

Overview

To address homelessness among veterans, particularly those re-entering civilian society after serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, Congress directed the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs, and Labor to create the Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration (VHPD). The VHPD Evaluation is a study of the implementation and impacts of the VHPD. Through its focus on both homelessness prevention and veterans, the evaluation makes an important contribution to research. Existing studies of homelessness prevention do not illuminate the special character of programs needed to reach veterans effectively, while studies of homelessness among veterans have not yet investigated prevention and rapid rehousing interventions. In addition, the evaluation investigates particular challenges facing the new generation of veterans, a group that differs from previous generations in many ways, including an increasing number of women, parents, and members of the National Guard. The evaluation will document effective ways to reach and assist veterans at risk of homelessness, determine the effectiveness of VHPD services, and identify barriers to serving veterans at-risk of homelessness or experiencing short-term homelessness.

This evaluation interim report describes VHPD implementation and the characteristics of clients served during the program's first year. Understanding program outcomes is the task of the final report, which will analyze client follow-up data that are currently being collected through surveys and from administrative sources. The final evaluation report will provide data on outcomes and offer evidence in relation to two key policy questions: (1) Can homelessness prevention be feasible and effective? (2) Are specially adapted programs needed to adequately address veterans' needs for homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing services?