



# Research & Trends Snapshots – A11

## Screening for Homelessness

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# Screening Questions

1. For the past 60 days, have you been living in stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as part of a household?
  - Yes → Question 2
  - No → **Homeless**
  
2. Are you worried or concerned that in the next 60 days you may not have stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as part of a household?
  - Yes → **At risk**
  - No → Negative

# Screening Questions

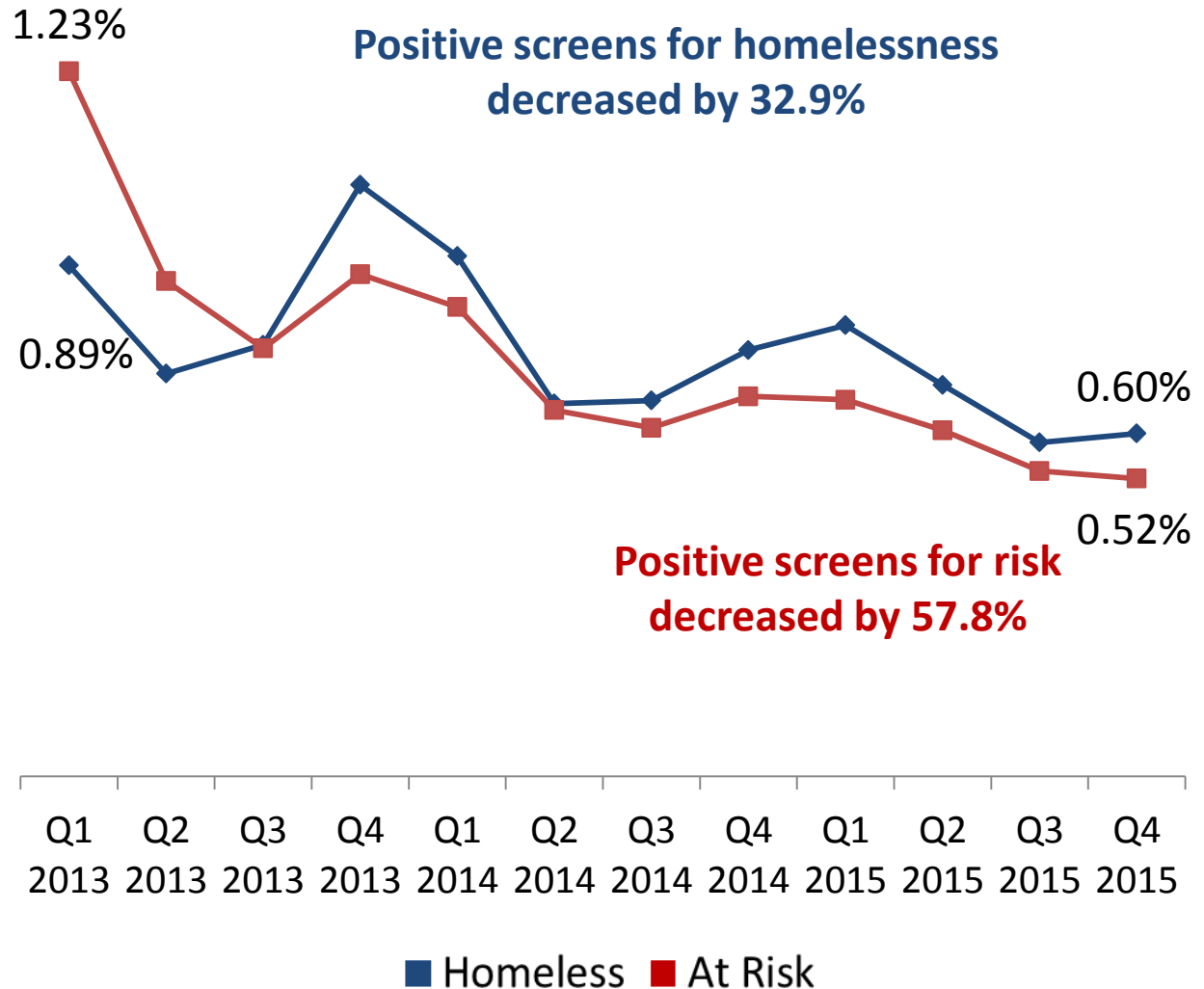
- Veterans who screen positive are asked:
  - Where have you lived for MOST of the past 2 months?
    - Apartment/house/room
    - With friend/family
    - Motel/hotel
    - Hospital, rehabilitation center, drug treatment center
    - Homeless shelter
    - Anywhere outside
    - Other
  - Would you like to be referred to talk more about your housing situation?

# Positive Screens, FY 2013–2015

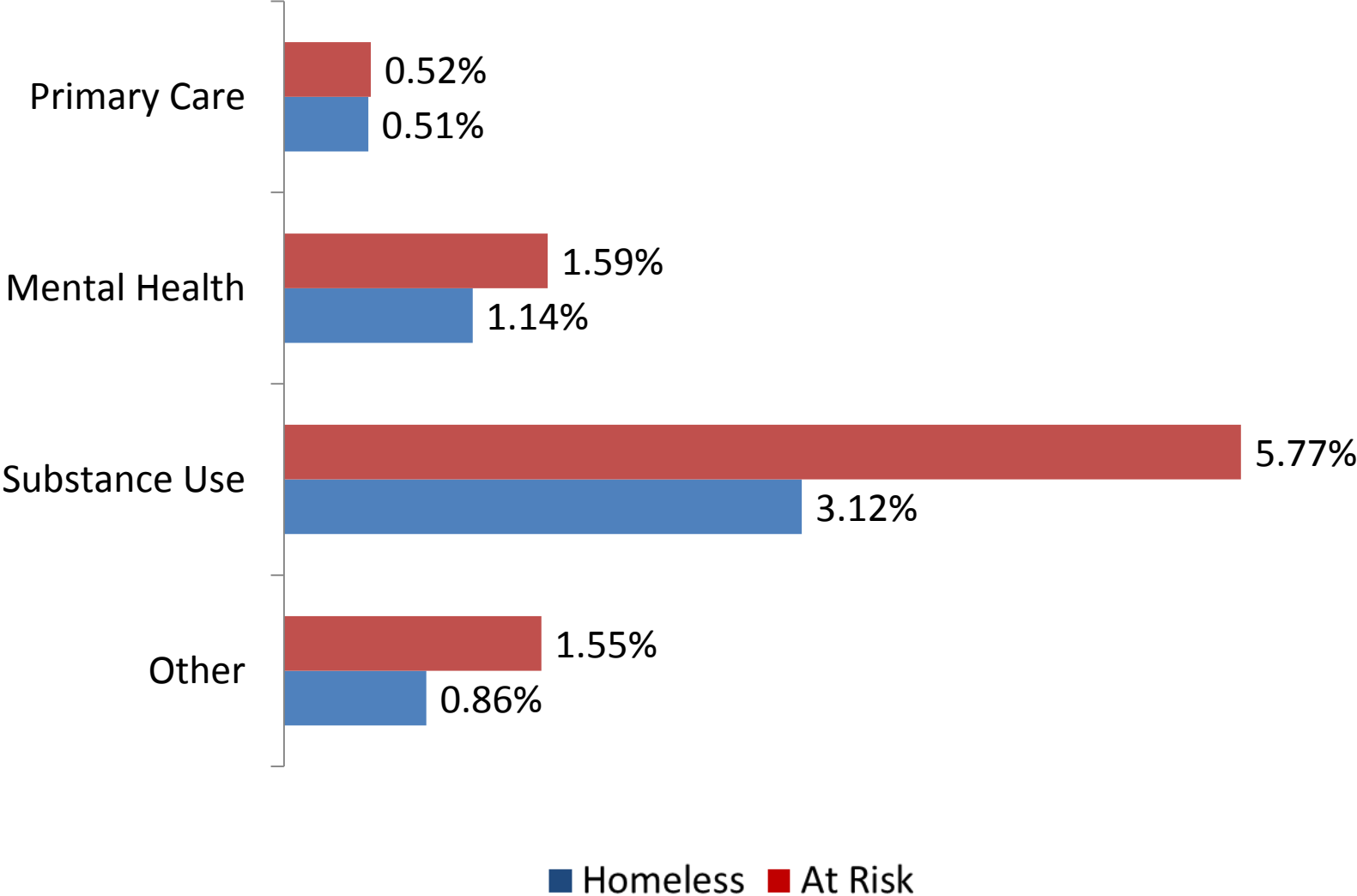
**3,529,695**

Veterans were screened during FY 2015

- **0.65%** (23,103) screened positive for homelessness
- **0.57%** (20,230) screened positive for risk

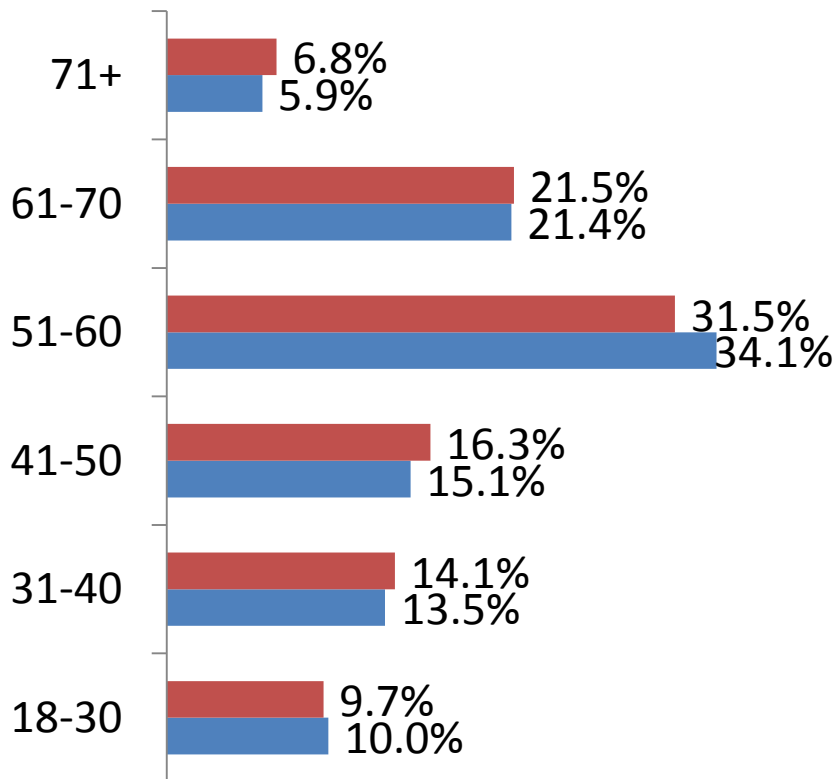


# Positive Screens by Clinic, FY 2015

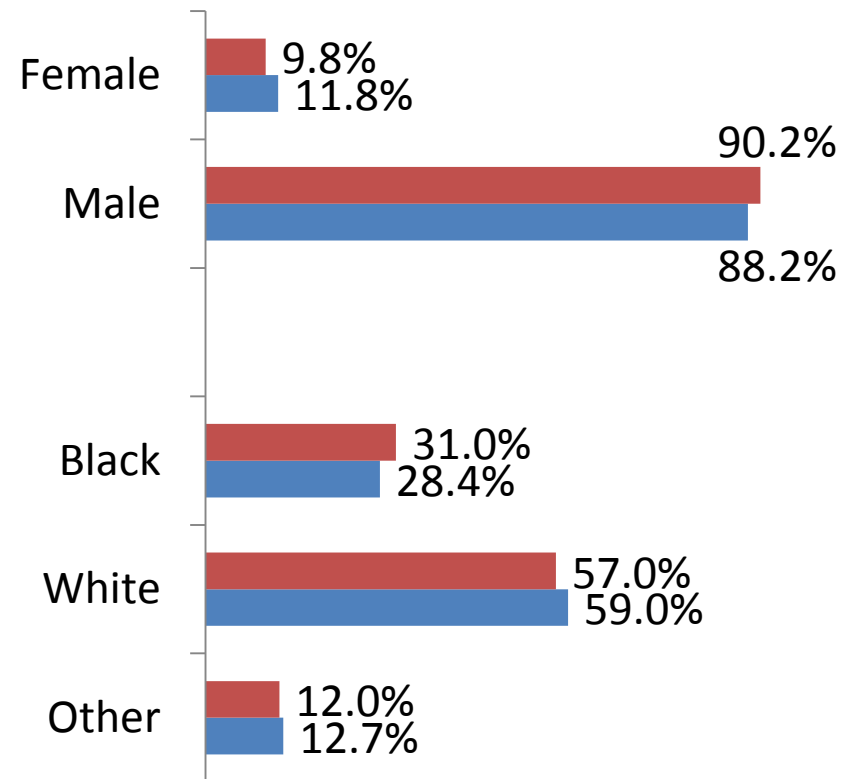


# Demographics, FY 2015

## Age

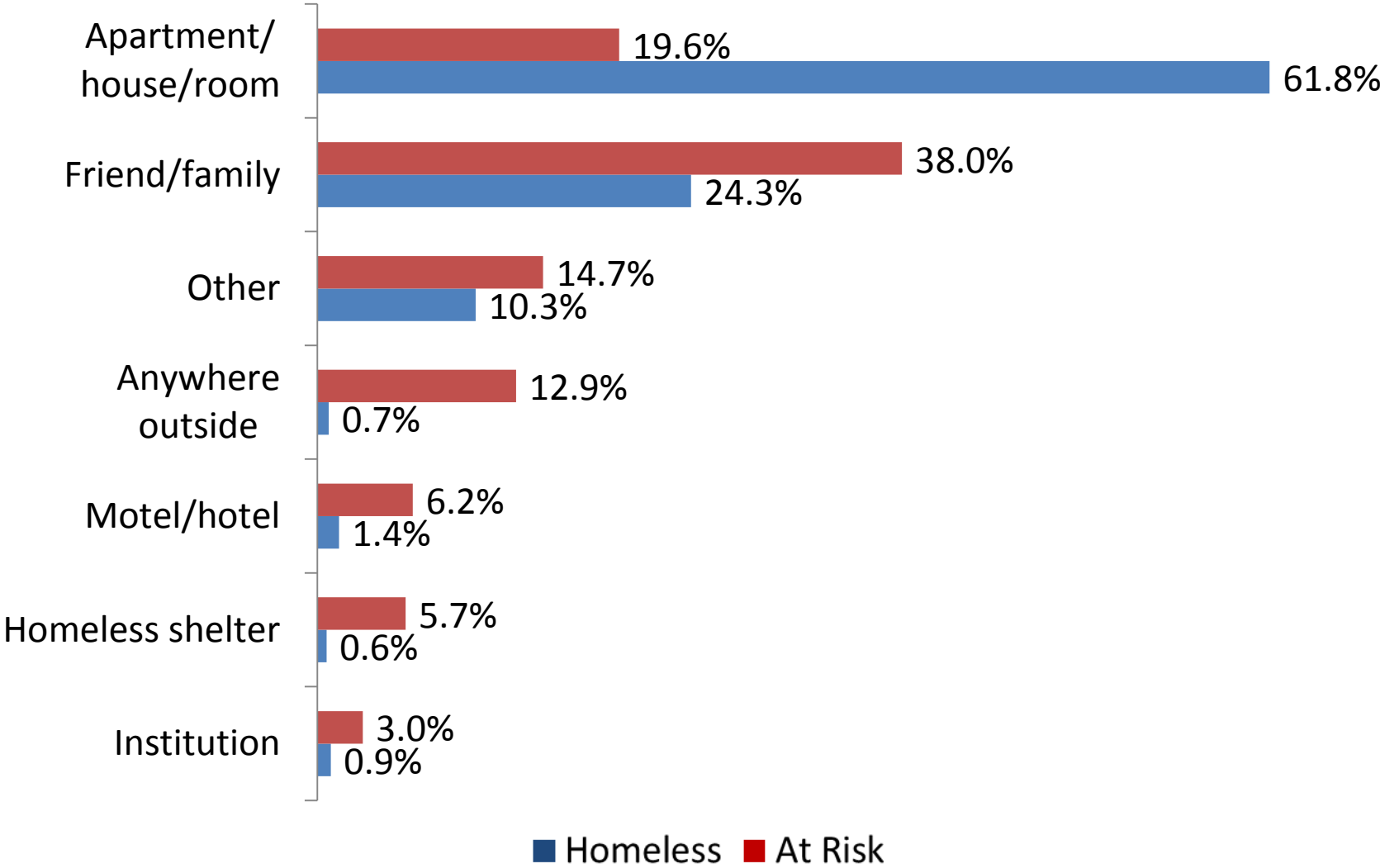


## Sex & Race



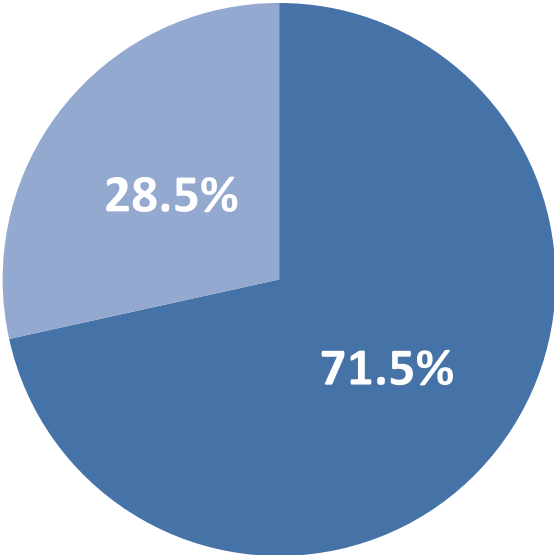
■ Homeless ■ At Risk

# Current Living Situation, FY 2015

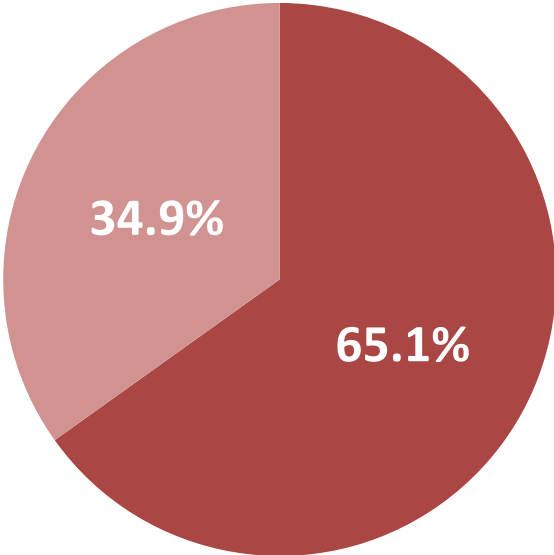


# Receipt of Followup Services, FY 2015

## Homeless



## At Risk



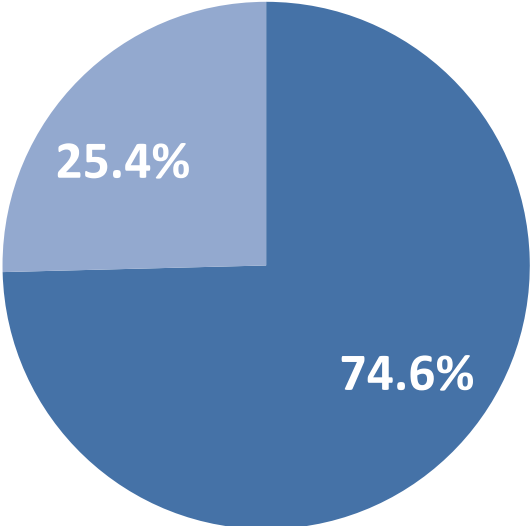
- Received followup within 30 days
- Did not receive followup within 30 days

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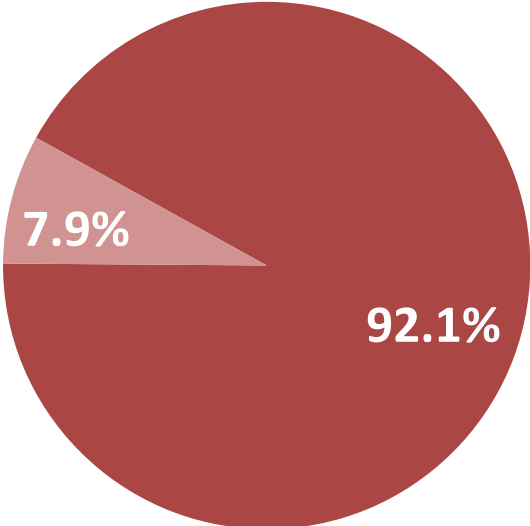
# Resolution of Housing Instability, FY 2015

## Homeless



- Resolved homelessness
- Positive rescreen

## At Risk



- Resolved risk
- Positive rescreen

# Unsheltered Veterans

## Increased Risk of Persistent Homelessness

- 11.1% of Veterans who screened positive for homelessness were unsheltered
- Unsheltered Veterans were 2.7 times more likely to rescreen positive 6–12 months later
  - 40.1% unsheltered Veterans
  - 17.7% sheltered Veterans

## Predictors of Unsheltered Status

- Male sex
- Age 40–69 years
- Non-Hispanic
- White
- Did not serve in OEF/OIF/OND
- Not service-connected
- Substance use disorder (SUD)
- Serious mental illness (SMI)
- Frequent inpatient admissions
- Infrequent outpatient care

# Future Work

- Validate the screening questions and assess correlates of homelessness and risk among Veteran users of VHA healthcare services
- Assess the effectiveness of the screening questions at linking Veterans with services
- Evaluate the psychometric properties and efficacy of an existing instrument to identify and quantify risk of homelessness among Veterans in VA and the community

# References

Byrne, T. H., Montgomery, A. E., & Fargo, J. D. (2016). Unsheltered homelessness among Veterans: Correlates and profiles. *Community Mental Health Journal, 52*(2), 148–157.

Montgomery, A. E. (2016). *Universal screening for homelessness and risk in the VHA: Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report*. Philadelphia, PA: National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans.

Montgomery, A. E., Byrne, T. H., Treglia, D., & Culhane, D. P. (2016). Characteristics and likelihood of ongoing homelessness among unsheltered Veterans. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, 27*, 911–922.



# Research & Trends Snapshots – A3

## Effective Eviction Prevention Interventions for HUD-VASH

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# Negative Consequences of Eviction

- Ongoing residential instability<sup>1</sup>
- Relocation to neighborhoods with higher poverty and crime<sup>2</sup>
- Relocation to substandard, lower-quality housing, which may directly impact health<sup>1,3,4</sup>
- Material hardship<sup>5</sup>
- Homelessness<sup>6-8</sup>

# HUD-VASH

- Permanent supportive housing program that combines permanent, subsidized housing with support services to help Veterans maintain housing<sup>9,10</sup>
- High rate of housing retention, but exits may be associated with a number of factors
  - Nonpayment of rent<sup>11</sup>
  - Use of emergency services<sup>12</sup>
  - Substance abuse<sup>7,13,14</sup>
- HUD-VASH has unique capacity to assess wide range of data related to Veteran participants—collected in real time—that may identify Veterans at increased risk of eviction

# Methods

- **Latent class analysis** to describe Veterans evicted from HUD-VASH
- **Logistic regression**—controlling for demographics, diagnoses, acute services use during the 90 days prior to exit—to identify Veterans at increased risk of exiting due to eviction rather than accomplishing goals
  - Acute care hotspot – at least 2 emergency visits or 1 inpatient admission in 30 days

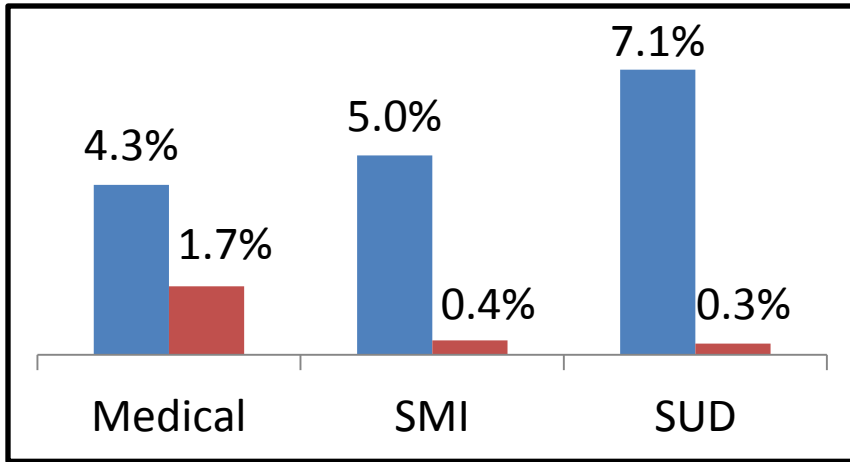


# Sample: Demographics

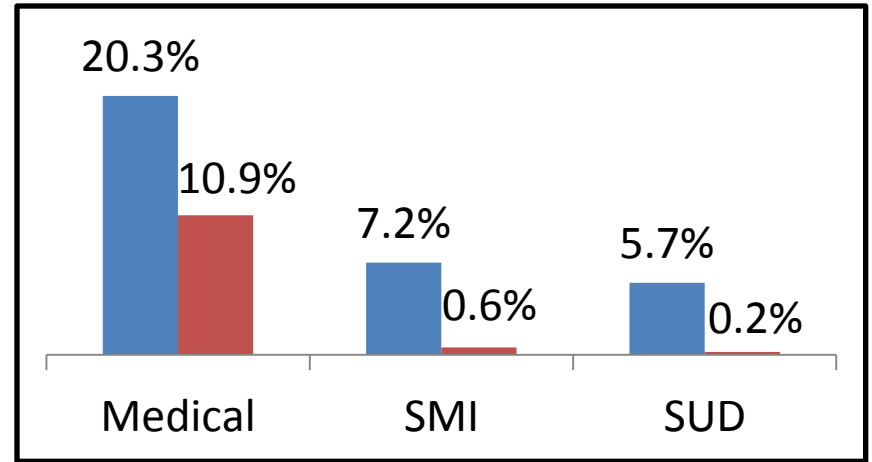
<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Evicted</b>	<b>Accomplished Goals</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><i>p</i></b>
N	4,692 (23.2)	15,491 (76.8)	20,183	
Female	9.1	14.5	13.2	<.0001
Age				<.0001
< 35	11.3	10.5	10.7	
35–49	21.7	21.0	21.2	
50–64	62.0	59.3	59.9	
> 64	5.1	9.2	8.2	
Combat exposure	4.8	5.4	5.3	.0130
OEF/OIF	9.9	10.2	10.2	.4618
Service-connected disability	41.4	46.8	45.5	<.0001
Diagnoses				
Medical	36.2	31.1	32.3	<.0001
Serious Mental Illness (SMI)	52.6	41.0	43.7	<.0001
Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	47.0	17.8	24.6	<.0001

# Services Use 90 Days Prior to Exit

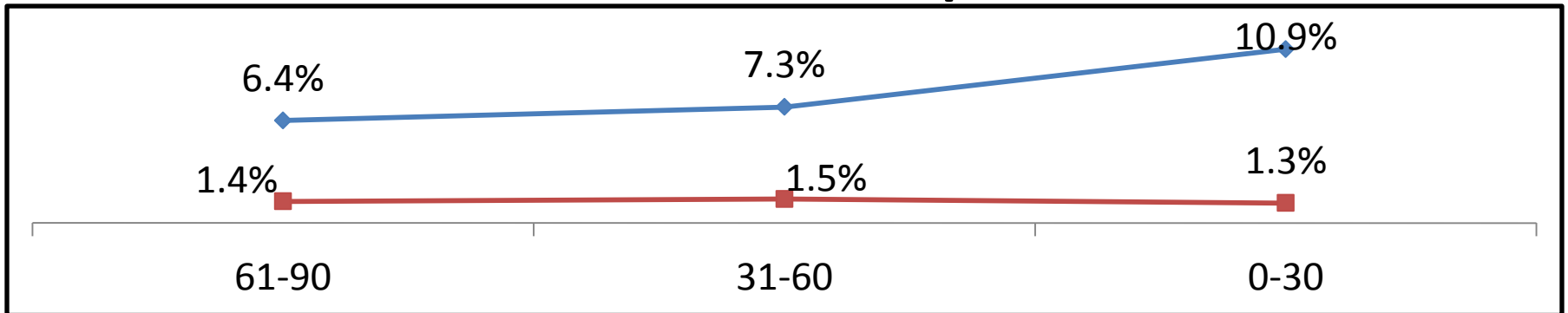
## Inpatient Admissions



## Emergency Room Visits



## Acute Care Hotspots



■ Accomplished Goals ■ Evicted

# Subgroups of Evicted Veterans

Characteristics	Older, low income, low acute care	Older, heavy disease burden, some acute care	Heavier disease burden, more acute care	Young, female, combat exposure
<b>Prevalence</b>	<b>46.9</b>	21.7	15.1	16.2
Female	5.1	5.7	5.0	29.1
Age < 35	1.0	0.2	4.4	62.2
<b>Age &gt; 50</b>	<b>79.2</b>	85.3	74.1	0.5
OEF/OIF	0.4	0.0	2.6	57.3
<b>SC disability</b>	<b>30.4</b>	42.9	43.3	69.2
Diagnoses				
Medical	14.3	74.8	78.4	8.3
SMI	27.5	76.9	96.9	51.5
SUD	23.1	77.4	96.4	29.3
<b>Acute care hotspots</b>				
<b>0–30 days pre-exit</b>	<b>1.1</b>	9.7	57.2	3.4
<b>31–60 days pre-exit</b>	<b>0.8</b>	6.9	37.7	1.8
<b>61–90 days pre-exit</b>	<b>0.8</b>	7.5	29.8	2.5

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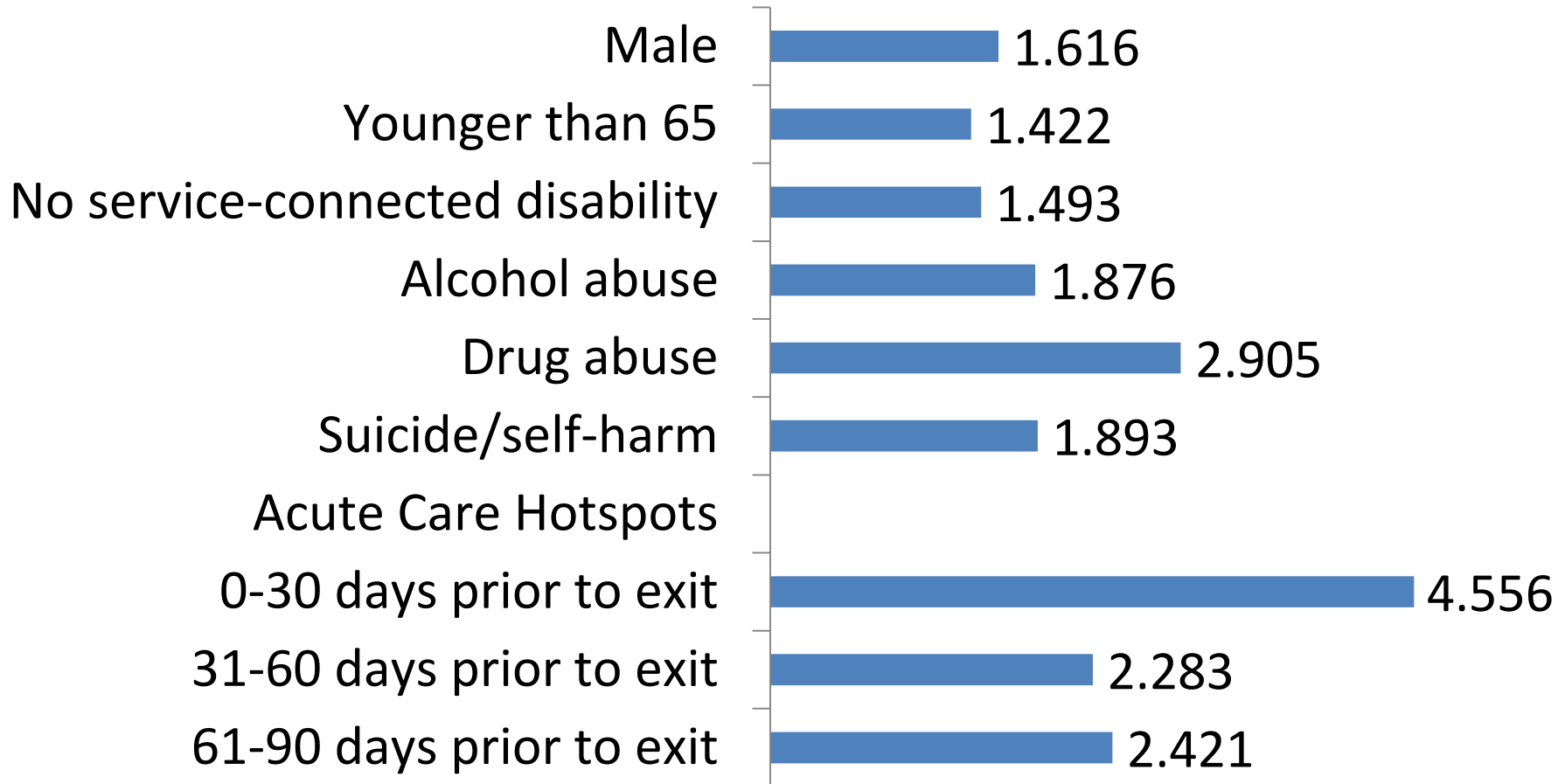
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# Odds of Exiting HUD-VASH Due to Eviction



# Utility of Predictive Model

- Patterns of health services use can predict eviction
- High use of acute care within 30 days of exit is strongest, allowing little time to alert the program and intervene
- Other variables (e.g., nonpayment of rent) may also predict eviction, but are not readily available



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# Research & Trends Snapshots – A6

## Subpopulation Deeper Dive: Female Veterans

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# Prevalence

- Number of women Veterans has nearly doubled in the past decade; fastest growing segment of Veteran population<sup>1,2</sup>
- Significant growth in the size of the female Veteran homeless population
  - Underrepresentation → overrepresentation<sup>3,4</sup>
  - 1–2 % of all women Veterans, 13–15% of women Veterans living in poverty will experience homelessness over the course of a year<sup>5</sup>
- 9.1% (4,338) of Veterans who were homeless at one point-in-time in January 2015 were female<sup>4</sup>
  - 62.4% were sheltered
  - 37.6% were unsheltered

# Risk Factors

- Women Veterans are 2.1–3.4 times as likely as their non-Veteran counterparts to experience homelessness<sup>5</sup>
- Demographics
  - Younger age<sup>5-7</sup>
  - Disability<sup>6,8</sup>
  - Black<sup>5,9</sup>
  - Unemployed<sup>8</sup>
  - Unmarried<sup>7-9</sup>
- Mental health and substance abuse<sup>8,10,11</sup>

# Risk Factors

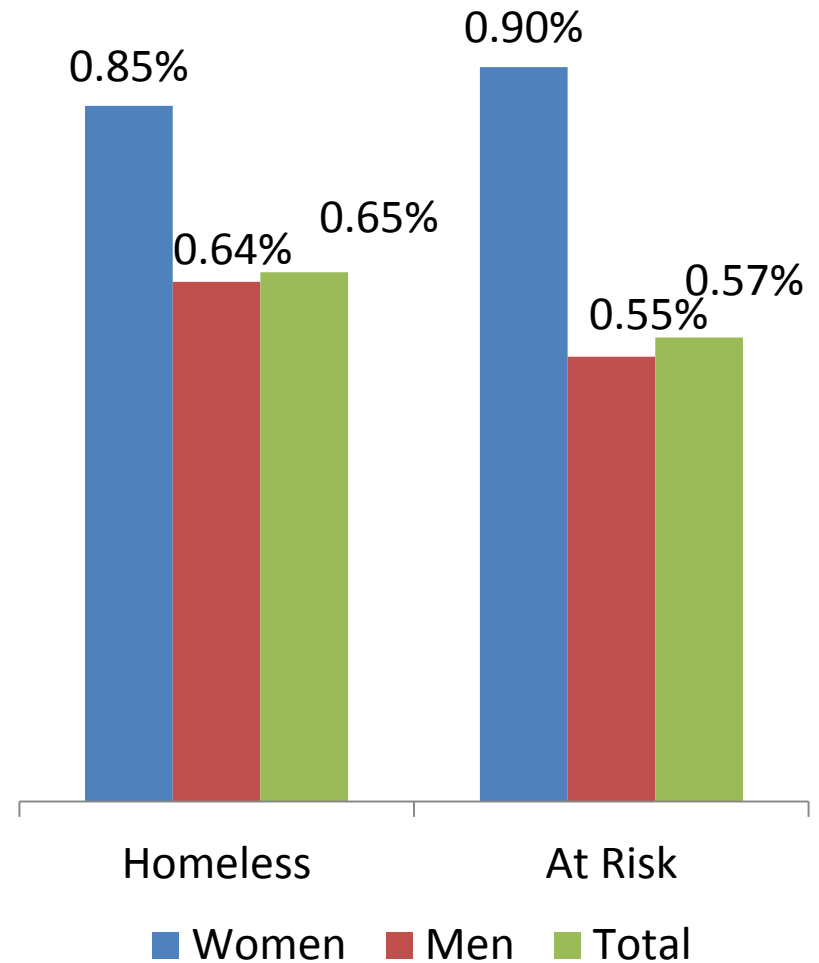
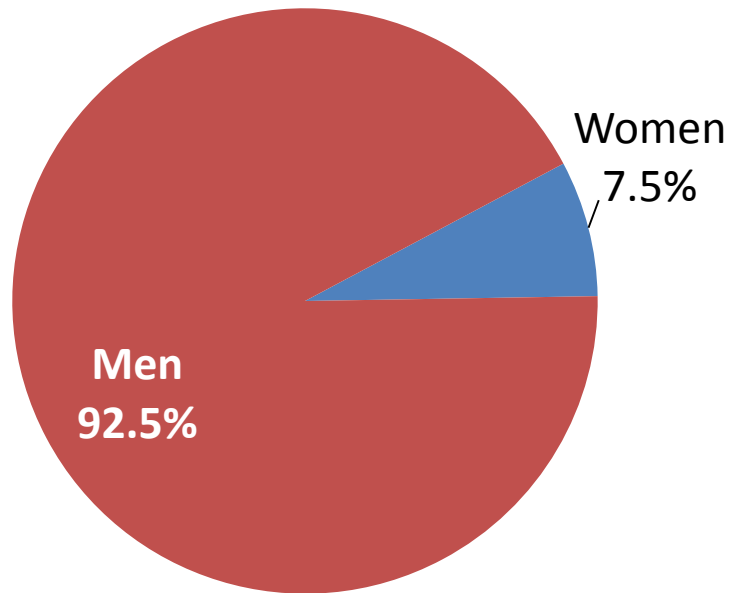
- Experience of trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)<sup>6,11</sup>
  - Intimate partner violence (IPV)<sup>8,10,12-16</sup>
  - Military sexual trauma (MST)<sup>8,17</sup>
  - Combat and other sources of trauma<sup>18</sup>

# Screening Questions

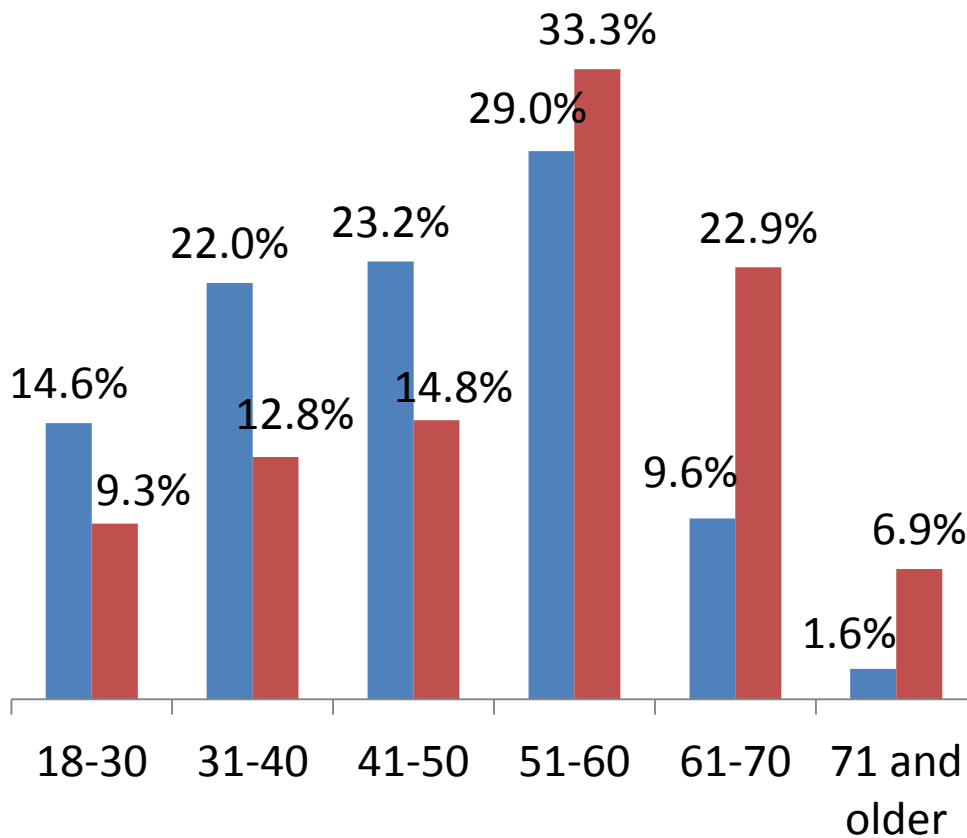
1. For the past 60 days, have you been living in stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as part of a household?
  - Yes → Question 2
  - No → **Homeless**
  
2. Are you worried or concerned that in the next 60 days you may not have stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as part of a household?
  - Yes → **At risk**
  - No → Negative

# Rates of Positive Screens, FY 2015

- 3,529,695 Veterans were screened



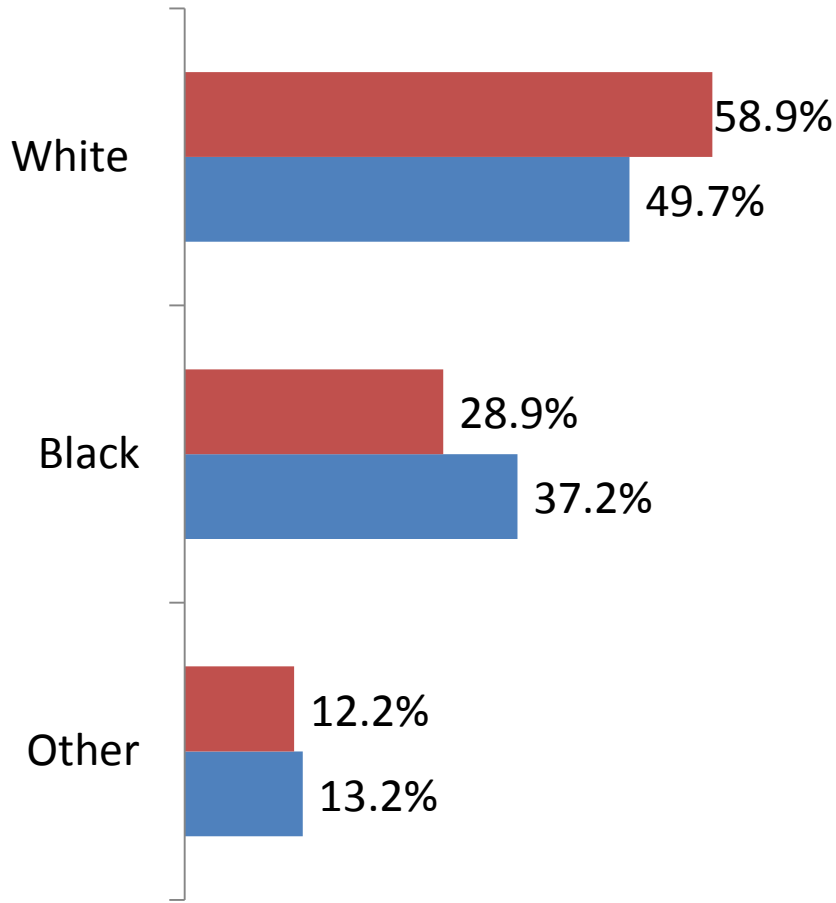
# Age



- Compared with men, women Veterans experiencing homelessness are
  - Younger<sup>20</sup>
  - More frequently OEF/OIF Veterans<sup>20,21</sup>
  - Responsible for dependent children<sup>21</sup>



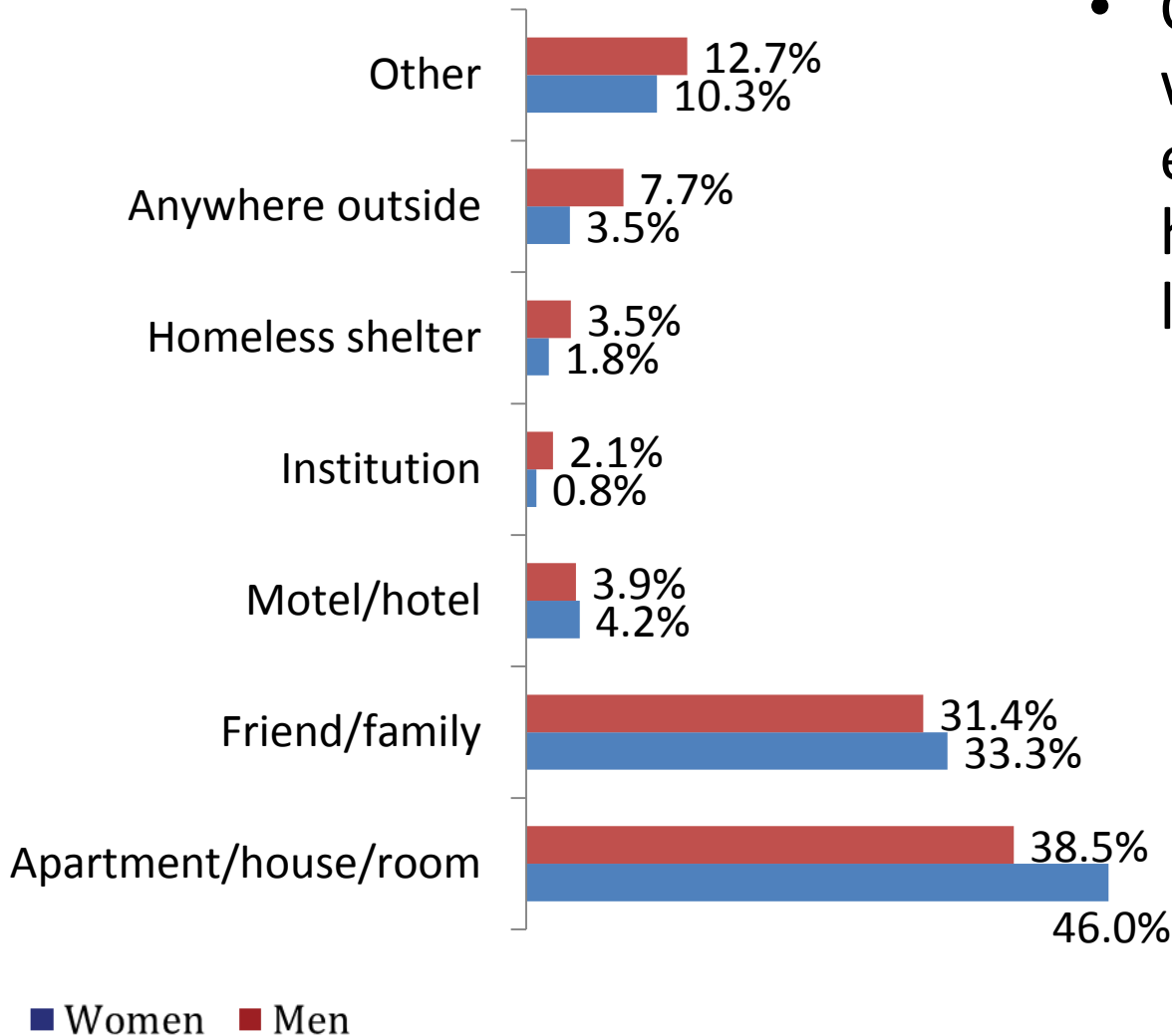
# Race & Other Characteristics



■ Women ■ Men

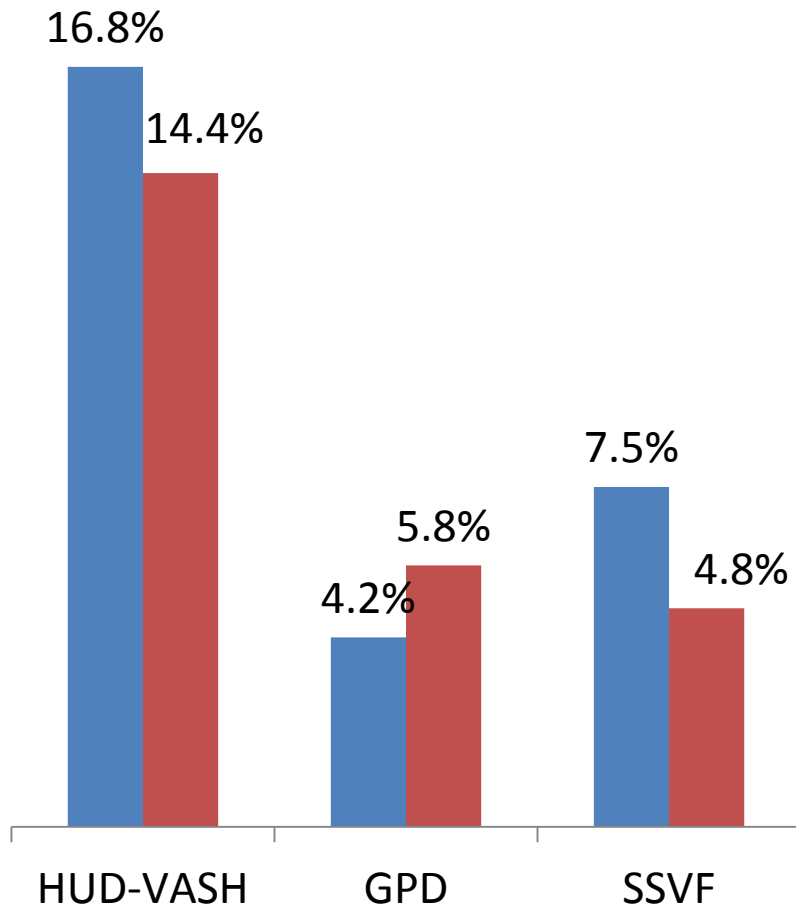
- Increased odds of homelessness among women Veterans who identify as black or unmarried<sup>9</sup>
- Compared with men, women Veterans experiencing homelessness are less likely to
  - Have a history of incarceration<sup>20,21</sup>
  - Be disabled or retired<sup>21</sup>
  - Have a substance use disorder<sup>20,21</sup>

# Living Situation



- Compared with men, women Veterans experiencing homelessness are less likely to
  - Be literally or chronically homeless<sup>20,21</sup>
  - Live in an unsheltered situation<sup>22</sup>
  - Repeatedly screen positive for homelessness<sup>23</sup>

# Use of VHA Homeless Programs



■ Women ■ Men

- No sex-specific “risk” for use of VHA homeless programs <sup>6</sup>
- Women more likely to enter HUD-VASH; men more likely to enter GPD <sup>20,21</sup>

# Needs

- Build on strengths of women Veterans experiencing homelessness and tailor interventions accordingly<sup>20,21</sup>
- Address specific needs of younger women<sup>2,5,6,21</sup>
  - Assistance reentering civilian life, reproductive care, childcare, education
- Address experience of trauma
  - Ensure access to mental healthcare, especially related to MST, PTSD<sup>24,25</sup>
  - Carefully assess for trauma<sup>10,18</sup>
  - Use trauma-informed models of care<sup>17,21</sup>

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