

The National Center on Homelessness among Veterans promotes knowledge and solutions to address and prevent homelessness among Veterans. The Center conducts research, assesses program effectiveness, disseminates evidence-based practices, and serves as a resource hub for all research and training activities related to Veteran homelessness.

# TRANSGENDER VETERANS AND HOMELESSNESS

### WHAT DO WE KNOW?

TRANSGENDER VETERANS FACE A HIGHER RISK OF HOMELESSNESS THAN NON-TRANSGENDER VETERANS.

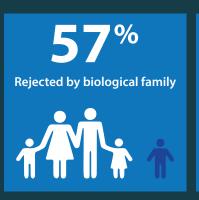
An estimated one out of three transgender individuals have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives.<sup>1</sup>





Homelessness among Veterans receiving care from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is three times higher for transgender Veterans than for non-transgender Veterans.<sup>2</sup>

### ADVERSE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS INCREASE RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.











Transgender individuals, including Veterans, face high rates of stigma, family rejection, violence, and unemployment.<sup>3</sup>

# **WHAT IS VA DOING?**

VHA MONITORS HOUSING INSTABILITY AMONG VETERANS AND OFFERS SUPPORTIVE PROGRAMS TO THOSE IN NEED.

Among Veterans experiencing homelessness, the rate of transgender Veterans using VHA programs is 37% greater than for non-transgender Veterans.

VHA delivers health care and provides housing services that are consistent with Veterans' self-identified gender.

More than **9,000** transgender Veterans have received services from VHA and the number is increasing. Every VHA facility has a local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) Veteran Care Coordinator. More than **75** interdisciplinary teams of providers have participated in intensive case-based teleconferencing training, and **517** providers received e-consultation services to meet the unique health care needs of transgender Veterans. In 2019, **58** VA medical centers were designated as LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leaders and **26** as Top Performers on the 2019 Human Rights Campaign's Healthcare Equality Index (HEI).

### VHA MEETS TRANSGENDER VETERANS' NEED FOR HEALTH CARE, HOMELESS PROGRAMS.

Transgender Veterans are more likely than their non-transgender peers to use specific VHA Homeless Programs, including Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Services (HUD-VASH).4

# VHA PROVIDES EVIDENCE-BASED, COMPASSIONATE, AND RESPECTFUL SERVICES TO ALL VETERANS.

# **LEARN MORE**

Access the following resources to learn how VHA ensures all services are delivered to transgender Veterans experiencing homelessness in a welcoming, respectful environment.



www.va.gov/homeless







VHA Patient Care Services

LGBT Training

www.patientcare.va.gov/LGBT/LGBT\_ Veteran\_Training.asp



VHA Directive 1341, Providing Health Care for Transgender and Intersex Veterans

www.albuquerque.va.gov/docs/ ProvidingHealthCareforTransgenderand IntersexVeterans.pdf

- 1. Mottet, Justin Tanis, Jack Harrison, Jody L. Herman, and Mara Keisling. Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. Washington: National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011.
- 2 Carter, S. P., Montgomery, A. E., Henderson, E. R., Ketterer, B., Dichter, M., Gordon, A. J., ... & Blosnich, J. R. (2019). Housing Instability Characteristics Among Transgender Veterans Cared for in the Veterans Health Administration, 2013–2016. American journal of public health, 109(10), 1413-1418
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  3 James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality
- Montgomery, A. E., Shipherd, J. C., Kauth, M. R., Harris, K. W., & Blosnich, J. R. (In press). Use of Veterans Health Administration Homeless Programs among transgender and non-transgender Veterans experiencing self-reported housing instability. Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved.