessments with the same score. Many communities prioritize based on VI-SPDAT score, but then within scores, the priority is back to "first come first served."**

**Here is an alternative:**

### **District of Columbia Housing Matching Prioritization Process**

The following represents the uniform process to be used across the community for assessing individuals, matching them to an intervention, and within each category, prioritizing placement into housing. This will eliminate the need to complete multiple assessments with individuals, which is burdensome both for the person being assessed and conducting the assessment.

The VI-SPDAT will be the ONLY tool used to assess individuals at the point of entry. The VI-SPDAT scores will be used to triage individuals into the appropriate category of intervention.

For individuals that score 10 or above on the VI-SPDAT, which signals need for permanent supportive housing, individuals will be prioritized based on the following criteria (*only going to the next level as needed to break a tie between two or more individuals*):

1. Medical Vulnerability: The first prioritization criteria will expedite placement into housing for individuals with severe medical needs who are at greater risk of death. This score would be based on questions 22-34 of the VI-SPDAT, with a maximum score of 5.
2. Overall Wellness: The second prioritization factor targets individuals with similar medical needs, who will be prioritized when they have behavioral health conditions or histories of substance use, which may either mask or exacerbate medical conditions. This score will be based on questions 21 through 50 of the VI-SPDAT (i.e., the "Wellness Domain").
3. Unsheltered Sleeping Location: The third prioritization criteria is the location where the individual sleeps, based on question 13 of the VI-SPDAT. Unsheltered individuals will be given priority over sheltered individuals.
4. Length of Time Homeless: The fourth prioritization factor is the length of time an individual has experienced homelessness, giving priority to the person that has experienced homelessness the longest (based on question 1 of the VI-SPDAT).
5. Date of VI-SPDAT assessment: The final prioritization criteria will be the date of the individual's assessment, giving priority to the earliest date of assessment.

**Step 1:**

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**Insert Q22-34 into the ART Report as individual columns**

**Step 2:**

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**Create Variables named "Q22" through "Q34"**

Qualification: Measure

Type: Number

Formula for Each (Input one per question):

=If([22. Kidney disease/End Stage Renal Disease or Dialysis(2299)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([23. History of frostbite, Hypothermia, or Immersion  
Foot(2300)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([24. Liver disease, Cirrhosis, or End-Stage Liver Disease(2301)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([25. HIV+/AIDS(2302)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([26. History of Heat Stroke/Heat Exhaustion (2303)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([27. Heart disease, Arrhythmia, or Irregular Heartbeat(2304)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([28. Emphysema(2305)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([29. Diabetes(2306)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([30. Asthma(2307)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([31. Cancer(2308)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([32. Hepatitis C(2309)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([33. Tuberculosis(2310)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

=If([34. Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms of a serious health  
condition?(2312)]="Yes";ToNumber(1);ToNumber(0))

**Step 3:**

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***In View Structure, go to each placeholder column for each tiebreaking criteria individually:***

**Tiebreaker #1: Medical Vulnerability (Q22-Q34)**

=([Q22]+[Q23]+[Q24]+[Q25])

**Tiebreaker #2: Overall Wellness (Q21-Q50)**

=[D. WELLNESS(2336)]

**Tiebreaker #3: Sheltered vs. Unsheltered (Q13)**

=[13. I am going to read types of places people sleep. Please tell me which one that you sleep at most often.(2284)]

**Tiebreaker #4: Length of Time Homeless in Months (Q1) (*uses customized D.C. language*)**



=[1. What is the total length of time you have lived on the streets or in shelters? (in months; record "0.25 months" for 1 week, and "18 months" for 1.5 years)(1950)]

**Tiebreaker #5: Date of VI-SPDAT Assessment**

=[VI-SPDAT Date Assessed(2263)]

#### Step 4:

Select the border of the whole report on the right hand side of the table:

Select this  and an icon that looks like this  will appear:

o	No	No	No	No
o	No	No	No	No
o	No	No	No	No
o	No	No	No	No
o	No	No	No	No

Document Properties

Document Information

Created by: washdc\_live:...

Last modified by: washdc\_live:...

Creation date: July 16, 2014...

Name: VI-SPDAT D...

Description: This report pr...

Keywords:

Locale: English (Uni...

Data Tracking: Off

Document Options

Refresh on open

Enhanced viewing

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Permanent regional formatting

Data Synchronization Opt...

On the left side of the screen, select “Properties” and then select the ... icon under Sorts/Sort Priority

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

ART - ServicePoint x ART - VI-SPDAT Daily Report x

https://reports.serviccept.com/bowman/webi.jsp?documentCUID

ServicePoint (HMIS) E-Snaps HUD HDX TCP Website Bowm

Edit Query Edit Report

Properties

- General
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- Body cells
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- Breaks
- Sorts

Sort priority PRE-SCREEN TOTA ...

A window will pop-up that enables you to select the sort order for the tiebreaking criteria:

Sorts

Sort Priority

Vertical sorts

Horizontal sorts

PRE-SCREEN TOTAL(2337)  
=((Q22)+[Q23]+[Q24]+[Q25]  
D. WELLNESS(2336)  
1. What is the total length of  
VI-SPDAT Date Assessed(226

Reset

OK Cancel Apply Help