

1 in 4 U.S. Homeless and Veterans, Private Study Finds

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WASHINGTON — Veterans make up one in four homeless people in the United States, though they are only 11 percent of the general adult population, according to a report to be released Thursday. And homelessness is not just a problem among middle-age and elderly veterans. Younger veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan are trickling into shelters and soup kitchens seeking services, treatment or help with finding a job.

The Veterans Affairs Department has identified 1,500 homeless veterans from the current wars and says 400 of them have participated in its programs specifically targeting homelessness. The National Alliance to End Homelessness, a public education nonprofit, based the findings of its report on numbers from Veterans Affairs and the Census Bureau. 2005 data estimated that 194,254 homeless people out of 744,313 on any given night were veterans. In comparison, the VA says that 20 years ago, the estimated number of veterans who were homeless on any given night was 250,000.

Some advocates say the early presence of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan at shelters does not bode well for the future. It took roughly a decade for the lives of Vietnam veterans to unravel to the point that they started showing up among the homeless. Advocates worry that intense and repeated deployments leave newer veterans particularly vulnerable. "We're going to be having a tsunami of them eventually because the mental health toll from this war is enormous," said Daniel Tooth, director of veterans affairs for Lancaster County, Pa. While services to homeless veterans have improved in the past 20 years, advocates say more financial resources still are needed. With the spotlight on the plight of Iraq veterans, they hope more will be done to prevent homelessness and provide affordable housing to the younger veterans while there's a window of opportunity.

After being discharged from the military, Jason Kelley, 23, of Tomahawk, Wis., who served in Iraq with the Wisconsin National Guard, took a bus to Los Angeles looking for better job prospects and a new life. Kelley said he couldn't find a job because he didn't have an apartment, and he couldn't get an apartment because he didn't have a job. He stayed in a \$300-a-week motel until his money ran out, then moved into a shelter run by the group U.S. VETS in Inglewood, Calif. He's since been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, he said. "The only training I have is infantry training and there's not really a need for that in the civilian world," Kelley said in a phone interview. He has enrolled in college and hopes to move out of the shelter soon.

The VA started targeting homelessness in 1987, 12 years after the fall of Saigon. Today, the VA has, either on its own or through partnerships, more than 15,000 residential rehabilitative, transitional and permanent beds for homeless veterans nationwide. It spends about \$265 million annually on homeless-specific programs and about \$1.5 billion for all health care costs for homeless veterans. In all of 2006, the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates that 495,400 veterans were homeless at some point during the year. The group recommends that 5,000 housing units be created per year for the next five years dedicated to the chronically homeless that would provide permanent housing linked to veterans' support systems. It also recommends funding an additional 20,000 housing vouchers exclusively for homeless veterans, and creating a program that helps bridge the gap between income and rent. On a recent day in Philadelphia, case managers from Project H.O.M.E. and the VA picked up William Joyce, 60, a homeless Vietnam veteran in a wheelchair who said he'd been sleeping at a bus terminal. "You're an honorable veteran. You're going to get some services," outreach worker Mark Salvatore told Joyce. "You need to be connected. You don't need to be out here on the streets."

1. On Thursday, November 08, 2007 at precisely 9:45:11 a.m. the current United States population stood at approximately 303,318,248. How many Veterans currently reside in this nation? Homeless Veterans?
2. What percentages of homeless veterans from the current wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan have participated in programs specifically targeting homelessness? Explain what is meant by the expression the "having a tsunami".
3. What is the percent of change between the Census Bureau 2005 data and the reported figures provided by the Veterans Affairs two decades prior regarding homeless veterans on any given night in America?
4. In paragraph form, thoroughly identify Jason Kelley and thoroughly explain his dilemma.
5. How many more Veterans are homeless nationwide than residential rehabilitative, transitional and permanent beds currently available via VA?
6. Design an equation to accurately determine the total number of housing units available nationwide via the National Alliance to End Homelessness.
7. On Thursday, November 08, 2007 at precisely 10:05:11 the U.S. population rose to **303,318,361**. At a constant rate of change, create an equation to accurately determine the figure for any given date and time.
8. Upon completion of this assignment, how far have we progressed through the 2007-08 series of The Daughtry Times? Express your answer as a fraction, decimal, and percentage.
9. As obtained from the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least eight ways using the "Traditional Writing Guidelines and Checklist for Success" simplifies the paragraph writing process. Be specific.
10. As obtained from the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least six ways using the "Preliminary Reading Guidelines and Checklist for Success" simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
11. In complete sentences, using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the words: *advocate* and *bode*. Additionally, use each defined word in a sentence to demonstrate further comprehension.
12. In paragraph form, explain at least five legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.