

Veteran Homelessness

BACKGROUND

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) annual Point-In-Time (PIT) count provides an estimate that approximately 32,882 veterans are currently experiencing homelessness in the United States, including Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Veterans make up a disproportionate share of the homeless adult population, representing about 8% to 9% of all homeless adults across these regions. Despite significant progress made since 2009, with sheltered and unsheltered veteran homelessness alike decreasing by 49%, considerable work remains to be done to ensure that no veteran is left without stable housing. Persistence of this issue highlights the need for continued efforts and innovative solutions in addressing the root causes of homelessness among veterans.

KEY POINTS

- In 2024, 19,031 veterans experienced sheltered homelessness – a decrease of 1,036 veterans (5.2%) from 2023.
- In 2024, 13,851 veterans experienced unsheltered homelessness – a decrease of 1,656 veterans (10.6%) from 2023.
- Female veterans are the fastest-growing demographic among the U.S. homeless population.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

- **Pass H.R. 1957 – End Veteran Homelessness Act**
- **Pass H.R. 3869 – Every Veteran Housed Act**
- Provide a higher allocation of project-based HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers for homeless veterans.
- Ensure enhanced use leasing specifically provides permanent benefits, resources, and services to the veteran community.
- Permanently authorize the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program with adequate funding of \$800 million per year.
- Fully fund the Grant Per-Diem program as authorized by the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act at \$350 million per year.



32,882

Veterans Experiencing homelessness in the United States in 2024

Source: The 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR to Congress) Part 1: Point-In-Time Estimates of Homelessness, December 2024

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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