Counting Rural Veterans: An Update on HAC Research and Data

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HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL
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Veterans in Rural America

Veterans by Location, 2010
Veterans in Rural America

U.S. Veteran Population by County, 2011

Legend
Percent Veterans
- 0.0 - 2.4
- 2.5 - 5.9
- 6.0 - 10.0
- 10.1 - 15.0
- 15.1 - 20.0

Source: VHA, Equations of 2007-2011 American Community Survey

Veterans in Rural America

Rural Veterans by Period of Service, 2010

Legend
- World War II
- Korea
- No Conflict, before Vietnam
- Vietnam
- No Conflict, after Vietnam
- 1st Gulf War
- Iraq/Afghanistan
Veterans in Rural America

Veterans by Gender and Age, 2010

Veterans in Rural America

Unemployed Veterans by Age and Location, 2010
Veterans in Rural America

70 percent of veterans in rural America are over the age of 65.

Veteran Seniors in Rural America

- 70 percent of veterans in rural America are over the age of 65
Housing Accessibility for Veterans

- Critical for senior veterans and veterans with service-related disabilities
- Home modifications help veterans remain in their homes
- Federal grants to assist with modifications

Home Modification Loans and Grants

- VA Special Home Adaptation Grants (SHA)
- VA Specially Adaptive Housing Grants (SAH)
- Temporary Residence Assistance
- VA Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA)
- USDA Section 504: Very Low-Income Repairs Loans and Grants
Veteran Homelessness in Rural America

Rural Homelessness

- Not evenly distributed
- Experience both literal homelessness and precarious housing situations
- Less access to service providers
Houselessness vs. Homelessness

- Individuals who meet the definition of “homeless” but do not identify themselves as such

HOUSELESS CAN REFER TO:
- Substandard housing
- Double up with friends or family

HEARTH Act

Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act

- Expands previous definitions of homelessness to include those at imminent risk of homelessness
- Allows rural communities to apply for funding under simplified criteria scored against other rural communities
- Provides increased flexibility
Rural Veteran Homelessness

13% of homeless Veterans live in rural CoCs

The HUD-VASH Program in Rural America

- Has helped lower the homeless veteran population by 32.6 percent since 2009
- Barriers exist in rural America
  - Distances to VA facilities and other service providers
  - Difficulty enumerating homeless population
Beyond HUD-VASH

- VA Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

Veteran’s Data Center

*Keep an eye out for HAC’s VETERAN DATA CENTER*

- a special module in HAC’s award-winning *Rural Data Portal* that presents data exclusively on veterans and their demographics.
- targeted toward rural communities
- information is presented for the nation, states, and counties for rural, suburban and urban areas as well
HAC’s Rural Data Portal can be accessed at:
http://www.ruraldataportal.org/

Thank you,

And please look on your disc for HAC’s report *From Service to Shelter*, made possible with funding from The Home Depot Foundation