

RSR in Focus

RSR Data: Are They Complete? Are They Right? Do They Reflect Your Program?

Importance of Data Quality

The quality of data is the accuracy of your reported information; the more accurate your data are, the more useful they will be. Quality of care is what your program is doing compared to what it should be doing. It's hard to evaluate the quality of your program with poor data quality. Inaccurate data may make your program appear to provide a lower quality of care than it actually does. Since RSR data are used to present information about the Ryan White Program to Congress, the HIV/AIDS community and the public, it is crucial that your data reflect the reality of your program as closely as possible.

When checking the quality of your data, there are three main areas of interest.

<u>Data Quality Issue</u>	<u>Concept</u>	<u>Tools for Checking</u>
 <p>Are your data complete?</p>	Complete data imply that a value is reported for each required client.	<p><i>Completeness Report</i> within the RSR Web System and your data management system</p> <p>CHEX for TRAX users</p>
 <p>Are your data right?</p>	Do your data make sense? Are they internally consistent? If a patient is born after a test date, you have a problem.	<p><i>Validation Report</i> within the RSR Web System and your data management system</p> <p>CHEX for TRAX users</p>
 <p>Do they reflect your program?</p>	Do your data match your expectations for your program?	<p><i>Confirmation Report</i> within the RSR Web System and your data management system</p> <p>CHEX for TRAX users</p> <p>Performance Measures</p>

Are Your Data Complete?

For each data element, HAB evaluates data completeness by calculating the number of required clients that have a value reported. This information is presented in the Completeness Report, accessible through the [RSR Web System](#). You can access the report prior to the submission window through the [Check Your XML feature](#).

Many RSR-Ready Systems also create completeness reports to help providers analyze data quality throughout the reporting period. Learn whether your system has these features through the [TARGET Center website](#).

If you use [TRAX](#) to create the client-level data file, CHEX can help you check the completeness of your data prior to upload. Once you create your .CSV files for input, copy and paste them into the CHEX Excel spreadsheets. They will alert you through conditional formatting if required clients are missing data.

In addition, you will receive an email about data completeness if at least one of your providers has less than 90% reported values for one or more five critical client-level data elements: federal poverty level, health insurance status, housing status, CD4 count, and viral load. Download your Completeness Report, investigate reasons for incomplete data, and let us know what happened and how you plan to improve data completeness.

Are Your Data Right?

Logical Inconsistencies

- Dates after file upload
- Dates that fall outside of the reporting period
- Dates before client birth
- Dates after client death
- "First" service not the first

This issue concerns whether or not your data make sense. Are there values that are inappropriate or impossible given reporting timeframes or other client characteristics? Data people call these "logic checks," but you could also say "they don't pass the giggle test."

Within minutes of uploading your client-level data file, the RSR Web System will alert you of data quality issues through errors, warnings, and

alerts (i.e., Validation Report). Errors prevent the client-level data XML from being uploaded. A warning requires you to comment on the inconsistency.

Once again, many RSR-Ready Systems also have these reports. In addition, TRAX users can rely on CHEX to identify any validation issues prior to upload.

Do They Reflect Your Program?

Data should also match up with your basic expectations about the services you deliver. The Confirmation Report, created upon the upload of the client-level data XML file by the RSR Web System, gives you a breakdown of responses for each data element. This report can give you an overview of your data. Use this report to check the total number of clients reported and the breakdown of responses. If something looks off, it may be a data quality issue.

Also, calculating Group 1 performance measures can also help you check your data. They include the percentages of clients who received each of the following services:

- ARV therapy for pregnant women
- Two or more CD4 T-cell count in the year
- ART
- Two or more medical visits in the year
- PCP prophylaxis

If your data show 42% of patients had two or more CD4 T-cell counts, but you thought it was 80%, there is probably a data quality problem.