

Project CHALENG for Veterans Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups

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History

- Started in 1993 in response to Public Law 102-405 (additional guidance in PL 103-446 and 105-114)
- Requires an assessment of the needs of homeless Veterans
- Facilitates interactions between VA, other Federal departments, state and local government agencies, providers, advocates, and Veterans
- CHALENG results have assisted in developing new programming
- CHALENG POCs began estimates of number of homeless Veterans (now transitioned to HUD PIT)

2014 Findings

- Survey questions were changed:
 - 2011: Rate the needs of homeless Veterans in your community.
 - 2012: “Based on your experience as a homeless or formerly homeless Veteran, please help us understand how well your needs are being met,” and “Based on your experience serving homeless Veterans, please help us understand how well the needs of male and female Veterans are being met”
- Scale changed from 1 (unmet) – 5 (met) to 1 (never met) to 4 (always met)
- Scores grouped by male and female, no overall score as in previous years

Overview of 2014 respondents

Number of participants: 11,684

Veterans: 7,126

- (10%) Female Veterans
- (90%) Male Veterans

Community Partners: 2,546

- Other Federal Agency: 4%
- State or local government, or community based agency: 68%
- Interested member of the community: 28%

VA Staff: 2,012

Age of Veteran CHALENG Participants

Age	Homeless Veterans (n=7,126)	Male Veterans (n=6,388)	Female Veterans (n=738)
Less than 25	1%	1%	2%
25-34	9%	8%	19%
35-44	12%	10%	21%
45-60	60%	61%	51%
61+	18%	19%	7%

Race/Ethnicity of Veteran CHALENG Participants

Race/Ethnicity	Homeless Veterans (n=7,126)	Male Veterans (n=6,388)	Female Veterans (n=738)
African American	40%	39%	46%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	4%	4%	4%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	2%	1%	2%
Hispanic	8%	8%	8%
White	53%	53%	47%

Housing Situation of Veteran CHALENG Participants

Where homeless Veteran CHALENG Participant was living at time of Survey	Homeless Veterans (n=7,126)	Male Veterans (n=6,388)	Female Veterans (n=738)
Literally Homeless (on streets, in shelter, car)	34%	34%	36%
Transitional housing (GPD, DCHV, other contract transitional housing)	27%	29%	14%
Subsidized permanent housing (including HUD-VASH and Section 8 Housing)	20%	19%	24%
Unsubsidized housing	19%	18%	26%

Highest Unmet Needs of Veterans (All Participants)

Rank	Male	Female
1	Housing for Registered Sex Offenders	Housing for Registered Sex Offenders
2	Child Care	Child Care
3	Legal Assistance to prevent eviction or foreclosure	Family Reconciliation Assistance
4	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	Credit Counseling
5	Legal Assistance to restore a Drivers License	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues
6	Family Reconciliation Assistance	Legal Assistance to prevent eviction or foreclosure
7	Legal Assistance for warrants or fines	Legal Assistance to restore a Drivers License
8	Financial Guardianship	Legal Assistance for warrants or fines
9	Discharge Upgrade	Dental Care
10	Financial Assistance for Eviction/Foreclosure	Financial Guardianship

Highest Met Needs of Veterans (All Participants)

Rank	Male	Female
1	Medical Services	Medical Services
2	TB Testing and Treatment	TB Testing and Treatment
3	Medication Management	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment
4	Case Management	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems
5	Substance Abuse Treatment	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment
6	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	Case Management
7	Services for Emotional/Psychiatric Problems	Food
8	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	Substance Abuse Treatment
9	Personal Hygiene	Medication Management
10	Food	Health and Wellness

Trends since early results

- Overall, unmet needs are areas that require community partnership, not areas where VA can provide direct services
- Permanent housing, services for re-entry Veterans are no longer in top unmet needs
- Child care has remained in top unmet needs for over a decade
- Housing for Registered Sex Offenders has been the number one highest unmet need since it was added to the survey in 2011

2015 Survey

- The 2015 CHALENG survey is available now through December 31, 2015: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1951654/CHALENG-2015>
- VA CHALENG POCs may also print and distribute assessments at local CHALENG meetings.
- Survey takes approximately 5 minutes to complete
- Survey link can be used in all forms of communication, web messages, facebook, blogs, e-mail blasts, hand outs, letters, and any other communication tools you wish to use.

Data Uses

- VA providers: using to support CARF accreditation
- Community providers: using to support grant applications
- If you need local data:
 - VA provider: <http://vaww.infoshare.va.gov/sites/vhahl/HR RTP/CHALENG/default.aspx>
 - Community provider: e-mail jessica.blue-howells@va.gov
- Future years:
 - Plan is to continue the annual CHALENG needs assessment
 - OMB submission is in process
 - Federal Register will include a request for public comment