

Veterans Served by Homelessness Programs in California



This fact sheet is part of a series using the [Homeless Data Integration System \(HDIS\)](#) to understand how homelessness programs are reaching different populations in California. It provides a snapshot of how veterans were served by homelessness programs in California using information reported in HDIS during the three-year period between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021. HDIS includes information about programs that report to a local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), but does not contain information about every homelessness response program across the state.

Characteristics of Veterans Served by Homelessness Programs

- Approximately **42,000 veterans** were served by homelessness programs during the three-year assessment period, 91% of whom were served as individuals (in households without children).



Of all adults (at least 18 years-old) served were veterans

Veterans served by homelessness programs were more likely to identify as male, be older, and be served as individuals compared with non-veteran adults.

- 60%** of veterans served were adult individuals aged 50 or older
- 24%** of veterans identifying as female were served in families, compared to 7% of veterans identifying as male

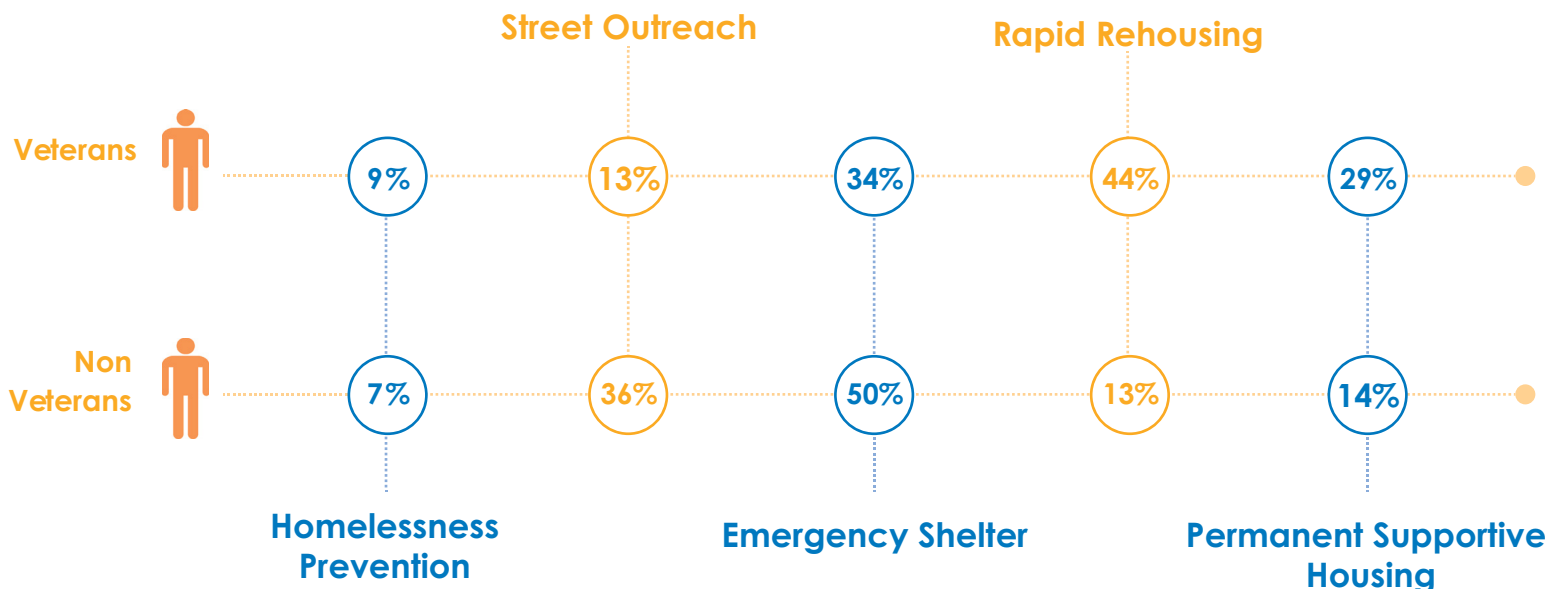


Of all veterans served identified as male

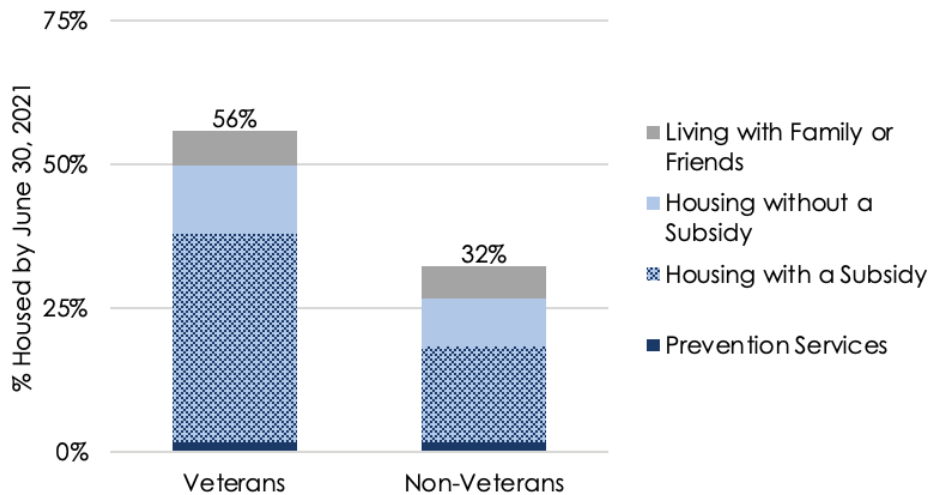
46% of veterans served as individuals identified as White, Non-Hispanic / Non-Latinx, 33% identified as Black, African American, or African, and 13% identified as White, Hispanic/Latinx

Types of Homelessness Programs Serving Veterans

The percentages of veteran and non-veteran adult individuals served by each type of program.



Outcomes for Veterans Served by Homelessness Programs



- **56%** of veterans served as individuals **were recorded as being housed** by the end of the study period
- **36%** of veteran individuals were **housed with a subsidy**, including many programs dedicated to serving veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.



Of veterans served as individuals experienced chronic homelessness (homelessness for at least one year in the previous three years, plus a disabling condition.)



The number of veterans in annual counts of homelessness decreased by 41% between 2010 and 2022 in California.

Significant resources from federal and state programs are dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness among veterans.

Conclusion

- Veterans experience a heightened risk of homelessness in California compared to non-veterans. In 2022, veterans were 7% of adults experiencing homelessness on a given night in California compared with 5% of California's overall adult population. Veterans face many of the same risk factors for homelessness as non-veteran adults, including low incomes, mental illness, and substance use challenges.
- Veterans served as adult individuals were housed more often than non-veteran adult individuals. These outcomes are the result of significant resources from federal and state programs dedicated to serving veterans—including the federal HUD-VASH (U.S. Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) programs, and California's Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP) —as well as extensive collaboration between all levels of government, healthcare and housing systems, and community-based organizations.
- The share of veterans who were housed could be higher than 56%, because some programs serving veterans, like HUD-VASH, are not required to report data to HMIS.

This series is a collaboration between the California Interagency Council on Homelessness; the Turner Center for Housing Innovation at the University of California, Berkeley; the Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative at the University of California, San Francisco; and Abt Associates.

