



Department of
Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

Fact Sheet

Project CHALENG - Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups

Background

Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) for Veterans was launched in 1994 to bring together providers, advocates, Veterans and other concerned citizens in order to identify the needs of homeless Veterans and to work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action.

Project CHALENG has two components: an annual CHALENG survey, in which participants rate the needs of homeless Veterans in their local communities; and CHALENG meetings, which encourage the development of partnerships between VA and community service providers.

The legislation guiding this initiative is contained in Public Laws 102-405, 103-446 and 105-114. The annual report is no longer required to be submitted to Congress.

Over the years CHALENG has helped build thousands of relationships between VA and community agencies so they can better serve homeless Veterans locally. Data from CHALENG on Veterans' unmet needs has assisted VA in the development of major new Veterans' services including the Homeless Veteran Dental Program (HVDP), expansion of the Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, the Veterans Justice Programs and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program.

Community organizations also use the CHALENG survey data in their grant applications for VA, other Federal, local government, and community foundation dollars, which maximizes community participation in serving homeless Veterans.

Consistent with 2013 data and with the previous 10 years of CHALENG data, *met* needs primarily reflect services that VHA can provide directly, and *unmet* needs are primarily services that require community partnership to meet. This consistency underscores the importance of collaboration between federal, state, local, and community partners to meet the needs of homeless Veterans to successfully end homelessness.

For male Veterans, the top 10 unmet needs were the same in fiscal years (FY) 2013 and 2014. This was also true for female Veterans. Similarly, the top ten met needs were the same for male Veterans in 2013 and 2014. This was also true for female Veterans.

For more information, see <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/chaleng.asp>, or contact Jessica Blue-Howells, MSW, Program Manager, CHALENG Jessica.Blue-Howells@va.gov.

CHALENG Participant Survey 2014 Results Summary

A. CHALENG Participant Survey: Participation

Total number of participants: 11,684

- **Homeless Veteran participants:** 7,126
 - homeless Veteran male participants: 6,388
 - homeless Veteran female participants: 738

- **Non-homeless Veteran participants:** 4,558
 - VA Staff: 2,012
 - Other Federal staff: 108
 - State/local government agency, or community based homeless provider: 1,726
 - Interested member of the community: 712

B. CHALENG Homeless Veteran Participant Demographics

	Male Veterans	Female Veterans
Gender	89.6%	10.4%

Age	All Veterans	Male Veterans	Female Veterans
Less than 25	1.1%	1.0%	1.8%
25-34	9.2%	8.0%	19.4%
35-44	11.5%	10.4%	20.7%
45-60	60.1%	61.1%	50.9%
61+	18.2%	19.4%	7.1%

Ethnicity	All Veterans	Male Veterans	Female Veterans
Non-Hispanic/ Non-Latino	77.3%	76.3%	85.1%
Hispanic/Latino	7.6%	7.6%	7.5%
Don't Know	15.1%	16.0%	7.5%

Race	All Veterans	Male Veterans	Female Veterans
American Indian or Alaskan Native	4.2%	4.2%	3.8%
Asian	0.6%	0.5%	1.0%
Black or African American	40.0%	39.3%	45.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
White	52.5%	53.1%	47.2%
Don't Know	1.9%	2.0%	1.0%

Where Veteran was living at time of Survey	All Veterans	Male Veterans	Female Veterans
Literally Homeless (on streets, in shelter, car)	28.7%	28.4%	30.9%
Emergency Housing	5.4%	5.5%	4.7%
Transitional housing (Grant and Per Diem, VA Domiciliary, or community contract housing)	27.3%	28.8%	14.4%
Permanent subsidized housing (including HUD-VASH and Section 8 Housing)	19.9%	19.3%	24.3%
Unsubsidized housing (private apartment/ house/ condominium)	18.8%	18.0%	25.7%

C. Ranking of Male Veteran Need (1=unmet ... 4 met)

Top Ten Highest Unmet Needs, Male Veterans

Rank	Need	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.04
2	Child Care	2.20
3	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.25
4	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.28
5	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.31
6	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.33

7	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.33
8	Financial Guardianship	2.35
9	Discharge Upgrade	2.37
10	Financial Assistance to Prevent Eviction or Foreclosure	2.39

Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Male Veterans

Rank	Need	Mean Score
1	Medical Services	3.48
2	TB Testing and Treatment	3.41
3	Medication Management	3.28
4	Case Management	3.27
5	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.26
6	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.25
7	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.25
8	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.23
9	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc.)	3.22
10	Food	3.20

D. Ranking of Female Veteran Need (1=unmet ... 4 met)

Top Ten Highest Unmet Needs, Female Veterans

Rank	Need	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.02
2	Child Care	2.31
3	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.47
4	Credit Counseling	2.48
5	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.49
6	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.51
7	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.52
8	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.52
9	Dental Care	2.53
10	Financial Guardianship	2.54

Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Female Veterans

Rank	Need	Mean Score
1	Medical Services	3.44
2	TB Testing and Treatment	3.39
3	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.30
4	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.28
5	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.27
6	Case Management	3.26
7	Food	3.22
8	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.20
9	Medication Management	3.14
10	Health and Wellness (an Overall Approach to Health and Well Being that Emphasizes Preventing Illness and Prolonging Life through Diet, Exercise, and Self Care)	3.12