




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

## Why is Data Quality Important?

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 HIV/AIDS Program to Congress, the HIV 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>         | <p>Complete data imply that a value is reported for each required client.</p>   | <p>Upload Completeness Report within the RSR Web System and your data management system</p> <p>CHEX for TRAX users</p>                           |
|  <p>Are your data right?</p>           | <p>Do your data make sense? Are they internally consistent? If a patient is born after a test date, you have a problem.</p> | <p>Validation Report within the RSR Web System and your data management system</p> <p>CHEX for TRAX users</p>                                    |
|  <p>Do they reflect your program?</p> | <p>Do your data match your expectations for your program?</p>   | <p>Upload Completion Report 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 Upload 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 [TargetHIV website](#).

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If you use [TRAX](#) to create the client-level data file, CHEX can help you check the completeness and quality 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 six critical client-level data elements: federal poverty level, health insurance status, HIV risk factor, housing status, ART status, and viral load. Download your Upload 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?

### Examples of Logical Inconsistencies

- Dates after file upload
- Dates that fall outside of the reporting period
- Dates before client birth
- Non-Hispanic client with a Hispanic subgroup

Next, you will want to check that your data make sense at face value and there are no logical inconsistencies (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.” Logic checks can help you ensure internal consistency in your data.

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 you from being able to submit your report. 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 [Upload Completeness 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.

You may also want to consider calculating [common performance measures](#) to help you check your data. For example, if your data show that only a small share of your clients had a viral load test and are virally suppressed, there might be a problem with your data quality.

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