



**Orange County Continuum of Care
Veterans Committee
November 16, 2023**

Welcome and Introductions

Eric Richardson, Chair

Meeting Agenda

1. Targeted Outreach for Veterans – Eric Richardson, Chair
 - a. Update of targeted street outreach efforts towards the following Veteran populations:
 - i. Older Adult Veterans (ages 62 and older);
 - ii. Veterans whose reported length of homelessness has been longer than ten (10) years;
 - iii. Veteran Families (households with at least one minor child and one adult); and
 - iv. Individual Adult Veterans who are chronically homeless
 - b. Update on progress thus far on the Veterans Affairs (VA), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and Care Coordination teams
2. Orange County 2024 Point In Time Count Update Presentation – Sarah Jones, Continuum of Care (CoC) Manager and City Net
3. VA National Housing Conference – Eric Richardson, Chair and Amanda Bear, Regional Program Manager, Volunteers of America
4. United to End Homelessness State of Veterans Homelessness Event Update – Becks Heyhoe, Executive Director, United to End Homelessness, Orange County United Way

Meeting Agenda

5. Orange County Veterans Service Office – Eric Ensley, Orange County Veterans Service Officer and Veterans Employment Program Manager
 - a. Presentation on the Orange County Veterans Service Office, including employment services provided.
6. VA Community Plan for Engaging Unhoused Veterans – Melanie Martins, LCSW, Coordinated Entry System and Homeless Outreach, Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center
 - a. Update on the VA Community Plan focused on engaging with sheltered and unsheltered Veterans.
7. Provider Feedback – Eric Richardson, Chair
 - a. Providers and members of the public are invited to share announcements, feedback and public comments related to Veteran homelessness.

Business Calendar

Targeted Outreach for Veterans
Eric Richardson, Chair

Targeted Outreach for Veterans

Older Adult Veterans (age 62 and older): **61 total**

- 35 veterans are off the streets
 - ❖ 5 veterans housed
 - ❖ 30 veterans in other temporary accommodations
- Of the remaining 26 older adult veterans:
 - ❖ Teams are continuously working with 12 unsheltered veterans
 - ❖ 4 veterans have had no contact so far
 - ❖ 10 veterans were removed from By Names List (BNL) due to no contact

Targeted Outreach for Veterans

Veterans Whose Length of Homelessness is 10+ years: **15 Total**

- 8 veterans are off the streets
 - ❖ 4 veterans housed
 - ❖ 4 veterans in other temporary accommodations
- Of the remaining 7 veterans whose length of homelessness is 10+ years:
 - ❖ The teams are continuously working with 2 unsheltered veterans
 - ❖ 2 veterans have had no contact so far
 - ❖ 3 veterans were removed from BNL due to no contact

Targeted Outreach for Veterans

Veteran Families with Minor Children: **19 Total**

- 6 veteran family households are off the streets
 - ❖ 3 veteran family households housed
 - ❖ 3 veteran family households in other temporary accommodations
- Of the remaining 13 veteran families with minor children:
 - ❖ The teams are continuously working with 7 veteran family households
 - ❖ 4 veteran family households have had no contact so far
 - ❖ 2 veteran family households were removed from BNL due to no contact

Targeted Outreach for Veterans

Individual Adult Veterans who are Chronically Homeless

- The definition of **chronically homeless** is an individual with a disability who lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, and has been homeless and living as described for at least 12 months* or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months.
 - ❖ Disabling conditions can be mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability, etc.
- Currently there are 59 veterans experiencing chronic homelessness that are not over the age of 62, in veteran family households, or have 10+ year of homelessness. Outreach teams will target the veterans experiencing chronic homelessness and will prioritize the veterans with the longest length of homelessness first.

Orange County 2024 Point In Time Count

Sarah Jones, CoC Manager and

Molly Schaner, Census Supervisor, City Net



EVERYONE
COUNTS
2024 Point In Time

Veteran Committee Meeting
November 16, 2023

What is a Point In Time Count?

A National Movement. Everyone Counts OC is part of a national effort to better understand homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires all 400+ Continuum of Care (CoC) jurisdictions across the nation to complete a biennial unsheltered count and an annual sheltered count of all individuals experiencing homelessness in the community at a single “point in time.”



**EVERYONE
COUNTS**
2024 Point In Time

Why do a Point In Time Count?

Everyone Counts OC is an opportunity to collect current information on homelessness in our community, including:

- Number of people experiencing homelessness in Orange County
- Where homeless neighbors are located
- Robust demographic information
- Subpopulation information on groups such as Veterans, Transitional Aged Youth, and Families.



EVERYONE
COUNTS
2024 Point In Time

Who is Involved?

- **County of Orange** – including County Executive Office, Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency, OC Community Resources, OC Parks, OC Public Works, OC Information & Technology, OC Sheriff's Department
- **City Net** – lead agency for unsheltered count
- **OC United Way (211OC)** – HMIS lead agency for sheltered count
- **Hub for Urban Initiatives** – HUD methodology and survey tool design
- **Orange County CoC**



The Data is Useful

The survey data helps the Orange County CoC and the County of Orange respond more effectively to homelessness in Orange County.

With the collected data, the system of care can:

- Accurately assess the demographics and locations of those in need
- Make informed decisions on housing and shelter interventions (where, what types, and how many)
- Collaborate more closely—from coordinating street outreach and engagement to partnering on case management to shelter operation to housing and supportive services
- Advocate for state and federal dollars to fund interventions



EVERYONE
COUNTS
2024 Point In Time

Collaborative Effort

- **Homeless Service Providers**
- **City and County government**
 - County of Orange
 - Local Law Enforcement
 - All 34 cities
- **Elected Officials**
 - Board of Supervisors
 - Mayors and City Council members
 - State and federal representatives



Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

- **Sheltered Count:** sunset on Monday, January 22, 2024, to sunrise on Tuesday, January 23, 2024
- **Unsheltered Count:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024, to Thursday, January 25, 2024
 - Survey-based count, goal is to survey all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
 - Volunteer surveyors visit pre-identified “hotspots” where people experiencing homelessness are expected to gather
 - Surveyors deployed from local deployment centers to all 34 cities, plus unincorporated areas (~400 maps in all)
 - Access centers for Families and Transitional Age Youth



EVERYONE
COUNTS
2024 Point In Time

Everyone Counts OC Dates*

Central Service Planning Area	North Service Planning Area	South Service Planning Area
Tuesday, Jan 23, 2024	Wednesday, Jan 24, 2024	Thursday, Jan 25, 2024

** Dates of each Service Planning Area count are still being finalized*



Planning for the Orange County 2024 Point In Time Count

- The Office of Care Coordination and City Net has convened an Orange County 2024 Point In Time Count Planning Ad Hoc, representative of
 - CoC Board members
 - Faith community
 - Local jurisdictions
 - Law enforcement
 - People with lived experience
 - Health care and behavioral health field
 - Service providers focusing on special populations



How You Can Help

Volunteer Recruitment

- Spread the word about the event
- Encourage your staff to volunteer during the event
- Sign up early

Volunteer Sign-Up

- To volunteer to count in the Central Service Planning Area: [Click here](#)
- To volunteer to count in the North Service Planning Area: [Click here](#)
- To volunteer to count in the South Service Planning Area: [Click here](#)



www.EveryoneCountsOC.org



**EVERYONE
COUNTS**
2024 Point In Time

How You Can Help

Hotspot Data Collection

- Provide your contact information
- Fill out a hotspot form

Donations

- The following donations are welcomed:
 - Snack or hygiene kit donations
 - Gift card or incentive donations
 - Other donations

Veteran “Homeless Hotspots” OCVMFC / VOALA

- Ex. **Location Name:** Walmart Parking Lot
Location description: Group of folks living in Green van on North side of parking lot near KFC
Address: 8230 Talbert Ave, Huntington Beach, CA 92646
Police Assistance Necessary: (i.e. Is the location particularly dangerous or does it require police assistance to access, such as a locked gate or water channel?): Yes, PD is required to unlock a gate.
Potential Hazards: (ex. train tracks, gang activity, drug activity, hostile homeless neighbors, difficult terrain, or other): Gang activity, drug activity.
10 or more people expected here?: Yes.

Please note, if an address is unknown. Please indicate the cross streets/city name.

Ex: Intersection of Lincoln Ave and the 57 Freeway.

Ex: Intersection of Glassell St and the Santa Ana River.

1. Location Name:
Location description:
Address:
Police Assistance Necessary:
Potential Hazards:
10 or more People:
2. Location Name:
Location description:
Address:
Police Assistance Necessary:
Potential Hazards:
10 or more People:



EVERYONE
COUNTS
2024 Point In Time

City Net Contacts

Matt Bates

Executive Vice President

matt@citynet.org

Molly Schaner

Census Supervisor

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Erin Kaufman

Community Resource Mobilization Manager

erin.kaufman@citynet.org



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COUNTS**
2024 Point In Time

www.EveryoneCountsOC.org

Email: Info@everyoneCountsOC.org

Instagram [@EveryoneCountsOC](https://www.instagram.com/EveryoneCountsOC)

X (Twitter) [@OCPIP](https://twitter.com/OCPIP)

[#EveryoneCountsOC](https://www.facebook.com/EveryoneCountsOC)



EVERYONE
COUNTS
2024 Point In Time

Veteran Data & Registry Discussion

Veterans in the 2022 PIT Count

TOTAL

280
VETERANS

Persons who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves

.....

SHELTERED

135
VETERANS

Persons who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves

UNSHELTERED

145
VETERANS

Persons who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves



Veteran Registry Form from the 2022 PIT Count



Veteran Registry Update Form

When a Veteran is encountered during the 2022 Point In Time Count, please ask for permission to collect the information below to update the Veteran Registry (also referred to as the By Name List). Updating the Veteran Registry will help us identify all veterans experiencing homelessness within Orange County, understand their housing needs and follow up with them to connect them to available resources.

Team Captain's Name: _____ Contact Phone #: _____

City or Unincorporated Area: _____ Team #: _____

Survey Date: _____ Shift: _____

Veteran #1

1. First Name	2. Middle Initial	3. Last Name
4. Date of Birth	5. Social Security Number	6. Branch of Military Service
7. Phone Number	8. Email Address	9. Other Ways to Contact Veteran
10. Have you, or have you been, enrolled in VA Healthcare?		<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
11. Are you connected to a Service Provider?		<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
11a. If Yes, who is the Service Provider? Name of Case Manager or Street Outreach Worker?		
12. Locations Veteran Frequents – address, cross streets, landmarks, map #		
13. Observations – Description of Veteran		



Discussion



EVERYONE
COUNTS
2024 Point In Time

**VA National
Housing Conference**

Eric Richardson, Chair and Amanda Bear, Regional
Program Manager, Volunteers of America

Business Calendar – Item #3

Landlord Incentives and VA’s Calendar Year 2023 Goals

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) shared the following target goals for landlord incentives in Calendar Year (CY) 2023:

CY2023 Goal	Landlord Incentive Context
Goal 1: Place 35,000 Veterans into permanent housing	Elevate the available housing unit pool and expedite housing placements, especially for those veterans with most significant housing barriers and where inequities exist in access to permanent housing.
Goal 2a: Ensure 90% of those who are housed in CY23 maintain their permanent housing	Incentives can deepen the landlord/provider relationship with landlords more willing to work with veterans and program staff when tenancy issues arise.
Goal 2b: Of those who do not return to homelessness, 95% are rehoused or on a pathway to permanent housing	Recent evictions and landlord challenges are significant screening barriers – particularly for historically marginalized groups– use incentives to convince landlords to lease to veterans even with recent housing challenges.
Goal 3: Engage 28,000 unsheltered veterans	Veterans hesitant to accept VA services or who otherwise may have been screened out in the past may be a core target group for landlord incentives

**United to End Homelessness State of
Veterans Homelessness Event**

Becks Heyhoe, Executive Director, United to End
Homelessness, Orange County United Way



UNITED TO END HOMELESSNESS™
Empowered by Orange County United Way

The State of Veteran Homelessness in Orange County

Friday, November 3, 2023 | 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM



How many veterans experience homelessness in Orange County?

- **525** veteran households experienced homelessness in Orange County between January 1st 2023 – October 27th 2023
- In the past 12 months there has been a **12% increase** in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness

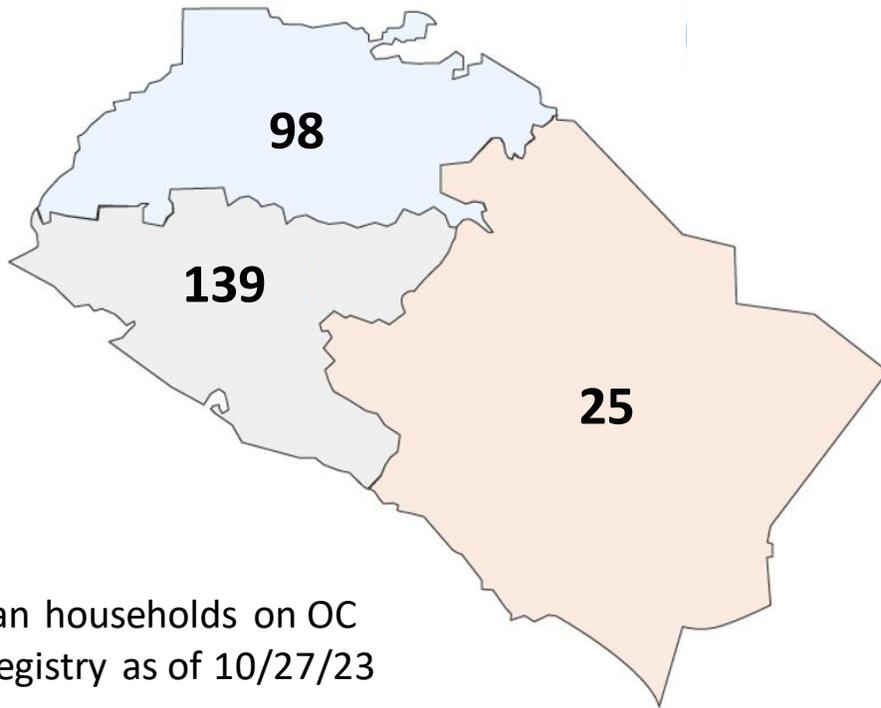
How many veterans are on the OC Veterans Registry?

- 270 veteran households on the list as of 10/27/23

Homeless Veterans on Veteran Registry

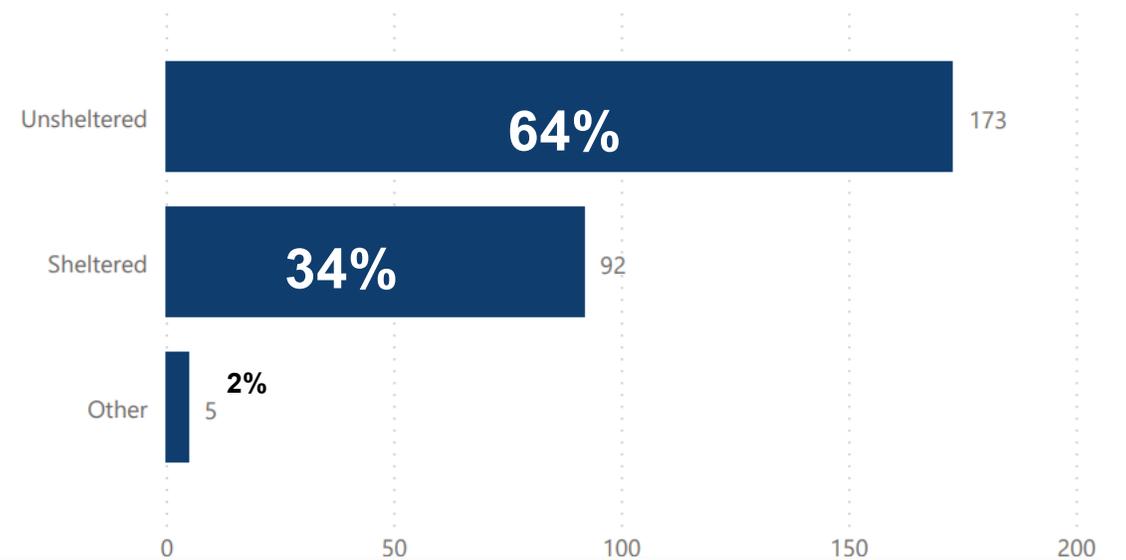


Where are they experiencing homelessness?



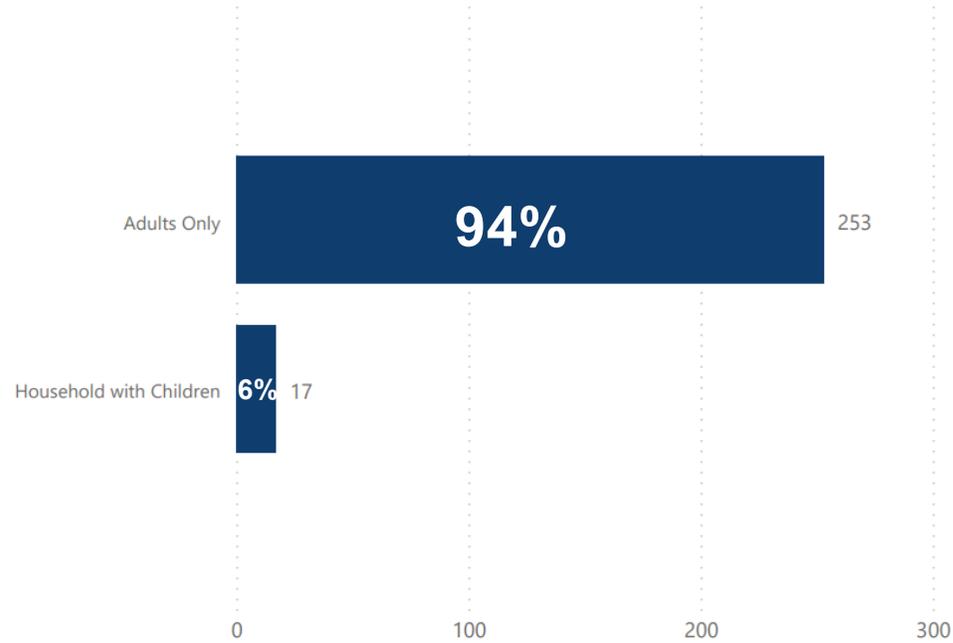
270 veteran households on OC
Veteran Registry as of 10/27/23

Living Situation

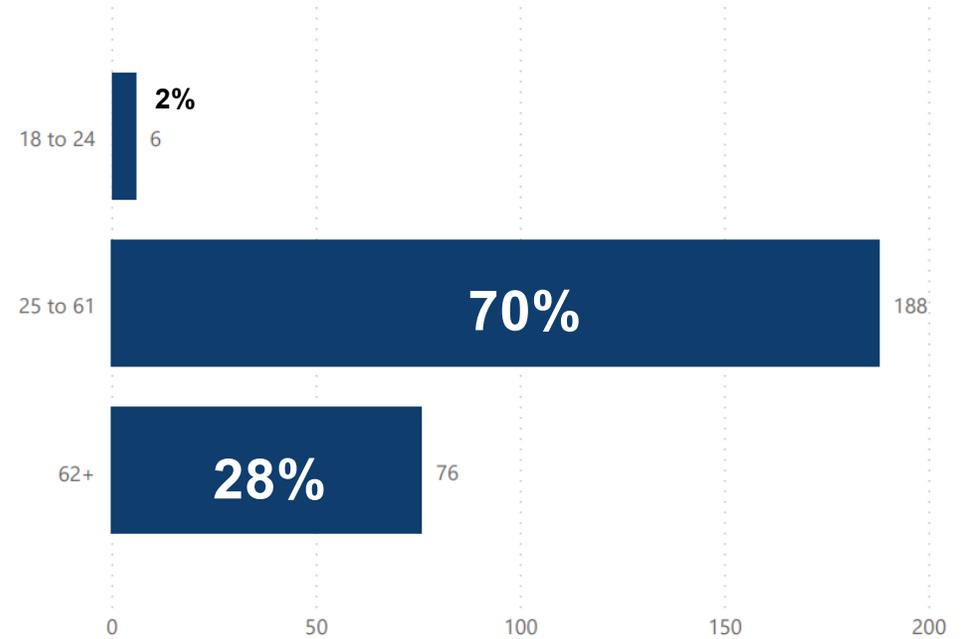


What do we know about these households?

Household Type

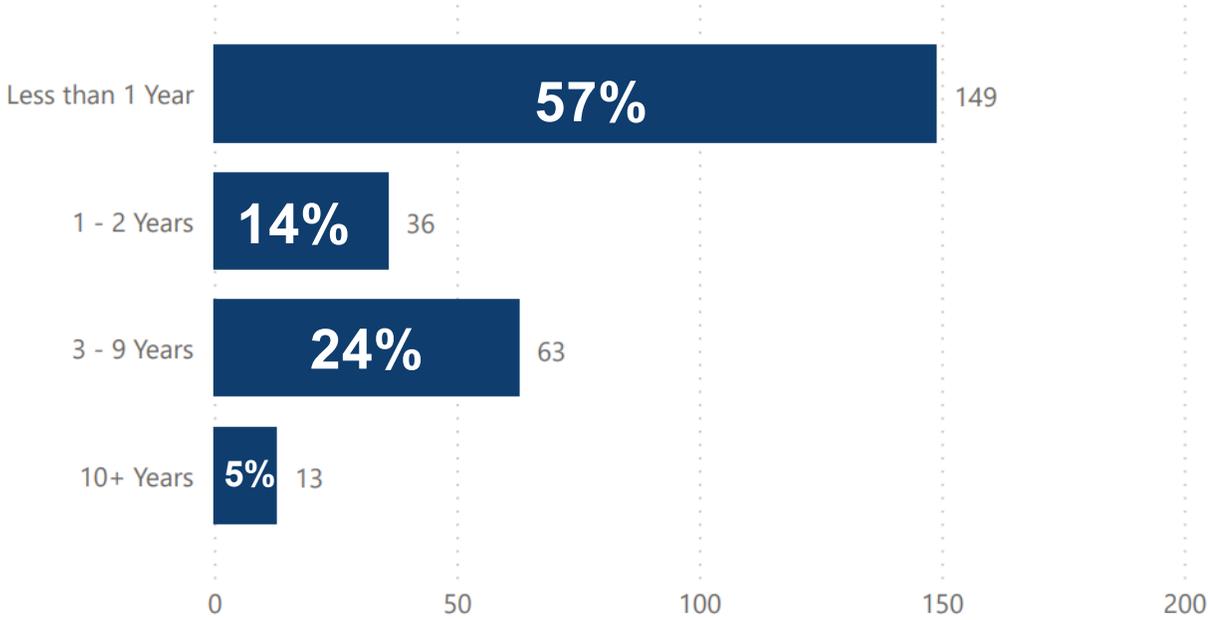


Age Tier

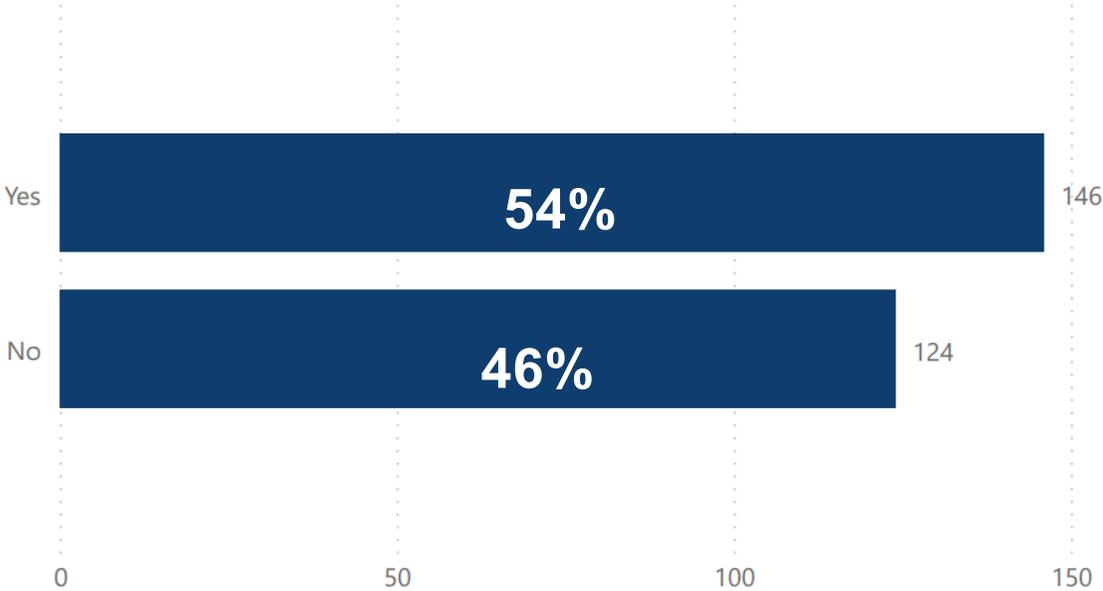


What do we know about these households?

Length of Homelessness



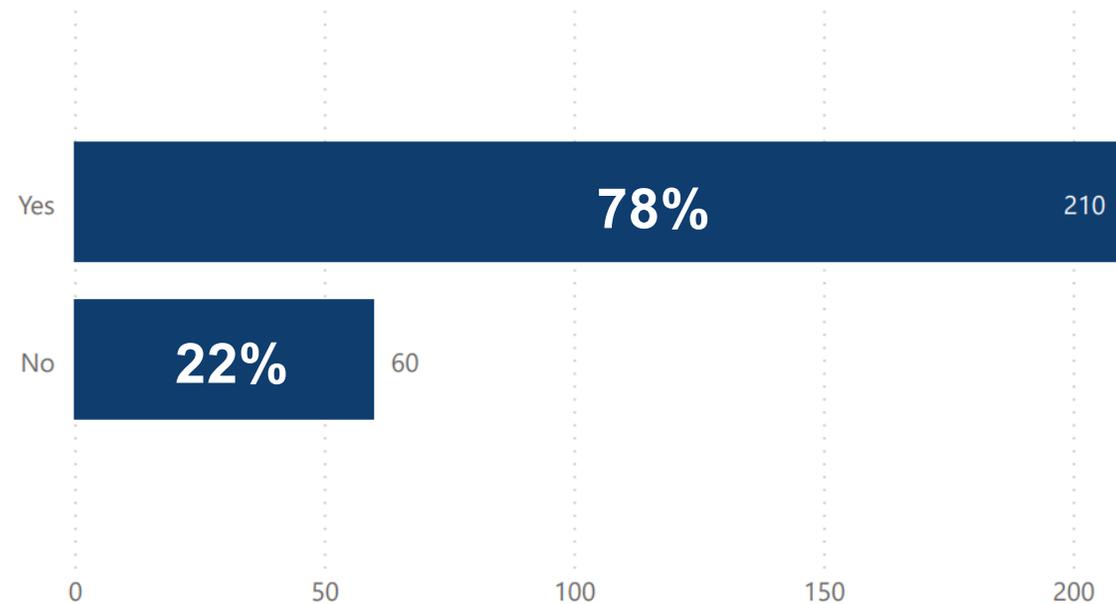
*Chronic Homelessness



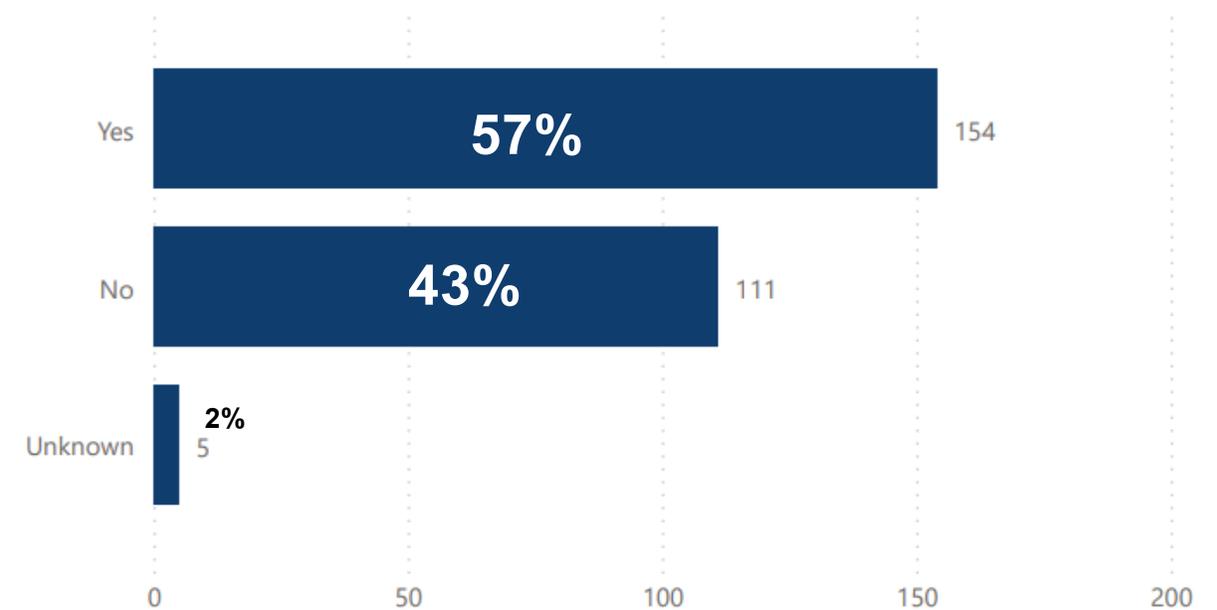
A homeless individual with a disability and who has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months.

What do we know about these households?

Disabling Condition



Mental Health Disability



How many veterans from the OC Veterans Registry were able to end their homelessness?

- **178 of the 525** veteran households moved into permanent housing between January 1st 2023 – October 27th 2023
- **217** veteran households on the registry have been matched to an opportunity to resolve their homelessness:
 - **137** HUD-Veteran Affairs SH
 - **60** Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
 - **20** other



**UNITED TO END
HOMELESSNESSSM**

Empowered by Orange County United Way

PANEL DISCUSSION

Eric Richardson

*Veterans Committee, Continuum of Care Board
Volunteers of America LA*

Doug Becht

Office of Care Coordination

Holly Sumner

*US Department of
Veteran Affairs*

Jennifer Swan

*US Department of
Veteran Affairs*

Tim Petit

*Orange County Veterans
and Military Families Collaborative*

Continuum of Care: Veterans Committee

A committee that 'makes a difference'

- Bi-monthly meetings with public attendance
 - Deep dive into Veterans Registry data
- Agreed on a 'targeted' multidisciplinary approach:
- 62 years and older
 - Homeless for 10 years or more
 - Families, households with at least one minor child



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Serving Los Angeles & Orange Counties

Continuum of Care: Veterans Committee

Targeted Outreach:

- Leadership: SSVF agencies and VA
- Community partners – Outreach teams, Care Coordination: PATH/VOA LA, Healthcare providers
- Bi-weekly case collaborative case conferencing: wider service provision with collaboration
- Joint outreach delivered with real time connections to shelter and temporary accommodation
- Ongoing joint support in temporary housing: collaborating housing search and delivery of Housing First

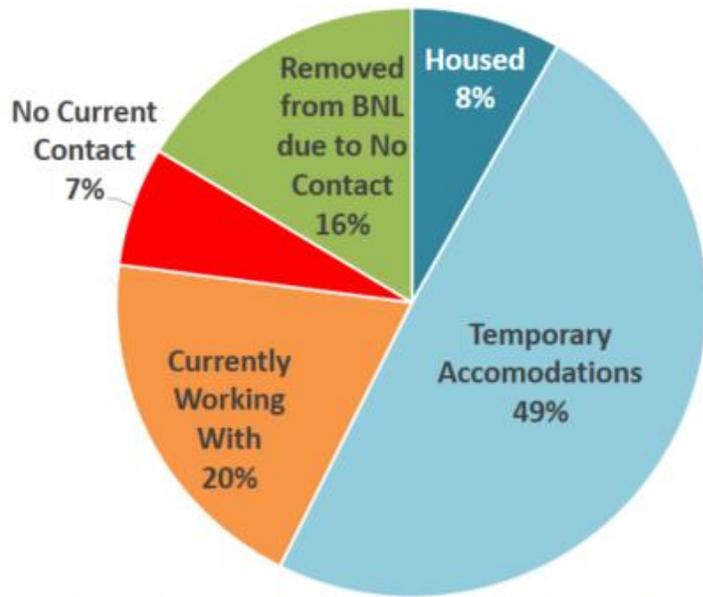


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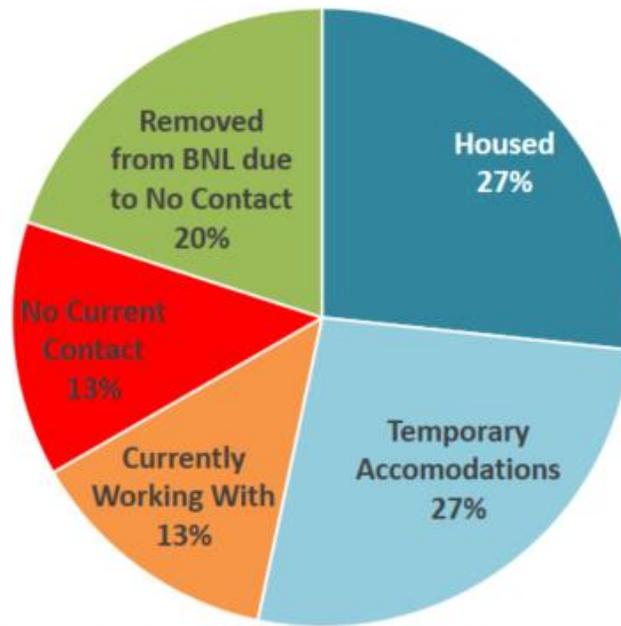
Continuum of Care: Veterans Committee

Targeted Outreach: Results

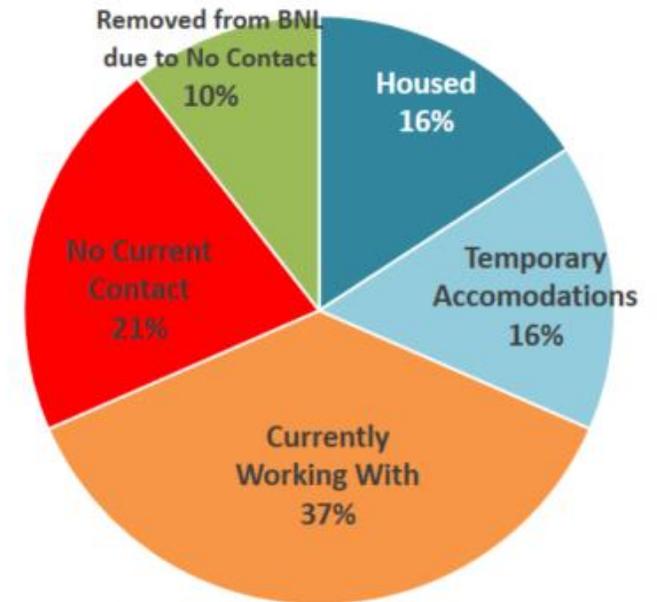
Veterans 62+
61 Veterans



Veterans that have been Homeless 10+ Years
15 Veterans



Households with at least One Minor
19 Veterans





Veterans Experiencing Homelessness In Orange County Has Increased

By [Yusra Farzan](#)

Published Nov 11, 2023 8:00 AM



A cyclist passes the row of tents and tarps along the Santa Ana riverbed near Angel Stadium in Anaheim.
(Jae C. Hong/AP / AP)

There has been a 12% increase in unhoused veterans in 2023 compared to last year in Orange County, according to [United to End Homelessness](#), an initiative of Orange County's United Way.

The nonprofit hosts an annual state of homelessness event. This year's event focused on veterans, using data collected by Orange County's Continuum of Care Program, which coordinates countywide nonprofits and government agencies working to address homelessness.



Orange County Veterans Service Office

**Eric Ensley, Orange County Veterans Service Officer
and Veterans Employment Program Manager**

VA Community Plan for Engaging Unhoused Veterans

Melanie Martins, LCSW, Coordinated Entry System
and Homeless Outreach, Tibor Rubin VA
Medical Center

Provider Feedback
Eric Richardson, Chair

Next Meeting:

To be determined (*pending 2024 CoC Board and
Committee Meeting calendar approval*)

