

# Have you checked *all* their vitals?

## Did you know?

- More than half of homeless Veterans contacted by VA have either a drug or alcohol dependence, and a majority have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness.
- A growing number of Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan reported symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or major depression.
- Research suggests that the risk of homelessness for Veterans may be related to several factors, including mental health, combat exposure, wartime trauma and PTSD.

**Change a life today.  
Get a Veteran to call  
for help.**

## Connect your Veteran patients with the support they've earned.

Without knowing it, every day in your profession you may encounter a Veteran who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. They served our country and now we must work together to serve them.

VA has comprehensive programs to prevent and eliminate Veteran homelessness. Help us by identifying homeless or at risk Veterans in your daily work, and encourage them to call:

### National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

TOLL-FREE  
**1-877-424-3838**  
(1-877-4AID-VET)

Live 24/7 Chat on VA's Homeless Veterans website,  
[www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless)



If you are treating a homeless person who might be a Veteran, stop, ask and help.

## Make the Call!

Call VA's toll-free hotline:

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

or visit [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless) for help with housing, jobs, health care, education and other Veteran benefits.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Created 09/11



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The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to eliminating homelessness among Veterans. This challenge is being addressed through a range of services and benefits.



## Homeless Veterans Coordinators

Each VA medical center has a clinically trained Homeless Veterans Coordinator who serves as the point of contact for homeless and at risk Veterans. This person can assist eligible individuals in setting up physical and mental health evaluations or in accessing housing and supportive services with local community agencies under contract with VA.

## Medical and Dental Care

VA provides quality medical and dental care to homeless and at risk Veteran patients. In surveys, dental care was consistently ranked as one of the top three unmet needs, along with long-term permanent housing and childcare. After receiving dental care, Veterans report significant improvement in perceived oral health, general health and overall self-esteem.

## Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs

VA offers state-of-the-art, high-quality residential rehabilitation and treatment services for Veterans with multiple and severe medical conditions, mental illness, addiction, or psychosocial deficits. These programs

target and serve economically-disadvantaged Veterans, including Veterans who are homeless and at risk of becoming homeless.

## Housing Support

Partnering with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, VA helps Veterans find safe and affordable housing. To foster lasting success in transitioning homeless Veterans into homes, VA also works with community-based agencies to provide case management and supportive services.

## Job Training

VA offers a variety of job training programs to help homeless Veterans and Veterans at risk of homelessness gain skills that are valued in today's job market. Through VA's compensated work therapy program, homeless Veterans can receive temporary residence in community-based, supervised group homes with paying jobs.

## Education Benefits

Through the GI Bill, VA provides Veterans the opportunity to resume their education or technical training after discharge from the military and provides those who qualify with a monthly living allowance while they pursue their studies.

**As a Health Care or Emergency Services Provider, It's Your Turn to Take Action.**  
SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT VA BENEFITS AND SERVICES.

If the homeless person you are treating is a Veteran, VA can help. Encourage them to call VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans. VA needs your help to ensure no Veteran goes without a home.

Learn more about VA's services and outreach programs to eliminate Veteran homelessness today. Call our National Call Center for Homeless Veterans toll-free at **1-877-424-3838 (1-877-4AID-VET)**, chat live with supportive and knowledgeable VA staff at [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless), or explore the website on your own.