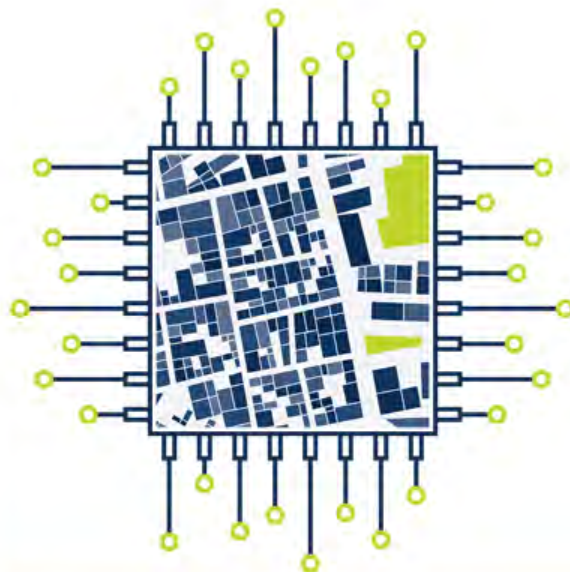


Changing Demographics of Homeless Populations

Implications for Program Design



Solving Problems &
Impacting Communities
With Data



Session Focus

- Using data to inform Program Design change
 - Learn how to draw inferences with trend and population data
 - Include population disparity checks
- Learn about what types of population and trend data are available in two federal reports and a study on aged homelessness
- Examine new tools that you can use to identify demographic trends, disparities, and data meaningfulness



Overview

1. **Comparisons:** Homeless Veteran demographic data from the AHAR & SSVF Annual Report
2. **National homelessness trends**
 - AHAR and the SSVF Annual Report
 - Culhane's Report on Aged Homelessness
3. **Implications for Program Design**
 - Using SSVF RRH as an example
4. **Tools:** Identify demographic trends, disparities, and develop context

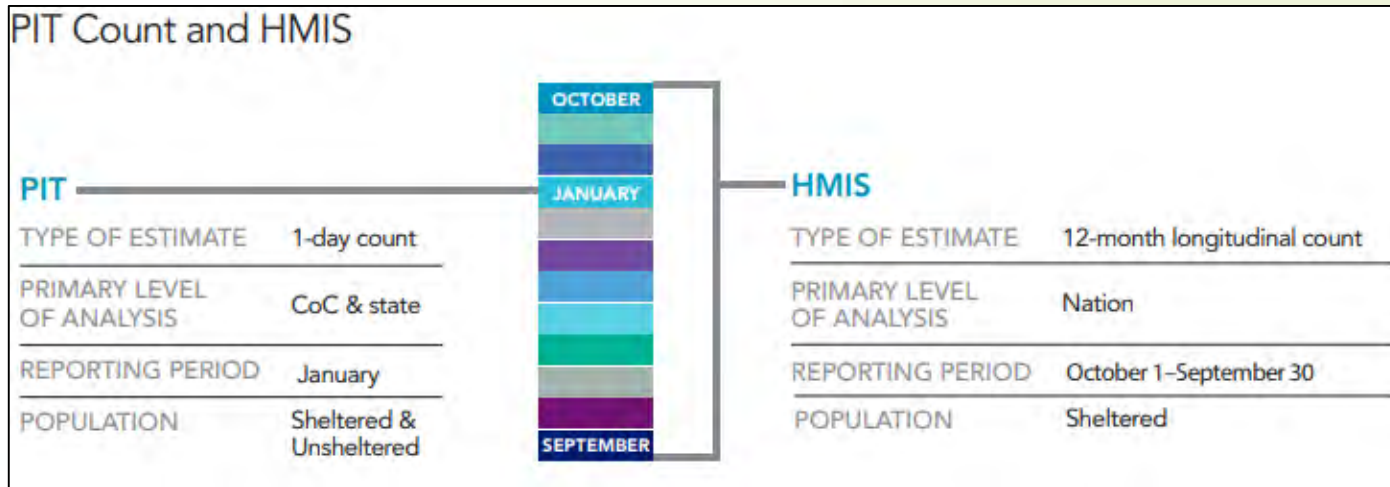


National homelessness trends: AHAR & the SSVF Annual Report



Homelessness Demographics: AHAR and SSVF Annual Report

- AHAR Reports
 - Part 1: PIT Count Data
 - Part 2: HMIS Data (ES, TH project types)
- SSVF Annual Report
 - 12 months of HMIS Data
 - RRH & HP project types





Homelessness Demographics: AHAR and SSVF Annual Report

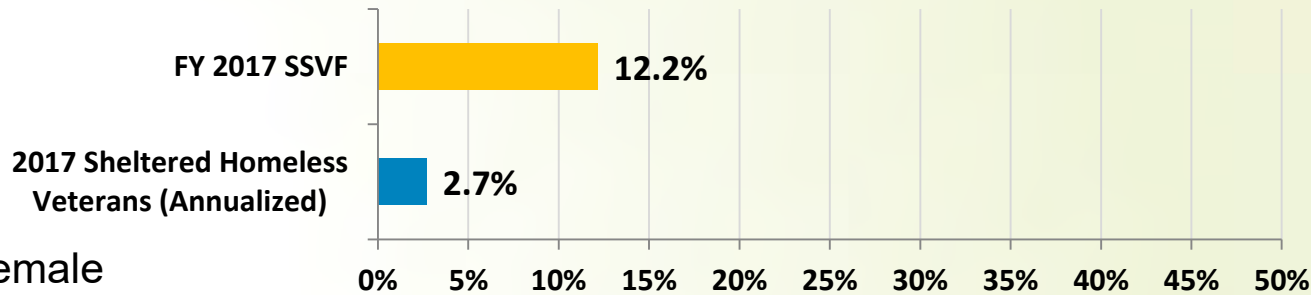
- Reports Comparison: Sheltered Veterans (2017 AHAR Part 2) to RRH Veterans (FY 2017 SSVF Annual Report)
- Demographic Comparisons:
 - Household Type
 - Gender
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Age
 - Disability



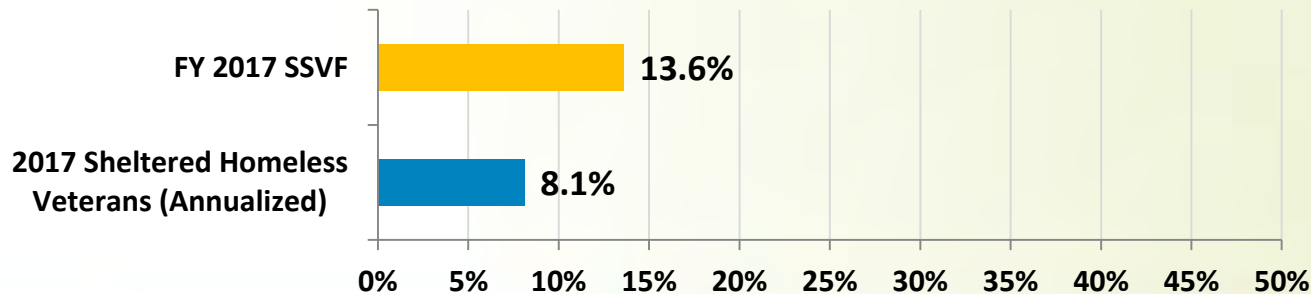


Homelessness Demographics: AHAR and SSVF Annual Report (cont.)

- Household Type: Households w/children



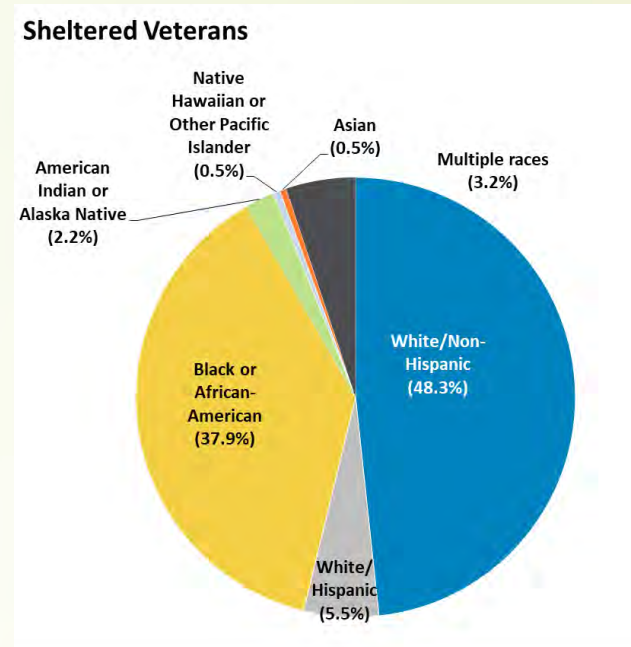
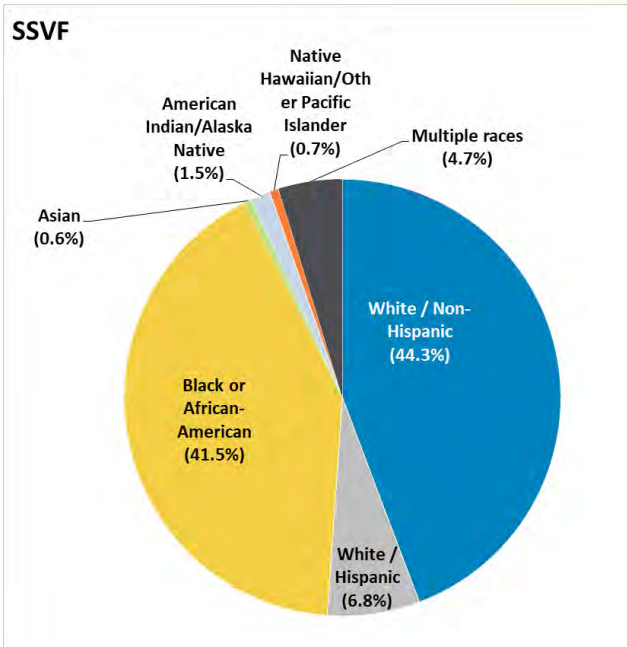
- Gender: Female





Homelessness Demographics: AHAR and SSVF Annual Report (cont.)

- Race/Ethnicity*



*For FY 2017, SSVF race/ethnicity data was only available for the combination of RRH and HP Veterans.

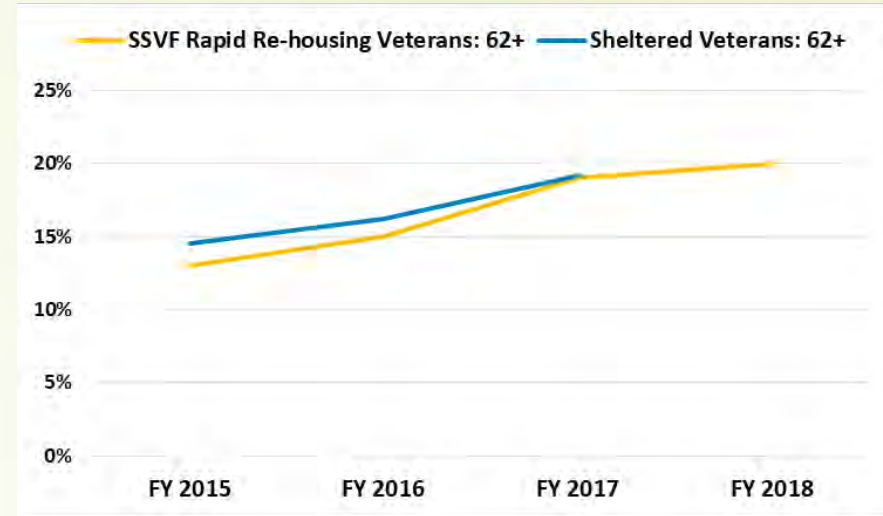
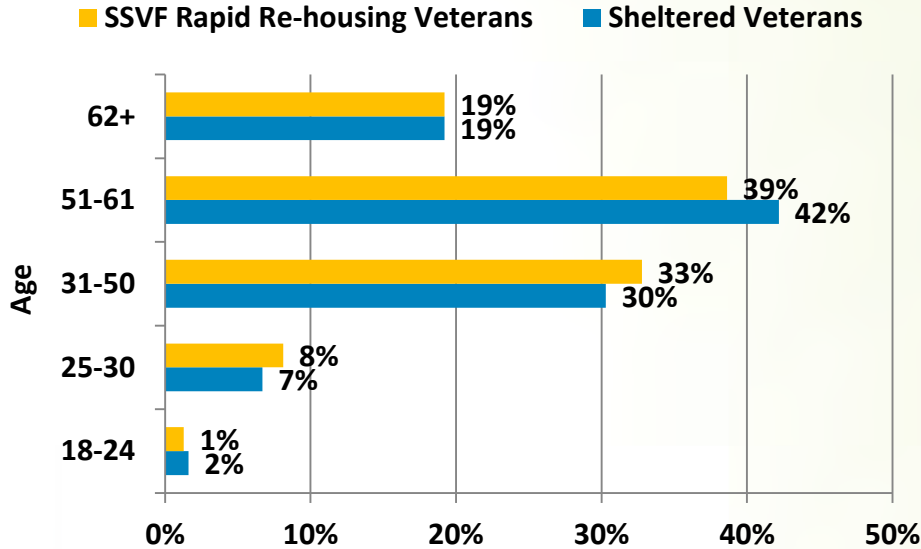




Homelessness Demographics: AHAR and SSVF Annual Report (cont.)

- Age Comparison

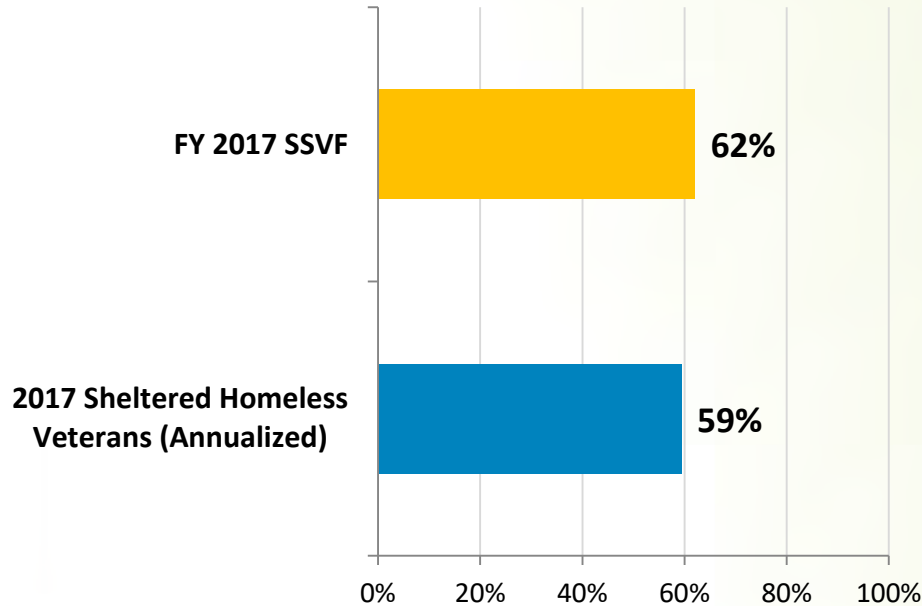
- Age Trend



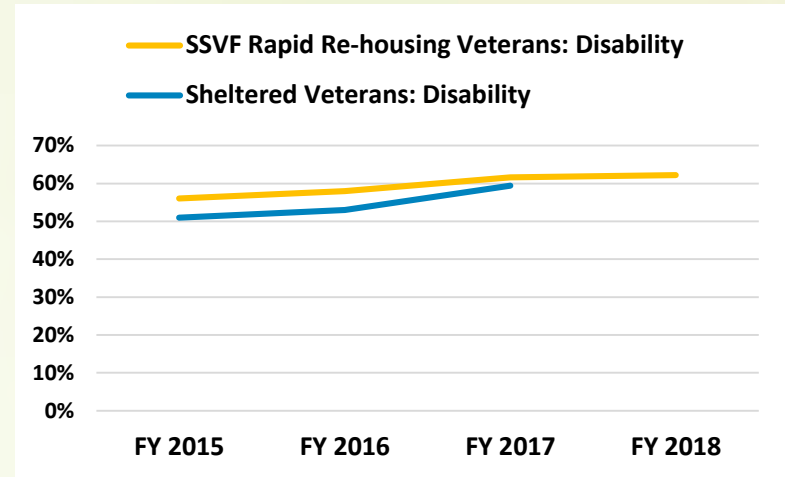


Homelessness Demographics: AHAR and SSVF Annual Report (cont.)

- Disability Comparison



- Disability Trend





Homelessness Demographics: AHAR and SSVF Annual Report (cont.)

- Summary of 2017 Demographic Comparisons (proportional)
 - HH type: Proportionally, SSVF RRH served 4.5 times more Veterans in HHs w/children than shelters
 - Gender: Proportionally, SSVF RRH served 68% more Female Veterans than shelters
 - Race/Ethnicity: SSVF and shelters served similar percentages of racial/ethnic groups; SSVF served a slightly higher percentage of racial/ethnic minorities
 - Age
 - SSVF RRH and shelters served Veterans of very similar ages
 - The 62+ group has increased each year
 - Disability Status
 - SSVF RRH and shelters served Veterans of similar disability levels; slightly more for SSVF RRH in FY 2016 & 2017
 - The disability status group has increased each year





Homelessness Demographics: Culhane's research on aging homeless populations



The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness

- Multi-site study including Boston, NYC, and Los Angeles County showing how the elderly homeless population is expected to triple over the next decade. Looks at:
 - Surge in related health care and shelter costs
 - Housing interventions that could help



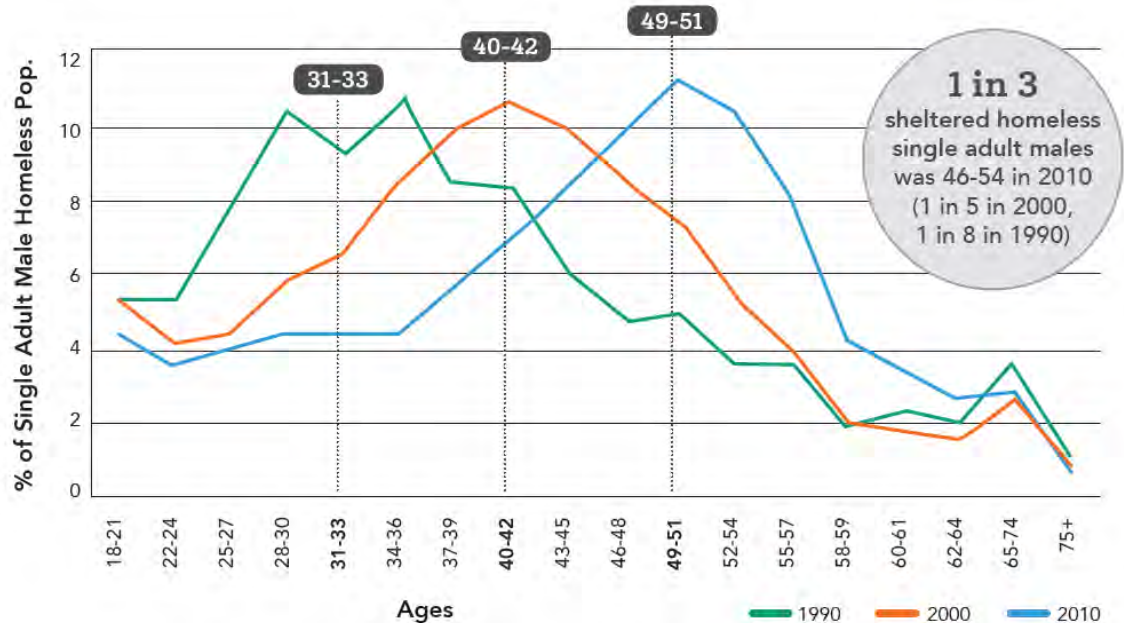


The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness (cont.)

“Contemporary homelessness is in large part a birth cohort phenomenon, disproportionately affecting people born in the latter half of the post-War baby boom (1955-1965).”

Figure 1: Age Distribution of Adult Male Shelter Users in the United States

Source: Culhane et al. (2013)/ U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Special Tabulation

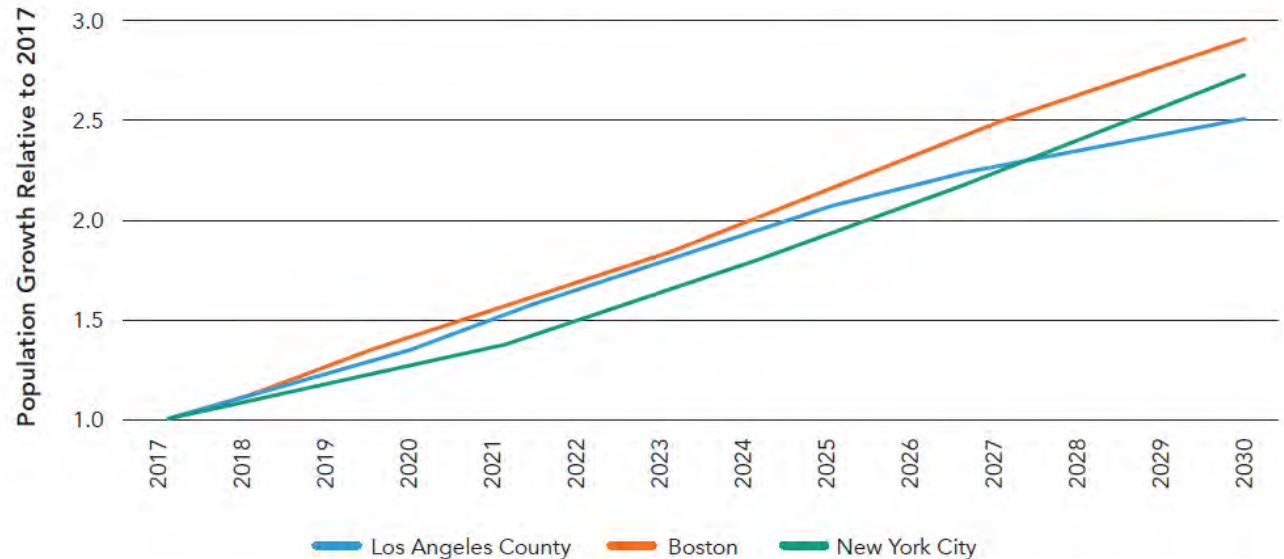




The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness (cont.)

“The aged homeless population is growing rapidly and will continue to grow for the next decade.”

Figure 2: Forecasted Relative Change in the 65 and Older Homeless Population Compared to 2017





The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness (cont.)

- “As aged homelessness grows, so too will service use and costs, including for hospital and nursing home stays.”
- “Subgroups among the aged homeless adult population can be segmented to reflect varying degrees of morbidity and intensity of shelter use.” The four subgroups found in the study included older adults experiencing homelessness who had:
 1. Moderate shelter use and moderate hospital & nursing home use (85%)
 2. High shelter use and moderate hospital & nursing home use (11%)
 3. Very high shelter use and moderate hospital & nursing home use (1%)
 4. Low shelter use and high hospital & nursing home use (3%)





Study Citations

- Dennis P Culhane, Dan Treglia, Thomas Byrne, Stephen Metraux, et al. "**The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness: Could Housing Solutions Be Funded from Avoidance of Excess Shelter, Hospital and Nursing Home Costs?**" (2019). Available at: http://works.bepress.com/dennis_culhane/223/
- Meghan Henry, Korrin Bishop, Tanya de Sousa, Azim Shivji, and Rian Watt. "**The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress - Part 2: Estimates of Homelessness in the United States**" (2018). Available at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5769/2017-ahar-part-2-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us/>
- Mark Silverbush, John Kuhn, and Linda Southcott. "**SSVF Annual Report for FY 2017**" (2018). Available at: https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/docs/SSVF_FY2017_AnnualReport_508.pdf



Implications for Program Design

Implications for Program Design

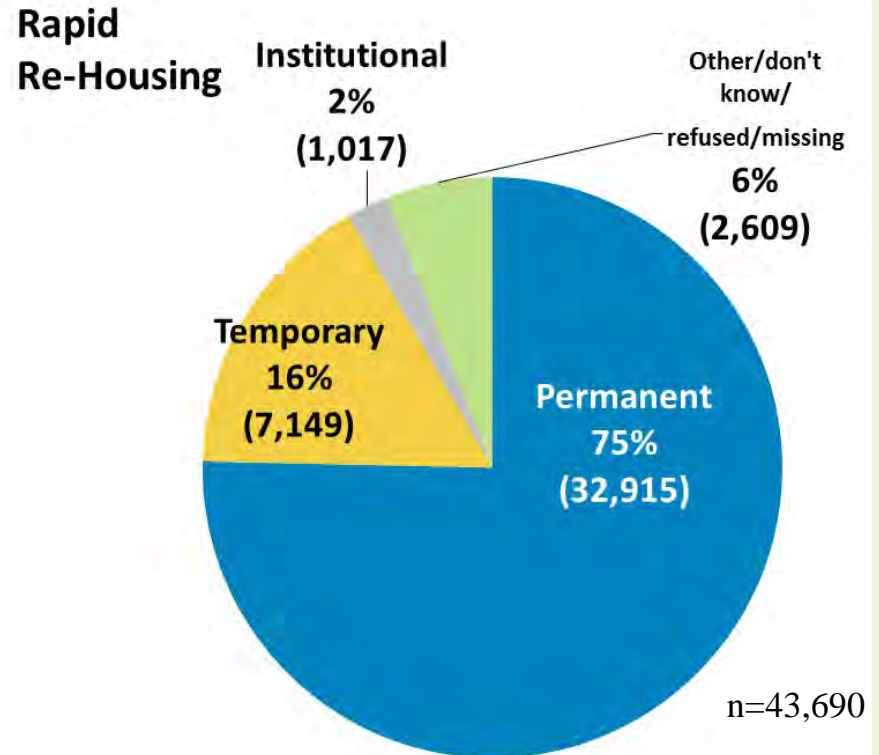
- Use demographic groups as a filter for analysis
 - Focus on possible disparities and serving those with the most need
- Performance indicators to filter and compare
 - Outcomes
 - Permanent housing placements (Destination)
 - Length of time
 - Returns
 - Average Cost per household





Performance indicators to filter and compare

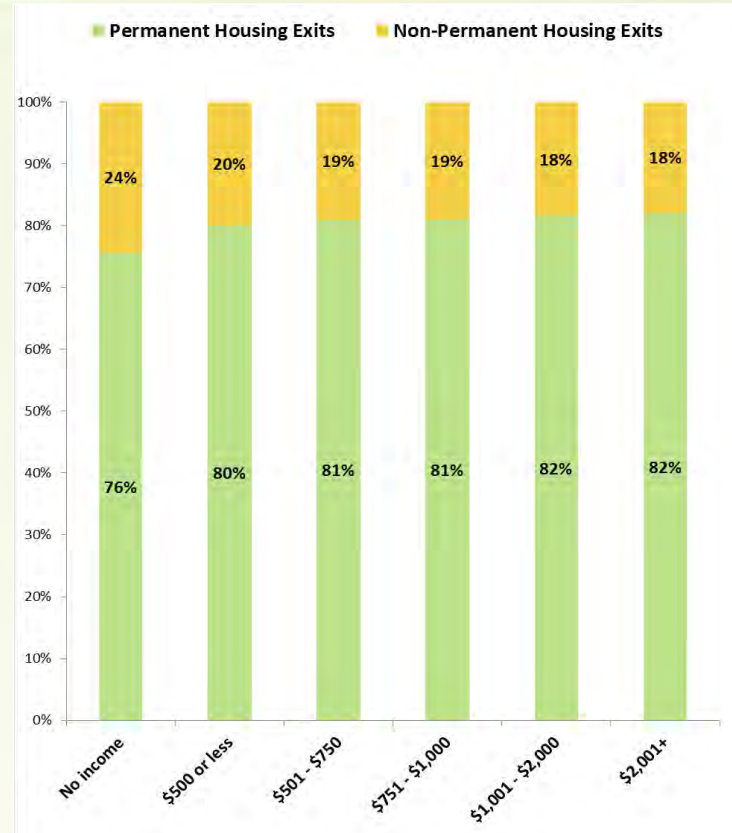
- SSVF RRH: Permanent housing placements (Destination)





Performance indicators to filter and compare

- SSVF RRH: Permanent housing placements (Destination) – drill down by income at entry



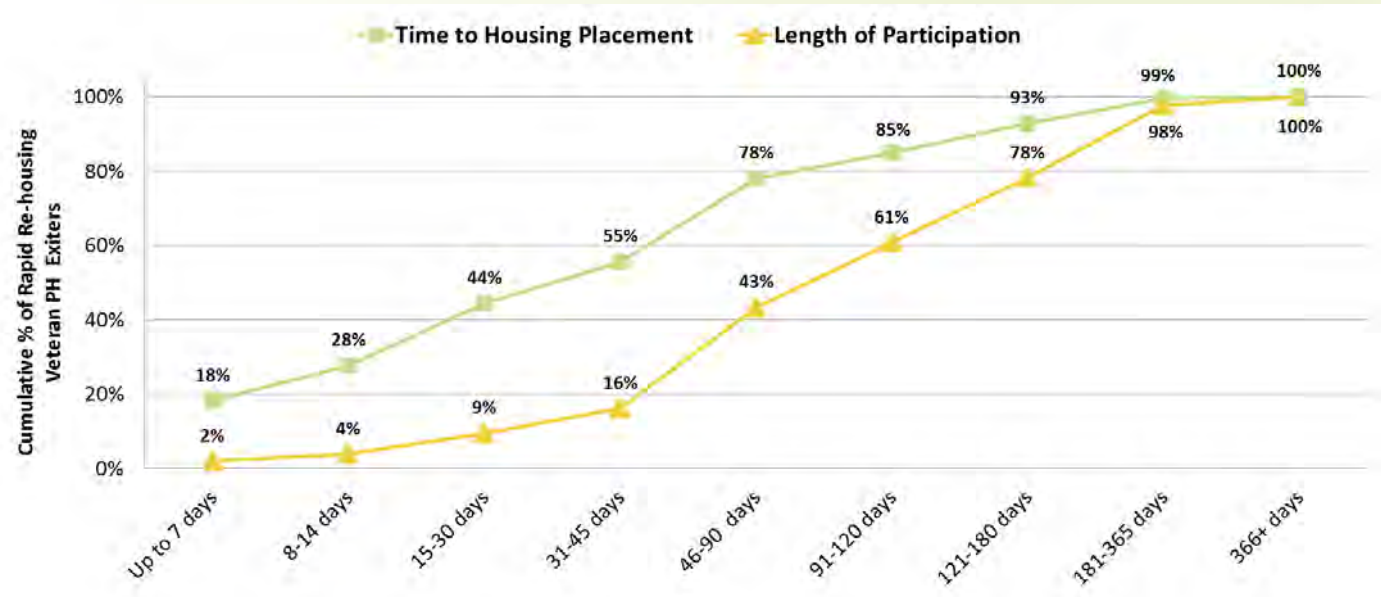
n=48,926





Performance indicators to filter and compare

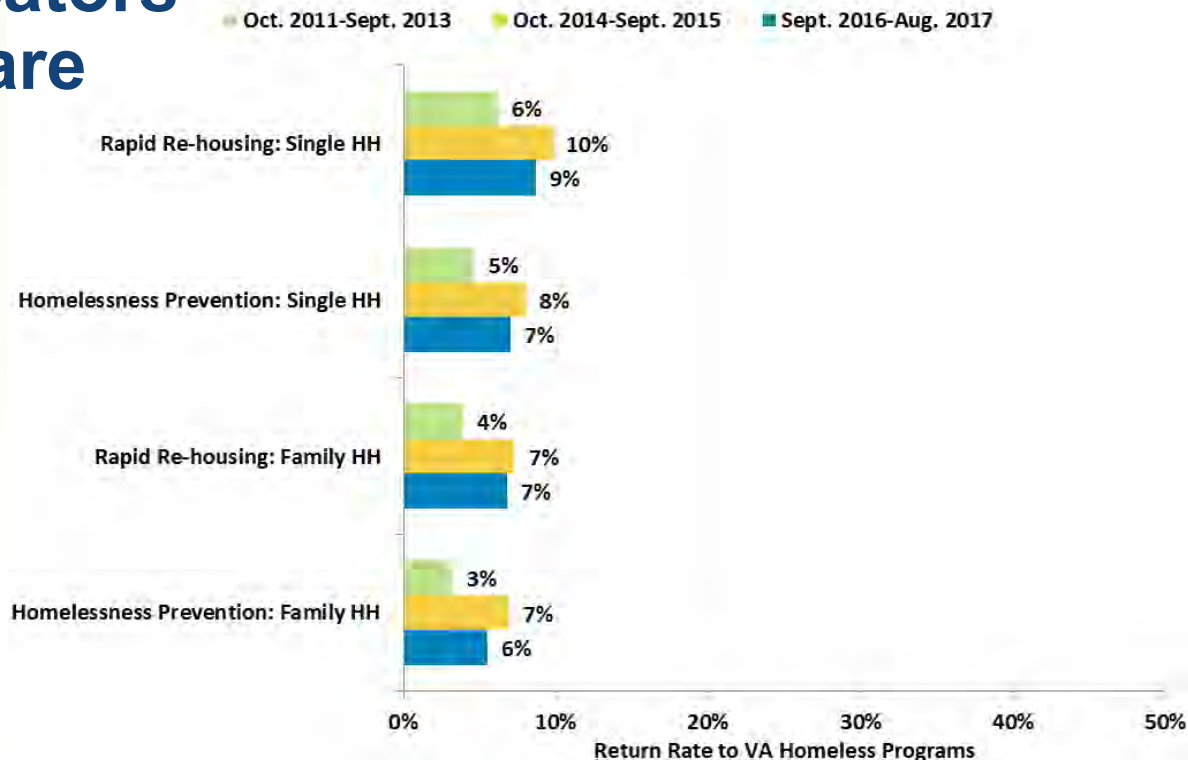
- SSVF RRH (FY 2015-2017): Length of time





Performance indicators to filter and compare

- SSVF: Returns to homelessness, 6 month view



n= October 2011-September 2012: 32,033 Veterans; October 2014-September 2015: 53,388 Veterans; September 2016-August 2017: 38,370

SOURCES: SSVF-HMIS Repository data; HOMES.





SSVF Program Design Responses

- Improve the target of limited resources (such as TFA, VASH)
- Encourage planning and coordination with CoCs/Coordinated Entry Systems/VA Programs
- Combat challenges with innovation
 - Rapid resolution/Problem solving
 - Returning Home
 - Shallow subsidy





SSVF Program Design Responses

- Improve the target of limited resources (such as TFA, VASH)
- Encourage planning and coordination with CoCs/Coordinated Entry Systems/VA Programs
- Combat challenges with innovation
 - Rapid resolution/Problem solving
 - Returning Home
 - Shallow subsidy



SSVF Program Design Responses

- Use data to identify new partners for training and coordination, such as:
 - SOAR Initiative (SSI/SSDI enrollment)
 - Shared housing
 - Landlord partnership development and maintenance
 - Credit counseling and repair assistance
 - Employment services program integration and referrals
 - Services for older Veterans through the VA and in the community





Racial disparities within homeless populations and tools to analyze & address local bias



Racial disparities within homeless populations

- Previous discussion of AHAR and SSVF data demonstrated racial disparities within homeless populations at a national level
- CoCs can pair their Census data with PIT Count population data to gauge this at a more local level





Metrics to Analyze Racial Disparities in the Homeless Services System

1. Access to services, shelter and housing
2. Length of time people spend homeless and in the service system
3. Exit rates to permanent housing destinations
4. Returns to homelessness





Racial disparities within homeless populations (cont.)

There are several tools available to help CoCs analyze racial disparities within their local homeless services system, including:

- **CoC Analysis Tool: Race and Ethnicity** (HUD)
 - Available on the HUD Exchange website
 - Select CoC; display charts and graphs related to local racial and ethnic breakdowns with comparisons to other geographies
- **Stella Performance** (HUD) - located within HDX 2.0
 - CoCs can use LSA data to take a deeper dive in their racial and ethnic analysis for different household types and population groups by:
 1. The length of time people spend homeless and in the service system,
 2. Successfully exiting homelessness to permanent housing, and
 3. The degree to which households that are housed then fall back into homelessness.





Racial disparities within homeless populations (cont.)

At the local level, communities are using additional strategies to address racial disparities:

- Philadelphia has used GIS to better understand the issue
- Syracuse participated in a workshop with Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) to help think through the issue
- Los Angeles created an Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness and published a study on Black People Experiencing Homelessness
- Others are being more conscious of ensuring the inclusion of people with lived experience in planning efforts, as well as reviewing diversity among project management staff





Tool Locations

- **CoC Analysis Tool: Race and Ethnicity**
 - On the HUD Exchange: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5787/coc-analysis-tool-race-and-ethnicity/>
 - Includes community discussion questions in the tool explainer
- **Stella Performance (Stella P)**
 - On the HUD Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) 2.0: <https://hudhdx2.info>



Mark Silverbush | Associate
Abt Associates
Mark_Silverbush@abtassoc.com

Mary Schwartz | Associate
Abt Associates
Mary_Schwartz@abtassoc.com