



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

“Predictors of Homelessness Following Exit from the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program”

Byrne, T., Culhane, D., Kane, V., Kuhn, J., and Treglia, D. / [Full Report](#)

Quick Takeaways:

- Being male, single, between the ages of 44-54, and with previous experience being homeless are the greatest predictors of homelessness following the exit of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

Study:

This study analyzed data from the VA National Homeless Registry and VA medical records in order to determine predictors of homelessness among veterans who exited from SSVF. This data covered the first two years of SSVF starting in 2012, and followed veterans in the program until January 2014, or their first incidence of homelessness. Researchers excluded veterans who exited into non-housing destinations, such as homelessness or an institution, which gave a study sample of 41,545 veterans.

Researchers divided this group along two axes: household type (single veterans vs. veterans with families) and SSVF service category (rapid rehousing vs. prevention). They analyzed each group to understand its likelihood of becoming homeless after leaving the SSVF program, and examined risk factors such as gender, age, race, services needed (such as legal services), substance abuse, mental illness, and demographics. From this analysis, researchers were able to identify a probability of becoming homeless for each group and factor after one and two years leaving the program.

Findings:

Researchers found that veterans in families experienced homelessness following SSVF exit at lower rates than single veterans in the same SSVF service category. Similarly, veterans receiving prevention services experienced less homelessness than those receiving rapid rehousing services.

Among the specific risk factors, researchers found that the highest predictors of homelessness were being male, being between the ages of 44-54, having a previous history of homelessness, and having more medical needs. The type of services needed by the veteran and the local community housing market were not significant predictors.

Conclusion:

This analysis is still early in the SSVF's program history, but points to the major predictors of homelessness among those exiting SSVF. Researchers noted that while SSVF's outcomes were much better than similar programs, significant numbers of veterans still became homeless. They also noted that as the SSVF program ages, it begins to serve categories of veterans who are thought to be more difficult to serve. Going forward, SSVF service providers should understand this dynamic in order to continue to achieve desirable outcomes.