



4 Homeless Veterans IN THE UNITED STATES

POINT-IN-TIME (PIT)

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HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

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KEY TERM

VETERAN refers to any person who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This also includes military reserves and National Guard who were called up to active duty.

HIGHLIGHTS

On a single night in January 2012, 62,619 veterans were homeless in the United States, representing 13.3 percent of all homeless adults.

Between 2011 and 2012, 4,876 fewer veterans were homeless, a 7 percent decline. This decline was entirely driven by the 4,890 fewer veterans in shelter, with the number of unsheltered veterans remaining essentially unchanged.

Compared to 2009, 12,990 fewer veterans (a 17.2% drop) were homeless in the United States in 2012. Nearly two-thirds of the decline is attributable to fewer veterans in shelter, and the remaining third to a decline in unsheltered veterans.

One-Night Estimates OF HOMELESS VETERANS

PIT

Understanding the extent and nature of homelessness among veterans is an important focus for both HUD and the U.S. Department of Veteran 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. The data provided in this chapter provide the most accurate metrics to gauge the nation's progress towards ending homelessness among veterans.

On a Single Night in January 2012

- 62,619 veterans were homeless in the United States, representing about 13.3 percent of homeless adults.
- 56.1 percent of homeless veterans were sheltered (35,143 veterans), and 43.9 percent were in unsheltered locations (27,476 veterans).

Between January 2011 and January 2012

- The number of homeless veterans declined by 7.2 percent (4,876 fewer veterans). The decline was driven by a 12.2 percent decrease (4,890 fewer veterans) in the number of sheltered homeless veterans, with the number of unsheltered homeless veterans remaining almost the same.

Between January 2009 and January 2012

- The total number of homeless veterans declined by 12,990 people (a 17.2% drop). Nearly two-thirds of the decline (63.3%) is attributable to the decrease in the number of sheltered veterans and approximately one-third to the decrease in unsheltered veterans (36.7%).

Data Source: PIT 2009–2012
Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories

An estimated 62,619 **veterans** were **homeless** in the United States in January 2012, a **7% decline** from last year.

EXHIBIT 4.1: One-Night Counts of Homeless Veterans PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2009–2012

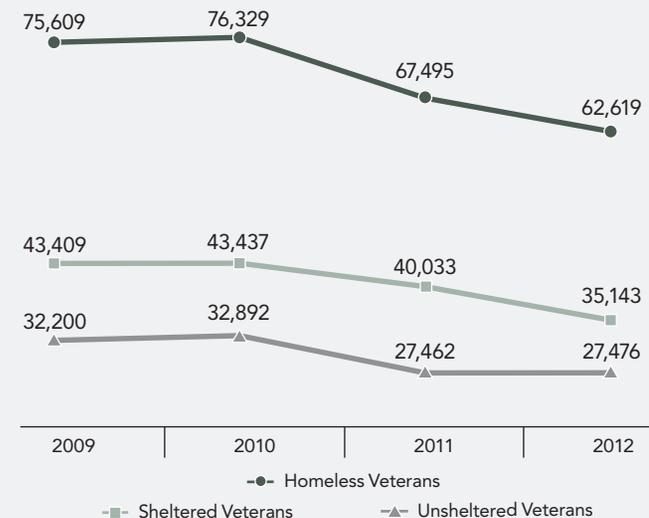


EXHIBIT 4.2: Change in Homeless Veterans PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2009–2012

Years	Total Homeless Veterans		Sheltered Veterans		Unsheltered Veterans	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
2011 to 2012	-4,876	-7.2	-4,890	-12.2	14	0.1
2010 to 2011	-8,834	-11.6	-3,404	-7.8	-5,430	-16.5
2009 to 2010	720	1.0	28	0.1	692	2.1
2009 to 2012	-12,990	-17.2	-8,266	-19.0	-4,724	-14.7

By State

On a Single Night in January 2012

- Four states accounted for half of the nation's homeless veterans: CA (26.3% or 16,461 veterans), FL (8.5% or 5,331 veterans), NY (7.9% or 4,961 veterans), and Texas (7.0% or 4,364 veterans).

Between January 2011 and January 2012

- The number of homeless veterans decreased in 32 states (totaling 6,157 fewer veterans).
- California had the largest decline in the number of homeless veterans (2,172 fewer veterans).
- 18 states and D.C. had increases in veteran homelessness (totaling 1,281 more veterans) with Tennessee (320 more veterans) and North Carolina (165 more veterans) having the largest increases.

Between January 2009 and January 2012

- 37 states and D.C. had declines in its number of homeless veterans (totaling 14,554 fewer veterans).
- Five states had at least 1,000 fewer homeless veterans than in 2009 (in # of fewer veterans): CA (3,071), FL (1,804), NV (1,200), TX (1,127), and LA (1,086).
- Of the 13 states with increases in veteran homelessness since 2009, North Carolina (295 more veterans) and Missouri (200 more veterans) had the largest increases.

Data Source: PIT 2009–2012
Maps include Puerto Rico and U.S. territories; tables do not

EXHIBIT 4.3: Share of Homeless Veteran Population In the U.S. by State, 2012 (in %)

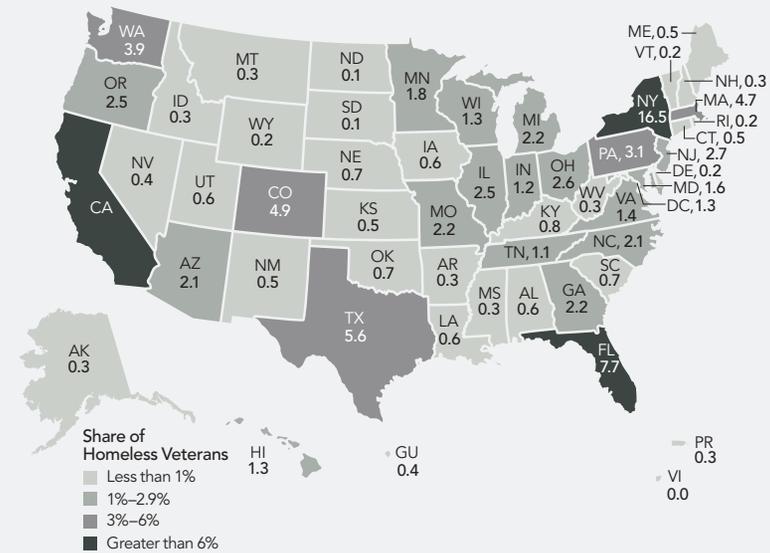


EXHIBIT 4.4: Homeless Veterans by State Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2009–2012

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
2011 to 2012					
Tennessee	320	33.2	California	-2,172	-11.7
Wyoming	228	274.7	New York	-804	-13.9
North Carolina	165	13.2	Texas	-527	-10.8
Montana	72	28.7	Florida	-313	-5.5
Illinois	66	6.1	New Jersey	-219	27.0
2009 to 2012					
North Carolina	295	26.3	California	-3,071	-15.7
Missouri	200	28.6	Florida	-1,804	-25.3
Utah	164	98.8	Nevada	-1,200	-45.8
Tennessee	143	12.5	Texas	-1,127	-20.5
Illinois	119	11.6	Louisiana	-1,086	-54.7

By State and Sheltered Status

On a Single Night in January 2012

- Almost two-thirds of all unsheltered veterans in the United States were in California (43.5% or 11,949 veterans), Florida (11.4% or 3,130 veterans), and Texas (9.0% or 2,480 veterans).
- 11 states have 90 percent or more of its homeless veterans in shelter (in # of veterans): PA (1,321), MA (1,126), WI (525), UT (297), IA (205), ND (144), NH (116), ME (116), SD (114), RI (96), and DE (64).
- The majority of homeless veterans were unsheltered in nine states (in # of veterans): CA (11,949), FL (2,201), TX (2,480), GA (1,203), OR (798), NV (728), HI (277), MI (173), and MT (147).

Between January 2011 and January 2012

- Tennessee had large increases in both sheltered (241 more veterans) and unsheltered veterans (785 more veterans).
- The number of sheltered veterans decreased in 34 states and D.C. (totaling 5,813 fewer veterans), and increased in only 16 states (totaling 944 more veterans).
- The number of unsheltered veterans dropped in 24 states (totaling 770 fewer veterans) and increased in 21 states (totaling 785 more veterans).

Between January 2009 and January 2012

- Three states had the largest decreases in both sheltered and unsheltered veterans: FL (706 sheltered and 1,098 unsheltered veterans), CA (2,287 sheltered and 784 unsheltered veterans), and NV (638 sheltered and 562 unsheltered veterans).
- The number of sheltered veterans decreased in 37 states and D.C., totaling 9,216 fewer veterans, while only 13 states had a net increase of 940 veterans.
- Unsheltered homelessness among veterans decreased in 30 states (totaling 5,922 fewer veterans) and increased in 19 states and D.C. (totaling 1,183 more veterans).

EXHIBIT 4.5: Sheltered Homeless Veterans by State
Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2009–2012

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
2011 to 2012					
Tennessee	241	32.9	California	-2,177	-32.5
North Carolina	150	15.9	New York	-876	-16.7
Wyoming	89	228.2	Texas	-481	-20.3
Missouri	87	13.9	Kentucky	-210	-36.3
Michigan	80	10.6	New Jersey	-203	-30.4
2009 to 2012					
North Carolina	237	27.8	California	-2,287	-33.6
Utah	187	170.0	Texas	-851	-31.1
Missouri	145	25.5	Florida	-706	-24.3
Tennessee	134	16.0	New York	-677	-13.4
West Virginia	42	23.7	Nevada	-638	-48.0

EXHIBIT 4.6: Unsheltered Homeless Veterans by State
Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2009–2012

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
2011 to 2012					
Wyoming	139	315.9	Florida	-238	-7.1
Mississippi	82	90.1	Alabama	-123	-45.2
Tennessee	79	33.9	Louisiana	-58	-11.4
New York	72	13.9	Texas	-46	-1.8
Washington	67	21.5	Missouri	-40	-17.8
2009 to 2012					
Oregon	193	32.0	Florida	-1,098	-26.0
Illinois	107	47.2	Louisiana	-1,095	-70.9
Montana	98	125.6	California	-784	-6.2
Arkansas	75	92.6	Arizona	-656	-58.2
North Carolina	58	21.7	Nevada	-562	-43.6

Data Source: PIT 2009–2012
Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories

PROFILE

The typical sheltered homeless veteran in the United States in 2012 was:

- a man living alone in a one-person household
- 51 to 61 years old
- white and not Hispanic
- disabled
- located in a city
- already homeless before entering shelter
- in an emergency shelter for 19 nights

HIGHLIGHTS

137,995 veterans were in shelter in the United States at some time between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012. The number of veterans in shelter has declined each year since 2009, totaling 11,640 fewer veterans (a 7.8% drop).

While veterans make up only 9 percent of the U.S. adult population in 2012, veterans make up 12 percent of the homeless adult population.

While only 20 percent of the total U.S. Veteran population were minorities (i.e., Hispanic, African American, and other non-white race), nearly half of sheltered veterans in the U.S. were in a minority group.

In 2012, the share of disabled veterans in shelter was 1.9 times higher than in the total U.S. Veteran population. Since 2011, however, the proportion of disabled sheltered veterans declined by 5.4 percent (3,892 fewer veterans).

Since 2009, the number of elderly veterans (age 62 and older) in shelter increased 16.8 percent (2,190 more veterans), exceeding the rate of increase among all U.S. Veterans (a 6.8% rise).

The geographic location of sheltered veterans mirrors that of all sheltered homeless people, with the vast majority located in cities (70.8%) rather than suburban and rural areas (29.2%).

Nearly half of all sheltered veterans (48.3%) were already homeless prior to entering shelter in 2012, with many of them cycling through the shelter system (58.5%) and others coming off the street (41.5%).

One-Year Estimates OF SHELTERED VETERANS

HMIS

Since 2009, HUD has estimated the annual number of homeless veterans in shelter. The one-year estimates account for all veterans who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program, including programs that specifically target veterans, at any time from October 1 through September 30 of the reporting year. The estimates are based on a nationally representative sample of communities that submit aggregate HMIS data to HUD. The estimates are statistically adjusted to include veterans in shelter programs that do not yet participate in its 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 for homeless people during the 12-month period. We estimate that the number of homeless veterans using shelter during this period was between 115,288 and 160,702 ($\pm 22,707$).

Veterans can experience homelessness as individuals and as part of a family. Homeless veteran individuals are those that are homeless without at least one child, while homeless veterans in families are those in households including at least one child.

137,995 **veterans** were in a shelter program in the United States at some time during 2012, a number that **has declined** each year since 2009.

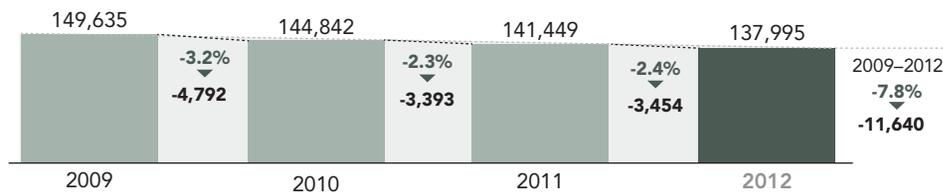
2012 Estimate of Sheltered Veterans

- An estimated 137,995 veterans used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at any time from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.
- 1 in 156 veterans in the U.S. was homeless in shelter at some point during this time. While veterans make up only 9 percent of the U.S. adult population, veterans make up 12 percent of the homeless adult population.

Changes Over Time

- Between 2011 and 2012, the number of veterans in shelter decreased 2.4 percent (3,454 fewer veterans).
- Since 2009, the number of sheltered veterans in the United States has declined steadily every year, resulting in 11,640 fewer veterans overall (a 7.8% decline).

EXHIBIT 4.7: One-year Estimates of Sheltered Veterans, 2009–2012



Data Source: HMIS 2009-2012; ACS 2011

Gender and Age

In 2012

- More than 9 in 10 (92.2%) sheltered veterans were men. This is about the same as the share of men among all U.S. Veterans (92.7%), but higher than the share among U.S. Veterans in poverty (89.3%).
- The largest group of sheltered veterans was ages 51 to 61 (43.4%), with 37.1 percent ages 31 to 50, and 8.5 percent ages 18 to 30.
- Elderly veterans were underrepresented in shelter compared to the total U.S. Veteran population. All U.S. Veterans were 4.8 times more likely to be age 62 and older than veterans in shelter (53.2% versus 11.1%).

Changes Over Time

- Between 2011 and 2012, the number of sheltered female veterans declined 22.4 percent (3,095 fewer women). The number declined 3.7 percent (417 fewer women) since 2009.
- Since 2009, the number of sheltered veterans age 62 and older increased 16.8 percent (2,190 more veterans), exceeding the relative increase among all U.S. Veterans (a 6.8% rise).
- Between 2009 and 2012, the number of veterans ages 31 to 51 declined 9.4 percent in the total U.S. Veteran population, while it decreased by 23.4 percent (15,587 fewer veterans) among those in shelter.

EXHIBIT 4.8: Gender

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2012

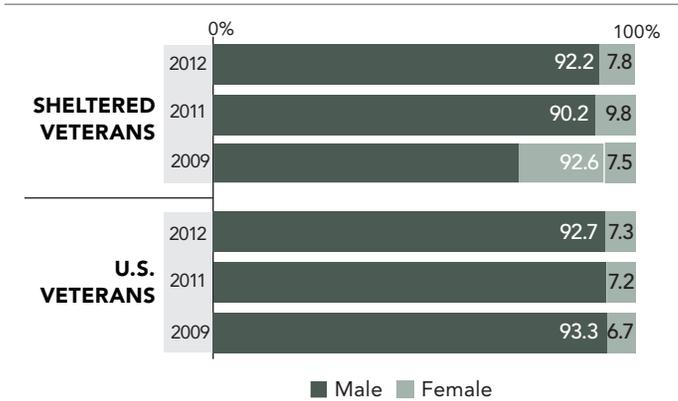
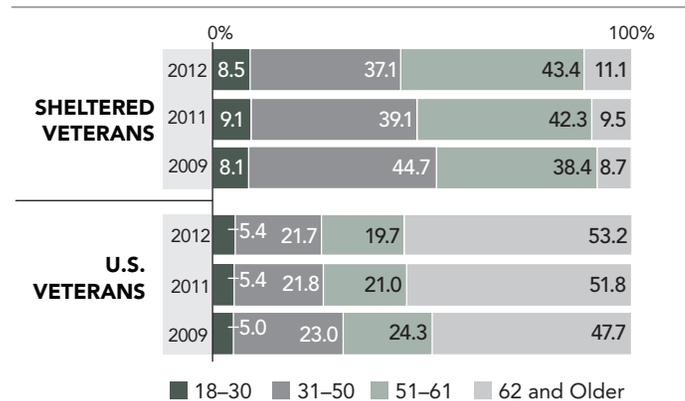


EXHIBIT 4.9: Age

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2012



Data Source: HMIS 2009-2012; ACS 2008, 2010, 2011

Ethnicity and Race

In 2012

- Hispanic veterans were slightly overrepresented in the sheltered population compared to the broader U.S. Veteran population (7% versus 5.6%).
- Nearly half (48%) of sheltered veterans in the U.S. were minorities (i.e., Hispanics, African Americans, and other non-white races). Veterans in shelter were 2.4 times more likely to be of a minority group than those in the total U.S. Veteran population (48% versus 19.7%). Sheltered veterans were 3.2 times more likely to be African American than were all U.S. Veterans (35.5% versus 11%).
- Although whites made up the majority of the sheltered veteran population, they were still at lower risk of being homeless in shelter than any minority. All veterans in the U.S. were 1.5 times more likely to be white (non-Hispanic) than those in shelter (80.3% versus 52%).

Changes Over Time

- While the number of all U.S. Hispanic veterans increased 3.3 percent between 2009 and 2012, sheltered Hispanic veterans decreased 40.4 percent (6,489 fewer veterans).
- Between 2009 and 2012, the number of sheltered veterans in minority groups declined 12.5 percent (9,362 fewer veterans), while the number in the total U.S. Veteran population increased by only 1.4 percent.
- The number of African American veterans in shelter declined 4.1 percent (2,092 fewer veterans) since 2009, while the number among all U.S. Veterans increased by only 0.8 percent.

EXHIBIT 4.10: Ethnicity

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2012

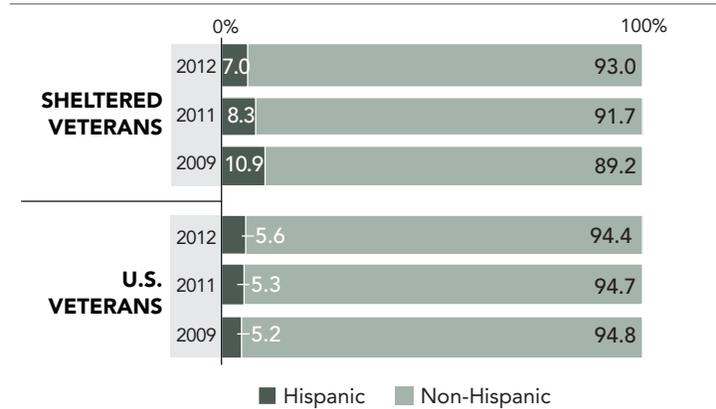
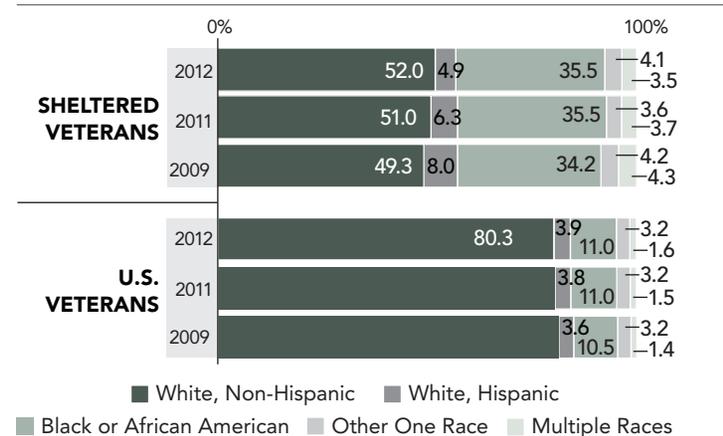


EXHIBIT 4.11: Race

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2012



Data Source: HMIS 2009–2012; ACS 2008, 2010, 2011



Household Size and Disability Status

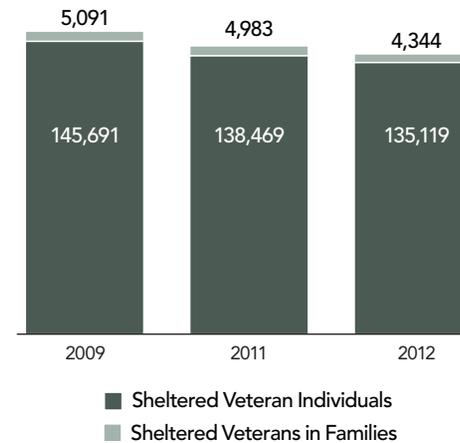
In 2012

- More sheltered veterans were homeless as individuals (135,119 veterans) than in families (4,344 veterans).
- The proportion of disabled veterans in shelter is 1.9 times higher than among the total U.S. Veteran population (51.3% versus 26.9%).

Changes Over Time

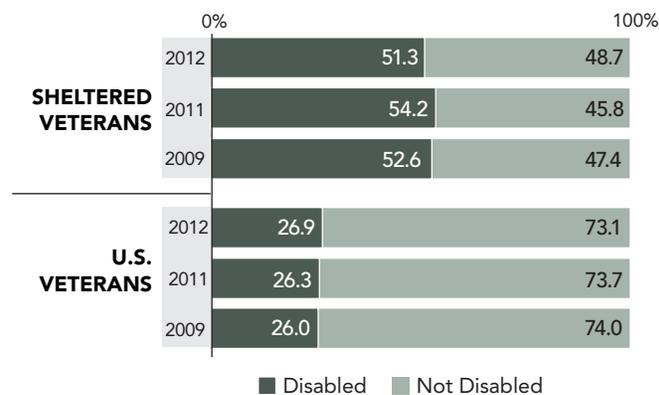
- Between 2011 and 2012, the proportion of sheltered veterans with a disability declined 5.4 percent (3,892 fewer veterans), while the proportion of all U.S. Veterans with a disability increased 1 percent.
- The share of veterans as individuals and as family members has remained stable since 2009, with between 97 and 98 percent of all veterans in shelter homeless as individuals and between 3 and 3.5 percent homeless in families.

EXHIBIT 4.12: Sheltered Veterans Estimates
By Household Type, 2009–2012



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 4.13: Disability Status
Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2012



Data Source: HMIS 2009–2012; ACS 2008, 2010, 2011

Geographic Location

In 2012

- About 7 in 10 (70.8%) sheltered veterans were located in principal cities, with the remaining 29.2 percent in suburban and rural areas.
- The geographic location of all U.S. Veterans and those in poverty is almost exactly opposite that of the sheltered veteran population. About 8 in 10 veterans (81.9%) in the U.S. lived in suburban and rural areas, with the remaining 18.1 percent in cities. Almost three-quarters (74.2%) of veterans in poverty lived in suburban and rural areas, with the remaining 25.8 percent in cities.

Changes Over Time

- Between 2011 and 2012, the number of sheltered veterans increased 1.1 percent (427 more people) in suburban and rural areas, and declined 3.7 percent (3,784 fewer people) in cities. Since 2009, sheltered veterans declined in cities by 6,844 veterans (a 6.5% drop) and in suburban and rural areas by 4,794 veterans (a 10.6% drop).
- Sheltered veterans have consistently been concentrated in cities since 2009, while veterans in poverty and in the total U.S. population have consistently been concentrated in suburban and urban areas.
- Between 2009 and 2012, the number of poor veterans increased 10.4 percent in suburban and rural areas, exceeding the 3.4 percent increase in cities. Veterans in the U.S. overall declined 7 percent in cities, exceeding the 4.3 percent decline in suburban and rural areas.

EXHIBIT 4.14: Geographic Distribution
Sheltered Veterans, U.S. Veterans in Poverty,
and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2012

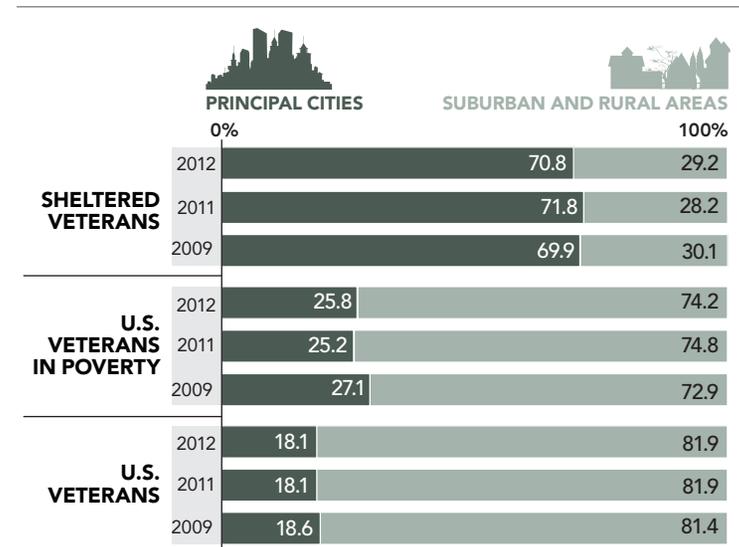


EXHIBIT 4.15: Percent Change by Geography
Sheltered Homeless Veterans, U.S. Veterans in Poverty Population,
and Total U.S. Veterans Population, 2009–2012 (in %)

Population	2011 2012		2009 2012	
	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas
Sheltered Veterans	-3.7	1.1	-6.5	-10.6
U.S. Veterans in Poverty	3.9	0.9	3.4	10.4
U.S. Veterans	-1.3	-1.7	-7.0	-4.3

Data Source: HMIS 2009–2012; ACS 2008, 2010, 2011

Characteristics by Geography

In 2012

- A larger share of veterans in shelter located in suburban and rural areas were women than in cities (8.5% versus 7.5%).
- A larger proportion of veterans in shelter located in cities were Hispanic than were those in suburban and rural areas (7.9% versus 4.7%).
- A larger percentage of sheltered veterans in cities were minorities (i.e. Hispanics, African Americans, and other non-white races) than those in suburban and rural areas. Sheltered veterans in cities were 1.4 times more likely to be in minority groups than those in suburban and rural areas (51.9% versus 38.4%), and were 1.3 times more likely to be African American (38.1% versus 29%).
- Sheltered veterans located in cities were just as likely to have a disability as those located in suburban and rural areas (11% and 11.1%).

Changes Over Time

- Between 2011 and 2012, the proportion of disabled sheltered veterans decreased 5 percent (2,537 fewer veterans) in cities and 6 percent (1,292 fewer veterans) in suburban and rural areas.
- Despite their continued concentration in cities, sheltered veterans who are minorities were increasingly located in suburban and rural areas. The number of sheltered veterans who are minorities and were located in suburban and rural areas increased 8 percent (1,133 more veterans) between 2011 and 2012, while the number in cities declined 7.5 percent (4,057 fewer veterans).

EXHIBIT 4.16: Characteristics by Geography
Sheltered Veterans, 2012 (in %)

Characteristic	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas
Number of Sheltered Veterans	97,753	40,243
Gender of Adults		
Male	92.5	91.5
Female	7.5	8.5
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	7.9	4.7
Non-Hispanic	92.1	95.3
Race		
White, Non-Hispanic	48.1	61.6
White, Hispanic	5.7	2.9
Black or African American	38.1	29.0
Other One Race	4.8	2.5
Multiple Races	3.3	4.0
Age		
Under Age 18	n/a	n/a
18–30	8.3	8.9
31–50	38.0	34.8
51–61	42.6	45.2
62 and Older	11.0	11.1
Disability Status of Adults		
Disabled	51.1	51.8
Not Disabled	48.9	48.2

Living Situation Before Entering Shelter

In 2012

- 48.3 percent of veterans in shelter were already homeless. Of these, 58.5 percent (37,820 veterans) stayed in a shelter program, and 41.5 percent (26,807 veterans) were in 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 veterans *not already homeless*, 58.9 percent (40,742 veterans) came from housing. Of those, 34.9 percent (14,199 veterans) stayed with family, 33.6 percent (13,669 veterans) with friends, 27.8 percent (11,330 veterans) in rental housing, 2.8 percent (1,136 veterans) in owned housing, and 1 percent (408 veterans) in permanent supportive housing prior to entering shelter.
- Excluding those already homeless, 24.8 percent of veterans in shelter entered from institutional settings (17,145 veterans). Of those, 33.7 percent (5,781 veterans) came from a substance abuse treatment or detox center, 25.8 percent (4,418 veterans) from a correctional facility, 24.6 percent (4,213 veterans) from a hospital, and 15.9 percent (2,733 veterans) from a psychiatric facility.

Changes Over Time

- The number of veterans who entered shelter from another homeless situation increased 6.8 percent (4,212 veterans) between 2011 and 2012. Most of this increase is from the additional 2,413 veterans that came from another sheltered situation.
- Veterans who entered shelter from institutional settings declined 10.9 percent (2,143 fewer veterans) since 2011. Of those, the number of veterans entering shelter from hospitals declined 22.4 percent (1,252 fewer veterans) and 15.7 percent from correctional facilities (850 fewer veterans).
- The number of veterans entering shelter from another situation, such as a hotel, increased 16.2 percent (1,641 more veterans between 2011 and 2012).

Data Source: HMIS 2009–2012

EXHIBIT 4.17: Places Veterans Stayed

Before Entering Shelter and Change Over Time, 2009–2012

Place Stayed	2012		2011		2012		2009		2012	
	#	%	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change		
Already Homeless	64,627	48.3	4,212	6.8	-2,671	-3.9				
Sheltered	37,820	58.5	2,413	6.6	1,089	2.9				
Unsheltered	26,807	41.5	1,799	7.0	-4,089	-13.0				
Housing	40,742	30.4	2,048	5.1	-4,979	-10.5				
Staying with family	14,199	34.9	359	2.5	-853	-5.5				
Staying with friends	13,669	33.6	157	1.1	1,818	14.7				
Rented housing unit	11,330	27.8	1,705	16.8	-3,904	-24.8				
Owned housing unit	1,136	2.8	-271	-18.6	-2,211	-65.1				
Permanent supportive housing (PSH)	408	1.0	98	30.3	171	68.4				
Institutional Settings	17,145	12.8	-2,143	-10.9	-3,621	-17.1				
Substance abuse treatment center	5,781	33.7	-285	-4.6	-2,550	-30.1				
Correctional facility	4,418	25.8	-850	-15.7	-1,868	-29.0				
Hospital	4,213	24.6	-1,252	-22.4	299	7.4				
Psychiatric facility	2,733	15.9	244	9.5	498	21.6				
Other Settings	11,322	8.5	1,641	16.2	-440	-3.6				
Hotel or motel	4,780	42.2	660	15.4	-199	-3.9				
Other living arrangement	6,476	57.8	981	16.8	-241	-3.4				

Note: To produce comparable trend information, statistical imputations were applied to missing values in this table. See the 2012 AHAR methodology document for more details.

EXHIBIT 4.18: Places Veterans Stayed Who Were Not Already Homeless

Before Entering Shelter, 2009–2012 (in %)

2009	2011	2012
58.6	58.1	58.9
26.3	27.8	24.8
15.1	14.1	16.4

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; its 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 2012

- During the 12-month reporting year, more than one-third of veterans in emergency shelter stayed one week or less (36.5%), 63.2 percent stayed one month or less, and 5.3 percent stayed more than six months.
- Within the reporting year, 63.6 percent of veterans in transitional housing programs stayed between one and six months, 19 percent stayed one month or less, and 30.7 percent stayed more than six months.
- The average length of stay for veterans in emergency shelter was 45 nights.
- The average length of stay for veterans during the 12-month reporting period within transitional housing programs was 138 nights (about 5 months).
- Most veterans in shelter used only an emergency shelter at some point during the reporting year (64.8%). Fewer people used a transitional housing program only (29.5%) or accessed both types of housing during the year (5.6%).

Changes Over Time

- Between 2009 and 2012, the length of stay decreased in both emergency shelter and transitional housing programs. For example, the median number of nights in emergency shelter decreased from 21 to 19, and in transitional housing programs from 120 to 105 nights.

EXHIBIT 4.19: Length of Stay

Veterans in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2012

Length of Stay	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing	
	#	%	#	%
7 days or less	35,426	36.5	2,744	5.7
8 to 30 days	25,912	26.7	6,470	13.3
31 to 180 days	30,632	31.6	24,397	50.3
181 to 360 days	3,964	4.1	10,587	21.8
361 to 366 days	1,173	1.2	4,291	8.9

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 366 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.

EXHIBIT 4.20: Bed-Use Patterns

Veterans in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2009–2012

Bed Use Patterns	Emergency Shelter			Transitional Housing		
	2009	2011	2012	2009	2011	2012
Median number of nights	21	21	19	120	105	105
Average number of nights	47	50	45	149	138	138

Note: The maximum length of stay is 366 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.