



Veteran Pathways

Challenges and Solutions for Veterans experiencing homelessness in Central Ohio

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VA Defining
HEALTH CARE **EXCELLENCE**
in the 21st Century

Objectives of Presentation

1

- Review the challenges Veterans and VA is facing related to issue of homelessness.

2

- Solutions for Veteran who are housing insecure or unhoused

What is Homelessness?

Literal Homelessness

- individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;

Imminently Homeless

- individuals and families who will imminently lose (within 14 days) their primary nighttime residence;

What is Homelessness?

Unaccompanied Youth

- unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition

Fleeing Domestic Violence

- individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member

What is Chronic Homelessness?



Disability

- Physical, mental or emotional impairment, including impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, PTSD, brain injury or a chronic physical illness that:
 - Is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration; **and**
 - Substantially impedes the person's ability to live independently; **and**
 - Could be improved by more suitable housing



Literally Homeless

- Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter



Long Term Homelessness

- Homeless for at least 12 months or
- 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years

Who is a Veteran?

Veteran

- A Veteran, as it relates to Homeless Veteran, means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, regardless of length of service, and who was discharged or released therefrom. i.e., “One Day of Active Service”

Limitations and Exclusions from Services

- Some services are limited to length of service restrictions
- Excludes a person who received a dishonorable discharge from the Armed Forces or was discharged or dismissed from the Armed Forces by reason of the sentence of a general court-martial.
- National Guard and Reserves are excluded unless called into service by Executive Order

How Big is Homelessness Among Veterans? 2023 Point in Time Data

35,574

- veterans were experiencing homelessness in the U.S., approximately seven percent (6.6%) of all adults experiencing homelessness

22 of every 10,000

- For Veterans in the United States, 22 of 10,000 were experiencing homelessness. It is somewhat more common for veterans to experience homelessness than for all people in the United States (20 people out of every 10,000).

98%

- Nearly all veterans were experiencing homelessness as individuals.

30%

- (10,533 veterans) had chronic patterns of homelessness.

56%

- Just over half of all veterans experiencing homelessness were staying in sheltered locations (56% or 20,067 veterans). This is higher than the share of all individuals experiencing homelessness who were sheltered, 49 percent.

How Big is Homelessness Among Veterans? 2023 Point in Time Data

2%

- Of Veterans experiencing homelessness, 2% (720 Veterans) were in family households with children.

38,893

- Overall, 38,893 people experiencing homelessness were in households that included a veteran.

77% vs 56%

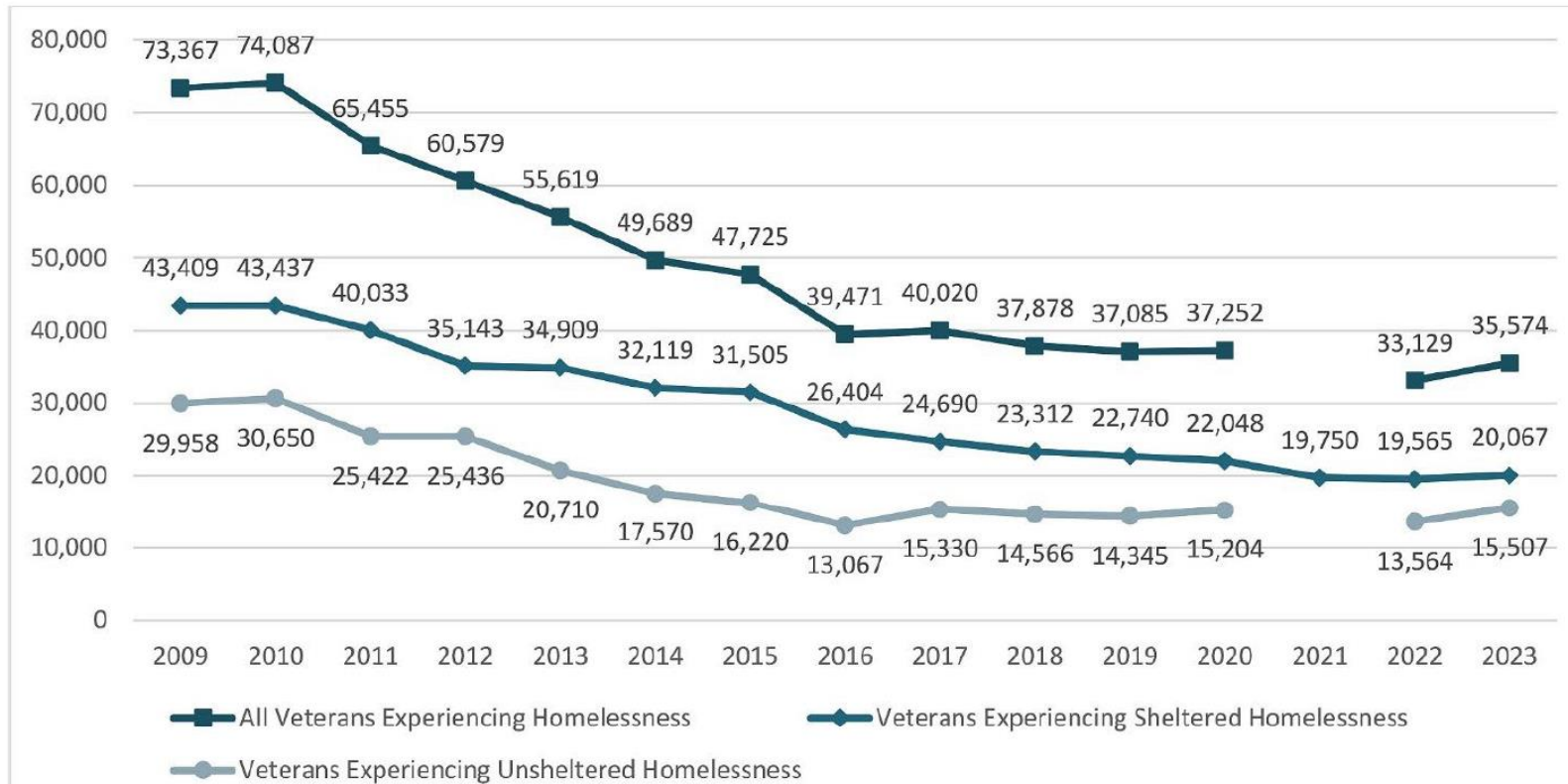
- Veterans experiencing homelessness in families with children were sheltered at a higher rate than veterans experiencing homelessness as individuals

77% vs 91%

- but at a lower rate than all people in families with children experiencing homelessness (91%)

How Big is Homelessness Among Veterans?

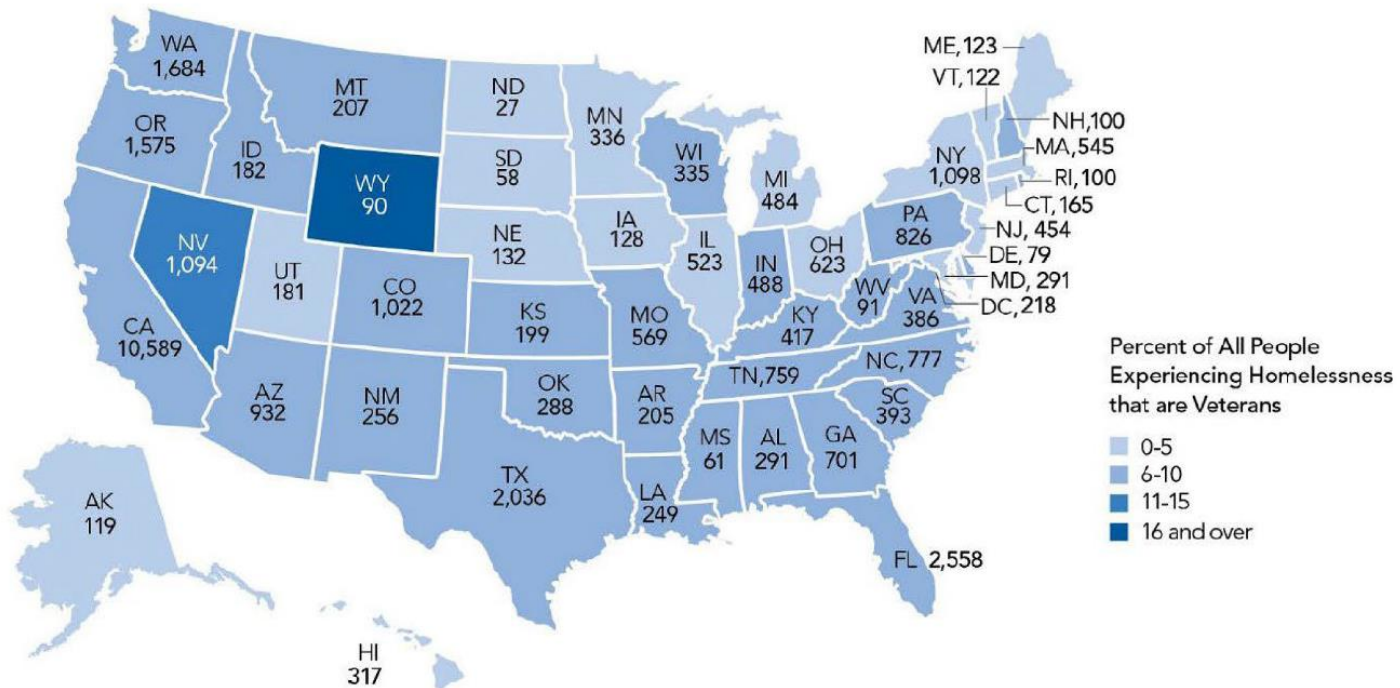
Exhibit 5-1: PIT Estimates of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by Sheltered Status, 2009-2023



How Big is Homelessness Among Veterans?

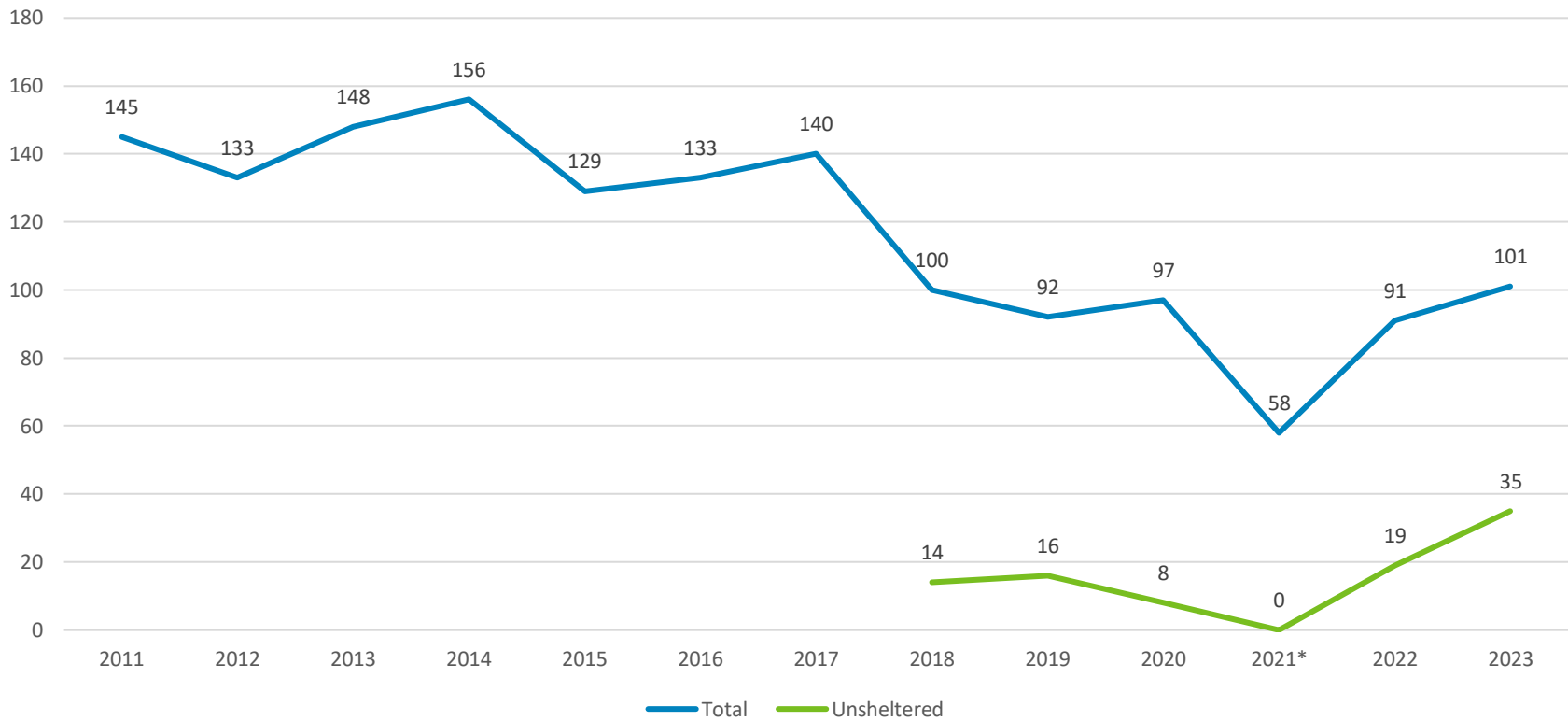
5.2 Estimates of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by State

Exhibit 5-5: Estimates of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by State, 2023



How Big is Homelessness Among Veterans?

Franklin County
Veteran PIT

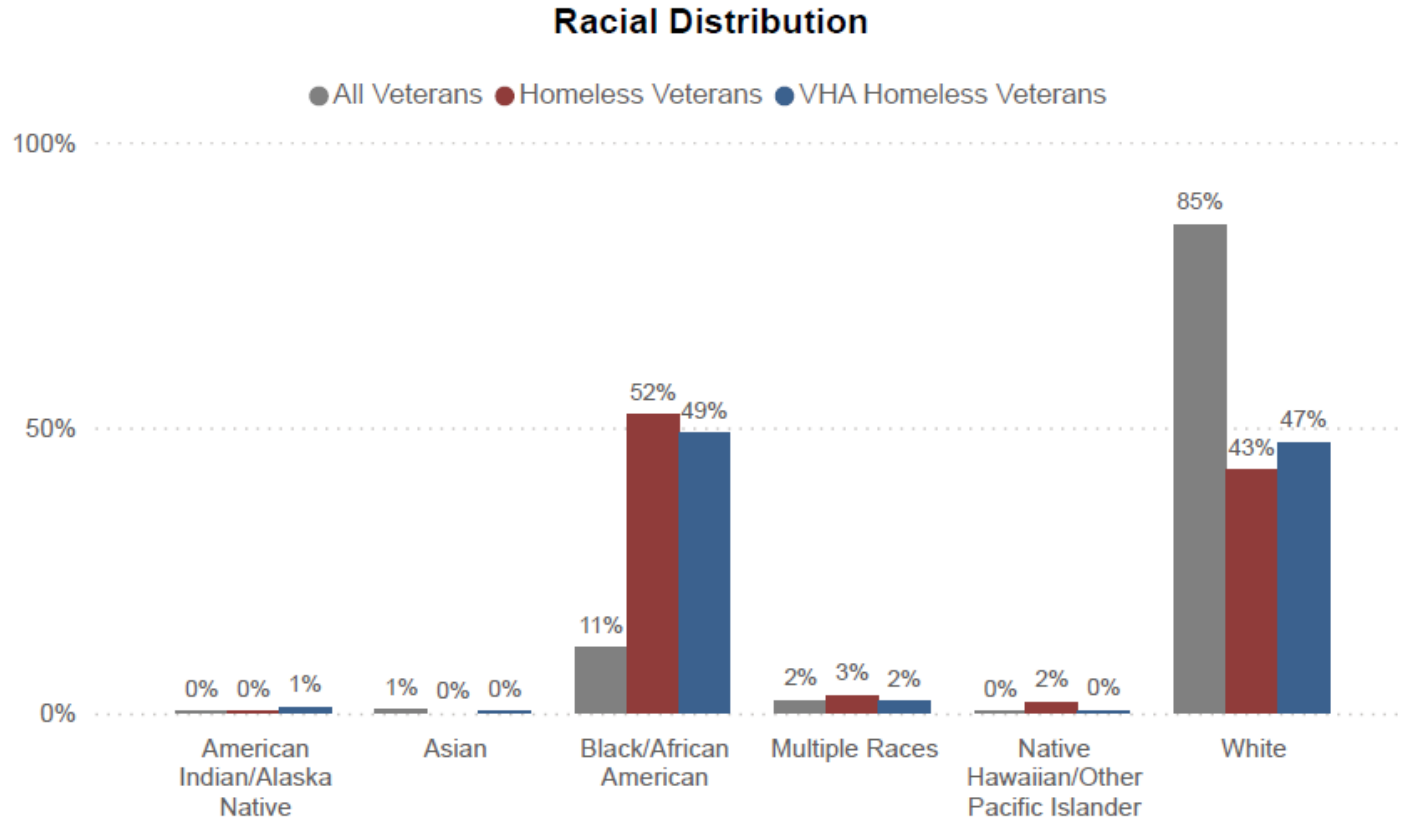


Which Veterans Experience Homelessness? (Demographics)

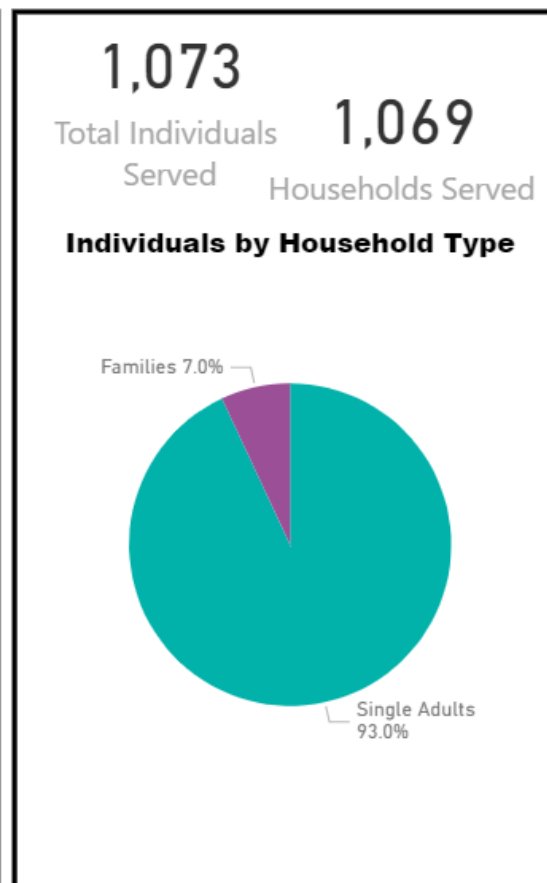
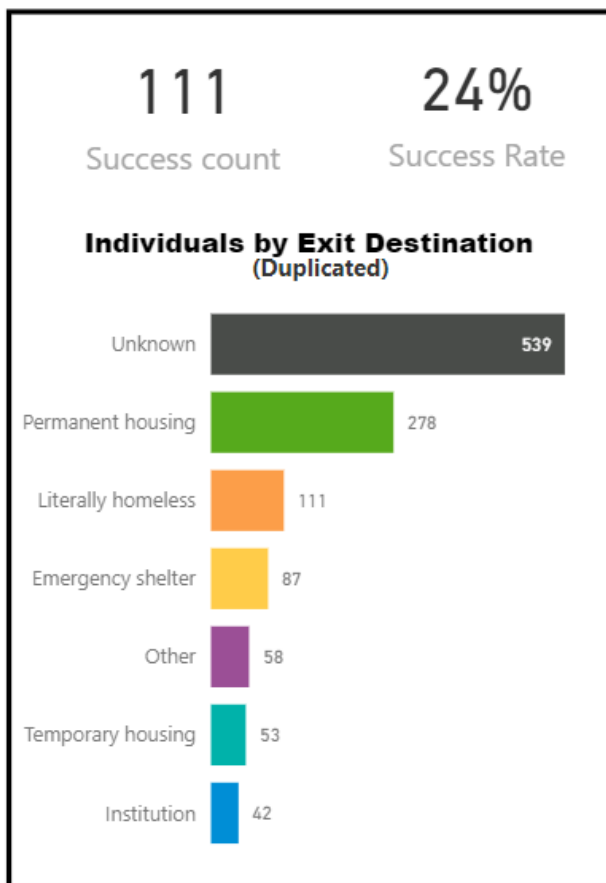
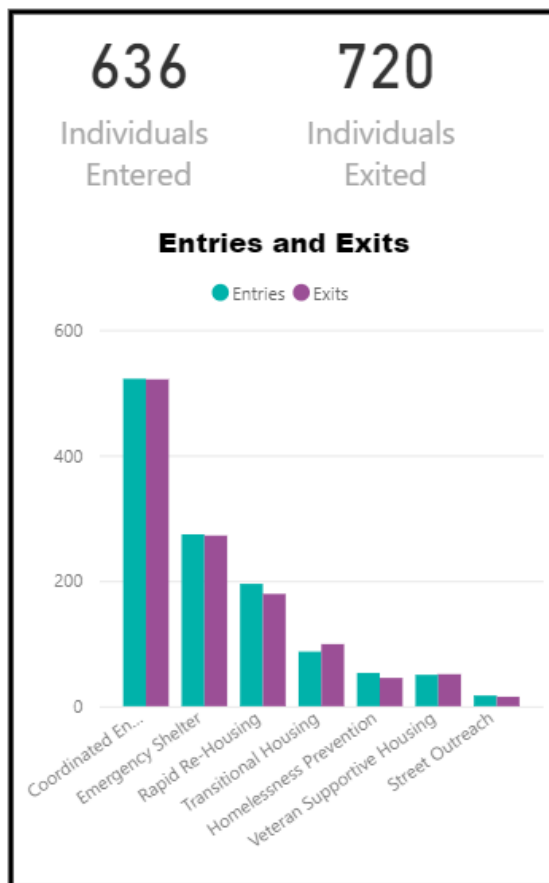
Exhibit 5-4: Demographic Characteristics of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness, 2023

	All Veterans		Sheltered Veterans		Unsheltered Veterans	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
All Veterans	35,574	100%	20,067	100%	15,507	100%
Gender						
Female	3,980	11.2%	1,815	9.0%	2,165	14.0%
Male	31,231	87.8%	18,148	90.4%	13,083	84.4%
Transgender	173	0.5%	74	0.4%	99	0.6%
A Gender that is not Singularly 'Female' or 'Male'	161	0.5%	21	0.1%	140	0.9%
Questioning	29	0.1%	9	0.0%	20	0.1%
Ethnicity						
Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	30,885	86.8%	18,235	90.9%	12,650	81.6%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	4,689	13.2%	1,832	9.1%	2,857	18.4%
Race						
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	1,269	3.6%	461	2.3%	808	5.2%
Asian or Asian American	608	1.7%	183	0.9%	425	2.7%
Black, African American, or African	11,136	31.3%	7,203	35.9%	3,933	25.4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	427	1.2%	169	0.8%	258	1.7%
White	20,287	57.0%	11,343	56.5%	8,944	57.7%
Multiple Races	1,847	5.2%	708	3.5%	1,139	7.3%

Which Veterans Experience Homelessness? CY 2020 Veterans Comparison Columbus vs. Nation



Which Veterans Experience Homelessness? Columbus in Franklin County FY 23

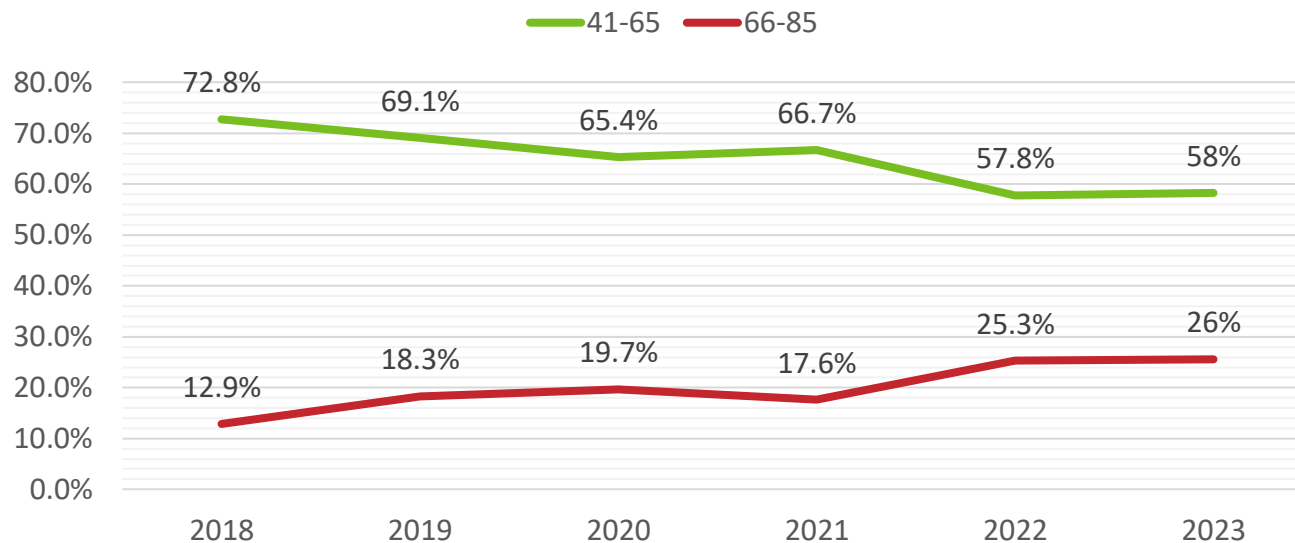


Which Veterans Experience Homelessness? (Demographics)

- About 90% of Veterans experiencing homelessness are men
- Nationally, 58% of Veteran experiencing homeless identify as white followed by African American at 31%. Consistent with sheltered and unsheltered.
- Minorities tend to be overrepresented in Veteran homelessness
 - In Franklin county, over 50% of Veterans experiencing homelessness are African American.

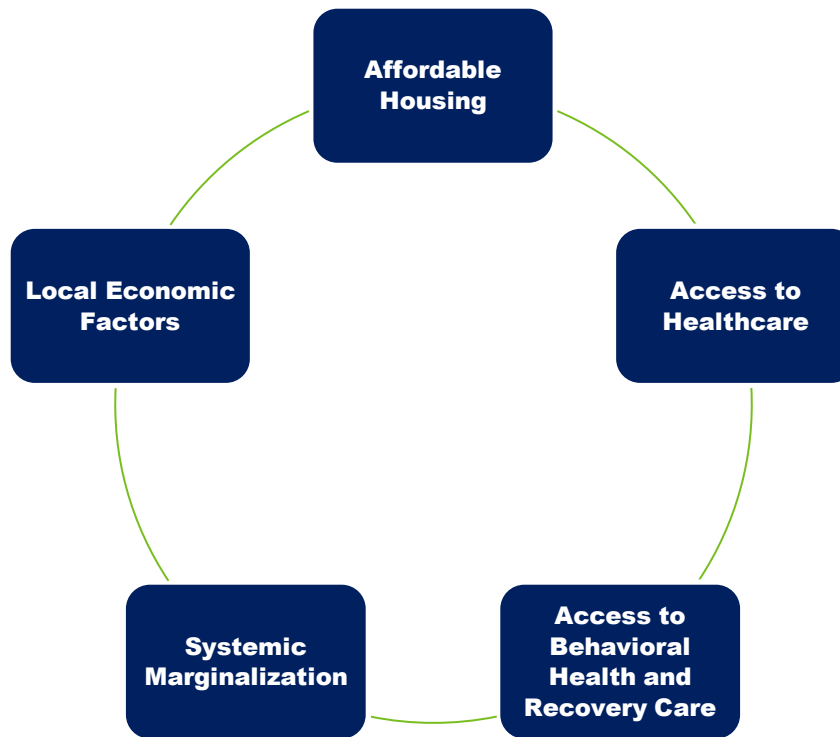
Homeless Veteran Population Trend

Percentage of Homeless Veterans by Age Cohort
Columbus VA



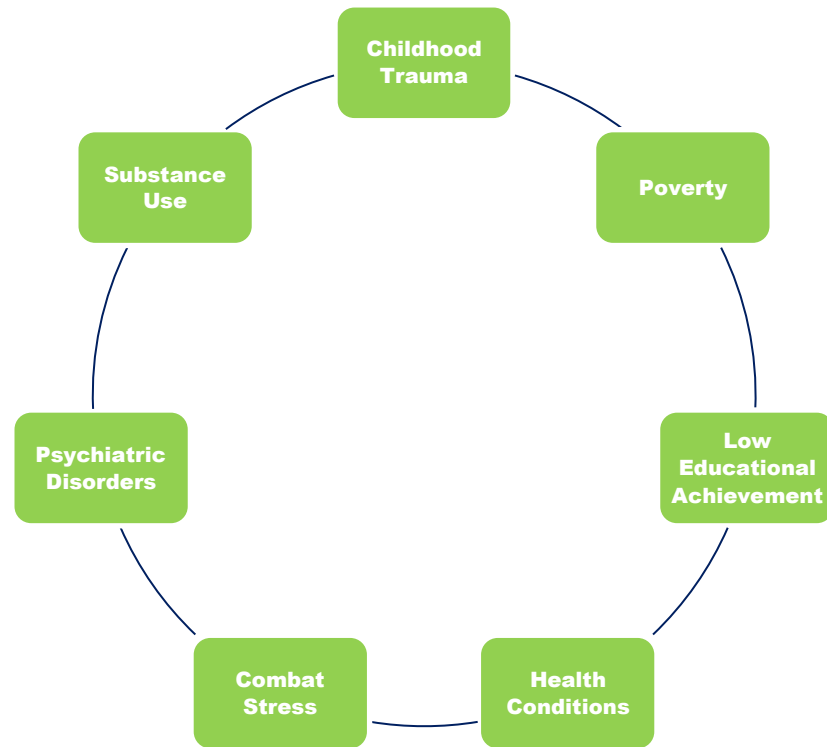
Why do Veterans become Homeless?

Confluence of ***Structural Factors*** and Individual Vulnerabilities



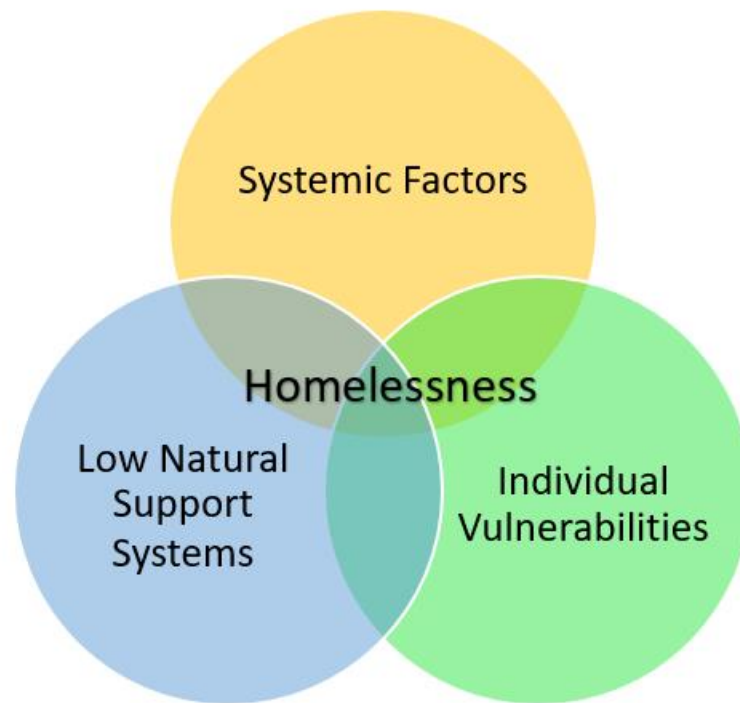
Why do Veterans become Homeless?

Confluence of Structural Factors and *Individual Vulnerabilities*

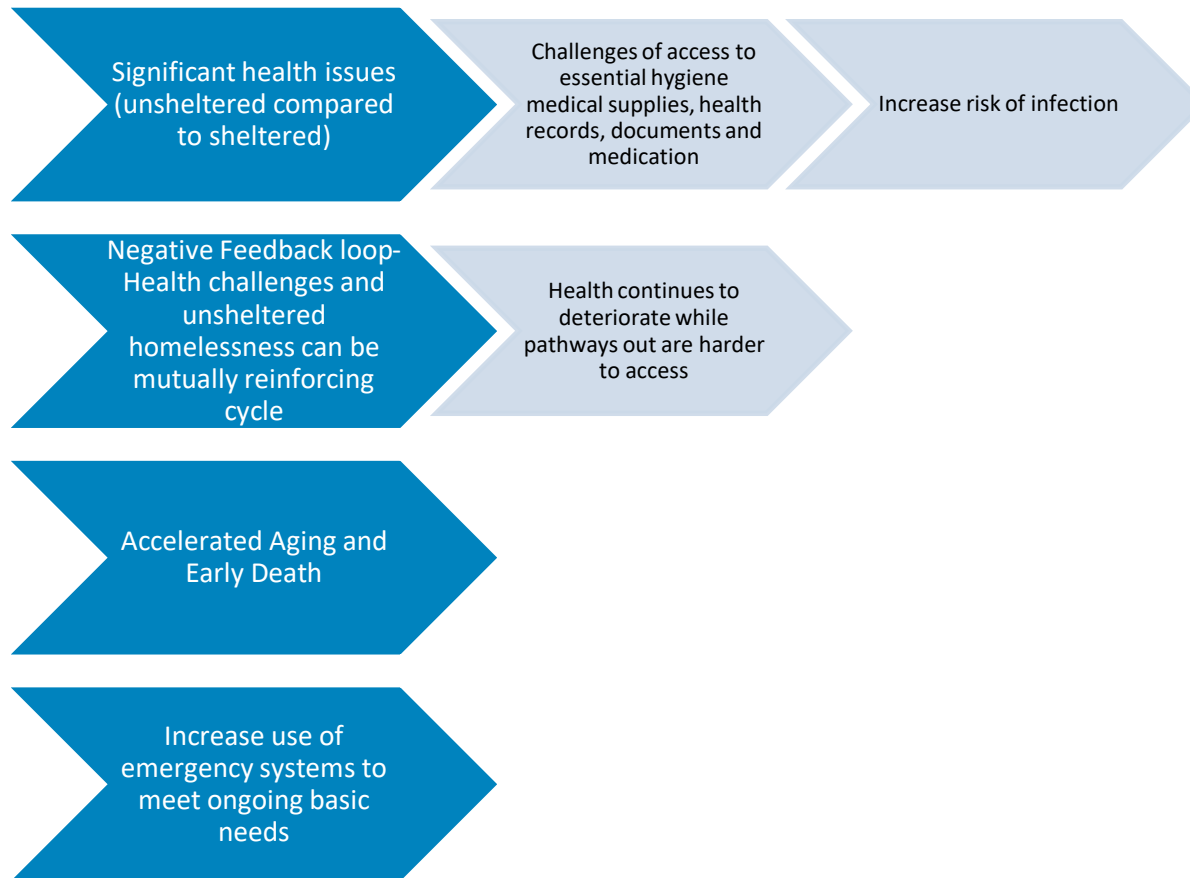


Why do Veterans become Homeless?

Confluence of Structural Factors and Individual Vulnerabilities
With Low Natural Supports



What is the Impact (or Cost) of Experiencing Homelessness?



What are the Typical Challenges of Being Homeless

All pathways out of homelessness require identification documents

Lack of accessibility of shelters amid complex healthcare needs

Waiting as part of the process

Separation of Support (i.e., lack of couples shelter)

Exclusion of pets from shelters and housing options

What are the Typical Challenges of Being Homeless?

Meeting survival needs daily including safe sleeping

Challenges of navigating the system designed to help them

Need for electronic communication as part of the pathway out

Long delays and poor communication-
Verification of status “in process” -
communication not always available

What are the Characteristics of Unsheltered Homelessness Veterans?

Characteristics Associated with Unsheltered Status Among Veterans

- Among a group of 5406 Veterans experiencing homelessness, 9% (8.9%) reported ≥ 7 nights of unsheltered over 6 months.

Risk of experiencing unsheltered homelessness

- 0-1 factor increased to 2%
- 2-3 factors increased to 8.4%
- 4-11 factors increased to 24.2%

What are the Characteristics of Unsheltered Homelessness Veterans?

Individual Characteristics



Criminal Justice History

- a criminal record that impeded housing or employment (from the perspective of the respondent),
- time in jail/prison in the prior year,



Low Social Supports



Medical and Drug Problems

- ≥2 medical diagnoses,
- high psychological distress,
- self-report of a drug problem



Financial Hardship

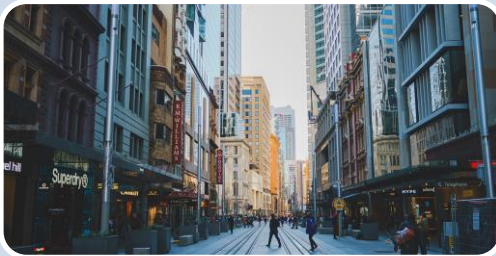
- monthly income <\$1,000,
- difficulty paying for basic necessities,



Never Being Married

What are the Characteristics of Unsheltered Homelessness Veterans?

System Characteristics



Poor shelter access

- ratio of shelter beds to homeless population based on the Point-in-Time count for their community



Warmer temperatures

- Cold weather, defined as having average January nighttime temperatures below 30 degrees Fahrenheit



Higher rents

Additional Reasons Why a Veteran May Experience Unsheltered Homelessness

Additional Factors Related to Unsheltered Homelessness

- The Veteran may have a partner and the shelter would separate them.
- May have a non-service animal or pet.
- May have a shelter ban or considered ineligible
 - Discharged for rules violation
 - Unable to meet basic self care needs
 - May have a sex offense



VA Interventions to Address Homelessness

VA Strategies to Help Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Healthcare for Homeless Veteran (HCHV)

- HCHV Outreach
 - Offers outreach, case management and residential treatment services to help Veterans transition from living on the street or in institutions to stable housing situations
- VA Contract Emergency Housing VA Contract Residential Services
 - Provide 56 beds of emergency housing via contracts with Volunteers of America and Lutheran Social Services for Veterans with VA Healthcare eligibility. Referrals are managed through the Franklin County Coordinated Access process (614-274-7000)
- Grant & Per Diem Transitional Housing
 - State, local and tribal governments and nonprofits receive capital grants and per diem payments to develop and operate transitional housing and/or service centers for Veterans who are homeless. We currently have five GPD units in Licking County operated by Licking County Coalition for Housing.

VA Strategies to Help Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Rapid Rehousing and Prevention

- Supportive Services for Veteran Families
 - Prevention Assistance-For very low-income Veterans, SSVF provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home
 - Rapid Rehousing-Rapidly re-house Veterans and their families who are homeless and might remain homeless without this assistance.
 - Shallow Subsidy-Time limited financial assistance to augment payments for rent.
- Local SSVF Partners include:
 - VOA Veteran & Families First SSVF
 - Faith Mission SSVF
 - Licking County Coalition for Housing

VA Strategies to Help Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

- HUD VASH (417 Vouchers locally)
 - HUD VASH is a collaborative program between HUD and VA combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless and their families find and sustain permanent housing
 - HUD provides rental assistance vouchers for privately owned housing to Veterans who are experiencing homelessness. VA case managers may connect these Veterans with support services
 - HUD-VASH enrolls the largest number and largest percentage of Veterans who have experienced long-term or repeated homelessness
- The Common's at Livingston (85-100 units)
 - Partnership between National Church Residence and VA Healthcare for Homeless Case management
 - Projected based permanent supportive housing. Part of the Rebuilding Lives Continuum, National Church Residents provides property management and VA provides supportive services to residents.

VA Strategies to Help Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Justice Involved Services

- Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) & Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)
 - VJO aims to prevent homelessness by helping justice-involved Veterans who have mental health or substance use issues access needed VA clinical services.
 - HCRV specialists work with Veterans to ease their transition from prison back into the community.
- **Services**
 - VJO provides direct outreach, assessment and case management for Veterans in local courts and jails and help them navigate the justice system.
 - HCRV specialists meet with incarcerated Veterans before they're released and assist them in planning for reintegration into the community by accessing VA and community services as well as housing and employment opportunities.

VA Strategies to Help Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

VA Employment Services

- Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services-Community Employment Coordinators (CECs) boost employment outcomes for Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless through Veteran engagement and developing collaborations with local employers.
- Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)- CWT is comprised of the transitional work and supported employment program, which assists homeless Veterans in returning to competitive employment.

VA Strategies to Help Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

VA Healthcare

- Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team (HPACT)-HPACT clinics provide a coordinated “medical home” tailored to the needs of homeless Veterans. They integrate clinical care, social services, enhanced access and community coordination.
- Behavioral Healthcare- VA provides a variety of behavioral health counseling and psychiatric interventions designed to meet the unique needs of Veterans using a trauma informed approach. Services include treatments for PTSD; Depression; Suicide Prevention; Military Sexual Trauma; Substance Use Problems; Exposure to Hazardous Materials; and Women’s Health needs.
- General and Specialty Healthcare – full spectrum of primary and specialty healthcare services including pharmacy.

VA Strategies to Help Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Veteran Service Organizations

- Veteran Service Commissions-County funded programs that provide direct financial assistance to Veterans in need as well as assisting Veterans in applying for Veteran Benefits.
- Veteran Service Organizations-(i.e., The American Legion; Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW); Veterans Care Network) organizations that cater to providing support and resources to Veterans in their community
- Ohio Veterans Homes-Nursing Home Facility offering care for eligible Veterans

Contact Information

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Cell: 614-307-0970

References & Resources

- National VA Homeless Crisis Line 1-877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838)
- [VA Homeless Programs](#)
- [Department of Veteran Affairs Supportive Service for Veteran Families](#)
- [The 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report \(AHAR\) to Congress](#)
- Community Shelter Board-[Interactive Data](#)
- [Characteristics Associated with Unsheltered Status Among Veterans](#)
- [HUD EXCHANGE](#)- CoC Homeless Population and Subpopulations Reports characteristics
- [*Emptiness of Our Hands*](#): 47 Days on the Streets by Phillis Coe-Dai