



The National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans

*Promoting data-driven, evidence-based solutions to end Veteran homelessness*

# Research Perspectives on Veterans and Homelessness



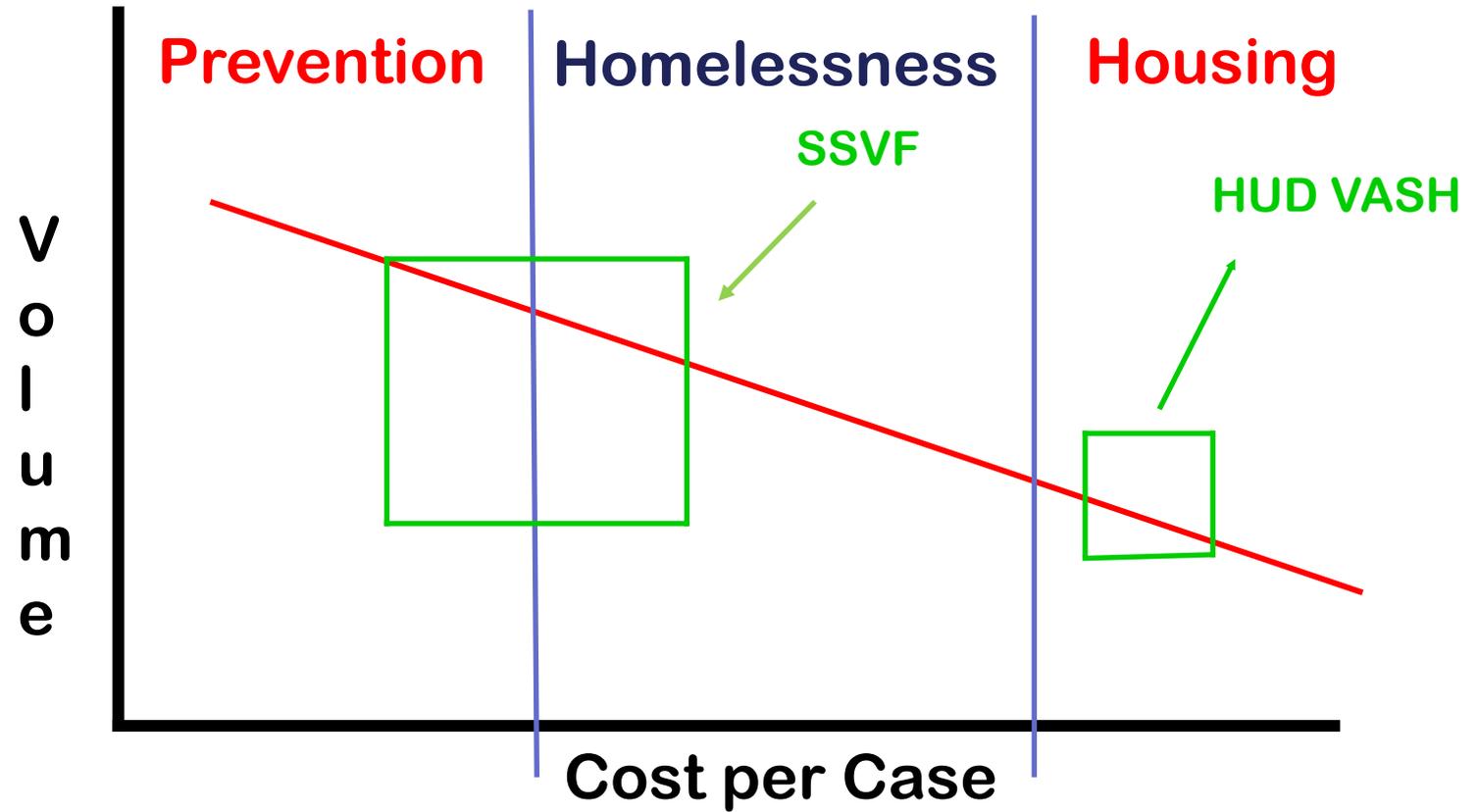
Stephen Metraux, PhD



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## Model for Addressing Housing Emergencies





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## • PREVENTION

Screen

Refer

Engage



Returning Soldiers



Self



VA



Community



•Level 1:  
"Soft touch"

•Level 2:  
Emergency  
assistance

•Level 3:  
•Rapid Rehousing





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## Risk Factor - Poverty

- Veterans have lower rates of poverty (than non-vets)
- Veterans in poverty have higher rates of homelessness (than non-vets)



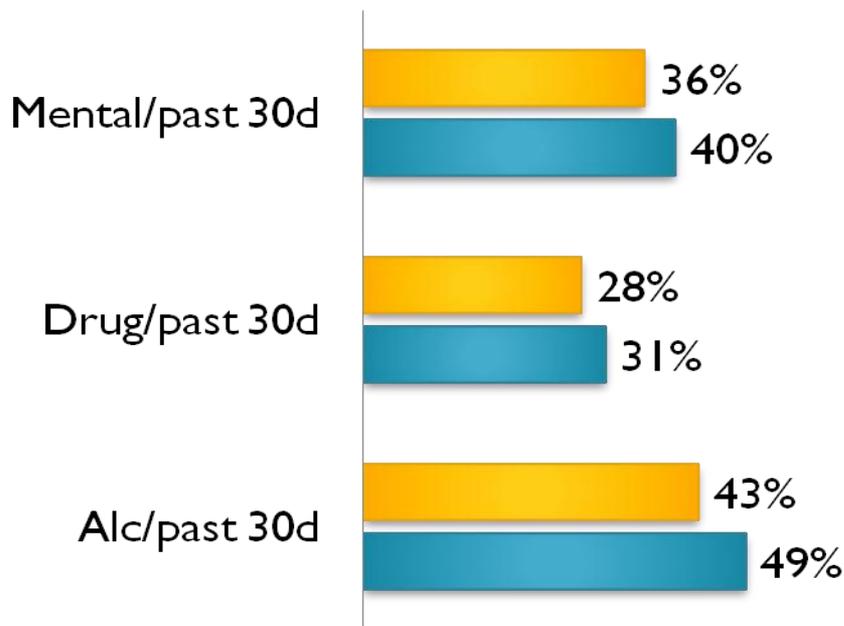
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## Risk Factor - Behavioral Health

### Prevalence in US National Survey, 1996<sup>2</sup>

■ non-Veteran ■ Veteran



Source: National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients, 2000 (data from 1996) as reported by O'Toole, Kilbourne, Saxon & Kertesz (2010)



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# Risk Factor – Military Service

- Veterans are 50% (men) and two times (women) more likely than non-veterans to experience homelessness
- Veterans from the post-Vietnam era (men) and from most recent era (women) are at highest risk for homelessness.
- Limited evidence for associations between PTSD or combat, and subsequent homelessness



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## Risk Factor – OEF/OIF Era

- Overall, 5-year homeless incidence rate of 3.7%
- OEF/OIF deployment increased risk by one-third
- PTSD diagnosis increased risk by 13%
- 44% in lowest pay grade accounted for 72% of homeless
- 18% diagnosed with some type of behavioral health disorder comprised 44% of homeless



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## Prevention – Research Agenda

- Better Understanding of Risk Factors
  - Added information from “upstream” data sources (military and pre-military)
- Screening Instruments
  - Qualitative accounts from veterans
- Role of Structural Factors



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## • HOUSING STABILIZATION

Engage

Assess

House



VA Homeless Services



Grant & Per Diem Program



Community



Veteran Justice Outreach

• Assess Level of Need



• Rapid Rehousing (SSVF)



• Transition in Place (new)



• Contract Housing



• HUD-VASH

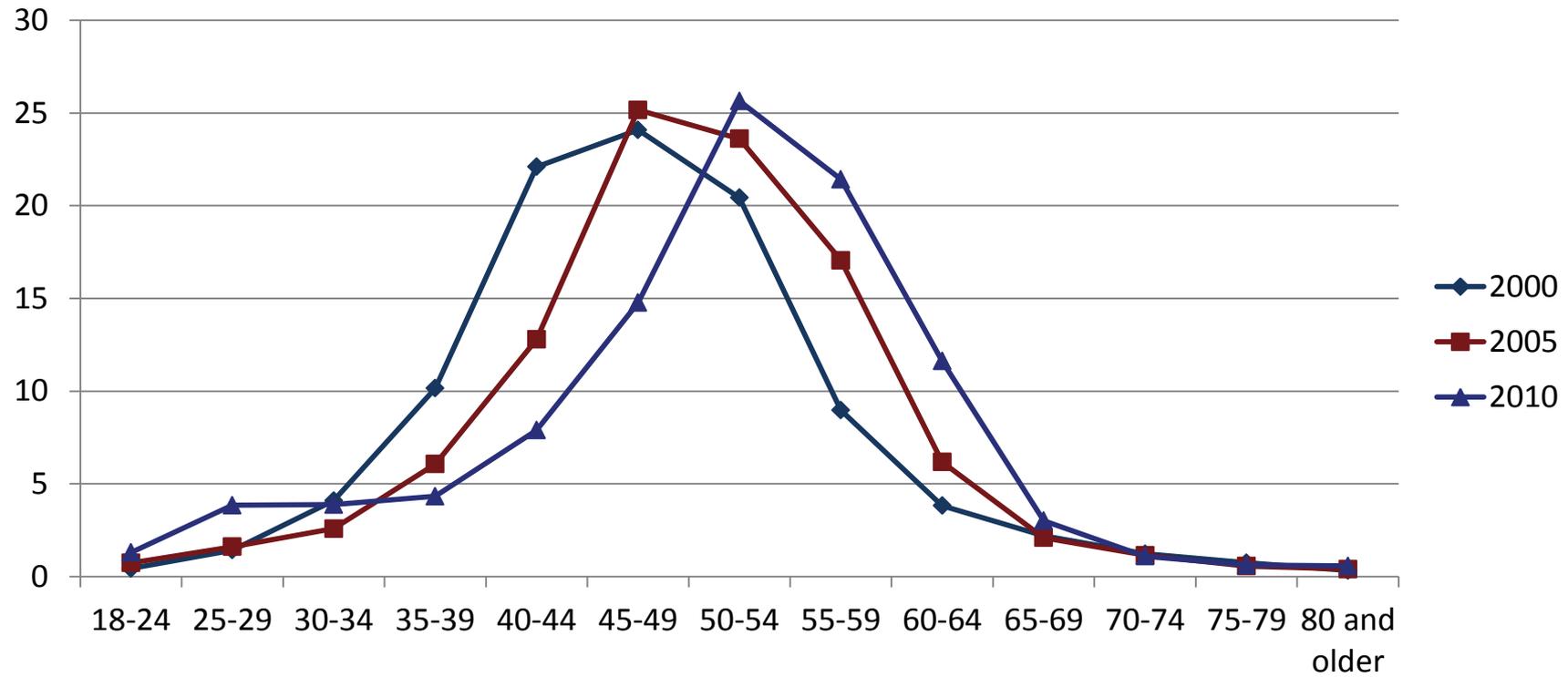




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## Homeless Veterans by Age Group (%)



Source: Unduplicated count of all Veterans who completed Form X (an intake form for those receiving services from VA's Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program) in each year from 2000-2010

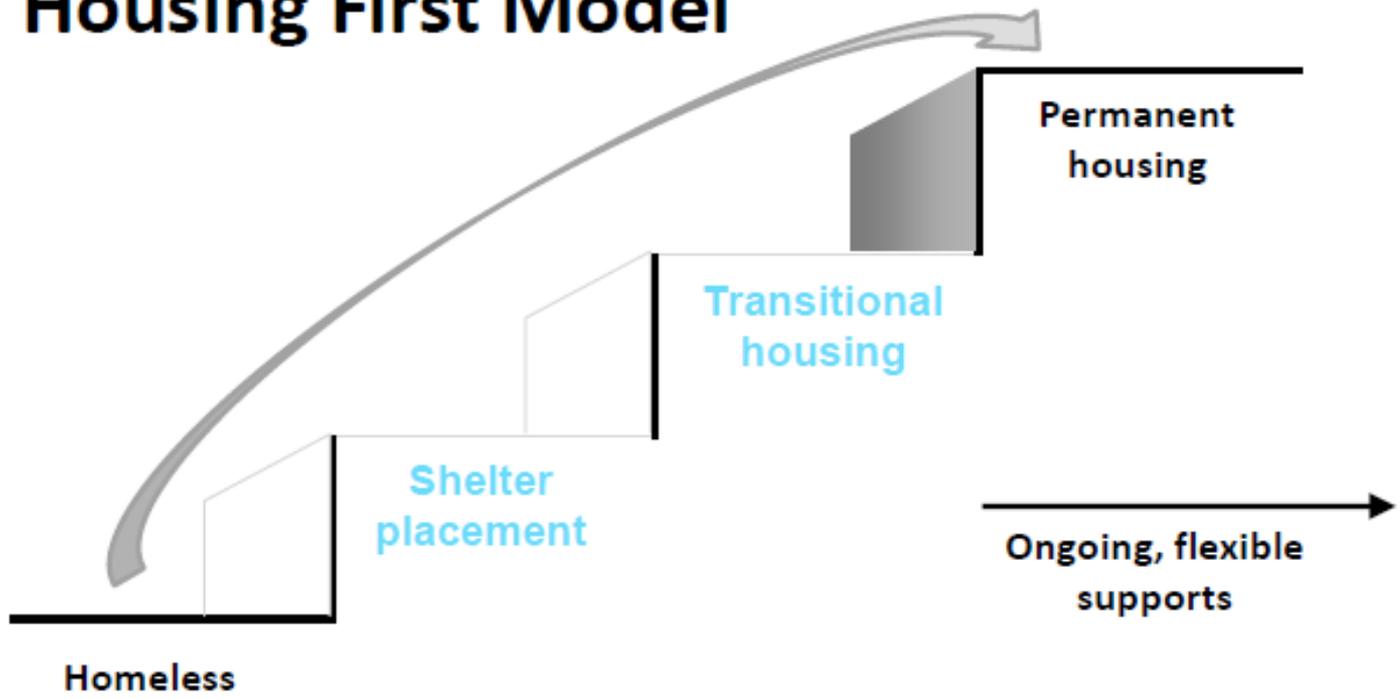


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## “Housing First”

### Housing First Model





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## Housing Stabilization– Research Agenda

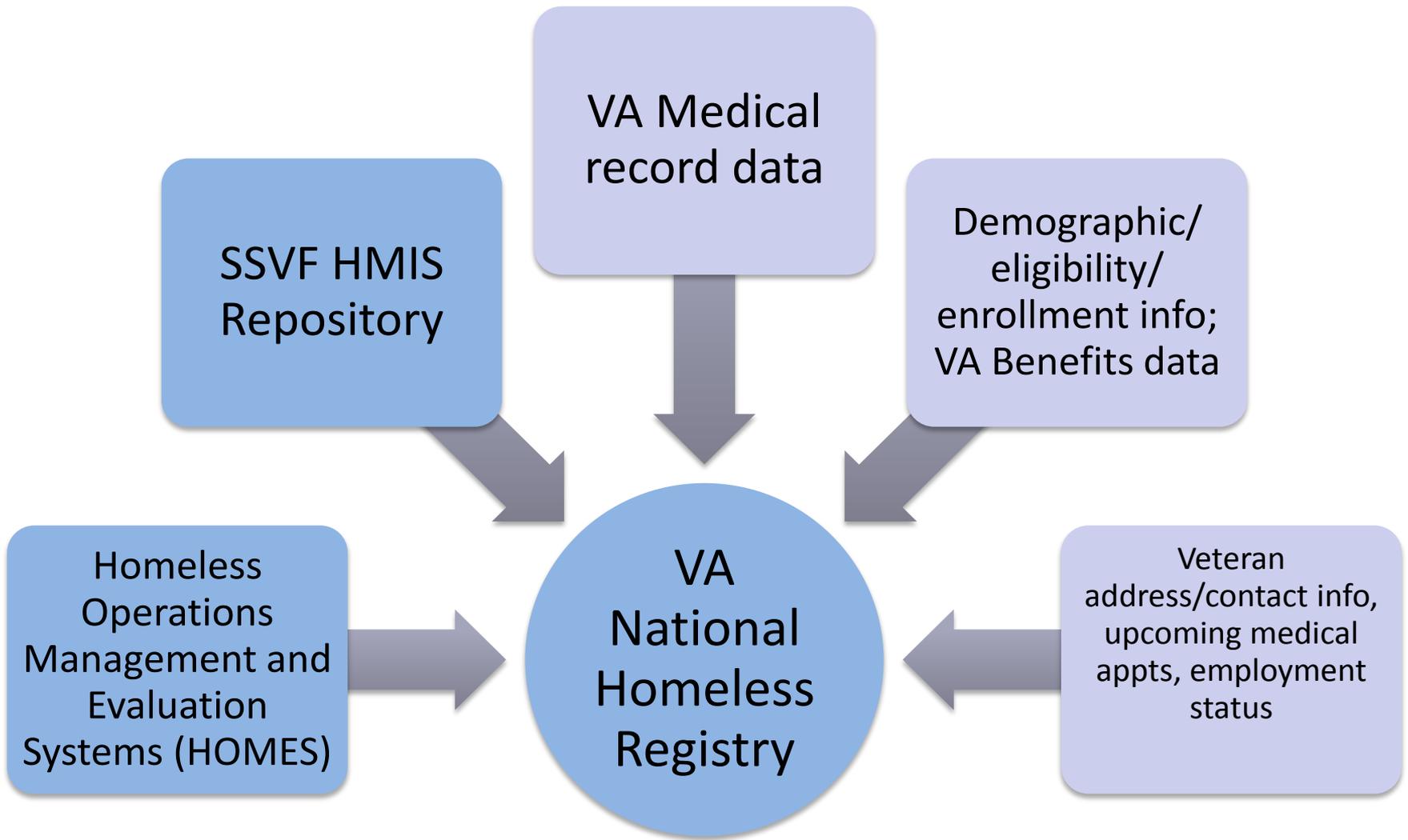
- Tenants
  - Health and sobriety outcomes
  - Housing retention and exit destinations
- HUD/VASH
  - “Fidelity” to Housing First model
  - Cost offsets
  - Effective services configurations
- Other Housing
  - Matching housing to tenants with less intense services needs



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## Data



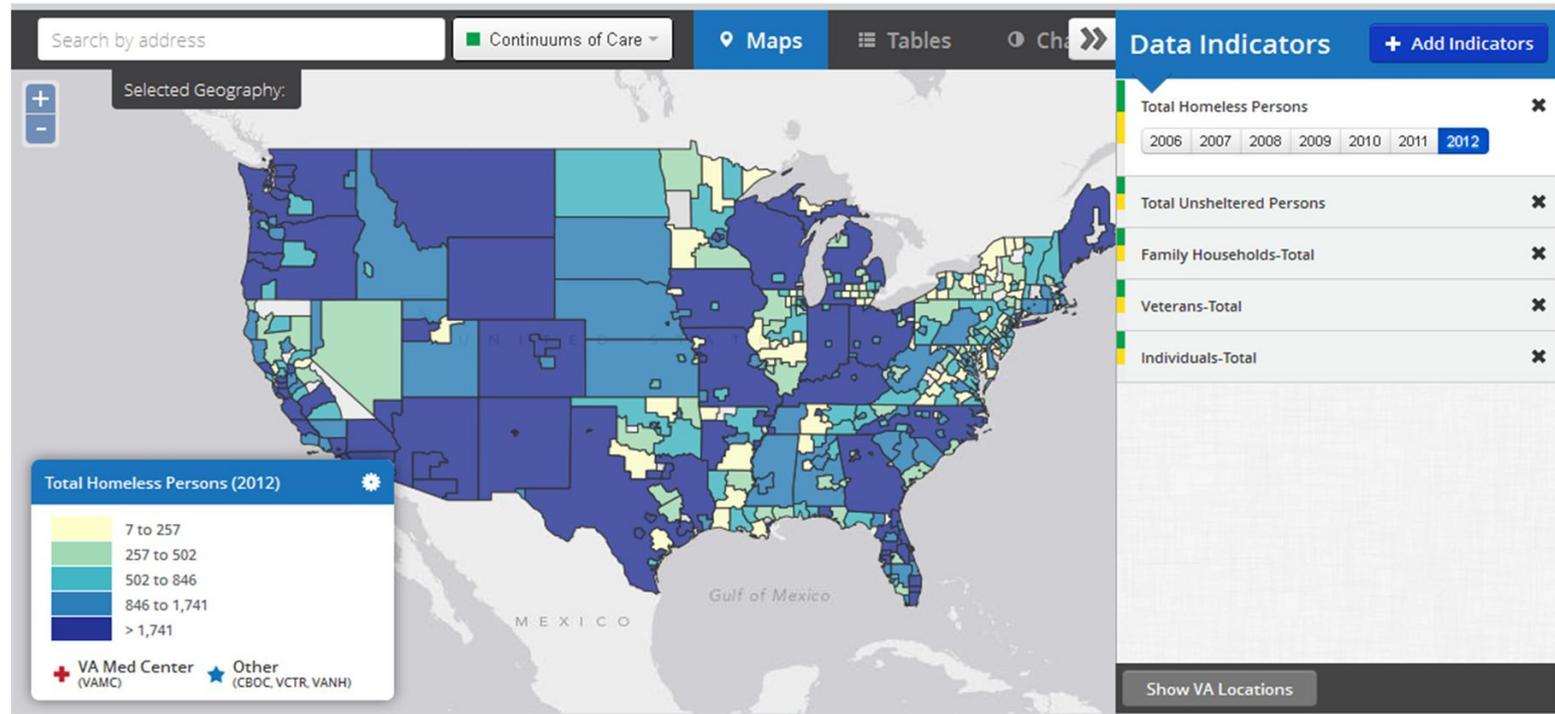


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## Data Dissemination

- Homelessness Analytics Initiative (launched 6/4/13)
- [www.homelessnessanalytics.org](http://www.homelessnessanalytics.org)





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## Further Reading...

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Health Services Research & Development Service | Evidence-based Synthesis Program

HSR&D

**A Critical Review  
of the Literature Regarding  
Homelessness among Veterans**

April 2011

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[http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/esp/homelessness.cfm#.UkQ\\_yn-mVEI](http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/esp/homelessness.cfm#.UkQ_yn-mVEI)