

Female Veterans Fact Sheet

- An estimated 7,000 – 8,000 female veterans are homeless in the U.S. The most in the nation's history, and their numbers are expected to increase as more women return home.
 - Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Nearly 400,000 veterans experience homelessness over the course of a year
 - Department of Veterans Affairs, 2006.
- Women currently represent 7% of the veteran population and about 10.5% of the troops deployed in OIF/OEF. By 2010, female veterans will represent nearly 10% of the total veteran uses population as 20% of new recruits to the military are women.
 - Department of Veteran Affairs' Office of Policy and Planning.
- Approximately 180,000 women have been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq.
 - Department of Veterans Affairs
- By the year 2020, the number of female veterans is expected to have doubled
 - Department of Veteran Affairs' Office of Policy, Planning, and Preparedness, 2006.
- Women make up about 5% of homeless veterans, up from 3% 10 years ago.
 - Department of Veterans Affairs.
- A woman who has served in the military is up to four times more likely to be homeless than a nonveteran woman.
 - Congressional Research Service Report.
- The prevalence of potential Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among new OEF/OIF female veterans, who were treated at the VA between fiscal year 2002 and 2006, has grown dramatically from approximately 1% in 2002 to nearly 19% in 2006.
 - Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Roughly 40% of the hundreds of homeless female veterans of recent wars have said they were sexually assaulted by American soldiers while in the military officials said.
 - Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Female veterans have higher rates of sexual assault, victimization, PTSD, along with lower average incomes and more children which all make them more vulnerable to homelessness.
 - "Vital Mission: Ending Homelessness Among Veterans," National Alliance to End Homelessness and Homelessness Research Institute, November 2007.
- Female veterans are more likely to experience severe housing cost burden than male veterans. They represent only 7% of veterans but 13.5% of veterans with severe housing cost burden. Lack of affordable housing is a primary catalyst for homelessness amongst all veterans.
 - "Vital Mission: Ending Homelessness Among Veterans".