Serving Our Aging Veterans: A Look at Veteran Homelessness

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National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
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National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV)

Community partners
Invested in social services

Homeless veteran service providers

Groups serving homeless and at-risk persons
Groups serving veterans
Current numbers:

Progress in the effort to end veteran homelessness


A look at the numbers:

Changes over time in the connection between homelessness and aging

References: “Projecting Changes in the Housing and Health Care Costs of Older Veterans Experiencing Homelessness” Thomas Byrne, PhD Investigator, National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans Homeless Evidence and Research Synthesis Roundtable Series November 19, 2015
Why it all matters:

- Compounded health issues
- Higher rates of illness showing up earlier
- Suicide risk
- Increased risk of death

References: “Projecting Changes in the Scope and Health Service Utilization of Older Veterans Experiencing Homelessness” Thomas Byrne, PhD Investigator, and “Mortality Risk and Factors Influencing Death in Older Homeless Veterans” John A. Schinka, PhD National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans Homeless Evidence and Research Synthesis Roundtable Series November 19, 2015

Homelessness is associated with poor nutrition, low SES, experience of trauma and environmental toxins, inadequate healthcare

What is working

Major components: Outreach; Coordination/access to care and ongoing case management support; Housing resources; Healthcare services and supportive service programs; Income stability

- Rural homelessness
  - Working through the CoCs
  - Local officials leveraging limited housing resources
  - Telemedicine and remote health care options
  - Beyond VAMCs: Healthcare for the homeless clinics and CHOICE cards

- Aging homelessness
  - HPACT teams building a safety net of services
  - Caring communities for healthcare “super-utilizers”
  - Investment by philanthropy engaged in housing services
What we can do better

Building a social safety net

What You Can Do

- **Connect**
  - Come to NCHV training events
  - Sign up for NCHV Newsletters
  - Go to community meetings on ending veteran homelessness (ICH)
  - Social media

- **Implement**
  - Scale up best and promising practices
  - Training tools and webinars
  - Help research match practice

- **Invest**
  - Robust support for the programs that work
  - Connect health care resources to homelessness prevention
  - Maintain VA homeless service access for all veterans
What You Can Do

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