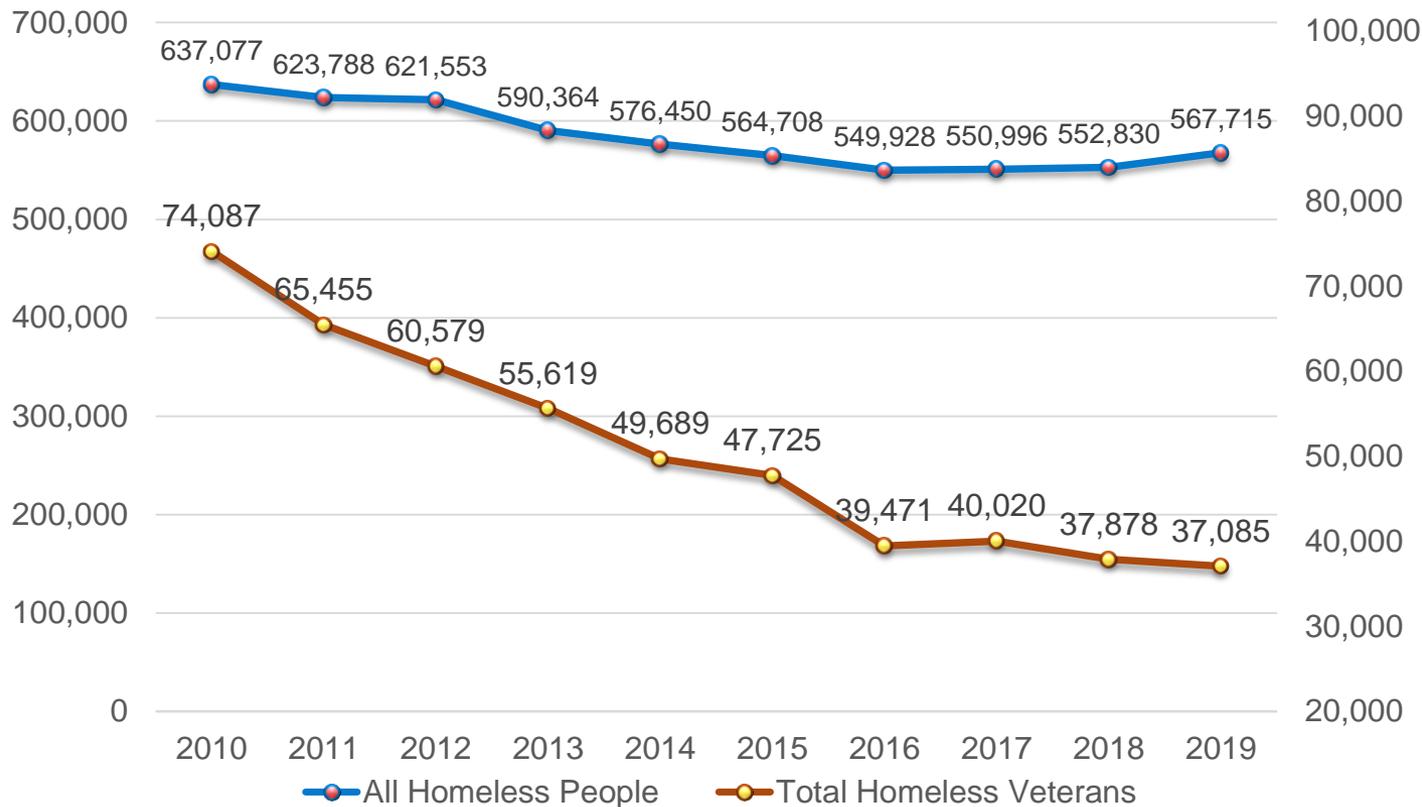


National Trends and the Impact of COVID-19

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REDUCTION IN VETERAN HOMELESSNESS SINCE 2010

Homeless Veterans Compared to All Homeless People
Annual Homeless Assessment Report, Point-in-Time, 2010 - 2019



**10.9%
Decrease in
All Homeless
People
Since 2010**



**49.9%
Decrease in
Homeless Veterans
Since 2010**



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, 2010 - 2019



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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VHA COORDINATED STRATEGY

1. Removing programmatic and policy barriers that impact VA-funded programs to immediately respond to the pandemic.
2. Rapidly increasing emergency housing and eviction prevention efforts by dramatically expanding services and funding through authorities granted by the CARES Act.
3. Guiding operations at VAMCs and the community by developing and executing a comprehensive technical assistance plan for community providers and VA medical center homeless program staff.
4. Developing and executing a plan for universal testing of Veterans in VA-funded congregate living environments.
5. Expanding our ability to provide virtual care to homeless Veterans by securing resources to provide needed technologies.
6. Ensuring there is a coordinated federal response by developing this plan with both internal VA offices and external federal partners.



CARES ACT

Section 20012. Funding Limits for Supportive Services for Very Low-Income Veteran Families in Permanent Housing (SSVF):

- Waives authorization caps for SSVF program during a public health emergency

Section 20011. Availability of Telehealth for Case Managers and Homeless Veterans:

- Requires VA to ensure that telehealth capabilities are available during a public health emergency for case managers and Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program.

Section 20013. Modifications to comprehensive service programs for homeless Veterans during a public health emergency:

- Lifts the cap on per-diem payments in response to the national emergency.



THE WAY FORWARD

- Continue to evaluate additional policies and flexibilities needed to support homeless Veterans during the crisis.
- Execute the testing protocol for Veterans in VA funded congregate living environments, specifically Grant and Per Diem and HCHV Contract Residential Services programs.
- Increase staffing levels throughout the nation, especially for the HUD-VASH program, to ensure that VA has the workforce needed to support homeless Veterans during the crisis.
- Move Veterans from emergency housing to permanent housing so that they do not return to the streets.
- Evaluate policy and program changes developed since March to identify flexibilities that should be sustained going forward.



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