

Recidivism Amongst Veterans: When Permanent Supportive Housing Is Not Enough

2019 National Coalition of Homeless Veterans

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Washington, DC

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Swords to Plowshares

San Francisco, CA



VETS HELPING VETS SINCE 1974

Wrap-Around Support offered by Swords to Plowshares



- Permanent and Transitional Housing
- Legal Services for VA related benefits
 - To include Justice Involved Veterans (COVER project)
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- SOAR: SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery
- Money Management
- Drop-In Center
- Employment and Training
- Institute on Veteran Policy

Statistics about veteran homelessness in San Francisco

As of May 8, 2019, the San Francisco By-name List (BNL) included:

- 330 homeless veterans
 - 175 are chronically homeless veterans
 - 115 unhoused homeless veterans
 - 215 sheltered homeless veterans (Shelters, Navigation Centers, GPD, HCHV)
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- Inflow is ~65 homeless veterans per month
 - Outflow is ~88 homeless veterans per month (housed, deceased, moved to other housing, or removed from the BNL after 90 days of no contact)
 - HUD-VASH utilization is at ~86%

Statistics about veteran homelessness in San Francisco

Demographics of homeless veterans:

- 9% Female
- 89% Male
- 0.3% Transgender Female
- 0.8% Gender Non-Conforming
- 0.9% No information collected/refused to answer
- 38.6% African American
- 41.1% Caucasian
- 2.8% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 3.1% Asian
- 3.6% Multi-racial
- 9.4% No information collected/refused to answer

Recidivism in San Francisco

- 1483 veterans actively enrolled in our HMIS system
- Of the 1483 veterans in the system:
 - 367 veterans have been exited from two or more housing sites
 - 11 veterans have been exited from four or more housing sites

Housing needed...



- Assisted living beds for older veterans who need a higher level of care and for severely mentally ill veterans who are also actively using substances
- Board and care beds
- Access to State Veterans Homes which have the needed higher levels of care but are not staffed to capacity in some states which leaves vacant beds.

Questions for discussion...

What types of housing do you need in your city/region?

Are you aware of any pilot programs with these types of housing resources?

What community resources are not easily accessible to veterans in your area?

What would it mean to create permanent supportive housing that has onsite nursing care and intensive case management?

Who is not being served well in your community?

Thank You for Your Attendance



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OUR MISSION...War causes wounds and suffering that last beyond the battlefield. Swords to Plowshares' mission is to heal the wounds, to restore dignity, hope, and self-sufficiency to all veterans in need, and to prevent and end homelessness and poverty among veterans.

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