Veteran Homelessness
Veteran Homelessness

WHO ARE THEY?

- The majority of homeless veterans are Vietnam and Post-Vietnam era.

- Post-9/11 veterans are becoming homeless at faster rates than prior-era veterans, and young veterans are more than twice as likely to be homeless as their non-veteran counterparts.

- Women veterans are the fastest growing cohort of the homeless population.

Sources: HomeBase/Legal and Technical Services Supporting Shared Prosperity, 2007; Culhane et al, 2011.
Veteran Homelessness

WHO ARE THEY?

DEMOGRAPHICS OF HOMELESS VETERANS

13% of the homeless adult population are veterans
20% of the male homeless population are veterans
68% reside in principal cities
32% reside in suburban/rural areas
51% of individual homeless veterans have disabilities
50% have serious mental illness
70% have substance abuse problems
51% are white males, compared to 38% of non-veterans
9% are between the ages of 18 and 30, and 41% are between the ages of 31 and 50

Source: Culhane et al, 2011.
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**WHERE ARE THEY?**

California, Florida, New York and Texas account for 50 percent of all homeless veterans.

Nearly half of homeless veterans are located in major cities.

Sources: Culhane et al, 2011; PUMS, 2011.
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ESTIMATES OF VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

On a single night in January 2012:
62,619 veterans were homeless in the United States, about 13 percent of all homeless adults.

About 56 percent of homeless veterans were sheltered (35,143 people), and an estimated 44 percent were in unsheltered locations (27,476 people).

Since 2011:
Homelessness among veterans has declined by 7.2 percent (or 4,876 people).

However, the number of unsheltered veterans remained largely unchanged since 2011 (increase of 14 persons).

**POINT IN TIME ESTIMATES OF VETERAN HOMELESSNESS**

On the night of the 2012 PIT, nearly two-thirds of unsheltered Veterans were located in California (43%), Florida (11%), and Texas (9%).

**Geographic Distribution of Unsheltered Homeless Veterans by State**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Unsheltered Veterans</th>
<th>% of Unsheltered POP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>11,949</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>3,130</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>2,480</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of U.S.</td>
<td>9,326</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Culhane et al, 2011; PUMS, 2011; 2012 HUD PIT.
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RISK FACTORS FOR HOMELESSNESS

- Combat exposure
- Wartime trauma
- PTSD
- Social isolation
- Psychiatric hospitalizations
- Criminal justice involvement
- Economic instability
- Military sexual trauma

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

WOMEN VETERANS

Women veterans are more than twice as likely to be homeless as non-veteran women.

VA data show the number of women veterans that identify as homeless has doubled in the last five years.

A disproportionately high number of homeless women veterans have a history of Military Sexual Trauma—significantly higher than stably housed women veterans.

Homeless women veterans face barriers to accessing and using housing, such as lack of awareness of available programs, lack of referrals for temporary housing, limited housing for women with children, and childcare issues.

Source: GAO, 2011
Thank You for Your Attendance

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