

# Homeless Veteran Information

October 15, 2015

Handout #2



# Introductory Remarks

- Veteran experiences differ from civilians
- Experiences unique to only veterans:
  - Bootcamp
  - Duty Stations
  - War, Combat, Deployments
  - Unique Traditions, Terminology, and Structure
  - Readjustment after war or deployment
  - Transition from Military to Civilian life



# Veteran Population

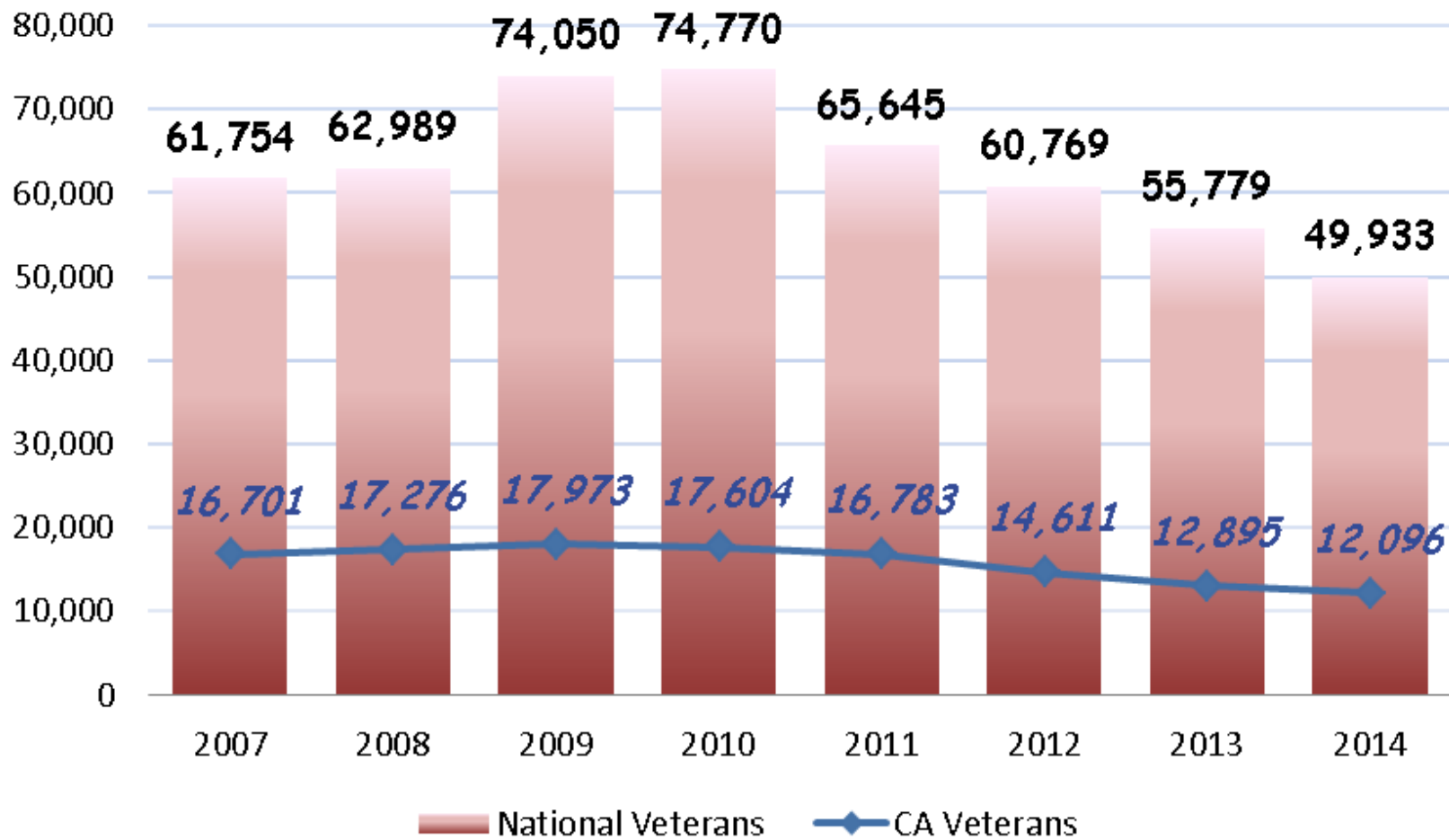
- Veterans make up 9.5% of the Nation's population
- Homeless veterans were 8.6%\* of 2014 Point-in-Time (PIT) count
- In California, homeless veterans were 10.6%\* of the 2014 PIT count

\* These numbers include all homeless persons. When minors are separated from the homeless count, the numbers go up. According to the 2014 AHAR report, veterans make up 11.3% of the Adult Homeless population nationally.

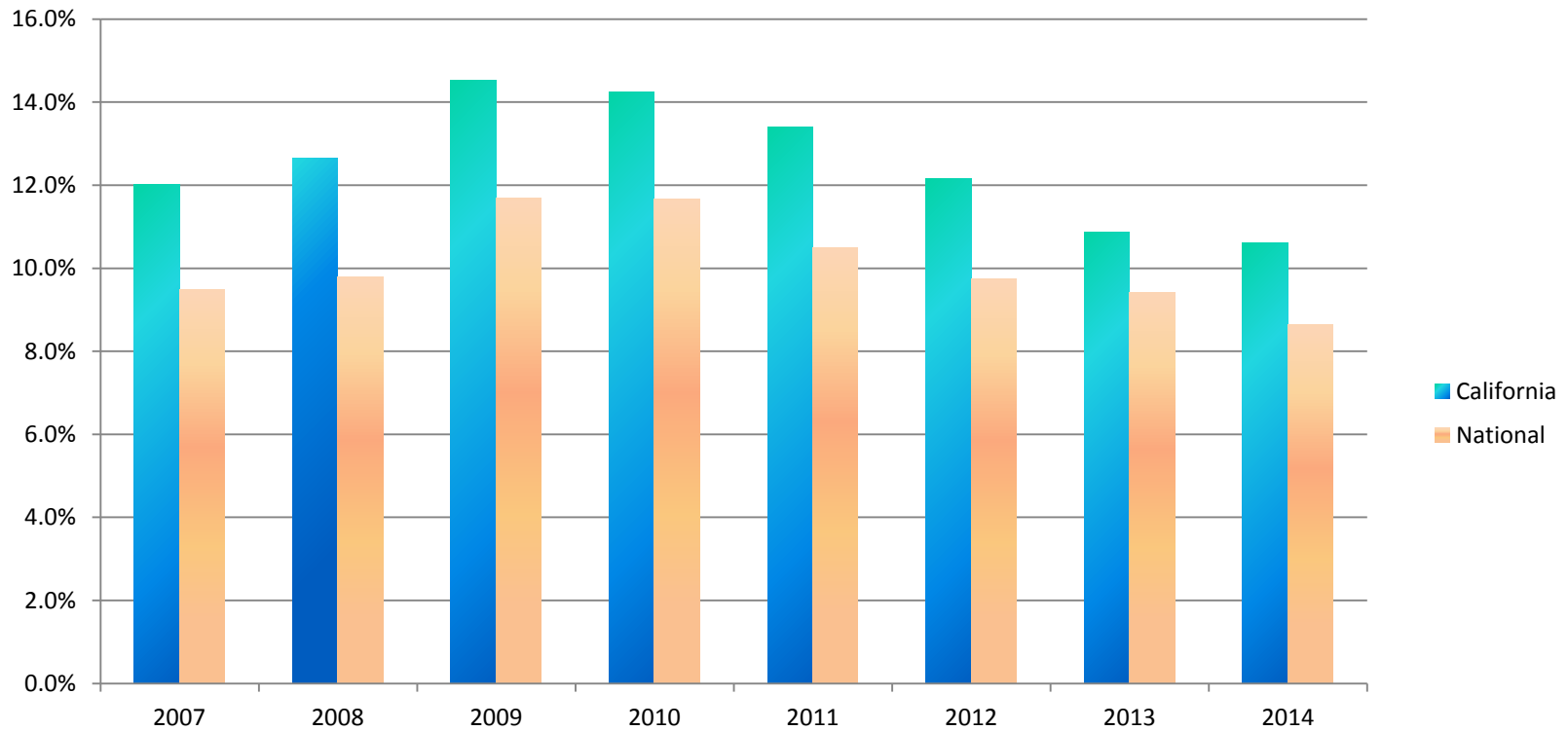


- 2007 CA Veterans account for 27% of the nation's homeless veterans
- 2014 CA Veterans population is down to 24% of the Nation's Population

## Veterans Experiencing Homelessness



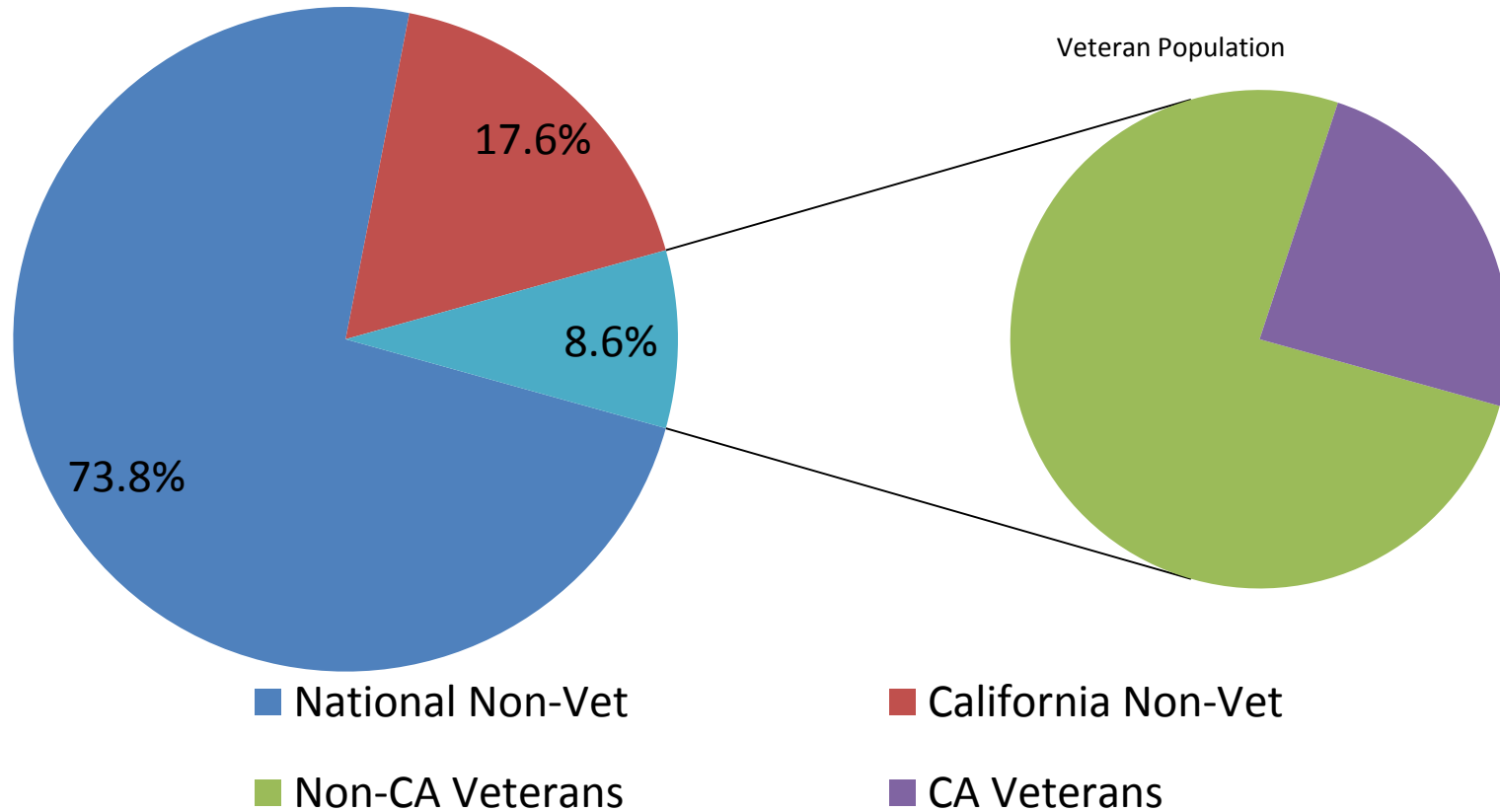
## Homeless Veterans as Percent of Homeless Population



The number of veterans in California's homeless population continues to be disproportionately high compared to the National homeless veteran population.



# 2014 California vs National Homeless Population



Note:

- The light blue slice of 8.6% is all homeless veterans in the nation.
- Of the 8.6% - almost 25% is comprised of California's veterans

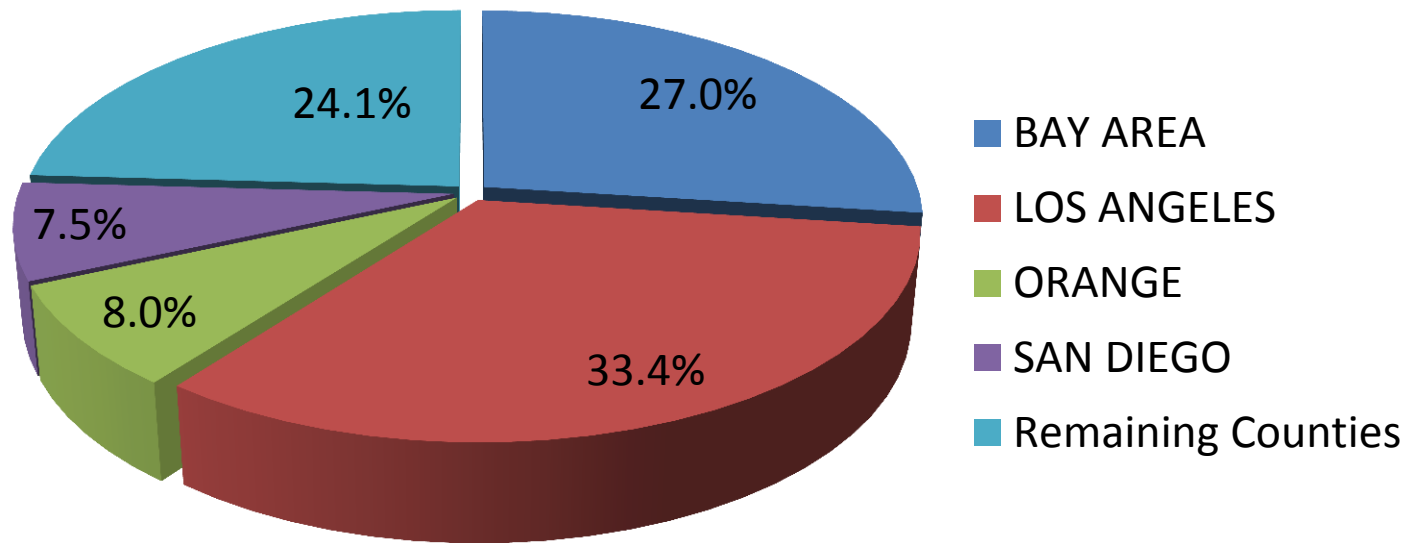


# Where Veterans Live

- 68% of homeless veterans live in large cities
- 68% of non-homeless veterans live in suburban and rural areas
- According to the 2014 AHAR,
  - 63% of California's homeless veterans are unsheltered
  - Los Angeles had the largest number of homeless veterans, more than 2x NY, which had the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest
  - 9 counties were in the top 20 for largest number of homeless veterans



## CA 2014 Homeless Population Dispersion



**Bay Area** – includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma Counties.

**Los Angeles** – is Los Angeles County.

**Orange** – includes Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.

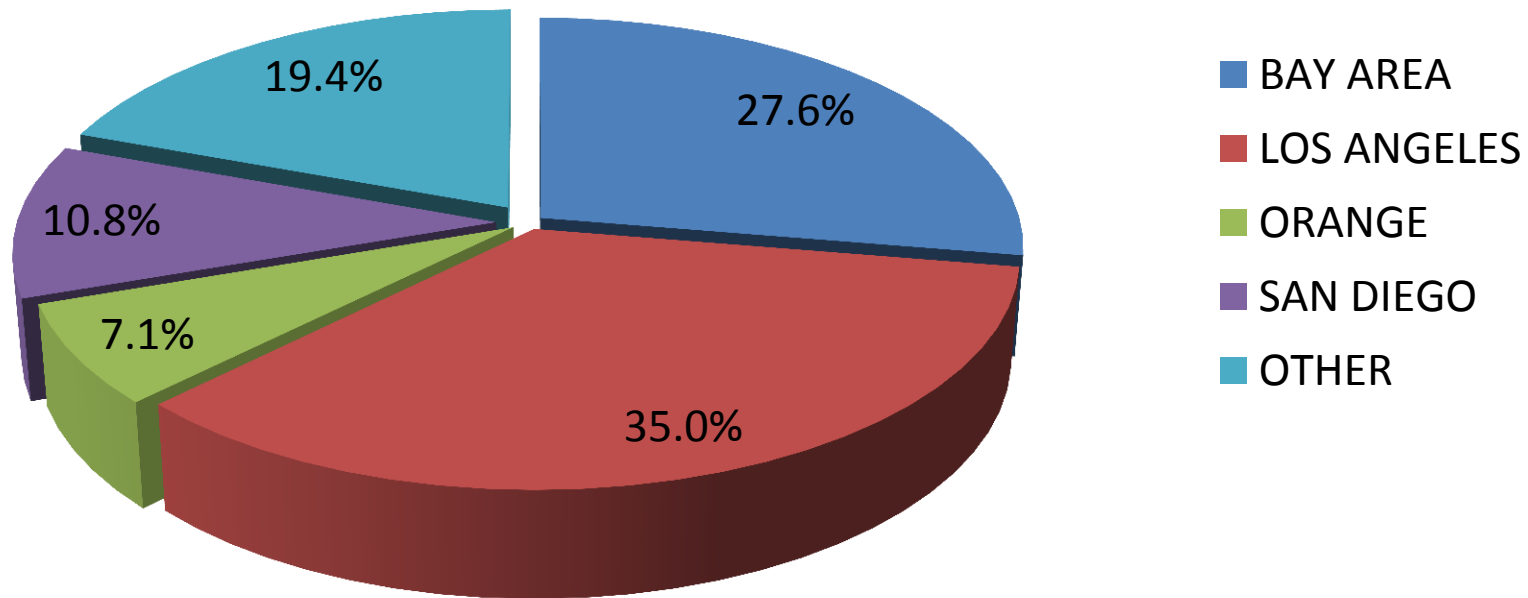
**San Diego** – is San Diego County.

**Remaining Counties** – includes all counties not included in those above.





## CA 2014 Homeless Population Dispersion



**Counties are the same as the previous chart.**

The Homeless Veteran population is almost identical to the total population on the previous chart.

# Risk Factors

- Poverty increases the likelihood of homelessness by 1.3 times for men and 3.4 times for women as compared to their civilian counterparts.
- However, poverty isn't a factor if the veteran has a family.
- Substance abuse and mental health issues
- Gender – women are twice as likely as men to become homeless
- Race – see chart on next page



## Risk Factors by Race

<b>Exhibit 4-2: Risk of Homelessness among Individual Sheltered Veterans, by Ethnicity and Race</b>		
<i>Ethnicity and Race</i>	<i>Risk of Homelessness among Veterans<sup>1</sup></i>	
	<b>Compared to Non-Veteran Adults in the U.S. Population</b>	<b>Compared to Non-Veteran Adults Living in Poverty</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Non-Hispanic/non-Latino	1.1	2.1
Hispanic/Latino	1.5	2.8
<b>Race</b>		
White, non-Hispanic/non-Latino	1.1	2.0
White, Hispanic/Latino	1.4	2.7
Black or African American	1.4	2.2
Asian	3.0	5.9
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.2	2.0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.8	1.1
Other	1.6	2.6
<p><sup>1</sup> The risk ratios compare the proportion of the individual adult veteran population that is homeless in relation to the proportion of the non-veteran comparison population that is homeless. The comparison populations are non-veteran individual adults in the U.S. population and non-veteran individual adults living in poverty. The risk ratios comparing veteran adults in families and non-veteran adults in families are not shown here, but are presented in appendix C-2.</p>		
<p>Sources: Homeless Management Information Systems data, 2010; U.S. Census Bureau 2007-2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.</p>		

# Ending Veteran Homelessness

- 2009 USDVA Secretary sets goal to end veteran homelessness by December 2015
- 2009 – 11.7% of nation's homeless were veterans whereas 14.5% of California's homeless were veterans
- Federal government increases USDVA's budget from \$100 billion in 2009 to \$163.9 billion in 2014



# Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act of 2014

- Only authorizes capital funding for housing veterans and their families, no supportive service dollars.
- Defines a veteran broader than any other state and federal program, thereby enabling more veterans to be eligible for the housing.
- Includes veterans of all discharge statuses in the definition of veteran, i.e. even includes dishonorable discharge.



# Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act of 2014

Requires:

- Half of the capital development funding targeted at Extremely Low Income (ELI), i.e. less than 30% Area Median Income, veterans.
- At least 60% of the ELI targeted housing shall be permanent supportive housing. (Permanent supportive housing requires supportive services to be included.)
- Leveraging of other funding sources
- Priority be given to projects that combine housing and supportive services



# Veteran-Centric Services

Required because:

- Veterans are not civilians. The U.S. military service is a distinct cultural experience, that remain with a veteran and influence their perspective, beliefs, future experiences, and oftentimes their psychological and physiological states.
- Central in their culture is mission and accountability that when the program is veteran-focused, veterans have higher rates of success with securing employment, stable housing, completing residential treatment programs and addressing mental and physical health needs.
- Veterans are overrepresented in the homeless population, have higher unemployment rates than most certain civilian age-groups, and are less than 10% of the total U.S. population support the different cultural experience and the need for veteran-focused programs.



# Veteran-Centric Services

Examples of Veteran Focused Programs are those that:

- Understand the veteran experience – often because they have professional and clinical staff who are veterans or who have a history of working with veterans
- Are trained and educated in the nuances and underlying foundations of military life and culture
- Know how to navigate the network of federal/state benefits and services that are available to only veterans and some expertise about the benefits veterans may be entitled to receive

