

Homelessness Severity Scale Coding Form  
(Milby, Wallace, Ward, Schumacher, and Michael, 2005)

	From Date	To Date	# Nights Per episode	X	HSS wt. = (see below)	Total	Total HSS Score
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
			Total = 60 Days			/60 (days) = HSS Score	

HSS Ranking Weights for Living Situations

Wt.	Living Situation
0	Own apartment or home
1	Parent's guardian's apartment or house
2	Own single resident occupancy (SRO) room
3	Boarding house or board and care facility
4	Group home
5	Long-term alcohol/drug-free facility
6	Treatment or recovery program including detox, halfway house, or residential treatment
7	Nursing home
8	Corrections halfway house
9	Hospital
10	Jail or prison
11	Transitional housing
12	Hotel/motel, someone else's SRO room, or someone else's apartment or house
13	Emergency (or any) shelter
14	All-night theater; subway or bus station or other indoor public place; abandoned building; car or other private vehicle; on the street; or in other outdoor place

## **Procedures for administering:**

Begin by presenting the subject with a calendar of the past 60 days. Orient the subject to this time period by identifying memorable events (e.g., bad weather, illness, special visits, etc.). In retrospective direction, beginning with the previous night and going back, ask the subject to describe where he stayed overnight for each of the past 60 nights. Record information on a HSS Coding Form episode-by-episode (1 through 60 maximum). The coding form should be derived from Table 1. Rankings of living situations, (Milby et al, 2005, p. 167).

*Scoring:* Count the number of nights for each episode of overnight habitation from the "to" and "from" dates. Assign each period of overnight habitation an HSS Living Situation Ranking. Multiply the number of nights for each period by the HSS Ranking Weight. Sum all weighted values to obtain a total, then divide this total by 60 (days) to obtain the HSS score.

*Interpretation:* The higher the HSS score, the greater the severity of homelessness. Weighted values for each living situation can be added to compare severity of different living situations, both homeless living and stably housed situations.