RESEARCH

Research on Veterans who return to homelessness is limited. The few VA studies that exist show that drug use and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are risk factors.

Similarly, non-VA studies find that substance abuse is a major risk factor for returns to homelessness. There is also indirect evidence showing that a history of poverty and repeated homelessness are also important risk factors.

NATIONWIDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6 MONTH RETURNS</th>
<th>12 MONTH RETURNS</th>
<th>24 MONTH RETURNS</th>
<th>FY20 COHORT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,156</td>
<td>4,076</td>
<td>7,119</td>
<td>44,407</td>
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<td>RATE</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
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KEY TAKEAWAYS

VA data from 2018 through 2022 revealed significant differences between Veterans who do and do not return to homelessness.

Veterans who returned to homelessness were:

- 38% more likely to have a diagnosis of drug use disorder
- 18% more likely to be black
- 16% more likely to be unmarried
- More likely to have no VA service-connected disability
- More likely to be less engaged in VA outpatient care and more engaged in VA acute care

CONCLUSION

VA outreach and patient care providers can use this data to focus on Veterans who are most at risk for returning to homelessness and offer services to support them on their way to finding the permanent housing they deserve.