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Homeless Veterans
IN THE UNITED STATES**POINT-IN-TIME (PIT)**

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HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

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Homeless Veterans

IN THE UNITED STATES

PIT DATA

On a single night
in January 2014...

49,933

Veterans were homeless

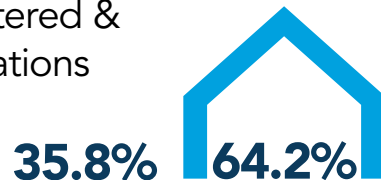
This is a
▼ **32.6% decline**
since 2009



1 in 3 homeless Veterans
are in CA and FL



Veterans in sheltered &
unsheltered locations



HMIS DATA

Throughout the
year in 2014...

131,697

Veterans used shelter at some point

This is a
▼ **12% decline**
since 2009

Veterans make up 9.5% of the
U.S. adult population, but

**11.4% of the adult
sheltered population**

From 2013–2014...

Veterans using shelter programs in



KEY TERM

Veteran refers to any person who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. This also includes Reserves and National Guard members who were called up to active duty.

One-Night Estimates OF HOMELESS VETERANS

49,933 Veterans were homeless in the U.S. in January 2014, a 10.5% decline from 2013.

PIT

Understanding the extent and nature of homelessness among Veterans is an important focus for both HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Estimates of homeless Veterans began in 2009. HUD and the VA have worked collaboratively for many years to produce accurate estimates of homeless Veterans and identify effective strategies for preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans. The overall framework for addressing Veteran homelessness, described in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, focuses on several key areas: providing affordable housing and permanent supportive housing, increasing meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities, reducing the financial vulnerability of Veterans, and transforming the homeless crisis response system with a focus on prevention and rapid re-housing. This chapter provides the most accurate metrics to gauge the nation's progress towards ending homelessness among Veterans.

On a Single Night in January 2014:

- 49,933 Veterans were homeless in the United States, representing about 8.6 percent of homeless people and 11.3 percent of all homeless adults.
- 64.2 percent of homeless Veterans were sheltered (32,048 Veterans), and 35.8 percent were in unsheltered locations (17,885 Veterans).

Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- The number of homeless Veterans declined by 10.5 percent (5,846 fewer Veterans). The number of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless Veterans dropped to result in this sizeable decline (2,985 fewer unsheltered homeless Veterans and 2,861 fewer sheltered homeless Veterans).
- The share of homeless Veterans in shelter programs increased from 62.6 percent in 2013 to 64.2 percent in 2014.

Between January 2009 and January 2014:

- The total number of homeless Veterans dropped by 32.6 percent or 24,117 people. More of the decline was due to fewer unsheltered Veterans (a 41.6% drop or 12,756 fewer Veterans) than sheltered Veterans (a 26.2% drop or 11,361 fewer Veterans).

EXHIBIT 5.1: One-Night Counts of Homeless Veterans
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2009–2014

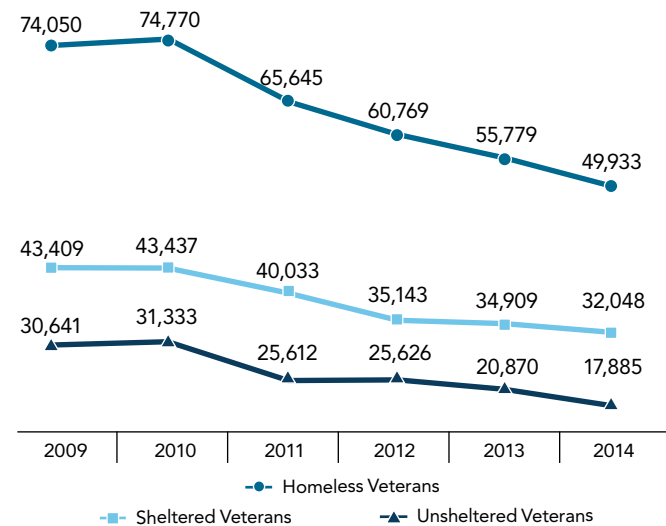


Exhibit 5.2: Change in Homeless Veterans
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2009–2014

Years	Total Homeless Veterans		Sheltered Veterans		Unsheltered Veterans	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
2013 to 2014	-5,846	-10.5	-2,861	-8.2	-2,985	-14.3
2012 to 2013	-4,990	-8.2	-234	-0.7	-4,756	-18.6
2011 to 2012	-4,876	-7.4	-4,890	-12.2	14	0.1
2010 to 2011	-9,125	-12.2	-3,404	-7.8	-5,721	-18.3
2009 to 2010	720	1.0	28	0.1	692	2.3
2009 to 2014	-24,117	-32.6	-11,361	-26.2	-12,756	-41.6

By State

On a single night in January 2014:

- Two states accounted for one-third of the nation's homeless Veterans: California (24.3% or 12,096 Veterans) and Florida (9.1% or 4,552 Veterans).

Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- The number of homeless Veterans decreased in 29 states and District of Columbia, totaling 7,209 fewer Veterans.
- Increases in Veteran homelessness occurred in 21 states, totaling 1,355 more Veterans. Nearly one-third of the increase was attributable to one state, Nevada, with 419 more Veterans.

Between January 2009 and January 2014:

- The number of homeless Veterans declined in 35 states and District of Columbia (totaling 25,098 fewer Veterans), while 14 states had increases in homeless Veterans (totaling 982 additional Veterans). The number of homeless Veterans stayed constant in Tennessee.
- Four states represented 58.1 percent of the total decrease in homeless Veterans: California (5,877 fewer Veterans), New York (3,337), Texas (2,773), and Florida (2,583).
- Alaska and New York had declines in Veteran homeless of more than 40 percent.

Data Source: PIT 2009–2014
Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories
See Part 1 of the 2014 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state
(www.hudexchange.info)

EXHIBIT 5.3: Share of Homeless Veteran Population
in the U.S. by State, 2014 (in %)

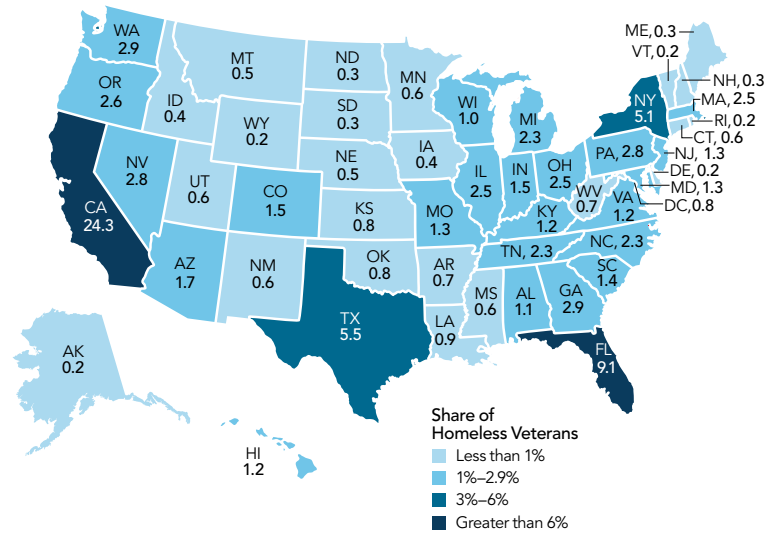


EXHIBIT 5.4: Homeless Veterans by State
Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2009–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
2013 to 2014					
Nevada	419	44.1	New York	-2,117	-45.4
Tennessee	151	15.2	Texas	-1,160	-29.9
Washington	115	8.7	Florida	-953	-17.3
New Jersey	90	16.7	California	-799	-6.2
New Mexico	75	30.9	Arizona	-364	-29.8
2009 to 2014					
Illinois	206	20.1	California	-5,877	-32.7
Utah	151	91.0	New York	-3,337	-56.8
Arkansas	112	45.0	Texas	-2,773	-50.5
Hawaii	94	18.9	Florida	-2,583	-36.2
South Carolina	74	11.8	Louisiana	-1,548	-78.0

By State and Sheltered Status

On a single night in January 2014:

- In 16 states and District of Columbia, more than 90 percent of the homeless Veteran population was sheltered rather than unsheltered. All states had more than 30 percent of the homeless Veteran population in shelter.
- In five states, more than half of the homeless Veteran population was unsheltered: California (7,639 Veterans), Nevada (823), Georgia (796), Hawaii (346), and Montana (162).
- Two-thirds of all unsheltered Veterans in the United States were in California (43%), Florida (12%), Texas (6.4%), and Nevada (4.6%).

Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- The number of sheltered Veterans decreased in 22 states and District of Columbia, totaling 4,335 fewer sheltered Veterans, and increased in 27 states, totaling 1,466 more sheltered Veterans. The number of sheltered Veterans remained constant in Vermont.
- The number of Veterans found in unsheltered locations dropped in 36 states and District of Columbia, totaling 3,553 fewer Veterans, and increased in 10 states, totaling only 568 more unsheltered Veterans. Unsheltered Veteran homelessness remained constant in Connecticut, New Mexico, Maine, and Wisconsin.
- Florida, California, and Texas alone accounted for 60.5 percent of the overall decrease in unsheltered Veteran homelessness.

Between January 2009 and January 2014:

- Sheltered Veteran homelessness decreased or remained stable in 33 states and District of Columbia (totaling 12,542 fewer Veterans), while 17 states had a net increase (totaling 1,155 more Veterans).
- Unsheltered homelessness among Veterans decreased or remained constant in 39 states, totaling 13,301 fewer unsheltered Veterans, and increased in 12 states and District of Columbia, totaling 571 more unsheltered Veterans.
- The four states with the highest total homeless populations since 2007, all experienced large declines in both sheltered and unsheltered Veteran homelessness: California (2,342 fewer sheltered and 3,535 fewer unsheltered Veterans), New York (2,962 sheltered and 375 unsheltered), Texas (1,159 sheltered and 1,614 unsheltered) and Florida (483 sheltered and 2,100 unsheltered).

EXHIBIT 5.5: Sheltered Homeless Veterans by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2009–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
2013 to 2014					
Tennessee	192	26.4	New York	-2,116	-50.4
New Jersey	134	31.9	Texas	-431	-21.5
Florida	96	4.1	California	-429	-8.8
Mississippi	92	71.3	Arizona	-266	-29.5
Alabama	87	24.0	Georgia	-253	-28.1
2009 to 2014					
Utah	183	166.4	New York	-2,962	-58.7
North Carolina	128	15.0	California	-2,342	-34.4
West Virginia	126	71.2	Texas	-1,159	-42.4
Illinois	112	14.0	Nevada	-783	-58.9
Indiana	101	17.2	Georgia	-726	-52.9

EXHIBIT 5.6: Unsheltered Homeless Veterans by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2009–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
2013 to 2014					
Nevada	350	74.0	Florida	-1,049	-33.0
Washington	84	32.3	Texas	-729	-39.0
Oklahoma	36	36.4	California	-370	-4.6
Idaho	34	73.9	Oregon	-195	-24.8
Hawaii	22	6.8	North Dakota	-147	-81.2
2009 to 2014					
South Carolina	114	60.0	California	-3,535	-31.6
Illinois	94	41.5	Florida	-2,100	-49.7
Montana	84	107.7	Texas	-1,614	-58.6
Hawaii	81	30.7	Louisiana	-1,439	-93.2
Oklahoma	76	128.1	Arizona	-904	-80.2

Profile

TYPICAL HOMELESS VETERAN IN 2014



A Man in Shelter by Himself

91.6% MALE / 99.8% 1-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

43.5% WERE AGE

51–61

52.4% WERE

White,
Non-Hispanic

55.9% HAD

A Disability

73.8% WERE IN A

City



PRIOR TO USING A SHELTER, 48.1% WERE

Already Homeless



NIGHTS SPENT IN
EMERGENCY SHELTER

One-Year Estimates OF SHELTERED VETERANS

HMIS

Since 2009, HUD has estimated the annual number of Veterans who use shelter programs at some time during the reporting year, from October 1 through September 30. The one-year estimates account for all Veterans who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program, including programs that specifically target Veterans and those that do not. The estimates are based on a nationally representative sample of communities that submit aggregate Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data to HUD. The estimates statistically adjust for homeless Veterans in shelter programs that do not yet participate in their local HMIS—thus providing a complete enumeration of sheltered Veterans in each community—and are weighted to represent the entire country. The one-year estimates do not include: (a) sheltered Veterans in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories; (b) Veterans served by victim service providers; and (c) Veterans in unsheltered locations who never accessed a shelter program during the 12-month period.

Veterans experience homelessness as individuals or as part of a family. Following the definition used throughout this report, Veteran individuals are in households without any children, while homeless Veterans in families are in households that have at least one child present.

131,697 Veterans were in a shelter program in the U.S. at some time during 2014, a 12% decrease from 2009.

2014 Estimate of Sheltered Veterans:

- An estimated 131,697 Veterans used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at some time between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014.¹
- One in 174 Veterans in the U.S. was homeless in shelter at some point during 2014. While Veterans make up only 9.5 percent of the U.S. adult population, they make up 11.4 percent of the adult homeless population.

Changes Over Time:

- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of Veterans using shelter programs over the course of a year decreased by 5.8 percent (8,160 less Veterans); this is the largest annual decrease recorded since records began in 2009.
- Between 2009 and 2014, the number of sheltered Veterans in the United States has dropped by 12 percent (17,938 fewer Veterans).

EXHIBIT 5.7: One-year Estimates of Sheltered Veterans, 2009–2014



¹ The 95 percent confidence interval for the sheltered homeless Veteran population in 2014 is 113,923 to 149,471 (131,697 ± 17,774).

8.4% of sheltered homeless Veterans in 2014 were women.

Gender and Age

In 2014:

- More than 9 in 10 (91.6%) sheltered Veterans were men, in line with the share of men among all U.S. Veterans (91.5%).
- The most common age group for sheltered Veterans was age 51 to 61 (43.5%). They are also the most overrepresented age group, with a 2.4 times higher share of the homeless Veteran population in shelter programs than the share of all U.S. Veterans (18.1%).
- Elderly Veterans (age 62 and older) was the only age group that was underrepresented in shelter compared to the total U.S. Veteran population. All U.S. Veterans were 3.9 times more likely to be age 62 and older than Veterans in shelter (54.5% versus 13.5%).

Changes Over Time:

- While the share of women among all U.S. Veterans increased from 7.6 percent in 2013 to 8.5 percent in 2014, the share who were sheltered decreased (from 9% to 8.4%). This represented a 12.5 percent decline in sheltered female Veterans (1,570 less women) since 2013.
- Since 2009, the share of all age groups in the sheltered Veteran population increased, except the group ages 31 to 50. The share of the youngest Veterans (age 18 to 30) in shelter programs increased from 8.1 to 9.1 percent, and the share of the oldest Veterans (age 62 or older) increased from 8.7 to 13.5 percent.

EXHIBIT 5.8: Gender

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2014

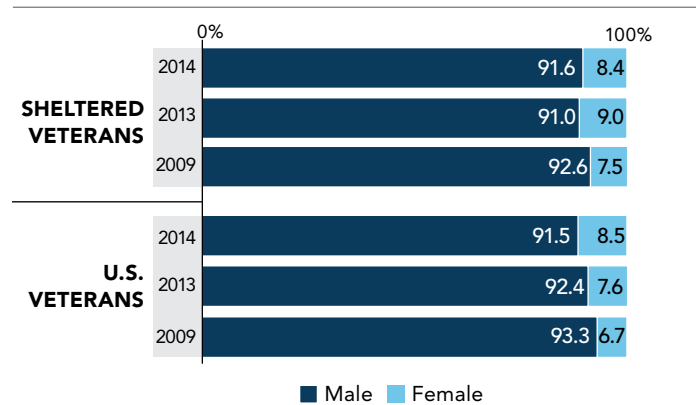
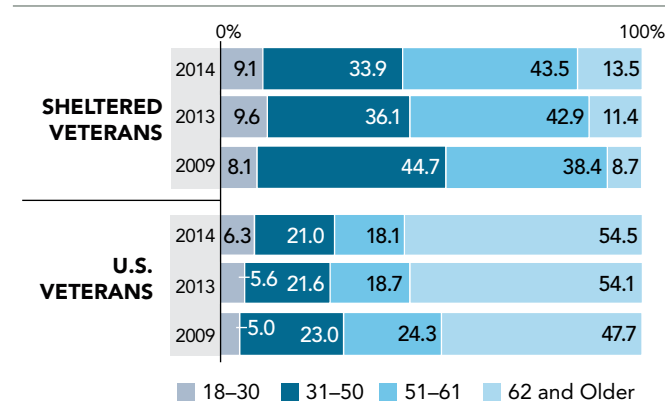


EXHIBIT 5.9: Age

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2014



Ethnicity and Race

In 2014:

- Hispanic Veterans were slightly overrepresented in the sheltered population compared to the broader U.S. Veteran population (6.9% versus 6%).
- Veterans who identified as white and not Hispanic (non-minority) comprise slightly more than half of all sheltered Veterans, compared to almost 4 out of 5 among all Veterans in the U.S.
- Among homeless sheltered Veterans, 47.6 percent were in a minority group including: black or African American (36.2%), white Hispanic (4.8%), multiple races (3.1%), American Indian or Alaska Native (2.5%), Asian (0.5%), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (0.4%).
- Veterans using shelter programs were 3.3 times more likely to be black or African American than were U.S. Veterans overall (36.2% versus 11.1%).

Changes Over Time:

- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of sheltered Veterans in minority groups declined by 10.3 percent (7,079 fewer Veterans), while the number of minorities in the total U.S. Veteran population increased by 9.8 percent.
- While the number of all U.S. Hispanic Veterans increased by 19.8 percent between 2009 and 2014, the number of sheltered Hispanic Veterans dropped by 43.5 percent (6,988 fewer Veterans), and the share of sheltered Veterans who are Hispanic dropped from 10.9 to 6.9 percent.
- The number of black or African American Veterans homeless in shelter decreased 6.4 percent (3,234 fewer Veterans) since 2009, while the number among all U.S. Veterans increased by 9.1 percent.

EXHIBIT 5.10: Ethnicity

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2014

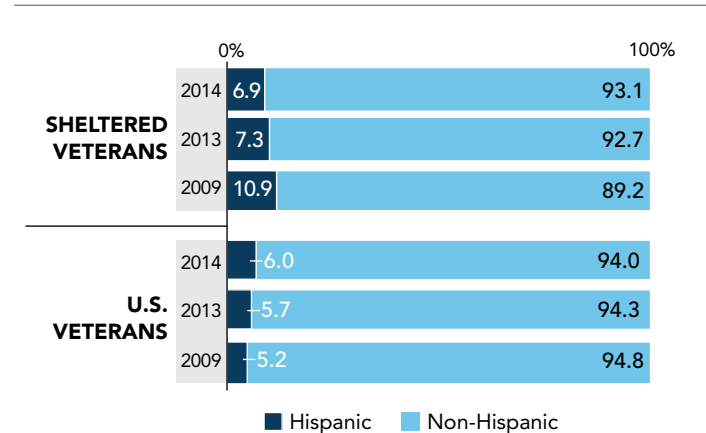
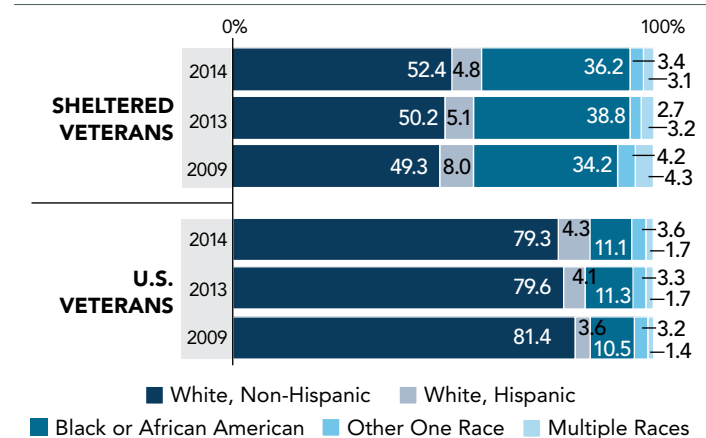


EXHIBIT 5.11: Race

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2014



Note: Ethnicity is distinguished among the white race group to facilitate an understanding of minorities and non-minorities. Non-minorities are those who identify their ethnicity as not Hispanic and their race as white.



More than half (55.9%) of sheltered homeless Veterans had a disability in 2014.

Household Size and Disability Status

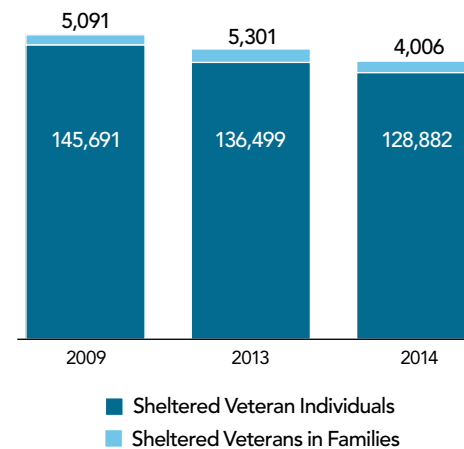
In 2014:

- The vast majority of sheltered Veterans were homeless as individuals (128,882 Veterans) rather than in families with children (4,006 Veterans).
- The share of Veterans in shelter programs that have a disability (55.9%) was twice as high as among the total U.S. Veteran population (27.8%) and 1.3 times as high as among the adult homeless (42.2%).

Changes Over Time:

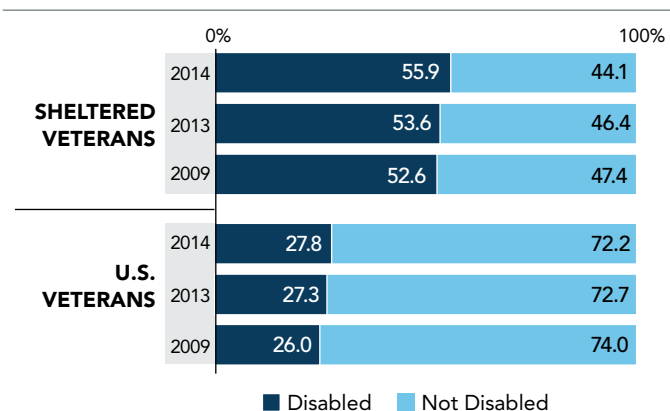
- The share of Veterans as individuals and as family members has remained stable between 2009 and 2014, with between 97.4 and 97.9 percent of all Veterans in shelter homeless as individuals and between 3.0 and 3.4 percent homeless in families with children.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the share of sheltered Veterans with a disability rose from 53.6 percent to 55.9 percent.

EXHIBIT 5.12: Sheltered Veterans Estimates
By Household Type, 2009–2014



Note: The number of sheltered Veterans served as individuals and in families may not sum to the unduplicated total number of sheltered Veterans because some Veterans were served as both individuals and in families at different points during the reporting period.

EXHIBIT 5.13: Disability Status
Sheltered Veterans, 2009–2014



Geographic Location

In 2014:

- Just under three-quarters (73.8%) of sheltered Veterans used emergency shelter and transitional housing programs in principal cities, with the remaining 26.2 percent in suburban and rural areas.
- The geographic pattern both of all U.S. Veterans and of those in poverty is the reverse of the sheltered Veteran population. About 8 in 10 Veterans (83.7%) in the U.S. population, and almost three-quarters (74.1%) of Veterans in poverty lived in suburban and rural areas in 2014.

Changes Over Time:

- Sheltered Veterans have become increasingly concentrated in cities since 2009, with the share of homeless Veterans using shelter programs in cities rising from 69.9 percent in 2009 to 73.8 percent in 2014.
- In contrast, Veterans in the poverty and in the total U.S. populations have consistently been concentrated in suburban and urban areas.

EXHIBIT 5.14: Geographic Distribution
Sheltered Veterans, U.S. Veterans in Poverty,
and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2014

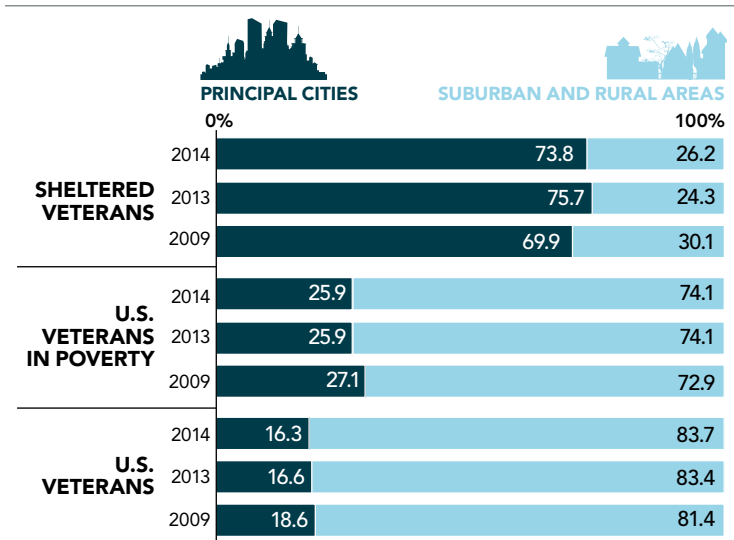


EXHIBIT 5.15: Percent Change by Geography

Sheltered Homeless Veterans, U.S. Veterans in Poverty Population,
and Total U.S. Veterans Population, 2009–2014 (in %)

Population	2013–2014		2007–2014	
	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas
Sheltered Veterans	-8.1	1.3	7.0	23.5
U.S. Veterans in Poverty*	16.7	16.4	3.4	10.4
U.S. Veterans*	7.2	9.6	-7.0	-4.3

* The way the ACS measures geography changed in 2012, making population changes in geography before and after 2012 no longer comparable. Therefore, the 2007 to 2014 population changes reflect the 2007 to 2012 ACS results.

Characteristics by Geography

In 2014:

- A larger share of Veterans using shelter programs located in suburban and rural areas were women compared to those in cities, 9.7 versus 7.9 percent.
- Sheltered Veterans in cities were 1.3 times more likely to be in minority groups than those in suburban and rural areas (51% versus 37.9%), and they were 1.4 times more likely to be African American (39% versus 28.6%).
- Sheltered Veterans located in cities were less likely to have a disability than those located in suburban and rural areas (54.6% and 59.9%).

Changes Over Time:

- From 2009 to 2014, the share of Veterans with a disability using shelter programs increased in both cities (50.5% to 54.6%) and in suburban and rural areas (57.7% to 59.9%).
- The share of Veterans who were Hispanic decreased in cities (13.8% to 7.4%) but increased in suburban and rural areas (4% to 5.7%) between 2009 and 2014.

EXHIBIT 5.16: Characteristics by Geography

Sheltered Veterans, 2014 (in %)

Characteristic	Principal Cities			Suburban & Rural Areas		
	2009	2013	2014	2009	2013	2014
# Homeless Veterans	104,596	105,794	97,255	45,037	33,993	34,442
Gender of Adults						
Male	92.9	91.5	92.1	91.8	89.3	90.3
Female	7.1	8.5	7.9	8.2	10.7	9.7
Ethnicity						
Hispanic	13.8	8.1	7.4	4.0	4.7	5.7
Non-Hispanic	86.2	91.9	92.6	96.0	95.3	94.3
Race						
White, Non-Hispanic	43.1	46.8	49.0	63.6	60.8	62.1
White, Hispanic	10.6	5.7	5.1	1.9	3.2	3.9
Black or African American	37.7	41.6	39.0	26.2	30.4	28.6
Other One Race	4.4	2.7	3.8	3.5	2.6	2.3
Multiple Races	4.2	3.3	3.1	4.7	3.0	3.2
Age						
18–30	8.0	9.3	8.8	8.6	10.5	9.8
31–50	44.7	35.9	33.2	44.6	36.9	35.8
51–61	37.9	43.2	44.5	39.8	42.0	40.9
62 and Older	9.5	11.6	13.5	7.1	10.7	13.5
Household Size						
1 Person	99.7	99.6	99.8	99.8	99.5	99.8
2 People	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2
3 People	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
4 People	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5 or More People	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Disability Status of Adults						
Disabled	50.5	52.8	54.6	57.7	56.3	59.9
Not Disabled	49.5	47.2	45.5	42.3	43.7	40.1

Living Situation Before Entering Shelter

In 2014:

- Nearly half of the Veterans who used a shelter program at some time during the reporting year were already homeless, 30.3 percent came from a housed situation, and 21.6 percent from institutional or other settings.
- Of the 61,625 sheltered Veterans who were already homeless, 52.2 percent were staying in a shelter program, and 47.8 percent came from unsheltered locations.
- Excluding those who were already homeless prior to the start of the reporting period can offer a sense of flow into the shelter system. Of sheltered Veterans who were *not already homeless*, 27.5 percent entered from institutional settings. Among the 18,304 Veterans entering from institutional settings, 35.2 percent came from a substance abuse treatment or detox center, 26.2 percent from a correctional facility, 20.7 percent from a hospital, and 18 percent from a psychiatric facility.
- Of Veterans *not already homeless*, 58.4 percent came from housing. Among those 38,891 Veterans that came from housing, 34.3 percent had been staying with family, 33.7 percent had been staying with friends, and 28.2 percent were in housing they rented. Only 2.7 percent were in housing that they owned, and only 1.1 percent entered a shelter program from permanent supportive housing.

Changes Over Time:

- The number of Veterans who entered shelter from another homeless situation decreased 9.2 percent (6,371 fewer Veterans) between 2013 and 2014. However, of these Veterans, the number who entered shelter from an unsheltered homeless situation increased by 7.2 percent (2,018 more Veterans).
- The share of Veterans who entered shelter from institutional settings increased from 13.2 percent in 2013 to 14.3 percent in 2014, including 811 more Veterans entering shelter from a psychiatric facility.

EXHIBIT 5.17: Places Veterans Stayed

Before Entering Shelter and Change Over Time, 2007–2014

Place Stayed	2014		2013-2014		2007-2014	
	#	%	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Already Homeless	61,625	48.1	-6,371	-9.2	-5,883	-8.5
Sheltered	32,154	52.2	-8,389	-20.3	-5,015	-13.4
Unsheltered	29,471	47.8	2,018	7.2	-1,225	-3.9
Housing	38,891	30.3	-1,523	-3.6	-7,056	-14.9
Staying with family	13,349	34.3	-834	-5.7	-1,782	-11.5
Staying with friends	13,106	33.7	-419	-3.0	1,173	9.5
Rented housing unit	10,959	28.2	-80	-0.7	-4,341	-27.6
Owned housing unit	1,064	2.7	-121	-9.9	-2,288	-67.3
Permanent supportive housing (PSH)	413	1.1	-69	-13.8	182	72.8
Institutional Settings	18,304	14.3	401	2.2	-2,472	-11.6
Substance abuse treatment center	6,434	35.2	-236	-3.5	-1,910	-22.6
Correctional facility	4,788	26.2	63	1.3	-1,511	-23.5
Hospital	3,786	20.7	-237	-5.7	-141	-3.5
Psychiatric facility	3,296	18.0	811	31.4	1,090	47.4
Other Settings	9,361	7.3	-684	-6.6	-2,555	-20.9
Hotel or motel	5,183	55.4	220	4.3	175	3.4
Other living arrangement	4,178	44.6	-904	-17.3	-2,346	-35.2

Note: To produce comparable trend information, statistical imputations were applied to missing values in this table. See the 2013 AHAR methodology document for more details.

EXHIBIT 5.18: Places Veterans Stayed

Who Were *Not Already Homeless*

Before Entering Shelter, 2009–2014 (in %)

2009	2013	2014
58.6	59.1	58.4
26.3	26.3	27.5
15.1	14.6	14.1

Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns

Emergency shelter and transitional housing programs are designed differently. Emergency shelters are high-volume, high-turnover programs; their primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for homeless people. In contrast, transitional housing programs offer homeless people shelter as well as supportive services for up to 24 months and intend for people to stay longer than they do in emergency shelters.

In 2014:

- Of Veterans using shelter programs at some point during the reporting year, almost two-thirds (64.1%) used only emergency shelter. The rest used only transitional housing programs (30.6%) or accessed both types of shelter programs during the year (5.3%).
- During the 12-month reporting year, nearly one-third of Veterans using emergency shelters stayed one week or less (31.5%), 59.1 percent stayed one month or less, and 5.6 percent stayed more than six months.
- For transitional housing programs, within the reporting year, 5.4 percent of Veterans stayed in the program one week or less, 18.5 percent stayed one month or less, and 32.7 percent stayed more than six months.
- The average length of stay in emergency shelter during the 12-month reporting period among sheltered Veterans was 49 nights, and it was 145 nights, or about 5 months, in transitional housing programs.

Changes Over Time:

- Between 2009 and 2014, the length of stay for Veterans in emergency shelter increased from a median number of 21 to 23 nights. The opposite was the case for transitional housing, which decreased from a median number of 120 to 112 nights.

EXHIBIT 5.19: Length of Stay

Veterans in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2014

Length of Stay	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing	
	#	%	#	%
7 days or less	28,655	31.5	2,530	5.4
8 to 30 days	25,067	27.6	6,200	13.1
31 to 180 days	32,200	35.4	23,031	48.8
181 to 360 days	3,596	4.0	9,925	21.0
361 to 365 days	1,435	1.6	5,543	11.7

Note: Length of stay accounts for multiple program entries/exits by summing the total number of (cumulative) days in a homeless residential program during the 12-month reporting period. The maximum length of stay is 365 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.

EXHIBIT 5.20: Bed-Use Patterns

Veterans in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2009–2014

Bed-Use Patterns	Emergency Shelter			Transitional Housing		
	2009	2013	2014	2009	2013	2014
Median number of nights	21	20	23	120	113	112
Average number of nights	47	46	49	149	146	145

Note: The maximum length of stay is 365 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.



"DOWN AT THE
BOTTOM"
"ANY HELP
PLEASE"