

5 National Estimates Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Data source: PIT 2009–2022

The 2021 national Point-in-Time (PIT) counts were considerably impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the public health crisis, HUD encouraged communities to determine whether conducting an unsheltered PIT count posed a high risk of exacerbating COVID-19 transmissions, given the lack of widespread access to COVID-19 vaccines at the time. As a result, less than half of communities conducted a full sheltered and unsheltered count. While this report includes some data on all veterans in sheltered locations in 2021, incomplete unsheltered data is not included. Analysis of changes over time are generally limited to those between 2022 and 2020 or earlier. Key changes in the sheltered population between 2021 and 2022 will be included in text boxes at the end of each chapter.

Communities began reporting PIT data on veterans experiencing homelessness in 2009. As such, this report uses 2009 as the baseline measure of veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States.

On a Single Night in 2022

- 33,129 veterans were experiencing homelessness in the U.S., approximately seven percent of all adults experiencing homelessness.
- Of every 10,000 veterans in the United States, 20 were experiencing homelessness. It is somewhat more common for veterans to experience homelessness than for all people in the United States (18 people out of every 10,000).
- Nearly all veterans were experiencing homelessness as individuals, 98 percent. Of those individuals, 28 percent (9,396 veterans) had chronic patterns of homelessness.
- About six in 10 veterans experiencing homelessness were staying in sheltered locations (59% or 19,565 veterans). This is higher than the share of all individuals experiencing homelessness who were sheltered, 49 percent.

EXHIBIT 5.1: PIT Estimates of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
By Sheltered Status, 2009-2022



Note: The data for 2021 does not display the total count of veterans experiencing homelessness or the count of veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness due to pandemic-related disruptions to counts. Additionally, estimates of the number of veterans experiencing sheltered homelessness at a point in time in 2021 should be viewed with caution, as the number could be artificially depressed compared with non-pandemic times, reflecting reduced capacity in some communities or safety concerns regarding staying in shelters.

EXHIBIT 5.2: Proportion of Adults Experiencing Homelessness Who are Veterans By Sheltered Status, 2022

Sheltered Status	All Veterans Experiencing Homelessness	All Adults Experiencing Homelessness	Percent of Adults Experiencing Homelessness Who were Veterans
Total People	33,129	483,218	6.8%
Sheltered	19,565	260,670	7.5%
Unsheltered	13,564	223,548	6.1%

EXHIBIT 5.3: Change in the Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness 2009–2022

	Change 2020-2022		Change 2009-2022	
	#	%	#	%
All Veterans	-4,123	-11.1%	-40,238	-54.8%
Sheltered	-2,483	-11.3%	-23,844	-54.9%
Unsheltered	-1,640	-10.8%	-16,394	-54.7%

- Three percent of veterans experiencing homelessness (840 veterans) were in family households with children (representing 807 households). Overall, 36,754 people experiencing homelessness were in households that included a veteran.
- Veterans experiencing homelessness as families with children were sheltered at a higher rate than veterans experiencing homelessness as individuals (79% vs. 59%), but at a lower rate than all families with children experiencing homelessness (89%).

Changes in Veteran Homelessness over Time

Given that more than half of communities did not conduct full unsheltered counts in 2021, changes over time are limited to those between 2022 and 2020 or earlier. Notable changes in the sheltered veteran population between 2021 and 2022 are highlighted the text box at the end of this section.

- Between 2020 and 2022, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness decreased by 11 percent (4,123 fewer people). The decrease occurred in both

sheltered and unsheltered locations.

- HUD began collecting data on veterans experiencing homelessness in 2009. Overall, veteran homelessness decreased by 55 percent between 2009 and 2022 (40,238 fewer veterans). This decrease occurred across sheltered and unsheltered locations, both of which also decreased by 55 percent (23,844 fewer sheltered veterans and 16,394 fewer unsheltered veterans).

Demographic Characteristics

The AHAR has been reporting demographic information on people experiencing homelessness on a single night since 2017. In 2022, the ways in which people identified their gender changed considerably, expanding the gender identity categories to include “questioning” and allowing people to select more than one gender.¹⁰ As a result, any comparisons made to prior years should be viewed with caution as they are not exact comparisons.¹¹

- Men accounted for almost nine of every ten veterans experiencing homelessness in 2022 (89% or 29,392 veterans), which is close to the 90 percent of all

10 For more information on how gender was reported for the PIT, see: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Reporting-Gender-for-the-PIT-Count.pdf>

11 For example, in previous years a person might only identify as “female” when they may have also identified as “questioning.” In 2022, that person was allowed to select both “female” and “questioning,” which was then categorized as “questioning.”

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Data source: PIT 2009-2021

veterans in the U.S. who are men.

- Women veterans experiencing homelessness were much more likely to be in a household with a child under 18 years of age (11%) than their male counterparts (2%).
- In contrast to the population of individuals experiencing homelessness, in which women were more likely to be sheltered, women veterans experiencing homelessness were more likely to be found in unsheltered locations than their male counterparts (48% vs. 40%).
- The highest percentage of veterans experiencing homelessness were White (58%), followed by veterans who were Black, African American, or African (31%). This pattern is consistent across veterans experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness.
- People who identify as Black, African American, or African were considerably overrepresented among veterans experiencing homelessness. Black veterans

comprised 34 percent of veterans experiencing sheltered homelessness and 26 percent of veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness compared with 12 percent of all U.S. veterans. Conversely, while 58 percent of veterans experiencing homelessness were White, they were underrepresented compared to their share of all U.S. veterans (76%).

- The percentage of veterans experiencing homelessness who identify as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) was considerably smaller than the percentage of Hispanics among people experiencing homelessness as individuals (12% vs. 22%).

Changes in Demographics over Time

- Reductions in veteran homelessness included a 16 percent decrease in veterans who identify as Black, African American, or African (1,946 fewer veterans) and a 9 percent decrease in White veterans (1,805 fewer veterans).
- The number of veterans experiencing homelessness

EXHIBIT 5.4: Demographic Characteristics of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness 2022

	All Veterans		Sheltered Veterans		Unsheltered Veterans	
All Veterans	33,129	100%	19,565	100%	13,564	100%
Gender						
Female	3,440	10.4%	1,784	9.1%	1,656	12.2%
Male	29,372	88.7%	17,705	90.5%	11,687	86.2%
Transgender	141	0.4%	42	0.2%	99	0.7%
A Gender that is not Singularly 'Female' or 'Male'	118	0.4%	27	0.1%	91	0.7%
Questioning	38	0.1%	7	0.0%	31	0.2%
Ethnicity						
Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	29,086	87.8%	17,897	91.5%	11,189	82.5%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	4,043	12.2%	1,668	8.5%	2,375	17.5%
Race						
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	1,034	3.1%	414	2.1%	620	4.6%
Asian or Asian American	404	1.2%	159	0.8%	245	1.8%
Black, African American, or African	10,240	30.9%	6,733	34.4%	3,507	25.9%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	417	1.2%	153	0.8%	264	1.9%
White	19,355	58.4%	11,408	58.3%	7,947	58.6%
Multiple Races	1,679	5.1%	698	3.6%	981	7.2%

Note: The demographic data for unsheltered may not sum to the total because three CoCs did not report complete demographic information for the unsheltered data used in this report.

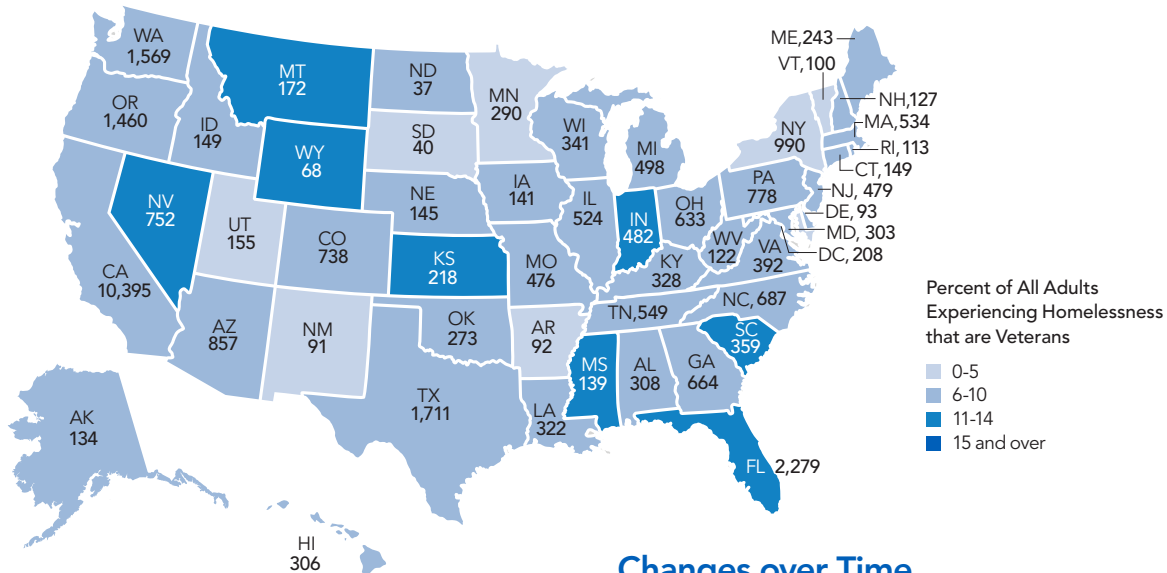
who were women increased by 10 percent (or 314 veterans). Increases in the number of unsheltered women veterans outpaced the increase of women staying in sheltered locations (13% compared to 7%).



5 State Estimates Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Data source: PIT 2009-2022

**EXHIBIT 5.5: Estimates of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
By State, 2022**



Changes over Time

On a Single Night in 2022

- California accounted for 32 percent of all veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States (10,395 veterans) and more than half of all unsheltered veterans (55% or 7,392 veterans).
- Florida accounted for the next largest percent share of veterans experiencing homelessness at 7 percent. Every other state's share was 5 percent or less, and 25 states' shares and the District of Columbia were less than 1 percent.
- More than seven in ten veterans experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations were in four states: California (55%), Washington (6%), Florida (6%), and Oregon (5%).
- In five states, more than half of all veterans experiencing homelessness were unsheltered: Mississippi (75%) California (71%), Washington (55%), Georgia (55%), and Hawaii (52%).
- In 17 states, 90 percent or more of veterans experiencing homelessness were staying in sheltered locations. States with very small percentages of veterans who were unsheltered were Wisconsin (2%), Maine (3%), New York (3%), North Dakota (3%), and Nebraska (3%).

- Veteran homelessness decreased in 35 states and the District of Columbia between 2020 and 2022. California, Colorado, and Massachusetts had the largest absolute decreases. The largest percentage decrease was in New Mexico (64%), followed by Arkansas (51%) and Hawaii (37%).
- The number of veterans experiencing homelessness increased in 15 states between 2020 and 2022. The largest absolute and percentage increase was in Maine (140 more veterans or a 136% increase). The second largest absolute increase was in Oregon, which saw an increase of 131 veterans experiencing homelessness between 2020 and 2022 (10%). The second largest percentage increase was in Mississippi (104%).
- Since 2009, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness has increased in only three states: Oregon (by 183 people), Maine (by 120 people), and Vermont (by 39 people).
- Between 2009 and 2022, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness decreased in 47 states and the District of Columbia, with the largest absolute decreases in California (7,578 fewer veterans), New York (4,889), and Florida (4,856). States with large percentage decreases were Louisiana (84%), New York (83%), New Mexico (78%), and Georgia (76%).

EXHIBIT 5.6: States with the Highest and Lowest Percentages of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness who were Unsheltered

2022

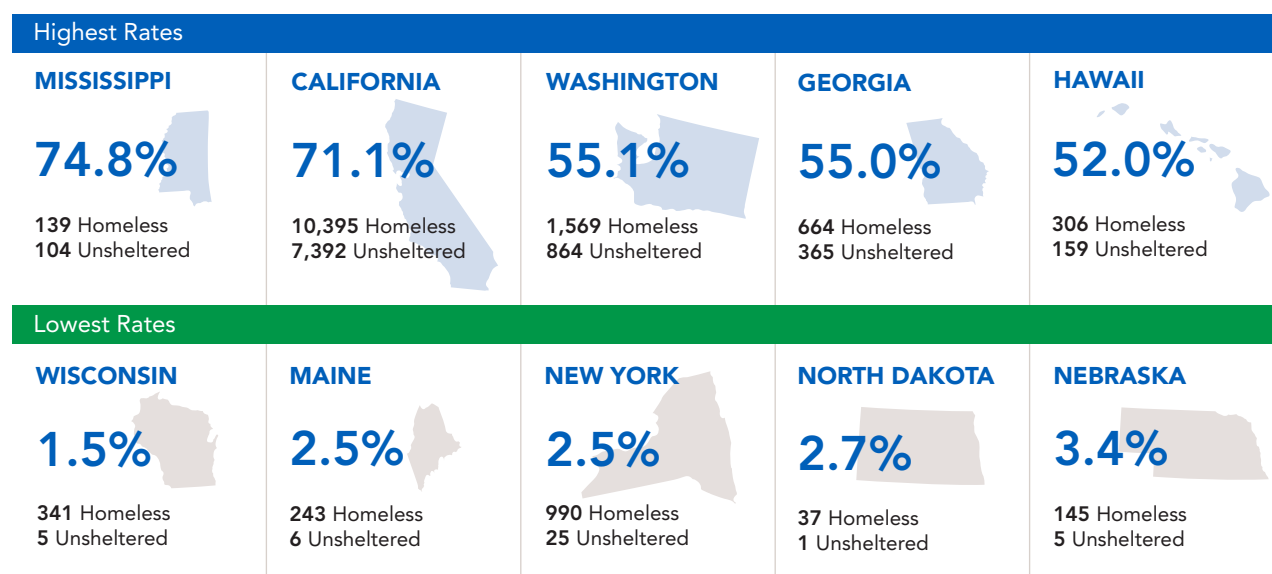


EXHIBIT 5.7: Largest Changes in the Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness By State, 2009-2022

2020–2022		2009–2022	
Largest Increases			
MAINE	140 / 135.9%	OREGON	183 / 14.4%
OREGON	131 / 9.9%	MAINE	120 / 97.5%
MISSISSIPPI	71 / 104.4%	VERMONT	39 / 63.4%
UTAH	41 / 36.0%	N/A	N/A / N/A
ALASKA	40 / 42.6%	N/A	N/A / N/A
Largest Decreases			
CALIFORNIA	-1,006 / -8.8%	CALIFORNIA	-7,578 / -42.2%
COLORADO	-306 / -29.3%	NEW YORK	-4,889 / -83.2%
MASSACHUSETTS	-302 / -36.1%	FLORIDA	-4,856 / -68.1%
NEW YORK	-261 / -20.9%	TEXAS	-3,780 / -68.8%
TEXAS	-237 / -12.2%	GEORGIA	-2,096 / -75.9%

Note: Figures from 2009-2022 exclude Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Michigan. All figures exclude Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories.

5 Estimates by CoC Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Data source: PIT 2009-2022; Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories

Continuums of Care (CoC) were divided into four geographic categories

- 1. Major city CoCs (n=48)** are CoCs that contain one of the 50 largest cities in the United States. In two cases, Phoenix and Mesa, AZ, and Arlington and Fort Worth, TX, two of the largest US cities are located in the same CoC.
- 2. Other largely urban CoCs (n=58)** are CoCs in which the population lives predominately in an urbanized area within the CoC's principal city or cities, but the CoCs does not include one of the nation's 50 largest cities.
- 3. Largely suburban CoCs (n=167)** are CoCs in which the population lives predominantly in suburban areas, defined as urbanized areas outside of a principal city or urban clusters within 10 miles of urbanized areas.
- 4. Largely rural CoCs (n=109)** are CoCs in which the population lives predominantly in urban clusters that are more than 10 miles from an urbanized area or in Census-defined rural areas.

Note: These definitions have been adapted from definitions used by the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics to characterize the locations of schools. For detailed information on how they were applied to CoCs, see the About the Report section of this report.

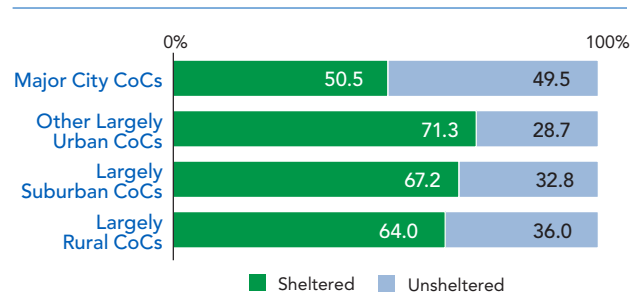
On a Single Night in 2022

- Veterans were less likely than all people experiencing homelessness to be in major cities (47% vs. 50%). Still, major city CoCs accounted for nearly half of the veterans experiencing homelessness nationwide (47%) and more than half of unsheltered veterans (57%).
- Conversely, CoCs that were largely suburban accounted for just over one-quarter (26%) of veterans experiencing homelessness, similar to the 23 percent share for all individuals.
- About 19 percent of veterans experiencing homelessness were counted in largely rural CoCs, about the same share as all people experiencing homelessness (18%). Fewer unsheltered veterans

EXHIBIT 5.8: Share of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness By CoC Category and Sheltered Status, 2022

	All Veterans Experiencing Homelessness	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Major Cities	46.7%	39.8%	56.6%
Other Largely Urban CoCs	9.0%	10.9%	6.3%
Largely Suburban CoCs	25.7%	29.2%	20.7%
Largely Rural CoCs	18.6%	20.1%	16.4%

EXHIBIT 5.9: Percent of all Veterans Experiencing Homelessness that are Sheltered and Unsheltered in Each CoC Category 2022



experience homelessness in rural areas (16%) than all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (19%).

- In major cities, 50 percent of all veterans experiencing homelessness were unsheltered. This is the highest rate of any of the geographic categories. In largely suburban areas one-third (33%) of veterans experiencing homelessness were unsheltered, and in largely rural areas just more than one third were unsheltered (36%). CoCs that were largely urban but did not contain one of the nation's largest cities reported the lowest rate of unsheltered homelessness among veterans, at 29 percent.
- The demographic characteristics of veterans experiencing homelessness varied by geography.

EXHIBIT 5.10: Demographic Characteristics of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
By CoC Category, 2022

	Major City CoCs	Other Largely Urban CoCs	Largely Suburban CoCs	Largely Rural CoCs
All Veterans	15,401	2,983	8,497	6,132
Gender				
Female	10.3%	8.0%	10.9%	10.9%
Male	88.5%	91.0%	88.5%	88.6%
Transgender	0.6%	0.7%	0.3%	0.2%
A Gender that is not Singularly 'Female' or 'Male'	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Questioning	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Ethnicity				
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)	83.8%	93.2%	90.0%	93.0%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	16.2%	6.8%	10.0%	7.0%
Race				
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	3.1%	3.6%	2.2%	4.2%
Asian or Asian American	1.7%	0.6%	1.2%	0.4%
Black, African American, or African	37.7%	27.8%	30.2%	16.6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1.4%	0.6%	1.2%	0.8%
White	50.6%	61.7%	60.9%	73.4%
Multiple Races	5.4%	5.8%	4.4%	4.5%

Note: The demographic data for unsheltered may not sum to the total because three CoCs did not report complete demographic information for the unsheltered data used in this report.

Veterans who identified as White made up a larger share of all veterans experiencing homelessness in largely rural CoCs (73%) compared with major city CoCs (51%). Conversely, veterans who identified as Black, African American, or African made up a larger share of veterans experiencing homelessness in major cities (38%) than in largely rural CoCs (17%).

- Los Angeles, CA and Seattle/King County, WA, both major city CoCs, had the largest numbers of veterans experiencing homelessness, with 3,456 (or 10% of all veterans experiencing homelessness) and 855 veterans experiencing homelessness (or 3% of the national share).
- Four of the five major city CoCs with the highest percentages of veterans experiencing homelessness

in unsheltered locations were in California, and all had unsheltered rates greater than 65 percent. San Jose/Santa Clara City and Los Angeles City and County had the highest percentages of unsheltered veterans at 79 percent each.

- The major city with the lowest percentage of veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness was Philadelphia (0%), followed by New York City (2%) and Boston (3%).
- The CoC with the highest rate of veteran unsheltered homelessness was in a largely suburban CoC, Imperial County, CA at 99 percent.
- Among largely rural CoCs, Hawaii Balance of State and Georgia Balance of State had the highest percentages of veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness (82% and 81%).

5 Estimates by CoC Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

EXHIBIT 5.11: CoCs with the Largest Numbers of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
By CoC Category, 2022

CoC Name	Veterans Experiencing Homelessness	CoC Name	Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
Major City CoCs		Other Largely Urban CoCs	
Los Angeles City & County, CA	3,456	St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Largo/Pinellas County, FL	310
Seattle/King County, WA	855	Eugene, Springfield/Lane County, OR	283
San Diego City and County, CA	686	Santa Rosa, Petaluma/Sonoma County, CA	191
San Jose/Santa Clara City & County, CA	660	Reno, Sparks/Washoe County, NV	148
Sacramento City & County, CA	625	St. Louis City, MO	123
Largely Suburban CoCs		Largely Rural CoCs	
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County, CA	332	Texas Balance of State CoC	465
Santa Ana, Anaheim/Orange County, CA	280	Washington Balance of State CoC	389
Honolulu City and County, HI	198	Indiana Balance of State CoC	315
San Bernardino City & County, CA	196	Georgia Balance of State CoC	278
Riverside City & County, CA	195	Oregon Balance of State CoC	259

EXHIBIT 5.12: CoCs with the Highest Percentages of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness who were Unsheltered
By CoC Category, 2022

CoC Name	Veterans Experiencing Homelessness	Percent Unsheltered	CoC Name	Veterans Experiencing Homelessness	Percent Unsheltered
Major City CoCs			Other Largely Urban CoCs		
San Jose/Santa Clara City & County, CA	660	78.8%	Santa Rosa, Petaluma/Sonoma County, CA	191	76.4%
Los Angeles City & County, CA	3,456	78.7%	Eugene, Springfield/Lane County, OR	283	71.0%
Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County, CA	550	78.2%	Oxnard, San Buenaventura/Ventura County, CA	120	59.2%
Seattle/King County, WA	855	71.0%	Spokane City & County, WA	111	40.5%
San Francisco, CA	605	66.8%	St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Largo/Pinellas County, FL	310	26.1%
Largely Suburban CoCs			Largely Rural CoCs		
Imperial County, CA	101	99.0%	Hawaii Balance of State CoC	108	81.5%
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County, CA	332	93.4%	Georgia Balance of State CoC	278	80.9%
San Bernardino City & County, CA	196	84.7%	Humboldt County CoC, CA	202	65.3%
Jackson/Rankin, Madison Counties, MS	105	81.0%	Oregon Balance of State CoC	259	58.3%
Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County, CA	117	75.2%	Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties CoC, CA	160	51.3%



5 Estimates by CoC Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

EXHIBIT 5.13: Change in Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
By Sheltered Status and CoC Category, 2020-2022

	All Veterans Experiencing Homelessness		Sheltered		Unsheltered	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Veterans	-4,108	-11.1%	-2,484	-11.3%	-1,624	-10.8%
Major City CoCs	-2,610	-14.5%	-2,041	-20.8%	-569	-6.9%
Other Largely Urban CoCs	-57	-1.9%	-44	-2.0%	-13	-1.5%
Largely Suburban CoCs	-1,211	-12.5%	-653	-10.3%	-558	-16.7%
Largely Rural CoCs	-230	-3.6%	254	6.9%	-484	-18.0%

Changes over Time by CoC Category

- Veteran homelessness declined across all geographic areas between 2020 and 2022. Nearly half of the decline in overall veteran homelessness (4,108 fewer veterans) was driven by a decline in the number of veterans experiencing sheltered homelessness within major cities (2,041 fewer veterans).
- Across all CoC categories, the largest decrease in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness

- occurred in major cities and largely suburban CoCs, which saw decreases of 15 percent (2,610 fewer veterans) and 13 percent (1,211 fewer veterans).
- The number of veterans staying in sheltered locations declined across all CoC types with the exception of largely rural CoCs, which reported an increase of 254 sheltered veterans between 2020 and 2022. There were fewer unsheltered veterans in all geographic types in 2022 than there were in 2020.

Changes in the Sheltered Population during the Pandemic (2021-2022)

While the larger sheltered population experienced increases between 2021 and 2022 due, in large part, to a restoration of shelter capacity, these changes did not result in a significant change in the number of veterans experiencing sheltered homelessness. Between 2021 and 2022 the number of veterans experiencing sheltered homelessness declined by one percent (185 fewer people). However, this year-to-year decline in sheltered veterans is more modest than those experienced in recent years.

The decrease in the number of veterans experiencing sheltered homelessness was driven entirely by decreases in major cities. There were 10 percent fewer veterans in shelter programs there in 2022 than in 2021.

By comparison, the number of sheltered veterans increased by 13 percent in rural areas, by six percent in urban areas that did not contain one of the nation's largest cities, and by one percent in largely suburban CoCs. Overall inventory dedicated to veterans among programs serving people experiencing homelessness remained relatively stable between 2021 and 2022 (decreasing by less than one percent). The number of emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven beds set aside for veterans increased by seven percent in largely rural areas and declined in all other geographic categories. However, this does not account for key resources aimed at ending veteran homelessness, such as Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF), VASH, and other permanent housing programs.

EXHIBIT 5.14: Recent Changes in the Number of Sheltered Veterans

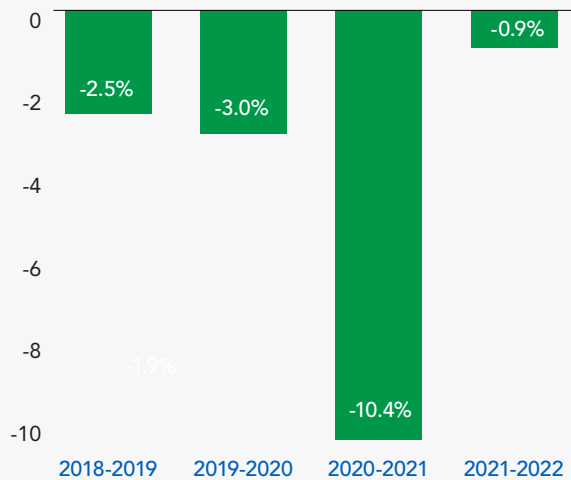


EXHIBIT 5.15: Change in Sheltered Veterans and Dedicated Veteran Beds By Geographic Category, 2021-2022

