TRANSGENDER VETERANS AND HOMELESSNESS

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

TRANSGENDER VETERANS FACE A HIGHER RISK OF HOMELESSNESS THAN NON-TRANSGENDER VETERANS.

An estimated one out of three transgender individuals have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives.1

1/3

VHA monitors housing instability among veterans and offers supportive programs to those in need.

Homelessness among veterans receiving care from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is three times higher for transgender veterans than for non-transgender veterans.2

3x

Adverse social and economic conditions increase risk of homelessness.

57%
Rejected by biological family

28%
Avoided health care from fear of discrimination

26%
Physically assaulted

2x
Unemployment rate

1/4
Fear of mistreatment prevented more than one quarter of transgender veterans experiencing homelessness from staying in a shelter.

Transgender individuals, including veterans, face high rates of stigma, family rejection, violence, and unemployment.3

VHA meets transgender veterans’ need for health care, homeless programs.

Transgender veterans are more likely than their non-transgender peers to use specific VA homeless programs, including Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Services (HUD-VASH).4

VHA provides evidence-based, compassionate, and respectful services to all veterans.

VA delivers health care and provides housing services that are consistent with veterans’ self-identified gender.

More than 9,000 transgender veterans have received services from VHA and the number is increasing.

Every VHA facility has a local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) Veteran Care Coordinator.

More than 75 interdisciplinary teams of providers have participated in intensive case-based teleconferencing training, and 517 providers received consultation services to meet the unique health care needs of transgender veterans. In 2019, 58 VA medical centers were designated as LGBT+ Healthcare Equality Leaders and 26 as Top Performers on the 2019 Human Rights Campaign’s Healthcare Equality Index (HEI).

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WHAT IS VA DOING?

VHA monitors housing instability among veterans and offers supportive programs to those in need.

Among veterans experiencing homelessness, the rate of transgender veterans using VHA programs is 37% greater than for non-transgender veterans.

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VHA provides evidence-based, compassionate, and respectful services to all veterans.

Access the following resources to learn how VA ensures all services are delivered to transgender veterans experiencing homelessness in a welcoming, respectful environment.

LEARN MORE

VA Homeless Programs
www.va.gov/homeless

VA LGBT Health Program
www.patientcare.va.gov/LGBT

VHA Patient Care Services
LGBT Training
www.patientcare.va.gov/LGBT/LGBT_Veteran_Training.asp

VHA Directives
1341, Providing Health Care for Transgender and Intersex Veterans
www.albuquerque.va.gov/docs/ProvidingHealthCareforTransgenderandIntersexVeterans.pdf