Veteran Homelessness in the District of Columbia: The 2015 Point in Time Enumeration

In the District of Columbia, the commitment to ending veteran homelessness has been propelled by increased federal and local funding for permanent housing solutions and supportive services for veterans and their families who are experiencing homelessness. In the District, veteran status, as it relates to homelessness, is tracked year round by providers who offer street outreach services, meals, Emergency Shelter, Transitional, and Permanent Housing to homeless persons. Veteran status is also included in the annual Point in Time (PIT), the annual census and survey of persons experiencing homelessness in the District of Columbia which was conducted on January 28, 2015, by the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP) in accordance with U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) data standards.

Veteran Homelessness in the District

- **408 veterans** experiencing homelessness were counted during PIT 2015 including:

  - o **42 veterans who were unsheltered,** i.e. living on the street or places not meant for habitation;

  - o **238 veterans** in Emergency Shelters;

  - o **9 veterans** in Emergency Shelter for families;

  - o **113 veterans** in Transitional Housing;

  - o **6 veterans** in Transitional Housing for families.

	2015	2014	%Change
Total Number of Persons Counted at PIT	7,298	7,748	-5.8%
Total Number of Veterans Counted at PIT	408	408	0%

While the number of homeless veterans counted in the District at PIT did not change from 2014 to 2015, homelessness among veterans has **decreased by 20 percent** in the District since 2011. Between the 2014 and 2015 PIT counts, **448 homeless veterans housed** were housed by District homeless service providers, primarily through HUD and U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) funded initiatives. However, despite the number of veterans housed, data analysis done by TCP has shown that many veterans newly experiencing homelessness enter the system almost every day. To wit, **60 percent** of the 408 veterans counted in PIT 2015 were not among the 408 veterans counted in 2014.

Housing for veterans continues to be a priority for the District; since January, **307 now formerly homeless veterans** have been housed, including **155 who were chronically homeless.**

Housing Resources for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Veterans experiencing homelessness or who at risk of homelessness have access to veteran-specific services including: Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), and other supportive services or grant per diem programs. The District's coordinated entry for veterans experiencing homelessness is part of the larger commitment to the national initiative, Zero: 2016, to end chronic and veteran homelessness by the year 2016. A listing of providers who offer these services can be found at www.coordinatedentry.com/help.

2015 District of Columbia PIT Quick Facts: Veterans

- Of all homeless adults surveyed during PIT, **10 percent** reported having served in the United States Armed Forces.

- **No veteran families with or without children were unsheltered on the night of the PIT count.**

- **48 percent of veterans** residing in transitional housing reported that they were receiving VA services.

- **20 percent of veterans** (heads of households) reported being employed.

- **Nine percent of veterans surveyed were women.**

- **Eight percent** of adult homeless persons reported a chronic health problem, and **13 percent** reported a physical disability.

- **Six percent of veteran** reported having a history of domestic violence or stated experience of domestic violence as a direct cause of homelessness.

- **95 veteran adults** met the federal definition of "chronic homelessness", meaning that they were living with disabilities and had lengthy or repeated espisdoes of homelessness.