

Eradicating Veteran Homelessness

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Homeless Veteran Statistics

- The FY11 Northeast Program Evaluation Center (NEPEC) report indicated that of the Veterans served in VA Homeless Programs nationally, American Indian/Alaskan Veterans made up 1.7% of the homeless Veteran population. By contrast, Native Americans made up 20% of Oklahoma's homeless Veteran population.
- Tulsa's Point in Time Survey (one night count of homeless in January) results:
 - 2010- 133 Veterans (14.8% of Tulsa's homeless population)
 - 2011- 178 Veterans (19% of Tulsa's homeless population)
 - 2012- 173 Veterans (15.8% of Tulsa's homeless population)
- Tulsa's Point in Time Survey % of Native Americans
 - 2010- 109 (12.1% of Tulsa's homeless population)
 - 2011- 92 (9.8% of Tulsa's homeless population)
 - 2012- 139 (12.6% of Tulsa's homeless population)

Homeless Veteran Statistics Cont:

- Oklahoma City's Point in Time Survey results:
 - 2010- 179 Veterans (16.55% of OKC's homeless population)
 - 2011- 129 Veterans (10.56% of OKC's homeless population)
 - 2012- 155 Veterans (11.89% of OKC's homeless population)
- Oklahoma City's Point in Time Survey % of Native Americans
 - 2010- 43 (4% of Tulsa's homeless population)
 - 2011- 110 (9% of OKC's homeless population)
 - 2012- 112 (8.59% of OKC's homeless population)

Homeless Vet Statistics (cont)

- It is believed that rural areas and tribal communities under report their homeless due to cultural factors and lack of resources.
- Nationally, NEPEC reports indicate that the homeless Veteran population consists of:
 - 94% male and 6% female
 - Average age = 51
 - 32% served during the Vietnam era
 - 43% served during the Post Vietnam era
 - 22 % served during the Persian Gulf era
 - 18% of homeless Veterans were exposed to combat:
 - 13% Vietnam
 - 8% Persian Gulf
 - 2.6% Afghanistan (OEF)
 - 6% Iraq (OIF)

Homeless Veterans report:

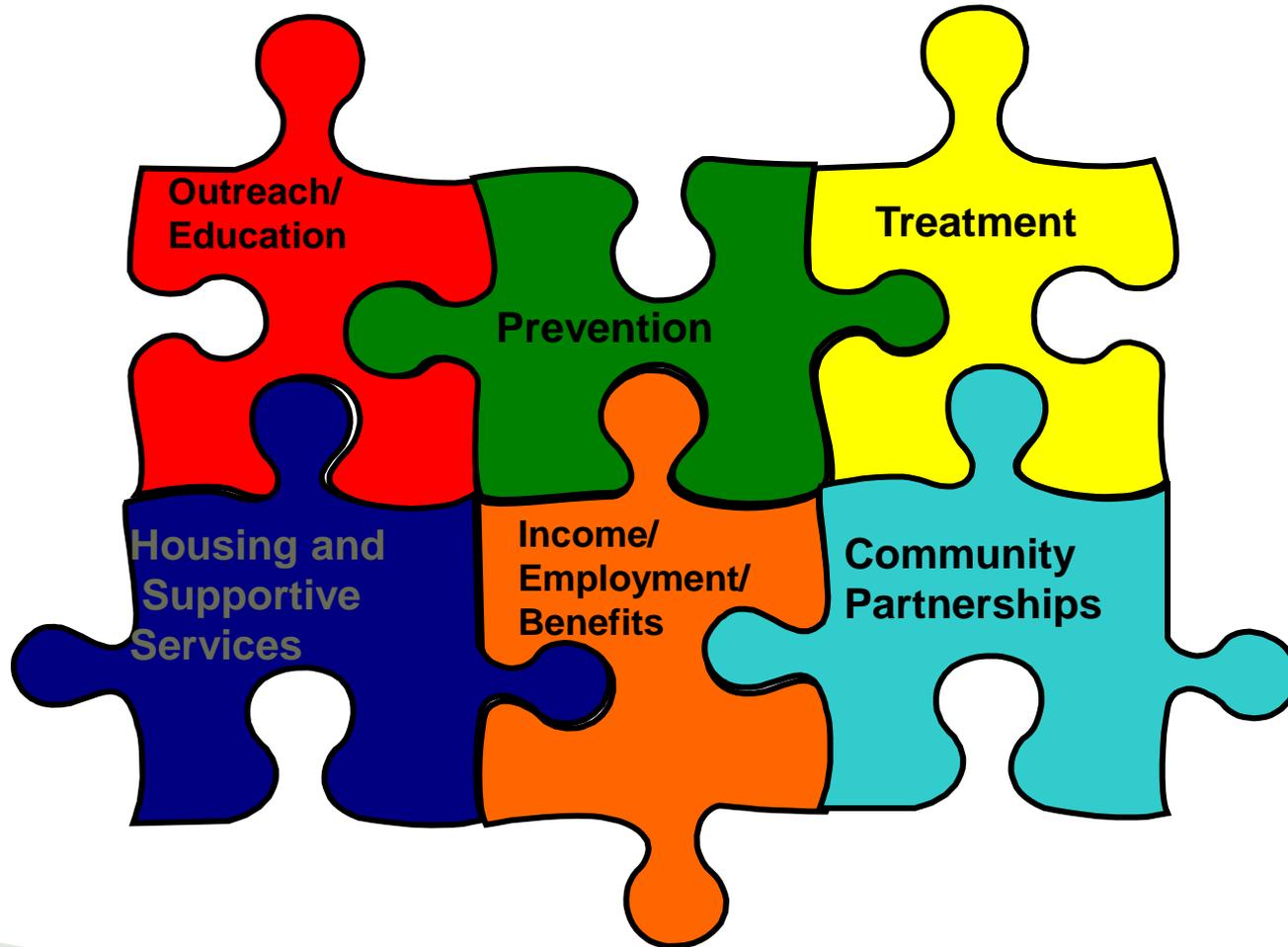
➤ National average:

- 55% History of Alcohol Abuse
- 46% History of Drug Abuse
- 86.5% Serious Psychiatric Diagnosis or Substance Use Disorder
- 63% Health/Physical

➤ Oklahoma average:

- 58% History of Alcohol Abuse
- 42% History of Drug Abuse
- 96.6% Serious Psychiatric Diagnosis or Substance Use Disorder
- 57% Medical Problems

VA National Strategies to End Homelessness Among Veterans



Outreach & Education

- Outreach by VA and community partners
 - Shelters
 - Soup Kitchens
 - Street Outreach
 - Stand Downs
 - Justice Outreach and Re-entry Services

- VA National Homeless Call Center

1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838)

- Homeless Registry (HOMES)– VA equivalent of Homeless Management Information system (HMIS)

Homeless Prevention Services

▶ Programs for Justice-Involved Veterans

- Transitional planning for Veterans discharging from the justice system
- Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Specialists at each VA medical center
- Health Care for Re-entry Veteran (HCRV) Specialists
- Outreach and education for law enforcement
- Linkage to VA services for Veterans in treatment courts, including Veterans Courts
- OKC has established a Diversion program in collaboration with the OKC Co. District Attorneys office and the OKC Co. Public Defenders office

Homeless Prevention Services (cont)

Supportive Services for Low-Income Veteran Families (SSVF)

Grants to provide case management and supportive services for low-income Veteran families

Services include financial assistance to prevent Veterans falling into homelessness.

Community Service Council of Tulsa awarded grant in 2011

Two agencies in OKC applied. Currently awaiting notification of award.

Treatment

- **Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Contract Residential Care**
 - An immediate resource at each VA medical center to realize VA's commitment to "no wrong door"
 - Local resources:
 - 17 beds in Tulsa
 - 9 Beds in OKC. 3 of which are dedicated for Female Veterans.
- **Homeless Substance Use Disorder Specialist**
 - Provides Substance Use Disorder case management, therapy and other indicated services to homeless Veterans and their families in the community.
- **Dental**
 - Currently, dental services are available for veterans residing in GPD, CWT/TR and HCHV residential programs

Housing and Supportive Services

▶ HUD–VA Supported Housing (VASH) Program

- Cooperative effort between HUD and VA providing rental assistance and case management to Veterans and their families
- The Muskogee VA coordinates with Muskogee Housing Authority and Oklahoma Housing Finance Administration (160 vouchers)
- The OKC VA coordinates with OKC Housing Authority (185 Vouchers)

▶ Grant and Per Diem (GPD)

- Transitional housing (up to 24 months) and supportive services for homeless Veterans
- Oklahoma resources:
 - Bryce House in Tulsa (31 beds)
 - Coming soon – Restoring Lives in Tulsa (25 beds)
 - Red Rock Behavioral Health (16)
 - Phoenix House (15)

Income, Employment & Benefits

- ▶ **Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)**
 - Employment program targeted at Veterans with significant health problems (mental health, substance use, physical)
 - Supported Employment serves Veterans diagnosed with serious mental illness
 - Transitional Work Experiences at VA Medical Center and National Cemetery
 - Homeless Veteran Supported Employment serves Veterans participating in Homeless Programs (GPD, HCHV and HUD/VASH)
- ▶ **Expedited Claims for Homeless Veterans**
 - Collaboration with VBA ensures timely processing of homeless Veterans' benefits claims
- ▶ **Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP)**
 - Collaboration with Department of Labor which provides Veterans with gainful employment and necessary wrap-around services.
 - No grant recipients currently in Oklahoma

Community Partnerships

- ▶ ***Critical*** Piece of the Puzzle
- ▶ All inclusive
 - Veteran Service Organizations
 - Faith-based
 - Non profit
 - Federal agencies
 - State agencies
 - Local agencies
 - Private agencies
 - Public agencies

Muskogee Homeless and CWT team

Melanie Goldman–
Homeless/CWT Program
Manager–

Adam Cothran– Homeless
Program Coordinator

Christina Perez-Lanik–Grant and
Per Diem Liaison

Michelle Bachelor– HUD/VASH
Coordinator–

Kara Kovash– HUD/VASH Case
Manager

Michelle Deason– HUD/VASH
Case Manager

Tom Wages– Substance Use
Disorder Specialist

Paula Willcox– Veterans Justice
Outreach Specialist

Dave Berry– CWT/Transitional
Work Experience

John Dodson– Homeless Veteran
Supported Employment

Jacki Doersom– Admin Assist

Craig Wright– Admin Assist

Oklahoma City Homeless and CWT team

- ▶ Lenny Vile, LCSW Homeless Program Coordinator 456-1708
- ▶ Darlene McClure, LCSW- Grant and Per Diem Social Worker 456-5759
- ▶ Pam Stark, LCSW Lead HUD/VASH Social Worker 456-5756
- ▶ Linda Carpenter-Rhodes, LCSW HUD/VASH Social Worker 456-1779
- ▶ David Hampton, LCSW HUD/VASH Social Worker 456-3195
- ▶ Felicia Cummings, LCSW HUD/VASH Social Worker 456-5593
- ▶ Darren Braswell, MSW HUD/VASH Social Worker 456-3507
- ▶ Anthony Kirksey, LCSW Health Care for Reentry Veteran Social Worker 456-1762
- ▶ Joseph Dudley, LCSW Veterans Justice Outreach Social Worker 456-1761
- Rudy Cachero, VRS CWT program Manager 456-1885
- Donald Broyles, VRS CWT/TWE program 456-1881
- Reva Sweetin, VRS CWT/HVSE program 456-5930
- Glen Kierstead, VRS CWT/SE 456-3586
- Terry Martin Program Support Assistant 456-1880
- Bettina Johnson Budget Technician 456-1883

The words homeless and Veteran should never
be used together.

Make the Call.



[1-877-424-3838](tel:1-877-424-3838) (1-877-4AID-VET)

Thank you