

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

SSVF National Webinar: Repository Updates & A Year in Review

January 20, 2022

[Link to Audio](#)



Presenters

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National Director, Supportive Services for Veteran Families

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Supervisory Regional Coordinator, Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Bobby Thompson
Project Coordinator, Supportive Services for Veteran Families

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HUD-VASH Regional Coordinator (Region 3)

Mary Schwartz
Sr. Associate, Abt Associates

Mark Silverbush
Associate, Abt Associates

Genelle Denzin
Associate, Abt Associates



Agenda

- Welcome
- Repository and Data Quality Updates
 - New TFA Data Quality Initiative
 - Change in Repository deadlines
- SSVF FY2020 Annual Report Preview
 - Scope and Scale
 - Impact
 - Demographics
 - Outcomes
- Reflection on FY 2021
- Partnership Highlights
- SSVF Funding Past and Present
- VHA Homelessness at a Glance
- SSVF and the Path Forward
- Q & A



John Kuhn LCSW, MPH
National Director, SSVF

Welcome



COVID -19 Hard Truths

- The streets are an option when only unacceptable alternatives available
 - Unsafe, loss of personal freedoms, loss of privacy
- Housing cost burdens are increasing
- The “Great Resignation” impacts SSVF
- Homelessness disproportionately impacts persons of color



Incorporating Lessons

- Hotels/Motels can engage unsheltered who refuse services
 - Costly, so offer resources judiciously
- Addressing housing cost burden with expanded Shallow Subsidy
- Commit to staff training, pay, and flexibility
 - We tend to like activities where we perform well
- Use data to drive improvement, equity



Employ Evidence-Based Practices

- Training, case conferencing... did I mention training?
- Assure safety: same-day enrollment (SQUARES), temporary housing
- Coordinate assignment of care (CE), use BNL, follow-up
- Progressive engagement
 - **Identifying what works depends on accurate data collection**



**Repository and Data
Quality Updates
SSVF FY 2020 Annual
Report Preview**

Mark Silverbush, Associate, he/him, *Abt Associates*
Mary Schwartz, Sr. Associate, she/her, *Abt Associates*
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Repository and Data Quality Updates

Repository and DQ Updates

Central Challenge

Unclear TFA Data Quality spending lines at the average household level

Related Challenge

- Growing usage and importance of TFA
- Solutions to TFA Data Quality will vary
- History of diffuse reporting requirements
- Need for faster reporting of SSVF data



Repository and DQ Updates

The Plan

- Use broad TFA Data Quality flags to contact grantees with potential issues
- Identify which grantees are having TFA Data Quality Issues
 - Programmatic issue (program model, policies, procedures, documentation)
 - Data issue (date entry lag, vendor issue, HMIS admin support issue)
- Track issues to resolution with HMIS TA and RC support
- Iterate and share TFA Data Quality spending flags



Repository and DQ Updates

Initial Flags

1. Highest TFA per average household served
 - a) RRH - top 2% of grantees
 - b) HP - top 2% of grantees
2. Lowest TFA per average household served
 - a) RRH - bottom 10% of grantees
 - b) HP - bottom 10% of grantees
3. No TFA per average household served



Repository and DQ Updates

Calendar

Today: Announcement of new effort / Q&A

March: Grantees start receiving and responding to specific TFA email communications

April – July: SSVF HMIS TA refines TFA flags and updates communications;

grantees work with TA and RCs to identify issues and plans to remedy TFA issues

August – September: SSVF HMIS Guidance and reports updated for ongoing TFA data quality effort



Repository and DQ Updates

Change in upload cycle

- Shift in SSVF Program Office perspective
- Re-balancing upload frequency importance with TFA DQ
- Shorter window time for first upload allows TA to more quickly provide feedback on TFA DQ issues

From: First upload due by 3rd business day; final upload by 9th calendar day

To: First upload due by 2nd business day; final upload by 7th calendar day

Starting in March 2021

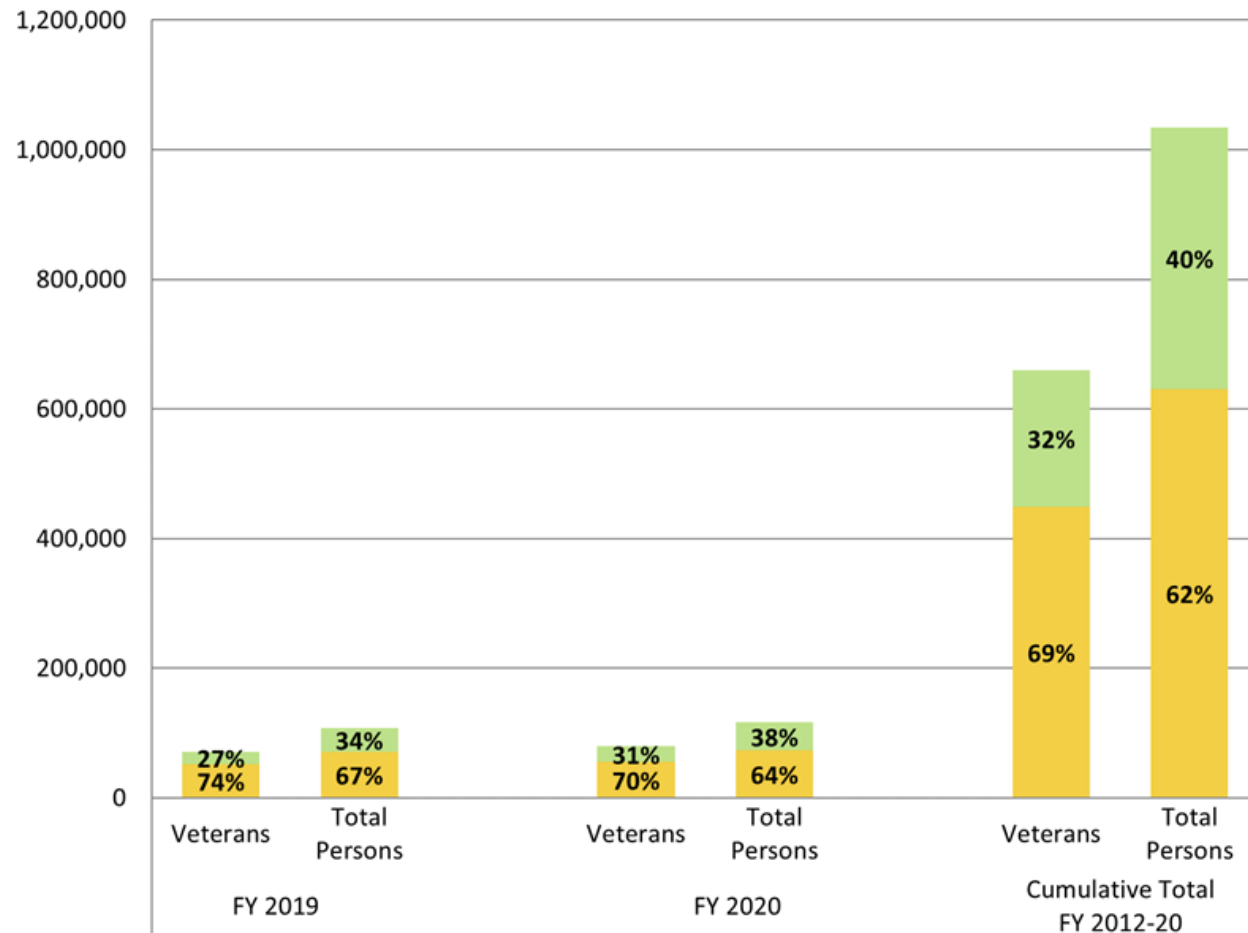




SSVF FY 2020 Annual Report Preview

SSVF Annual Report

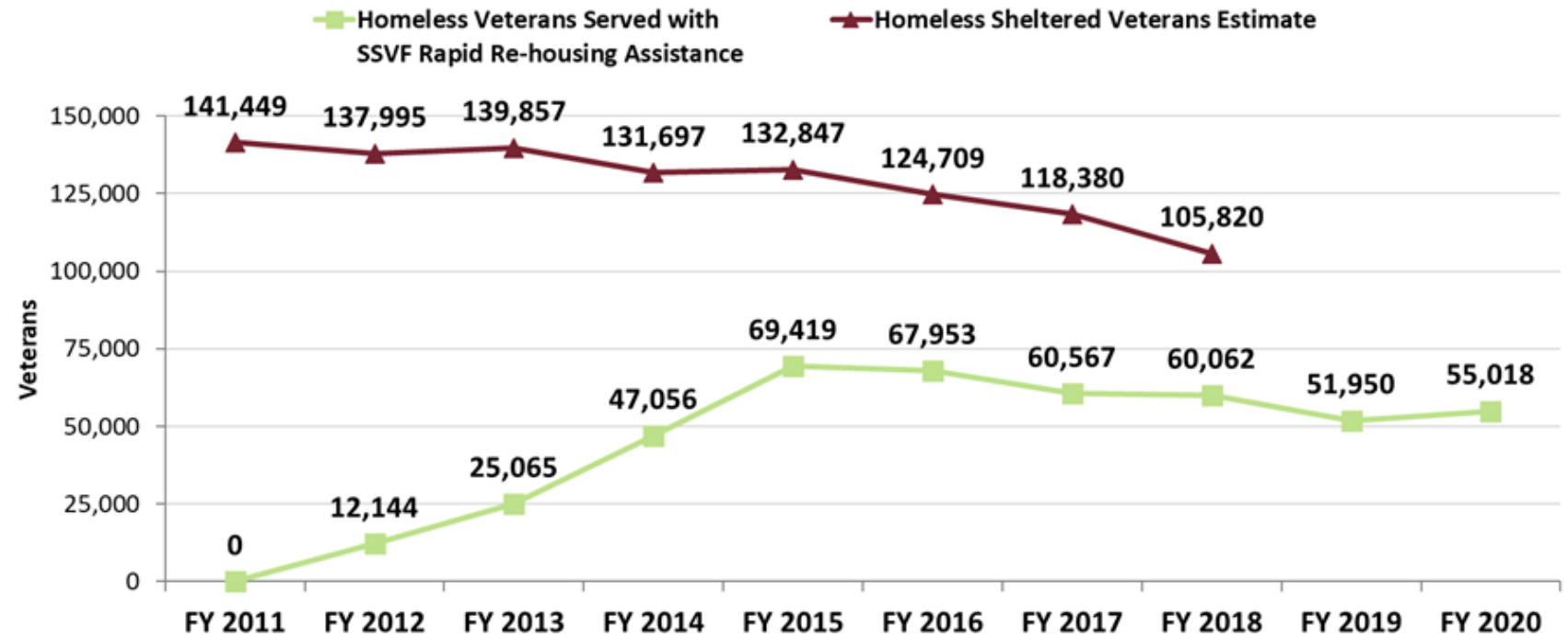
Total Persons & Veterans Served, by Housing Assistance Type



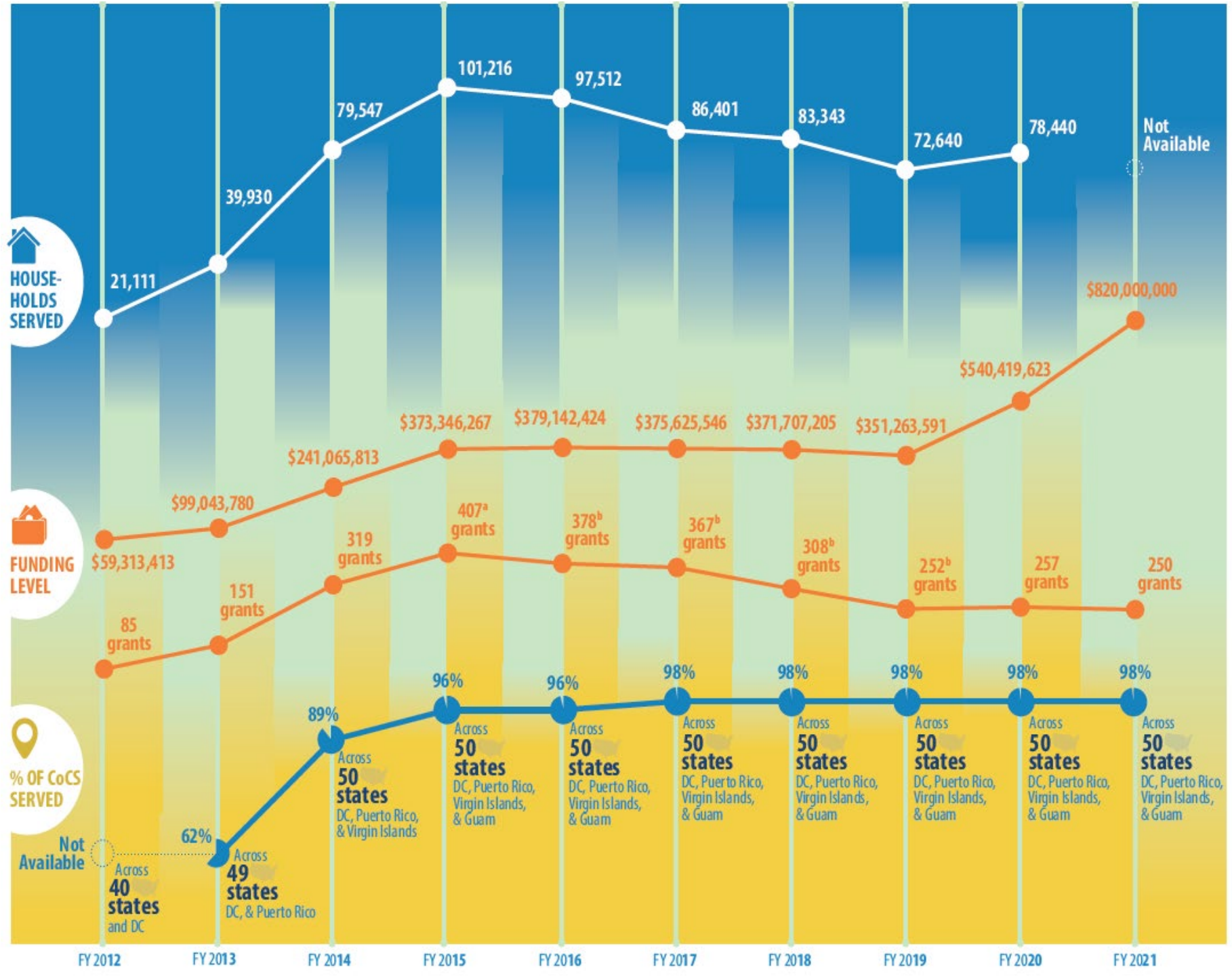
■ Homelessness Prevention	19,271	36,299	24,298	43,064	210,346	403,583
■ Rapid Re-housing	51,950	71,185	55,018	72,873	449,234	630,748
Unduplicated Total	70,596	106,453	78,331	114,475	651,118	1,020,730

SSVF Rapid Re-housing and Annual Homeless Sheltered Veterans (FYs 2011-2020)

SSVF Annual Report



SSVF Annual Report



SSVF Annual Report



COVID-19 in FY 2020

- **Timing:** Started impacting results in the second half of the year
- **Veterans:** Exacerbated health and safety risks, while complicating paths towards housing stability
- **SSVF and its grantees:**
 - Rolled out new and expanded SSVF grants
 - Added new flexibilities to homeless program implementation, service types and modalities and compliance
 - Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) ramp-up for significant amount of hotel usage, bulk food purchases, other spending to reduce community spread

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COVID-19 in FY 2020

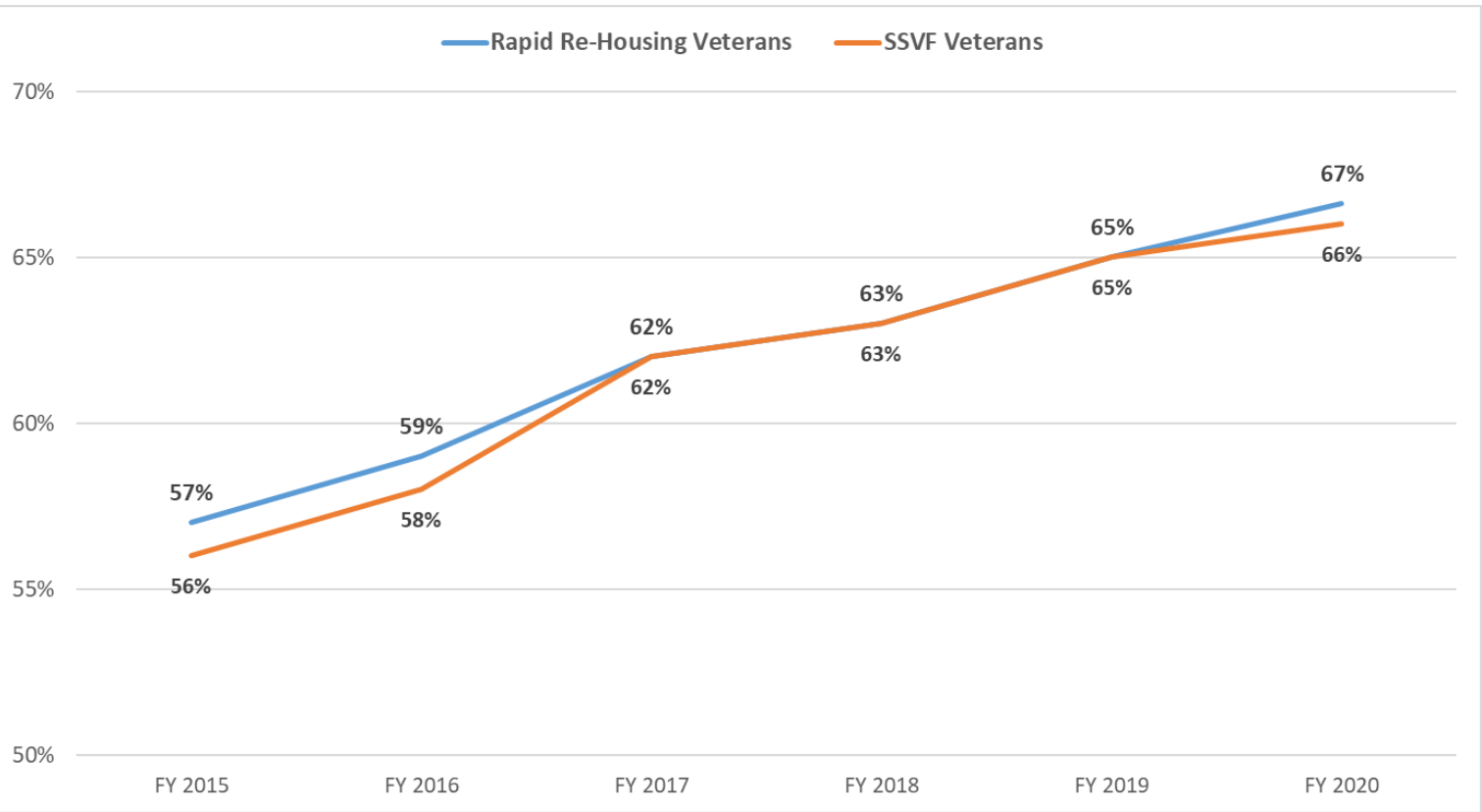
- **Locally:** Caused rapid changes in local and grantee prioritization and care coordination systems for the unhoused
 - decompressing shelter sites
 - creation of new shelter and housing locations
 - prioritizing those with highest COVID-19 health vulnerability
 - increased usage of Rapid Resolution approach types
- **Populations:** While SSVF continues to serve all eligible Veterans who are currently or will imminently experience homelessness.
- The Veteran population served by SSVF had already begun to include a **higher proportion of older Veterans and Veterans with disabilities.**



Veteran Demographic Trends: DISABLING Condition

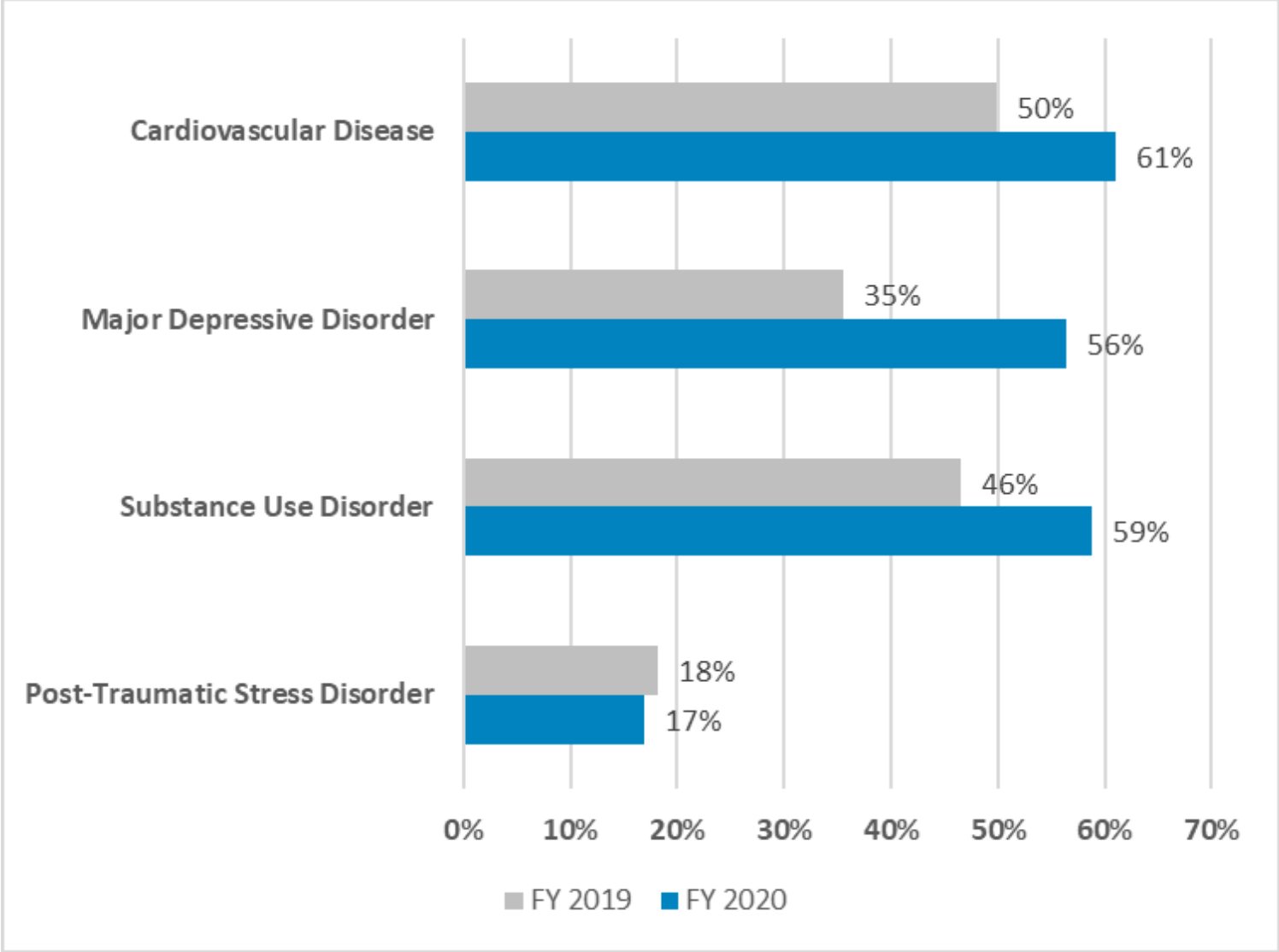
SSVF Trend: Within SSVF, Veterans with a disabling condition has risen each year...

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Veterans Major Health Conditions Changes

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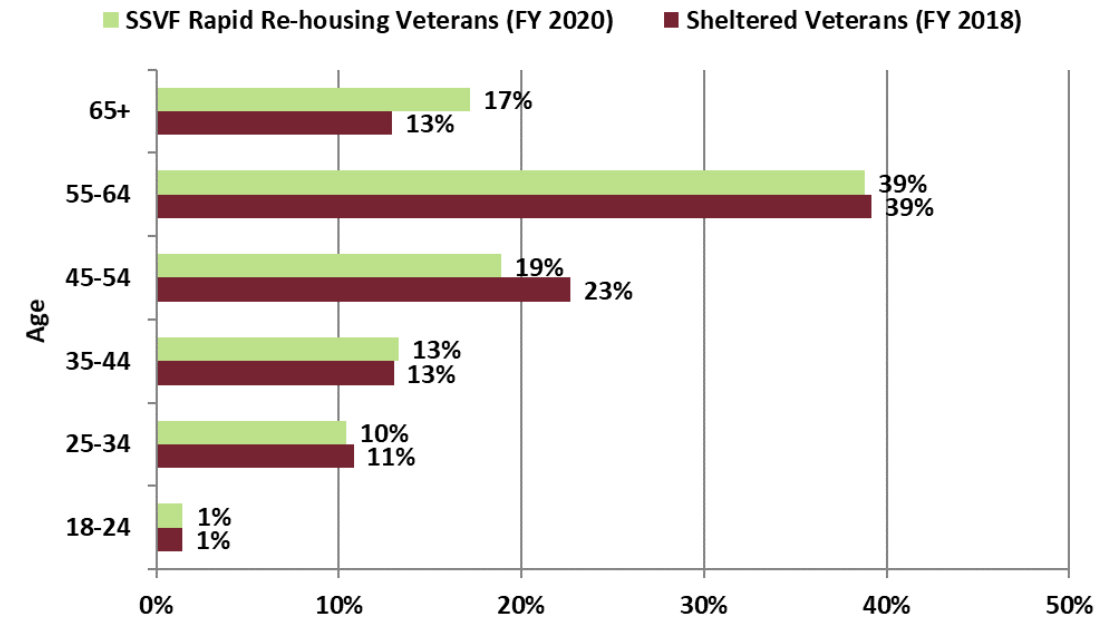
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Veteran Demographic Trends: Age

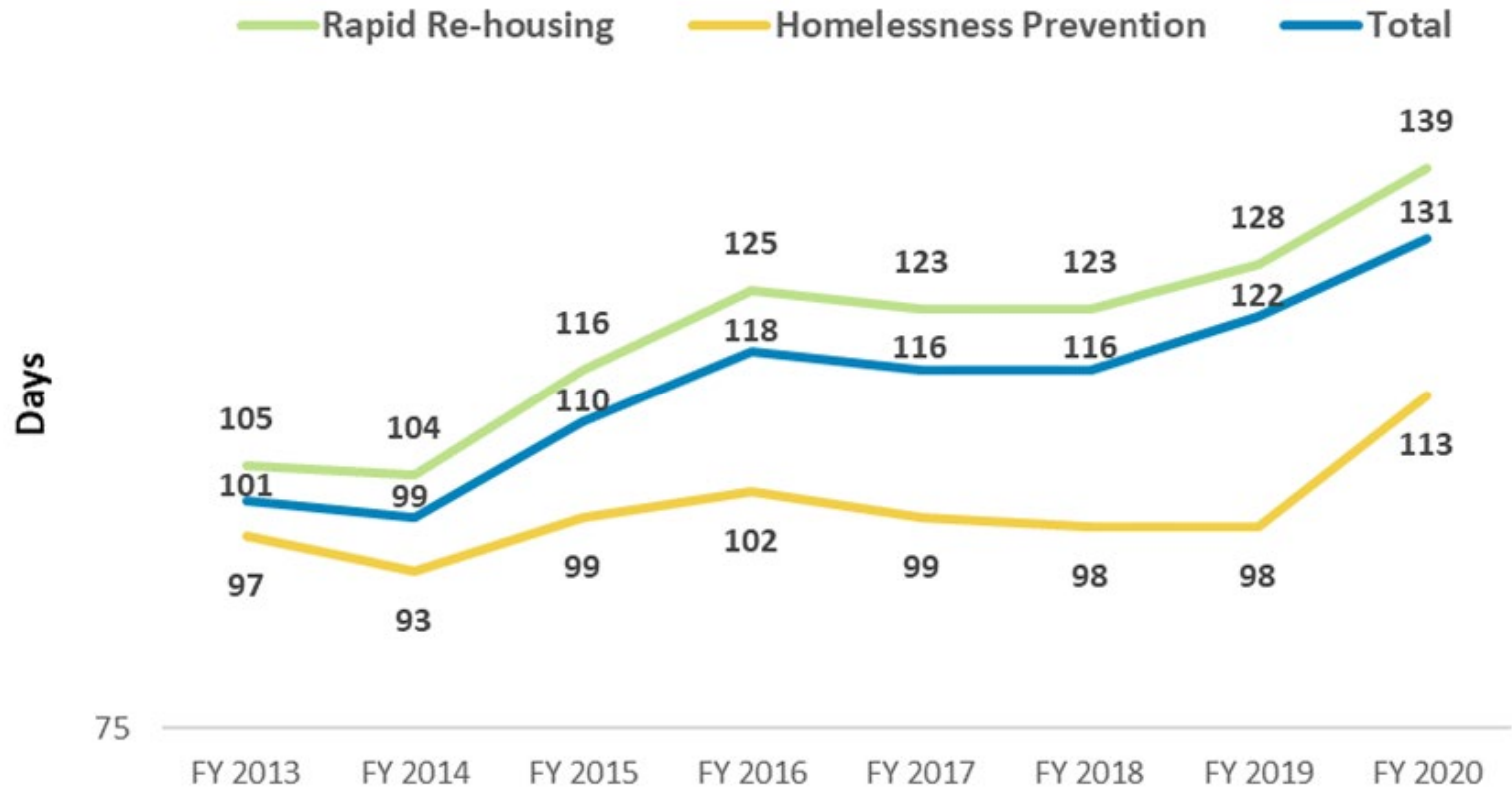
•**System Comparison:** For many years, SSVF RRH Veterans tend to be younger than sheltered Veterans. That may be changing. Newer AHAR data is needed

- SSVF Trend:** Veterans 62+ has risen each year:
 - FY 2015: 13% (13% RRH)
 - FY 2016: 15% (15% RRH)
 - FY 2017: 18% (19% RRH)
 - FY 2018: 19% (20% RRH)
 - FY 2019: 22% (23% RRH)
 - FY 2020: not available yet, *but expected to rise as 65+ group rose by 2%*



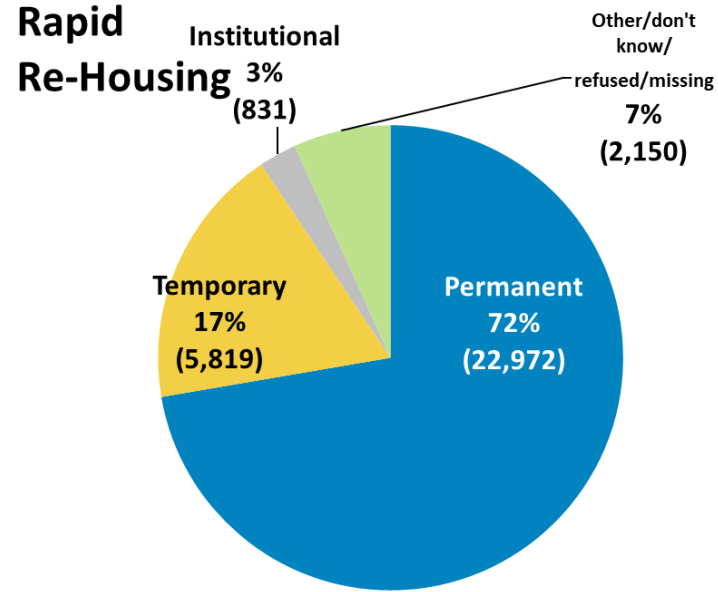
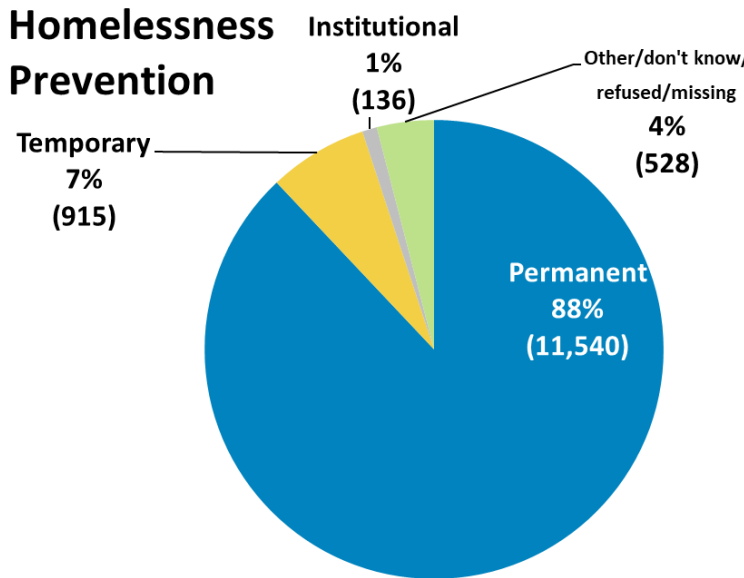
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Length of Participation



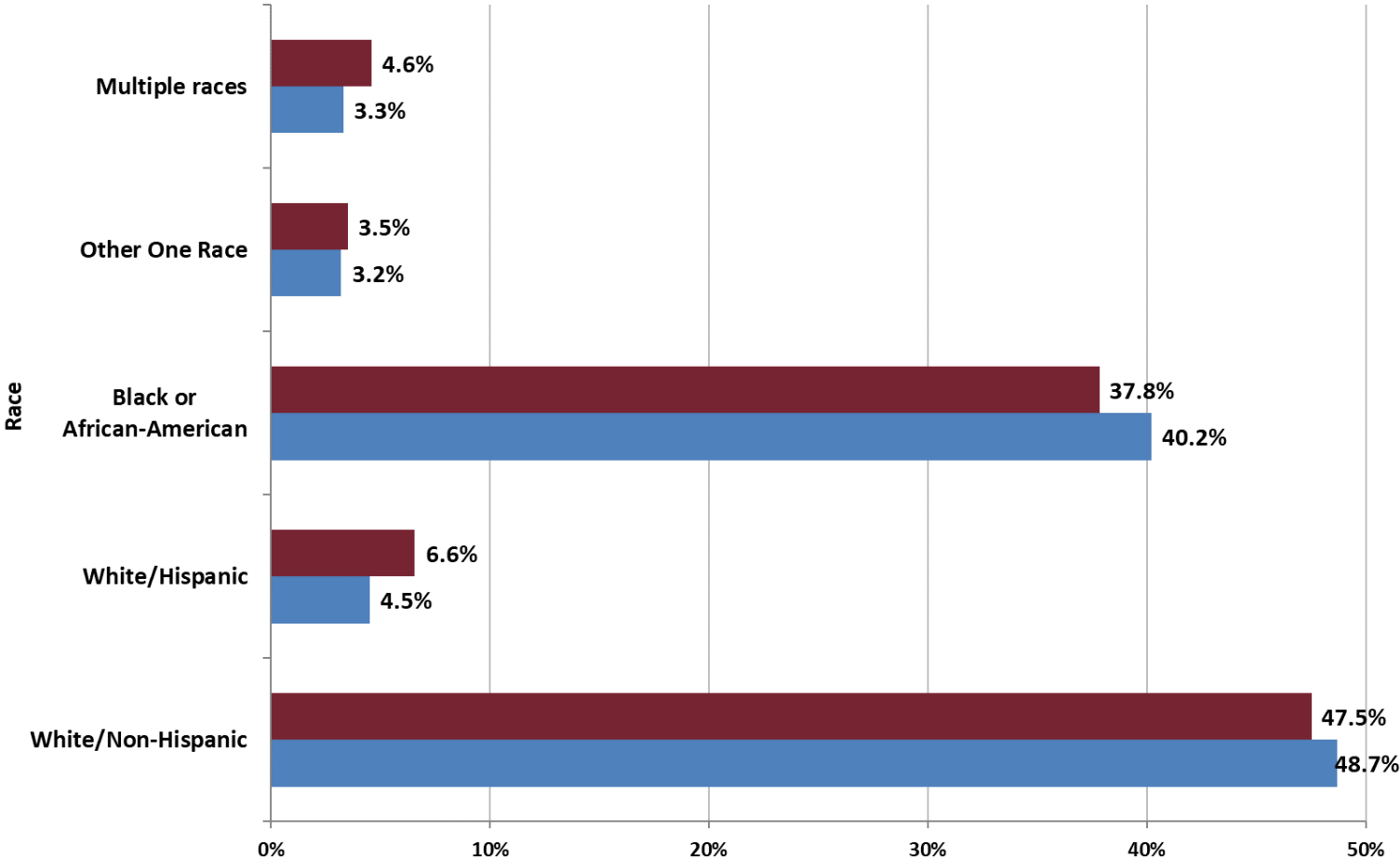
Housing Destinations

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Veteran Demographics: Race/Ethnicity

■ SSVF Veterans (FY 2020) ■ Sheltered Veterans (FY 2018)

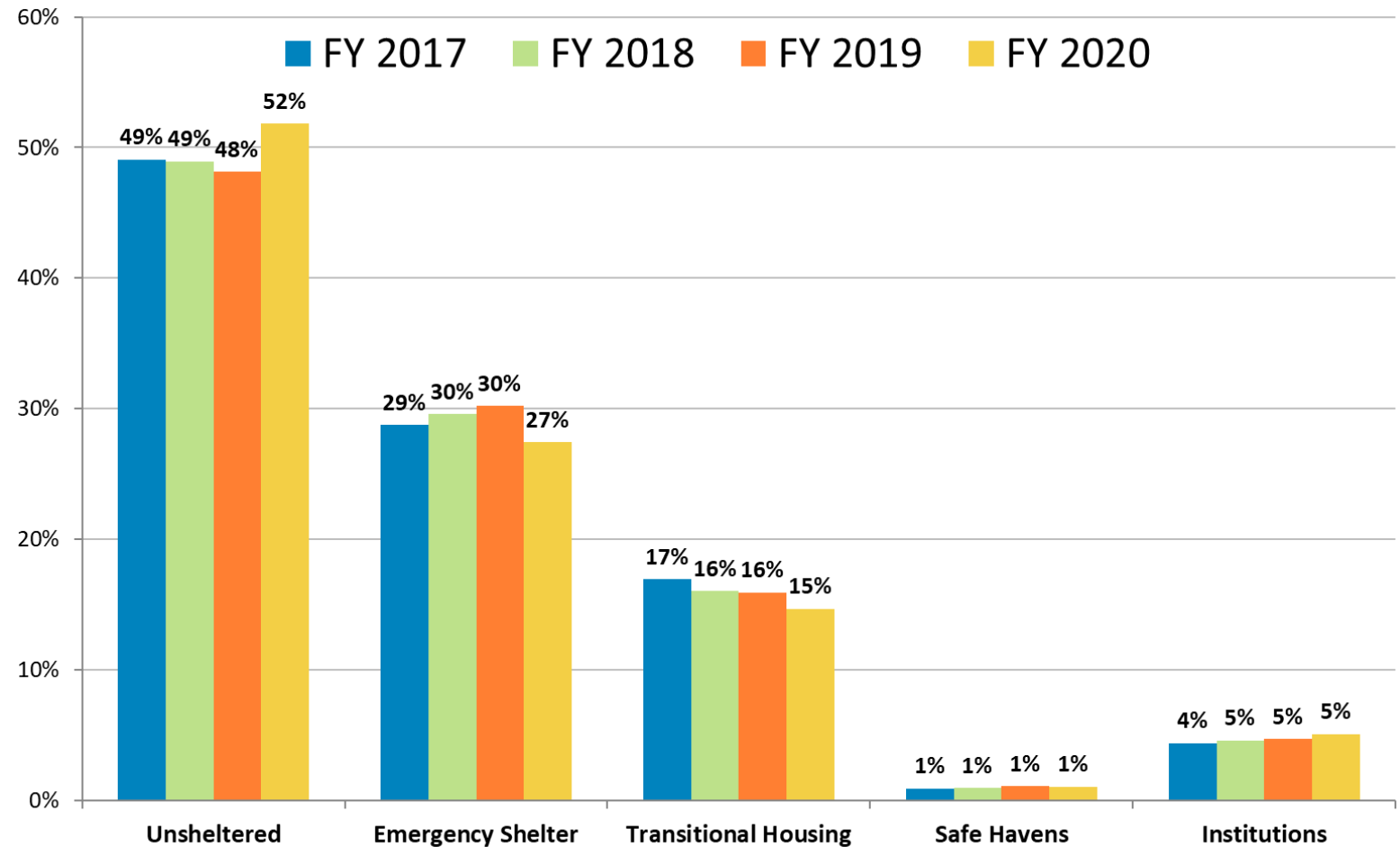


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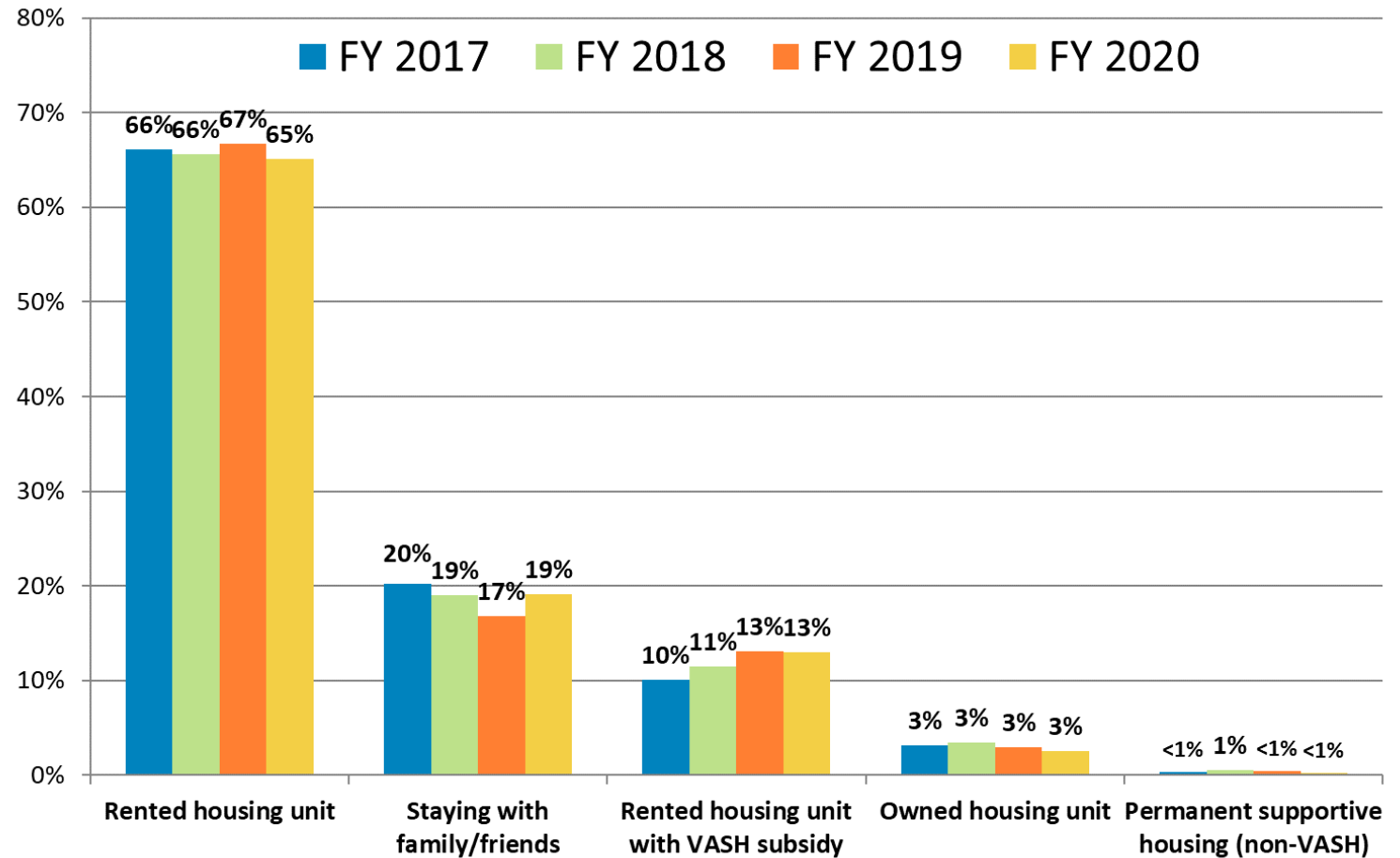
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Prior Living Situations of Homeless RRH Veterans



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Prior Living Situations of Housed HP Veterans



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Reflection on FY 2021

Partnerships
Funding
Outcomes
The Path Forward



Tracy Emmanuel, LCSW

HUD-VASH Regional Coordinator

Collaborations, Engagement, Conversations, and Updates



HUD-VASH

- SSVF and HUD-VASH Collaboration
 - Look Back

- Collaboration and Communication
 - Assessing available resources
 - EHA Placements
 - Progressive Engagement

- Eligibility Update



Bobby Thompson Project Coordinator, Supportive Services for Veteran Families

FY 2021 Funding

FY 2022 Funding

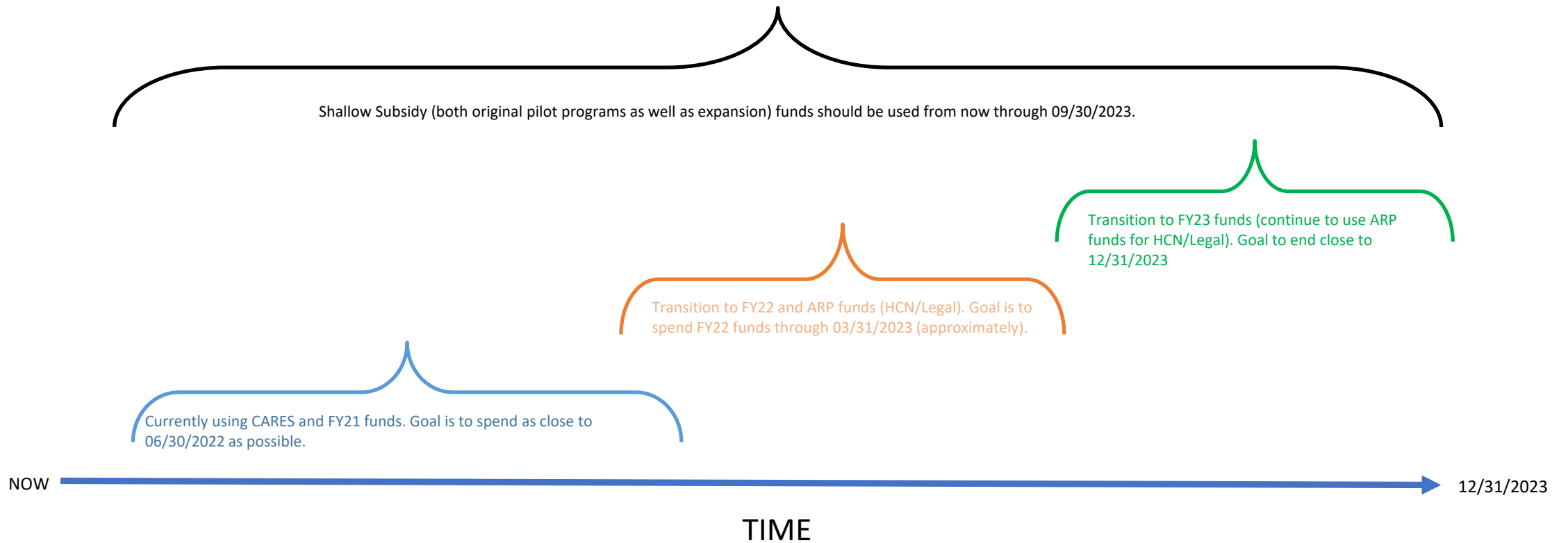


Financial Review

- The current budget cycle encompasses three allocations of funding aiming to be in effect through 06/30/2022:
 - CARES 2.0: \$400,000,000
 - CARES 3.0: \$172,695,311
 - FY21: \$420,000,000
- Then transition to FY22 and ARP funding (supplemental funding for HCN and Legal Services)
 - \$464,500,000
- Concurrently, the Shallow Subsidy expansion funding (with separate budget submissions) aims to be in effect through 09/30/2023.
 - \$350,000,000



Financial Review: Timeline Visual





Financial Review

- Where are we right now??
 - Executing CARES 2.0/3.0/FY21 budgets
 - Just recently submitted revised budget through SmartSimple to include HCN and Legal Services line items (if not already part of the budget) as well as revised estimated spending timelines.
 - Executing Shallow Subsidy expansion budgets
- What happens next (next 2-4 months)?
 - Program office is reviewing spending to look for grants that need adjustment (i.e. having too much money or not enough money) for a targeted end date of 06/30/22 of just the CARES/FY21 budget cycle. SSVF Program Office may reach out to grantees, however, feel free to contact your Regional Coordinator in advance to begin those discussions. Keep in mind, return of funds during this process will not be punitive.
 - In addition, activities are forthcoming for revised FY22 budgets as well as signatures on the addendum for the supplemental funds for HCN and Legal Services (which will be rolled into the FY22 budget, but still have a separate PMS account).



Financial Review

- Then what happens (4-14 months)?
 - As grantees complete current budget cycle, access will be given to FY22 and HCN/Legal Services accounts (while maintaining access to SS expansion accounts)
 - EOY closeout activities will be created (timing of that is still TBD) to account for CARES/FY21 budget actuals.
 - Aim to complete FY22 spending by 03/31/2023.
 - Complete FY22/HCN+Legal funding closeout



Farewell

“How lucky I am to have had something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

-Winnie the Pooh



Cindy Spencer, LCSW
Supervisory Regional Coordinator
Supportive Services for Veteran Families

VHA Homelessness at a Glance
SSVF and the Path Forward



VA Homeless Programs FY 2021

All VA Homeless Programs Served

- 30,816 OEF/OIF/OND Veterans
- 33,579 Female Veterans
- 36,270 Veterans placed in PH
- The average age of Veterans served was 54



Serving Our Female Veterans

The SSVF Grant Program is uniquely positioned to address the unique needs of our Nations Female Veterans. This is due to our ability to provide:

- Alternative Emergency Housing Options when necessary
 - Access to childcare resources
 - Support in accessing VHA Women's Programs
 - Support in accessing healthcare for all members of the Veteran family
 - Specific provisions for family separations due to domestic violence
-
- As noted previously, All Homeless Programs served 33,579 Female Veterans
 - 10,416 were served by SSVF
 - SSVF remains consistent with 13% of all Veteran families served being female head of households



SSVF Numbers and Outcomes

In FY 2021 there were 266 individual SSVF Grants awarded

- This includes annual/renewal awards and pilot shallow subsidy awards

Households Served by SSVF

- 80,049 Veterans Served
- 19,266 Children Served
- 114,175 Persons Served

SSVF had 39,299 Veterans exit to permanent housing, of those

- 23,082 were served as RRH enrollments
- 16,346 were served as HP enrollments



Performance Data, Measures & Goals

Data Quality

- TFA Data Entry
 - Lack of data entries
 - Delays in data entry
 - Outliers (high and low)
- Housing move-in dates
 - Lack of data entries
 - Delays in data entry
- Exits to permanent housing
 - Exits to permanent housing without a move-in date
 - Delays in data entry
- Households served
 - Look at how cost per households have changed
 - Look at how numbers may be changing based on local homelessness numbers



SSVF & The Path Forward

Continue the Mission:

Ending Veteran Homelessness Through Rapid
Rehousing and Homeless Prevention Interventions





Stay the Course

When working with Veteran families:

- Some families will follow a straight path to housing, and others will have a few speed bumps or detours along the way
- Some detours may be temporary
 - Crisis – shelter, healthcare, etc.
- Some detours may be permanent
 - Alternative housing solutions
- Some may move faster than others and some will want to work parallel processes

None of these things are wrong, just different!



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SSVF Supportive Services & Service Delivery

- Engage Veterans for services
- Address immediate safety
 - Rapid Resolution
 - VA or community sheltering options
 - Health/mental health referrals
- Immediate enrollment
 - Rapid re-housing
 - Homeless Prevention
- Provide individualized housing case management
 - Continually assess the needs of the Veteran family
 - Progressively engage into services as needed
- Collaboratively seek safe, affordable housing and housing stability



Continue to Collaborate

- Outreach – Work with your community and VA partners to:
 - Engage new Veteran Families
 - Stay connected to mobile Veterans
- Coordinated Entry Systems
 - Ensure referrals are being accepted from your local system(s)
 - Ensure you understand how to connect Veterans to other services or providers within the system(s)
 - Actively engage in case conferencing and by-name-list meetings
 - Actively engage with local Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiatives
 - Be a voice for the Veterans you serve
 - If the system becomes a barrier, work to make change
- VHA Homeless Program Referrals
 - Develop a clear communication plan for referrals between programs
 - Case Conference co-enrolled Veterans to address their changing needs
 - Put the Veteran first, develop and nurture high functioning relationships with VAMC partners



Thank you!

