VA NATIONAL CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS
Promoting data-driven, evidence-based solutions to end Veteran homelessness

# Research and Methodology Core

The Research and Methodology Core functions to meet the intent of the Center's authorizing legislation[i] to conduct and support research into the causes and contributing factors of Veteran homelessness; assess the effectiveness of programs; and serve as a resource center for all research activities carried out by the Department of Veterans Affairs and by other Federal and non-Federal entities with respect to Veteran homelessness. There are currently over 20 researchers affiliated with the Center investigating a wide breadth of issues related to Veteran homelessness.  The Center is focused on four areas of inquiry:

- **Predictive analytics** – using large administrative data sets (i.e. "big data") to develop predictive models that will be able to pre-emptively identify individual Veterans before an adverse event occurs so that a preventative intervention can be provided.  Modeling is currently focused in three contexts: predicting who will become homeless; predicting who will return to homelessness after being housed; and predicting who will experience an adverse event (acute health event, etc.) in the course of receiving care from VA
- **Population modeling** - providing a greater understanding of the needs and trends among subpopulations of homeless Veterans, including women, rural, OEF/OIF/OND, aged, and those with specific clinical conditions and needs.
- **Systems efficiencies and effectiveness** –looking specifically at how well our different programs and medical centers interact and coordinate efforts to achieve optimal results in housing and keeping housed our homeless Veterans.
- **Program evaluation and implementation research** – ensuring that our new models of care are being evaluated with substantial rigor to see that best practices are being identified and replicated with high fidelity.

The Center disseminates the results of its research and data analytic work through **peer reviewed publications, reports, manuals, symposium proceedings, and briefs**.  It also hosts two ongoing webinar series, one focused on using research findings to inform policy and the other to influence practice. The **Homeless Evidence and Research Synthesis (HERS) Roundtable Series** is a virtual symposium held three times a year to convene peer researchers, subject matter experts, policy makers, and advocates to discuss research findings and develop evidence-based recommendations to inform policy and practice on key homeless issues. **Connecting Research to Practice** is an occasional webinar that provides clinicians, program managers, and front line staff the opportunity to discuss particular research studies and how findings might be considered in planning, developing, or implementing services for homeless or formerly homeless Veterans.

For more information on the Center visit https://www.va.gov/homeless/nchav/index.asp , follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/VACtrHomeless  and VA Pulse https://www.vapulse.net/groups/education-and-training-within-vhas-homeless-program-office .

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[i] The Center is established by section 713 of the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016, Public Law 114-315.