

# Veterans Served by California's Homelessness Programs



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## Acknowledgements

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This research brief is part of a series using the Homeless Data Integration System to understand how homelessness programs are reaching different populations in California. Other briefs in the series focus on unaccompanied children and young adults, older adult individuals, and families with children.

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The UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative is a research and policy initiative within the Division of Vulnerable Populations in the Department of Medicine at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. BHHI's diverse and multi-disciplinary team brings expertise in clinical care, mixed-methods research, statistics, community engagement, communications, and policy. BHHI uses an equity lens for all its work, partnering with communities and prioritizing involvement of people with lived experience of homelessness. BHHI focuses on developing and disseminating evidence-based solutions to prevent and end homelessness through: 1) conducting policy-oriented research, using a strategic science framework and community engaged practices; 2) disseminating research findings to local, state, and Federal policymakers, practitioners, and the general public; 3) developing and maintaining relationships with a broad array of stakeholders; 4) training the next generation of policy-oriented researchers. For more information visit: <https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/>

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## Abstract

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The number of veterans experiencing homelessness in California decreased by 41 percent between 2010 and 2022. However, veterans still experience disproportionate rates of homelessness: about 7 percent of people adults experiencing homelessness were veterans compared to about 5 percent of California's overall adult population in 2022. This brief provides a snapshot of the approximately 39,000 veteran adult individuals (adults living in households without children) who were served by homelessness programs in California that reported data to the Homelessness Data Integration System (HDIS) between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021. Similar to veterans in the general population, around 90 percent of veteran adult individuals in HDIS identified as male. Veterans served by homelessness programs were three times more likely to identify as Black, African American, or African compared to all veterans in California. Veterans were more likely than non-veteran adult individuals to be served by programs providing housing assistance, including housing with supportive services, and were housed at a higher rate than non-veterans at the end of the assessment period (56 percent and 32 percent, respectively). These services and outcomes reflect the significant federal and state resources devoted to programs serving veterans, and lessons learned from their effectiveness could inform ongoing efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring for all people.

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## Introduction

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Veterans are at higher risk of homelessness in California than are non-veterans. In 2022, 5 percent of adults in California were veterans, but about 7 percent of adults experiencing homelessness on a given night in California were veterans—totaling more than 10,000 veterans experiencing homelessness.<sup>1</sup> Nationally, however, veterans experience homelessness proportionate to their presence in the overall adult population (7 percent). About one-third of all veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States, and more than half of all unsheltered veterans, lived in California in 2022.

Veterans face many of the same risk factors for homelessness as non-veteran adults, including mental illness, substance use, and low incomes. Veterans who were dishonorably discharged have a higher risk of homelessness than other veterans, partly because they are ineligible for many benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Veterans discharged from the military for misconduct related to drugs, alcohol, or other infractions of military codes of conduct (but without a dishonorable discharge) also have higher rates of homelessness than veterans discharged under other circumstances, possibly due to having higher rates of the aforementioned risk factors.<sup>2</sup> Prior research has found that veterans experiencing homelessness are older and are more likely to be male, to be married or have been married, and to have completed more education than other adults experiencing homelessness.<sup>3</sup> They also have higher disability rates than non-veteran adults experiencing homelessness.<sup>4</sup>

Although veteran homelessness persists, the estimated number of veterans experiencing homelessness on a given night has rapidly declined in recent years, falling by 41 percent in California and by 55 percent nationally between 2010 and 2022. California had the largest decrease in the absolute number of veterans homelessness of any state: more than 7,000 fewer veterans experiencing homelessness between 2010 and 2022.<sup>5</sup> Coordination among federal agencies, financial investment, partnerships to deploy best practices such as Housing First, and mobilization behind the goal to end

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<sup>1</sup> de Sousa, T., et al. (2022). "The 2022 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, Part 1: Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness." U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved from: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2022-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>; National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. (2023). "Veteran Population Tables. U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs." Retrieved from: [https://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran\\_population.asp](https://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran_population.asp); U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). "State Population by Characteristics: 2020–2022." Retrieved from: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-detail.html>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (n.d.). "VA Research on Homelessness." Office of Research and Development. Retrieved from: <https://www.research.va.gov/topics/homelessness.cfm>.

<sup>3</sup> Tsai, J., & Rosenheck, R.A. (2015). "Risk Factors for Homelessness among U.S. Veterans." *Epidemiological Reviews*, 37, no. 1: 177–195, <https://doi.org/10.1093/epirev/mxu004>

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2021). "FY 2021 Annual Report, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)." Retrieved from: [https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/SSVF\\_Annual\\_Report\\_FY21.pdf](https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/SSVF_Annual_Report_FY21.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> de Sousa, et al. (2022).

veteran homelessness have contributed to this progress.<sup>6</sup> The VA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), local housing and service providers, private sector partners, and state and local agencies are actively coordinating to end veteran homelessness. For example, [All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness](#) and the federal [House America](#) initiative include ongoing collaborative efforts among the VA, HUD, and other federal agencies to further reduce veteran homelessness.<sup>7</sup> The Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California includes several new collaborations between the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and other state and federal agencies to reach veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.<sup>8</sup>

Several state and federal programs provide housing assistance specifically for veterans. The HUD and Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program combines case management and clinical services provided through the VA with Housing Choice Vouchers from HUD. Research has shown the program has helped reduce homelessness among veterans nationwide.<sup>9</sup> The VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program helps quickly rehouse veterans with very low incomes who are experiencing or are at imminent risk of homelessness. California's Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP), originated with the Veteran's Bond Act of 2008 and administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), supports the creation of permanent housing for veterans with low incomes by providing long-term loans to acquire, construct, rehabilitate, and preserve multifamily housing. In fiscal years 2018–19 through 2020–21, VHHP distributed a combined \$285 million to 29 housing projects.<sup>10</sup> California's Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018 authorized \$1 billion in funding for programs for veterans.<sup>11</sup>

This brief highlights data for veterans served by homelessness programs in California using information reported to the [Homeless Data Integration System](#) (HDIS) during the three-year period between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021. The brief describes the

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<sup>6</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (n.d.). "Ending Veteran Homelessness." Retrieved from: <https://www.usich.gov/all-in/goals/veterans>.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2022). "ALL IN: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness." Retrieved from: [https://www.usich.gov/sites/default/files/document/All\\_In.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/sites/default/files/document/All_In.pdf); U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (n.d.). "House America." Retrieved from: [https://www.hud.gov/house\\_america](https://www.hud.gov/house_america).

<sup>8</sup> California Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2023). "Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California." Retrieved from: [https://www.bcsch.ca.gov/calich/documents/action\\_plan.pdf](https://www.bcsch.ca.gov/calich/documents/action_plan.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (n.d.). "HUD-VASH Vouchers." Retrieved from: [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/vash](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash); Montgomery, A.E., Hill, L.L., Kane, V., & Culhane, D.P. (2013). Housing Chronically Homeless Veterans: Evaluating the Efficacy of a Housing First Approach to HUD-VASH. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 41 (4), 505–514. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.21554>

<sup>10</sup> California Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2023). "Statewide Homelessness Assessment (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2021): Report to the Legislature." Retrieved from: [https://bcsch.ca.gov/calich/documents/homelessness\\_assessment.pdf](https://bcsch.ca.gov/calich/documents/homelessness_assessment.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> California State Legislature. (2017). "SB-3 Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018." Retrieved from: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billVersionsCompareClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180SB3](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billVersionsCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB3).

number of veterans served by programs in these three years, their characteristics, the kinds of assistance they received, and their housing outcomes by the end of this period.

### About the Data

HDIS provides the most comprehensive data available about who is served by homelessness programs across California, including stays in temporary housing programs, residence in permanent housing programs, interactions with street outreach teams, homelessness prevention assistance, and other kinds of services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Developed by Cal ICH in 2021, HDIS aggregates and processes data that local homelessness service, shelter, and housing providers report to HMIS (Homeless Management Information Systems) to understand how many people are served by these programs, their characteristics, and their outcomes. HDIS does not include information on all services provided across the state, as not all service providers enter data into HMIS, but the reach of the data continues to expand with time.

The information in this brief is based on people's ages and family statuses when they were first observed in HDIS during the assessment period (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021). **Veterans** in the data are people who have served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, regardless of length of service or discharge status. **Families** are people in households containing both adults (ages 18 and older) and dependent children (under age 18), and **individuals** are adults in households without children.

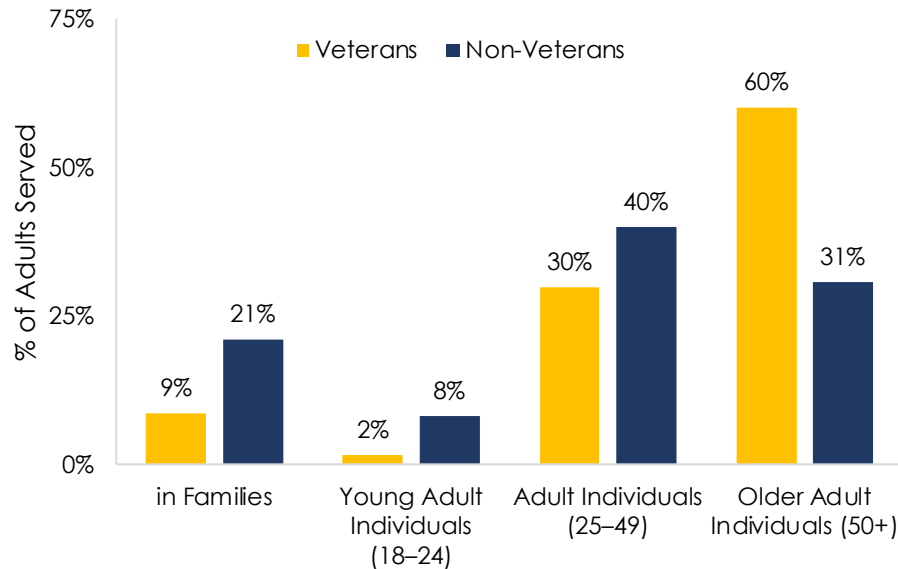
This brief describes how veterans were served by homelessness programs reporting to HDIS during the assessment period, including prevention and permanent housing programs for people who are not currently experiencing homelessness. The data show who engages with programs reporting to HDIS, but they don't speak to how many people might need the various services. These data were partly collected during the COVID-19 pandemic, which could have impacted reporting, service utilization, and outcomes.

## Characteristics of Veterans Served by Homelessness Programs

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Between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021, HDIS data recorded **42,239 adult (ages 18+) veterans served by local homelessness service, shelter, and housing programs in California**, shown in Figure 1. Veterans were 10 percent of all adults served by programs reporting to HDIS over the assessment period. This percentage is likely an underestimate of the share of veterans served by all homelessness programs in the state because it does not include some permanent housing programs for veterans that do not report data to HMIS. For example, participation in the HUD-VASH program is recorded in the VA's Homeless Operations Management and Evaluation System (HOMES) database, and HMIS participation is voluntary for local HUD-VASH providers.

Figure 1. Household type and age of veterans and non-veterans served by programs recorded in HDIS between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021



More than **90 percent of veterans first served during the assessment period were adult individuals** (in households without children under age 18). Only 9 percent of veteran adults were first served in family households versus 21 percent of non-veteran adults. The high share of adult individuals among veterans is consistent with national data showing that 98 percent of veterans experiencing homelessness on a given night in 2022 were individuals.<sup>12</sup> During the assessment period, 60 percent of all veterans served by homelessness programs in California were older adult individuals (ages 50+) versus 31 percent of non-veteran older adult individuals (Figure 1). National data similarly show that 56 percent of veterans experiencing homelessness were age 55 and older.<sup>13</sup>

The data presented in the remaining figures describe the 38,618 veteran adult individuals served by homelessness programs that reported to HMIS during the assessment period, with comparisons to the 297,704 non-veteran adult individuals reported on in that period. This brief focuses on individuals because almost all veterans were served as individuals, and people in families experience homelessness differently and have access to different programs designed to support families. Throughout the remainder of this brief, veteran adult individuals will be referred to as “veterans” and non-veteran adult individuals as “non-veterans.”

<sup>12</sup> de Sousa, et al. (2022); National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. (2023). “Veteran Population Tables.” U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. Retrieved from: [https://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran\\_population.asp](https://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran_population.asp); U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). “State Population by Characteristics: 2020–2022.” Retrieved from: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-detail.html>.

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2021).



**Ninety-one (91) percent of veterans identified as male** versus 60 percent of non-veterans (Figure 2). Veterans identified as White non-Hispanic/non-Latinx more often than did non-veterans (46 percent vs. 36 percent). The shares of veterans served by homelessness programs who identified as White non-Hispanic/non-Latinx or White Hispanic/Latinx (46 percent and 13 percent, respectively) were smaller than their share of California's overall veteran population (58 percent and 20 percent, respectively).<sup>14</sup> **Black, African American, or African veterans were overrepresented among those served by homelessness programs** (33 percent) compared to their share of California's overall veteran population (9 percent).

*Figure 2. Gender and race/ethnicity of adult (ages 18+) individuals served by programs recorded in HDIS between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021, by veteran status*

	Veterans	Non-Veterans
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	91%	60%
Female	9%	39%
Transgender or Non-Conforming/Questioning/	< 1%	1%
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>		
White non-Hispanic/non-Latinx	46%	36%
Black, African American, or African	33%	29%
White Hispanic/Latinx	13%	25%
Multiple Races	3%	3%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	2%	3%
Asian or Asian American	2%	3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%	1%

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.) "Veteran Status Table" from the 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: [S2101: VETERAN STATUS - Census Bureau Table](#).

### Veterans Experiencing Homelessness and Gender

Most veterans are cisgender men, including most veterans experiencing homelessness. On a given night in 2022, 87 percent of veterans experiencing homelessness in California were cisgender men, mirroring the 90 percent of all California veterans who are men.<sup>15</sup> The gender composition is similar among veterans served by homelessness programs in California during the assessment period: 91 percent identified as male, only 9 percent identified as female, and less than 1 percent identified as transgender or gender non-conforming/questioning.

Trends in homelessness among veterans have diverged by gender in recent years. Between 2014 and 2022, the number of male veterans experiencing homelessness on a given night in California declined by 18 percent, whereas the number of female veterans experiencing homelessness increased by 13 percent. Nationally, homelessness declined among female and male veterans during this period, but the decline was smaller for female (26 percent) than male (35 percent) veterans. Experiences of sexual trauma during military service, domestic violence, and adverse childhood experiences could contribute differentially to homelessness among female veterans compared to male veterans.<sup>16</sup>

Veterans' service needs also differ by gender. Previous research has shown that nationally, female veterans experience homelessness with children in their custody at higher rates than their male counterparts do.<sup>17, 18</sup> Among all veterans recorded in HDIS, 24 percent of female veterans were served in families versus only 7 percent of male veterans. Female veterans are also less likely to meet the criteria for chronic homelessness (experiencing homelessness for at least one cumulative year in the previous three years and having a disabling condition) than male veterans are (26 percent vs. 34 percent).

Though HDIS data include relatively few veterans who identified as transgender when served by homelessness programs that report to HMIS, this group likely also has unique service needs. Of the 157 veteran adult individuals identifying as transgender or gender non-conforming/questioning in HDIS, 38 percent were experiencing chronic patterns of homelessness. Nationally, transgender veterans have shown indicators of housing instability in their Veterans Health Administration medical records more often than cisgender veterans have.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> de Sousa, et al. (2022); National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. (2023).

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (n.d.).

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (n.d.).

<sup>18</sup> Tsai, J., et al. (2015). "Characteristics and Use of Services Among Literally Homeless and Unstably Housed US Veterans with Custody of Minor Children." *Psychiatric Services*, 66, no. 10: 1083–1090, <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.201400300>.

<sup>19</sup> Montgomery, A.E., et al. (2020). "Use of Veterans Health Administration Homeless Programs Among Transgender and Non-Transgender Veterans Experiencing Self-Reported Housing Instability." *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 31 no. 2: 909–919, <https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2020.0068>.

## Types of Homelessness Programs Serving Veterans

During the three-year assessment period, HDIS data recorded 86,935 enrollments in homelessness programs among the 38,618 veteran adult individuals. “Enrollments” refer to shelter stays, periods of contact with outreach teams, rental assistance provided by housing programs, residence in permanent supportive housing, and other services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. To understand the types of programs serving older adult individuals, the brief presents the percentages of people who ever enrolled in programs reporting to HDIS between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021.

**Higher shares of veterans were served by programs providing permanent housing** compared to non-veterans (Figure 3). Rapid re-housing programs served 44 percent of veterans versus 13 percent of non-veterans. Permanent supportive housing programs served a higher share of veterans (29 percent) compared to non-veterans (14 percent). Transitional housing programs, which typically provide longer lengths of stay and more supportive services than do emergency shelters, also served a higher share of veterans (21 percent) than non-veterans (6 percent). The relatively high shares of veterans served by these housing programs reflect the state and federal programs dedicated to serving veterans. For example, 48 of the 50 local rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and transitional housing programs with the largest numbers of enrollments by veterans are dedicated to serving veterans specifically. Most of these programs are supported by HUD-VASH or SSVF.

Veterans in HDIS were less likely to be served by street outreach programs and emergency shelters compared to non-veterans, potentially because many veterans enroll in dedicated housing programs and avoid needing to enter emergency shelters or connect with outreach teams. Still, one-in-three veterans enrolled in emergency shelters during the assessment period, and emergency shelters were the second most common enrollment type after rapid re-housing.

**Figure 3. Percentages of adult individuals (ages 18+) recorded in HDIS who ever enrolled in each type of program between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021, by veteran status**

	Veterans	Non-Veterans
<b>Services</b>		
Street Outreach	13%	36%
Homelessness Prevention	9%	7%
<b>Shelter</b>		
Emergency Shelter	34%	50%
Transitional Housing	21%	6%
<b>Housing</b>		
Rapid Re-Housing	44%	13%
Permanent Supportive Housing <sup>a</sup>	29%	14%
Other <sup>b</sup>	6%	7%

Notes: Numbers add to more than 100 percent because people can enroll in multiple program types.

<sup>a</sup> The “permanent supportive housing” category includes a small percentage of enrollments in “housing with services.”

<sup>b</sup> The “other” category includes enrollments in day shelters, housing without services, Safe Haven shelters for adults with serious mental illness, “services only,” “other” program types, and coordinated entry.

**The types of programs serving veterans were generally similar by race/ethnicity**, shown in Additional Figure A1. Rapid re-housing programs were the most common type of program serving every group, ranging from 42 percent of White non-Hispanic/non-Latinx veterans to 48 percent of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander veterans. Emergency shelters reached the second highest share of each group, ranging from 30 percent of Black, African American, or African veterans to 40 percent of multiracial veterans.

**The types of programs serving male and female veterans were also generally similar**, shown in Additional Figure A2. The largest differences were that male veterans stayed in emergency shelters more often than female veterans did (34 percent vs. 29 percent), and homelessness prevention programs served a higher percentage of female veterans than male veterans (13 percent vs. 9 percent). Despite male veterans experiencing chronic homelessness more often than female veterans, only a slightly higher share of male veterans than female veterans enrolled in permanent supportive housing programs (29 percent vs. 26 percent).

## Outcomes for Veterans Served by Homelessness Programs

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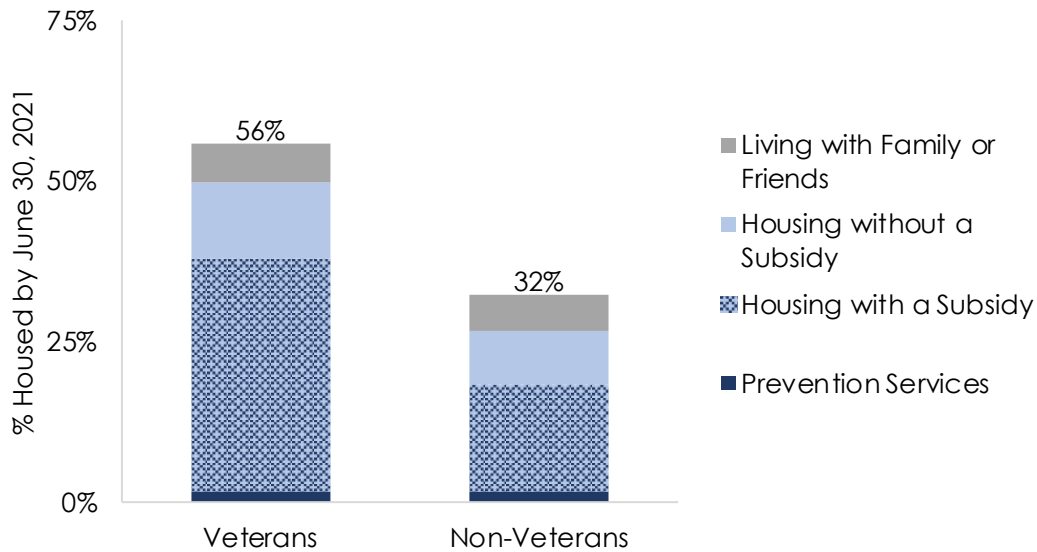
Outcomes at the end of the assessment period, June 30, 2021, are measured with the type of program people were being served by or, if they were no longer being served by any programs in HDIS, with their last known housing situation reported by program staff. These data represent a snapshot of the available information on that date. Program staff record participants' housing situations when they end their participation in the program, and changes to housing situations between someone's last program exit and the end of the assessment period would not be reflected in the data.<sup>20</sup>

As shown in Figure 4, **56 percent of veterans were recorded as being housed by the end of the assessment period**, which includes those living in subsidized housing, receiving homelessness prevention services, or moving into their own housing or with family or friends. **Veterans were housed more often than were non-veterans at the end of the assessment period**: 32 percent of non-veterans were recorded as housed at the end of the assessment period. Additional Figure A3 presents the outcomes for each group in more detail.

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<sup>20</sup> This snapshot of outcomes also does not measure the effectiveness of different types of programs. Many of the people still enrolled in programs at the end of the assessment period had only recently started receiving services and might have secured housing through those programs after the end of the assessment period.

**Figure 4. Percentages of adult individuals (ages 18+) who were recorded in HDIS as being housed by the end of the assessment period, June 30, 2021, by veteran status**



Note: "Housing with a subsidy" includes people still enrolled and living in housing programs as recorded in HDIS and people who exited programs as recorded in HDIS and were reported as moving into housing with a subsidy. More detailed outcome data are presented in Additional Figure A3.

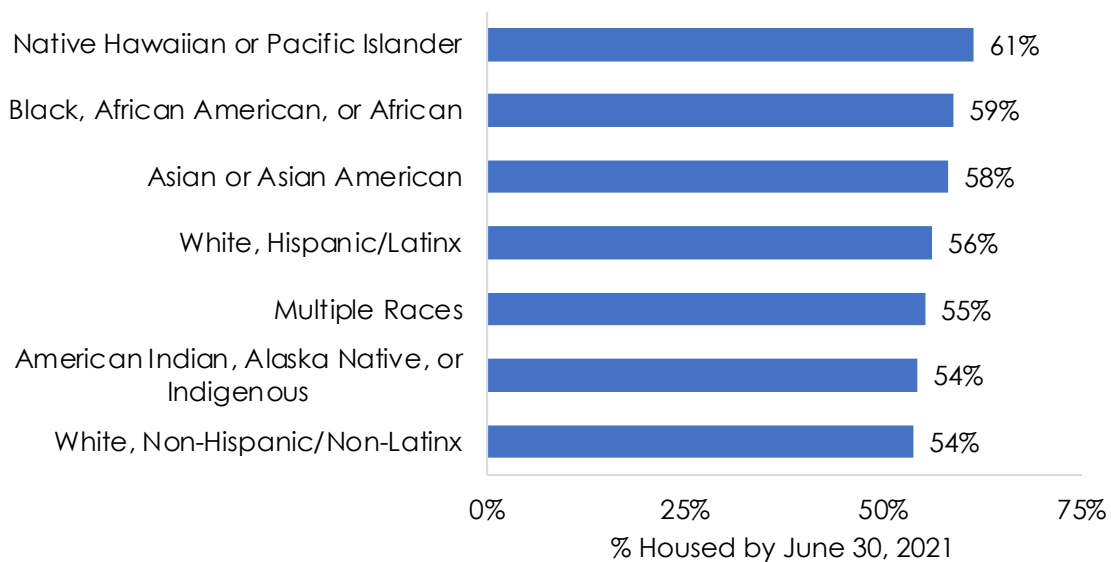
**Veterans' higher rates of being housed were primarily due to their higher rates of living in housing with a subsidy compared to non-veterans.** By the end of the assessment period, 36 percent of veterans lived in some form of subsidized housing, including 23 percent who were still enrolled and living in a housing program reporting to HDIS (almost 18 percent in permanent supportive housing) and 13 percent who had exited all programs reporting to HDIS and were recorded as having moved into subsidized housing. In contrast, about 17 percent of non-veterans were living in housing with a subsidy by the end of the assessment period.

**About 9 percent of veterans had exited all programs reporting to HDIS and were recorded as experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness; another 7 percent were still staying in interim housing programs recorded in HDIS.** For comparison, 23 percent of non-veterans either had exited all programs and continued experiencing homelessness or were still staying in interim housing programs as recorded in HDIS. This difference between veterans and non-veterans experiencing ongoing homelessness might be understated, given that 34 percent of non-veterans were missing outcome information and could have continued to experience homelessness (compared to 12 percent of veterans missing outcome information). However, outcomes can be unknown for many reasons—program participants might have found housing and no longer needed assistance from program staff, or they might have left a shelter or stopped having contact with an outreach team while continuing to experience homelessness.

**Housing outcomes were more similar among veterans of different races and ethnicities than among non-veterans.**

Figure 5 shows that Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander veterans were housed most often (61 percent) and American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous veterans and White non-Hispanic/non-Latinx veterans were housed least often (54 percent each). The rate of being housed at the end of the assessment period varied more widely by racial/ethnic groups among non-veterans, ranging from 30 percent among American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous people to 44 percent among Asians or Asian Americans (not shown in Figure 5). Housing with a subsidy was the most frequent type of housing for veterans among all racial/ethnic groups, ranging from 34 percent among White Hispanic/Latinx veterans to 38 percent among Black veterans.

**Figure 5. Percentages of veteran adult individuals (ages 18+) who were housed by the end of the assessment period, June 30, 2021, by race/ethnicity**

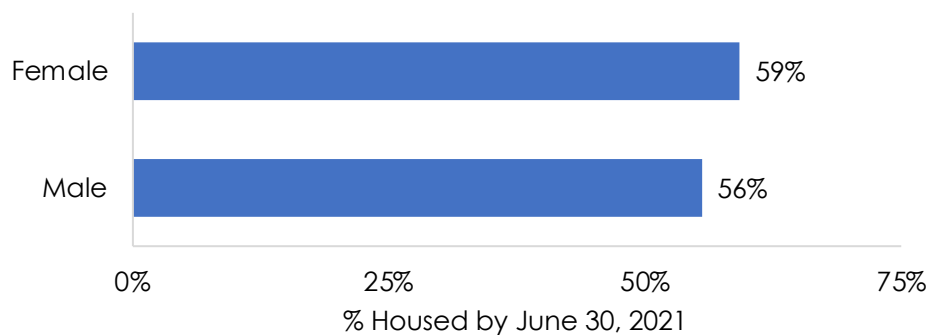


Notes: "Housed" includes people still enrolled in homelessness prevention programs, people still enrolled and moved into a housing program, and people who exited all programs and were recorded as moving into their own housing or with family or friends. More detailed outcome data are presented in Additional Figure A4.

**Female veterans were housed slightly more often than male veterans (59 percent vs. 56 percent) at the end of the assessment period,**

shown in Figure 6. The gender difference was larger among non-veterans: 40 percent of adult individuals identifying as female were housed versus 28 percent of adult individuals identifying as male (not shown in Figure 6). HDIS data include relatively few veterans identifying as transgender or gender non-conforming/questioning, but the share of this group who were housed by the end of the assessment period (58 percent) was similar to the shares among male and female veterans. Both male and female veterans were most often housed with a subsidy (36 percent and 35 percent, respectively). Female veterans were also slightly more likely than male veterans to be housed without a subsidy (16 percent vs. 12 percent).

**Figure 6. Percentages of veteran adult individuals (ages 18+) who were housed by the end of the assessment period, June 30, 2021, by gender**



Notes: "Housed" includes people still enrolled in homelessness prevention programs, people still enrolled and moved into a housing program, and people who exited all programs and were recorded as moving into their own housing or with family or friends. Due to the small numbers of veterans identifying as transgender or gender non-conforming/questioning, the figure does not present data for this group. More detailed outcome data are presented in Additional Figure A5.

## Conclusion

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Despite progress toward reducing homelessness among veterans in recent years, significant numbers of veterans continue to experience homelessness in California. More than 42,000 veterans were served by homelessness programs recorded in HDIS between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021. Most of these veterans were cisgender male individuals (without children in the household) who were at least 50 years-old, many of whom were experiencing chronic patterns of homelessness. However, the veterans served by homelessness programs also included cisgender women, transgender people, and people in families.

Though many veterans continued to receive assistance at the end of the assistance period, a higher share of veterans were housed compared to non-veterans. These housing outcomes are the result of significant resources from federal and state programs dedicated to serving veterans and from extensive collaboration between all levels of government, health care and housing systems, and community-based organizations. HDIS provides a powerful resource for continuing to measure how these efforts reach veterans and how effectively programs help prevent and end veteran homelessness. Lessons learned from successes reducing veteran homelessness can inform ongoing efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring for all people across the state.

## Additional Figures

*Figure A1. Percentages of veteran adult individuals (ages 18+) recorded in HDIS who ever enrolled each type of program between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021, by race/ethnicity*

	White non-Hispanic/ non-Latinx	Black, African American, or African	White Hispanic/ Latinx	Multiple Races	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	Asian or Asian American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
<b>Services</b>							
Street Outreach	13%	12%	13%	12%	14%	11%	10%
Homelessness Prevention	8%	12%	9%	10%	7%	10%	9%
<b>Shelter</b>							
Emergency Shelter	37%	30%	32%	40%	39%	31%	31%
Transitional Housing	20%	22%	21%	22%	16%	24%	21%
<b>Housing</b>							
Rapid Re-Housing	42%	47%	45%	44%	46%	45%	48%
Permanent Supportive Housing	29%	30%	26%	28%	25%	28%	27%
Other	7%	6%	6%	8%	7%	5%	7%

Notes: Numbers add to more than 100 percent because people can enroll in multiple program types.

◦ The "permanent supportive housing" category includes a small percentage of enrollments in "housing with services."

◻ The "other" category includes enrollments in day shelters, housing without services, Safe Haven shelters for adults with serious mental illness, "services only," "other" program types, and coordinated entry.



**Figure A2. Percentages of veteran adult individuals (ages 18+) recorded in HDIS who ever enrolled each type of program between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021, by gender**

	Male	Female
<b>Services</b>		
Street Outreach	13%	12%
Homelessness Prevention	9%	13%
<b>Shelter</b>		
Emergency Shelter	34%	29%
Transitional Housing	21%	19%
<b>Housing</b>		
Rapid Re-Housing	44%	44%
Permanent Supportive Housing	29%	26%
Other	7%	4%

Notes: Numbers add to more than 100 percent because people can enroll in multiple program types.

<sup>a</sup> The “permanent supportive housing” category includes a small percentage of enrollments in “housing with services.”

<sup>b</sup> The “other” category includes enrollments in day shelters, housing without services, Safe Haven shelters for adults with serious mental illness, “services only,” “other” program types, and coordinated entry.

**Figure A3. Outcomes recorded in HDIS as of June 30, 2021, for adult individuals (ages 18+) served during the assessment period, by veteran status**

	Veterans	Non-Veterans
<b>Enrolled in Program Reporting Data to HDIS</b>		
Living in a Housing Program (with a subsidy) *	23%	12%
Enrolled in Housing Program (but not recorded as having moved into unit)	7%	3%
Interim Housing (e.g., Emergency Shelter)	7%	9%
Enrolled in Homelessness Prevention *	2%	2%
Enrolled in Other Services*	1%	2%
<b>Exited Programs Reporting to HDIS</b>		
Housing with a Subsidy *	13%	4%
Housing without a Subsidy *	12%	8%
Homelessness (sheltered or unsheltered)	9%	14%
Living with Family or Friends *	6%	6%
Other Destinations	7%	6%
Unknown	12%	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: “Other services” includes street outreach, coordinated entry, day shelters, “services only,” and “other” or unknown program types.

\* Outcome indicates being housed at the end of the assessment period.

Figure A4. Outcomes recorded in HDIS as of June 30, 2021, for veteran adult individuals (ages 18+) served during the assessment period, by race/ethnicity

	White non-Hispanic/ non-Latinx	Black, African American, or African	White Hispanic/ Latinx	Multiple Races	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	Asian or Asian American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
<b>Enrolled in Program Reporting Data to HDIS</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>42%</b>
Living in a Housing Program (with a subsidy) *	23%	23%	21%	22%	21%	22%	24%
Enrolled in Housing Program (but not recorded as having moved into unit)	6%	9%	7%	7%	6%	9%	7%
Interim Housing (e.g., Emergency Shelter)	7%	7%	7%	7%	8%	7%	7%
Enrolled in Homelessness Prevention *	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Enrolled in Other Services*	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%
<b>Exited Programs Reporting to HDIS</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>58%</b>
Housing with a Subsidy *	13%	15%	13%	15%	15%	13%	13%
Housing without a Subsidy *	11%	13%	13%	11%	11%	16%	15%
Homelessness (sheltered or unsheltered)	11%	8%	10%	9%	10%	8%	7%
Living with Family or Friends *	6%	6%	8%	6%	6%	6%	7%
Other Destinations	8%	5%	6%	6%	6%	5%	7%
Unknown	13%	11%	13%	13%	15%	11%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: "Other services" includes street outreach, coordinated entry, day shelters, "services only," and "other" or unknown program types.

\* Outcome indicates being housed at the end of the assessment period.

**Figure A5. Outcomes recorded in HDIS as of June 30, 2021, for veteran adult individuals (ages 18+) served during the assessment period, by gender**

	Male	Female
<b>Enrolled in Program Reporting Data to HDIS</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>39%</b>
Living in a Housing Program (with a subsidy) *	23%	22%
Enrolled in Housing Program (but not recorded as having moved into unit)	7%	7%
Interim Housing (e.g., Emergency Shelter)	7%	7%
Enrolled in Homelessness Prevention *	2%	2%
Enrolled in Other Services	1%	1%
<b>Exited Programs Reporting to HDIS</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>61%</b>
Housing with a Subsidy *	14%	13%
Housing without a Subsidy *	12%	16%
Homelessness (sheltered or unsheltered)	9%	8%
Living with Family or Friends *	6%	6%
Other Destinations	7%	5%
Unknown	12%	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: "Other services" includes street outreach, coordinated entry, day shelters, "services only," and "other" or unknown program types.

\* Outcome indicates being housed at the end of the assessment period.