



California HIV/AIDS Surveillance Standard Operating Procedures

External

Using LHJ DUA Datasets

Version 1.0

February 11, 2011

Standard Operating Procedures

REVISION HISTORY

Version #	Revision Date	Summary of Changes	Revised By
1.0	02/11/11	Initial draft	Brian Bannister Gary Horpedahl
1.5			
2.0			
2.5			
3.0			

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Introduction

It is the intent of this document to share useful ways to manipulate your county data so that it becomes useful and manageable for all counties making use of the eHARS Datasets sent to them on a quarterly basis.

California began using the eHARS system in the fall of 2009, and datasets were first made available to counties beginning in June 2010. Therefore, looking at the data in this new perspective is still a challenge. Regular use of the eHARS Data Dictionary and the eHARS Technical Reference Guide are effective ways to begin mastery of the data. OA will be adding to this document as new helpful information is uncovered.

New “User” of the DUA Dataset

If you have recently received your DUA Dataset for the first or second time, there are a few things to be mindful of when you are looking at your data.

First, remember that this is not considered mature data until 2013, when we will have two years' worth of data entered into eHARS.

Second, there is a considerable amount of data to look at, and there is new terminology that will have to be considered when interpreting data. It will take some time and patience, using both the “eHARS Technical Guide” and the “eHARS Data Dictionary” to gain an understanding of the data.

Third, our experience with the data, like yours, is limited. However, we have found some specific issues working with two of the earliest recipients of DUA Datasets (San Diego and Orange). With their patience and assistance, we have found much of what was thought to be lost or missing.

Fourth, we are happy to share our experience and understanding about the data with you. For example, based on some initial feedback, Brian Bannister went through the Data Dictionary and highlighted what he has found to be some of the more useful fields to use in data analysis. By the same token, we are quite grateful for the insights and discoveries that you share with us.

Finally, if you are discovering problems with the dataset you receive, it is helpful if we receive as much specific information as possible (for example, “We are unable to find 14 cases; the case numbers are:...” as opposed to “We are missing cases.”) in order to help resolve the issue. All issues should be sent via email to Brian Bannister at brian.bannister@cdph.ca.gov and Gary Horpedahl at gary.horpedahl@cdph.ca.gov.

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Tip #1: Review the eHARS Data Dictionary

- The eHARS Data dictionary has been made available to all counties with an active DUA. A number of the variables were yellow-highlighted, with the suggestions that use of those variables may be most useful to begin to look at data.
- Use the <ctrl> 'F' to search variables by name.
- Click on the links in the 'valid values' column to bring you to the lookup_code tab within the Data Dictionary. Try a few for fun!
- Clicking on a link jumps you out of the person-view tab. Scroll and click the person tab to go back.
- Print out the Data Dictionary 'Person View Tab' using 11x14 legal size double-sided. This provides a quick-look reference at your fingertips.

Tip #2: DUA and Excel 2007 - Variable Map

Highlighted variables from the eHARS Data Dictionary are listed alphabetically below, with column location in Excel 2007.

Top of column/Variable Name	Location in Excel 2007 spreadsheet
af_city_name	column LY
af_county_name	column MA
af_facility_type_cd	column MJ
Af_name1	column LU
af_name 2	column LV
af_zip_cd	column MD
aids_age_yrs	column EV
aids_age_yrs_entered	column IT
aids_categ	column EW
aids_dx_dt	column FB
aids_dxx_dt	column FC
aids_rep_dt	column FF
birth_sex	column IW
cd4_recent_pct_dt	column FY
cur_age	column GK
cur_city_name	column C
cur_county_name	column E
cur_state_cd	column G
current_gender	column IX
current_sex	column IY
death_age_yrs	column GM
dob	column IZ

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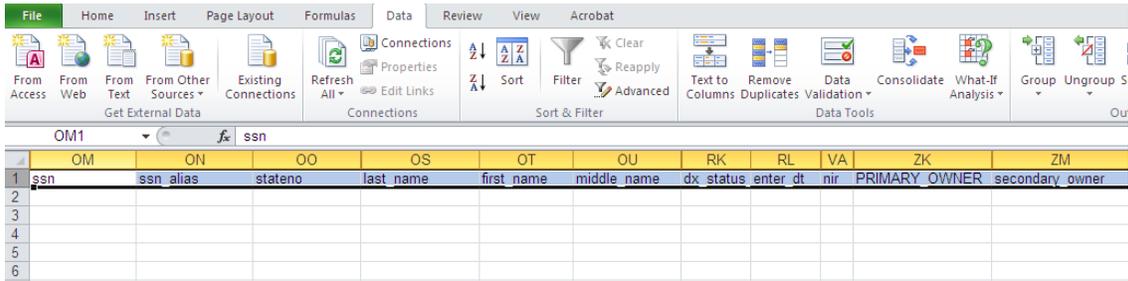
Top of column/Variable Name	Location in Excel 2007 spreadsheet
document_uid	column OE
dod	column IQ
dx_status	column GU
enter_dt	column RL
expo_categ	column GV
first_name	column OT
hiv_age_yrs	column GX
hf_city_name	column JT
hf_facility_type_cd	column KE
hf_zip_cd	column JY
hiv_age_yrs	column GX
hiv_aids_age_mos	column GY
hiv_aids_age_yrs	column GZ
hiv_aids_dx_dt	column HC
hiv_aids_rep_dt	column HD
hiv_dx_dt	column HH
hiv_rep_dt	column HL
last_name_sndx	column OX
middle_name	column OU
nir	column VA
prisno	column OJ
race	column HP
rbi_country_cd	column Y
rsa_city_name	column BO
rsa_county_name	column BQ
rsa_county_fips	column BR
rsa_state_cd	column BS
rsa_city_fips	column BP
rsa_zip_cd	column BT
rsh_county_name	column BA
rsh_city_fips	column AZ
rsh_city_name	column AY
rsh_state_cd	column BC
rsh_zip_cd	column BD
ssn	column OM
stateno	column OO
status_flag	column SK
trans_categ	column IA
transx_categ	column IB
vital_status	column JN
vl_recent_dt	column IF

Variable search can also be done by using <ctrl> 'F', then typing variable name:

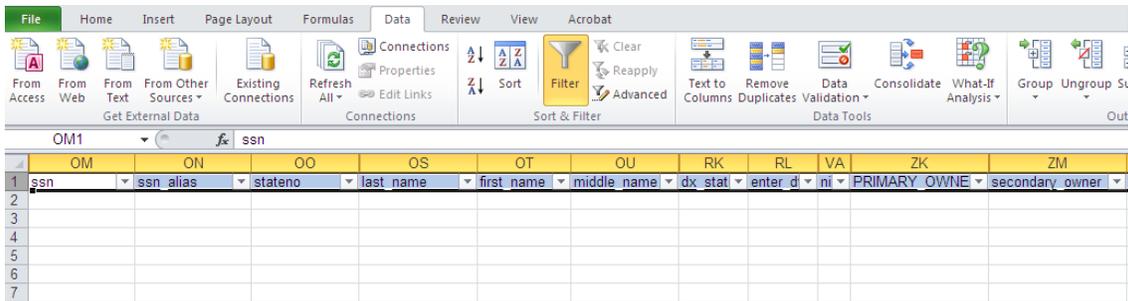
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Tip #3: DUA and Excel 2007 - Create Data Filters

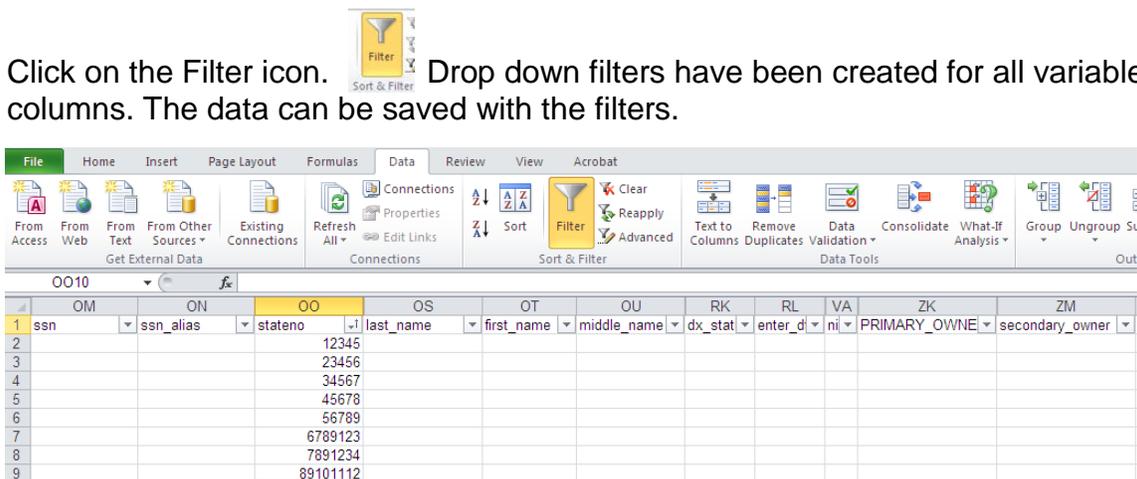
1. Click on Row 1 on the top far left side of the spreadsheet.



2. Click Data on tool bar at the top of the screen. A set of icons and tools opens with the data tab.



3. Click on the Filter icon. Drop down filters have been created for all variable columns. The data can be saved with the filters.



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Tip #4: DUA Excel 2007 - Case Search Criteria

Most common searches are performed using: Stateno, Dob, Last_name, or SSN.

To perform those searches in Excel 2007, simply click on Data, click on Filter, click on drop down arrow; choose ascending or descending order, and choose the desired variable (stateno, Dob, Last_Name or SSN).

Searching cases is not always an exact science. If a particular case is not found using stateno, dob, or name criteria, try a combination search. For example:

Stateno & dob

Stateno, dob, and SSN

Last_name, dob

Last_name, first_name

Tip #5: DUA Excel 2007 - LHJ Cases: HIV/AIDS

A good place to begin becoming familiar with data is by sorting cases using the “county of residence of HIV dx” (rsh_county_name) or the county of residence of AIDS dx (rsa_county_name).

In addition to the above variables, you may want to consider using:

aids_categ

dx_status

hiv_categ

hiv_aids_cdc

Consult the eHARS Data Dictionary and the eHARS Technical Reference Guide to gain a complete understanding of the variables selected.