

# MYTH-BUSTERS: VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

## BUYING HOMES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

### MYTH

With only 33,000 homeless Veterans and a \$3.2B budget, VA could just buy each Veteran a home and solve the problem.

A smart investment that saves lives and public resources.

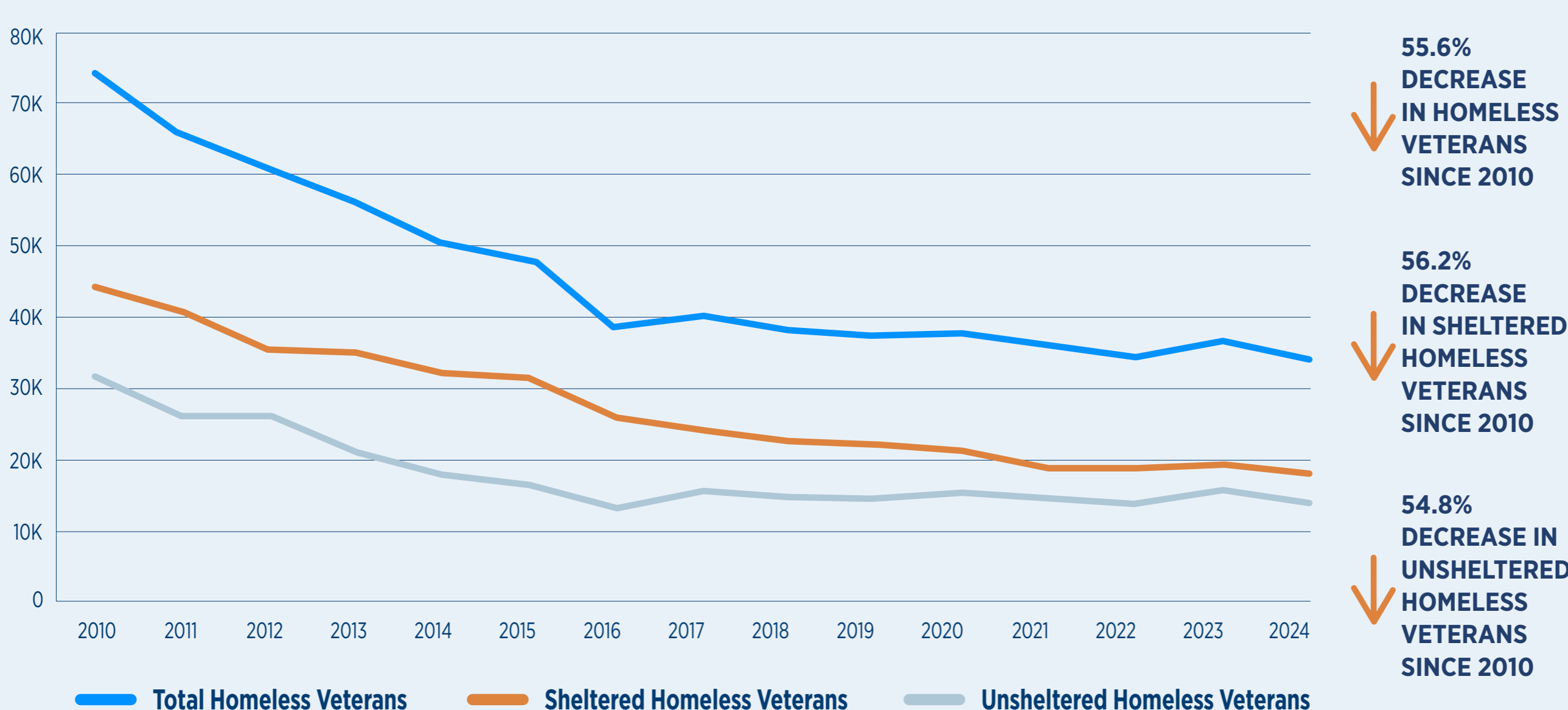
### FACT

VA serves over 350,000 Veterans each year—not just those currently experiencing homelessness.

VA funding and the VHA Homeless Programs Office (HPO) support includes:

- Prevention services to stop homelessness from happening before it starts
- Outreach to connect with unsheltered Veterans and those at-risk
- Temporary shelter and permanent housing
- Wraparound services like primary care, employment, and justice system support

## THE DECLINE OF VETERAN HOMELESSNESS (2010-2024)



## FEWER VETERANS = FEWER HOMELESS VETERANS

### MYTH

Veteran homelessness is only down because there are fewer Veterans.

In 2024: Homelessness across the U.S. grew by a record 18% in 2024<sup>3</sup>, while Veteran homelessness fell by 7.5%<sup>4</sup> that same year.

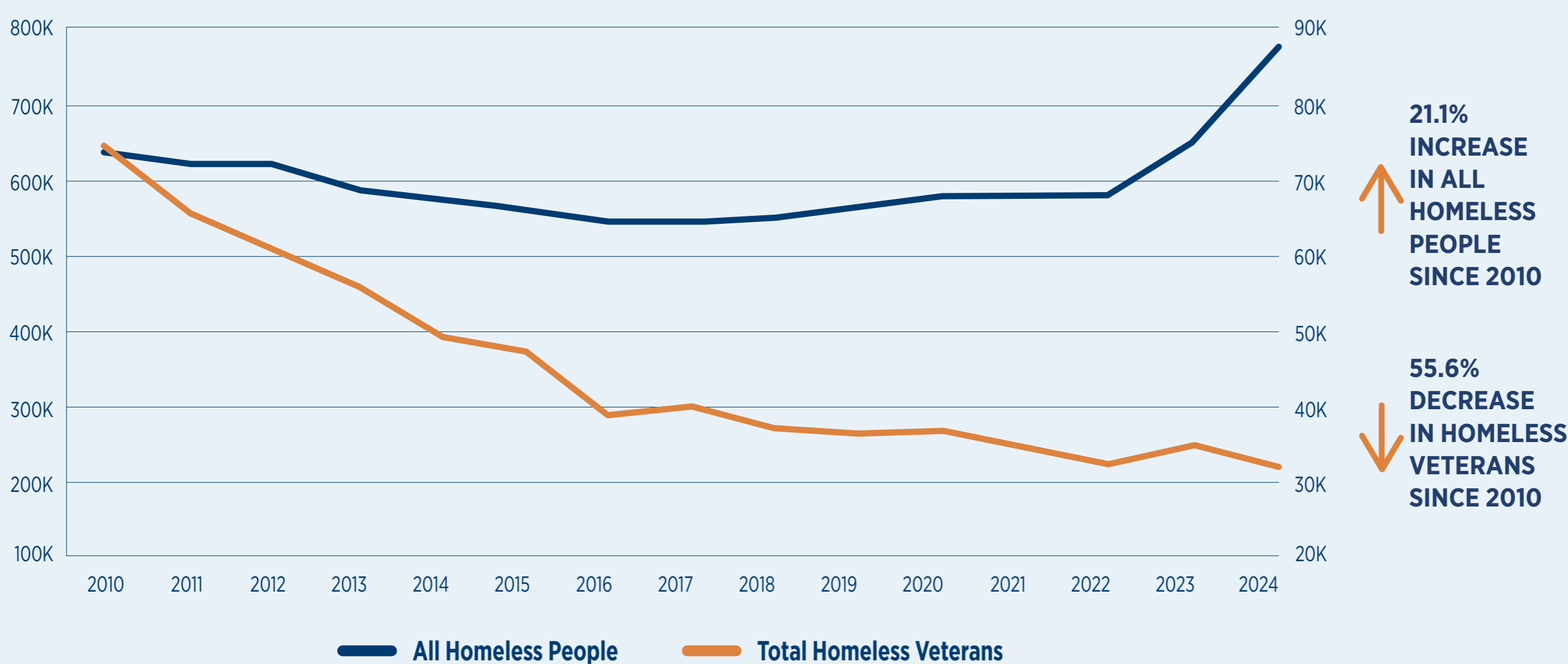
### FACT

Between 2010 and 2024 homelessness nationwide rose 21.1% while Veteran homelessness dropped 55.6%.

21% vs 55%

Even with a 25%<sup>1</sup> drop in the Veteran population between 2010 and 2022 (the most recent year for which we have data), the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness dropped by over 50%<sup>2</sup> in that time frame. This **dramatic decline** shows programs—not demographics—are driving success.

## COMPARISON OF HOMELESSNESS TRENDS: VETERANS VS. GENERAL POPULATION (2010-2024)



## ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IS IMPOSSIBLE

### MYTH

You can't actually end Veteran homelessness.

Every Veteran deserves a path home.

### FACT

It's already happening. 85 communities and 3 states have effectively ended Veteran homelessness. Their secret? A unified response and respect for Veteran choice.

85 COMMUNITIES & 3 STATES

VA's One Team approach breaks down barriers to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring—because every Veteran deserves a path home.

## RESOURCES

<sup>1</sup> 2025 USAFacts Article "Who are the nation's veterans?"

<sup>2</sup> 2022 Fact Sheet "The State of Veteran Homelessness"

<sup>3</sup> 2024 AEI Article "What's Behind the Unprecedented Rise in Homelessness, and How Can We Reverse It?"

<sup>4</sup> 2024 HUD Releases January 2024 Point-In-Time Count Report