Migration by Veterans Who Receive VA Homeless Services

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Promoting data-driven, evidence-based solutions to end Veteran homelessness

Veterans, Homelessness & Migration

Source: www.arttoday.com
Research Questions

1) “How Many?” To what extent do which homeless veterans migrate across the VA’s 21 VISNs?

2) “Where?” Are there VISNs or VAMC catchment areas that have a greater (or lesser) extent of migration by homeless veterans?
Data

- HOMES records selected with initial entry date between 2010 and 2012
- Merged with CPRS records by SSN (service dates, location, and homeless indicator)
- Examined mobility in use of VHA services 2 years after initial homeless record (2011-14)
- Mobility is based on change of VHA service locations
- N of 113,400 Veterans
Homeless Veterans - Duration of Homelessness and Extent of Migration (across VISNs)

Number of Homeless Veterans

% Migrated (across VISNs)

Duration of Homelessness (months)
Survival and Hazard Functions for Migration Across VISNs by Homeless Veterans

- **Survival Function**
- **Hazard Function**

Months After Onset of Homeless Services Use

- **Survival**
- **Hazard**
## Homeless Veterans and Migration Measures: Selected VISNs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VISN</th>
<th>Geography (approximate)</th>
<th>Homeless Veterans at Origin</th>
<th>% Out-migration</th>
<th>% In-migration</th>
<th>loss/gain</th>
<th>% loss/gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>New England</td>
<td>4,931</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>-58</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Upstate New York</td>
<td>3,220</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Metro New York City</td>
<td>3,453</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>-48</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>PA, DE, northern WV</td>
<td>4,892</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Metro Washington DC</td>
<td>2,480</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>FL, south GA, PR, Caribbean</td>
<td>9,179</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mid-South (KY &amp; TN)</td>
<td>4,679</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>4,252</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>MI, IN, IL</td>
<td>6,034</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>-139</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Metro Chicago &amp; east WI</td>
<td>5,172</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>OK, AR, MS, LA, east TX</td>
<td>6,275</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Central TX</td>
<td>7,497</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>MT, WY, UT, CO &amp; ne NV</td>
<td>3,971</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>-103</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>WA, OR, ID, AK</td>
<td>6,241</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>South CA &amp; south NV</td>
<td>9,370</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>-107</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>113,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.3%</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.3%</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scatterplot: Net Change due to Migration & Size of Homeless Population (VAMCs)
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Scatterplot of Net Change due to Migration & Homeless Population Size (VAMCs)
Key Points

• 15.3 percent (of 113,400 veterans) migrated across VISNs while homeless.

• Those who were homeless longer had higher migration rates (over 20%).

• Migration was most likely to occur in the earlier months of homelessness.

• No clear migration patterns emerged:
  – For most VISNs the net impact of migration was small.
  – For VAMCs, as the number of homeless veterans increased the net impact of migration attenuated towards zero.

• Future research should examine factors that influence migration.
  – individual and area factors

• Limitations