



# HOMELESS VETERANS

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## WA State Department of Veterans Affairs

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## King County

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Assistant Division Director for  
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*"Serving Those Who Served"*



# Background:

## Homeless Veteran Demographics



70%

Have substance abuse issues

68%

Reside in principal cities

51%

Of individual homeless Veterans have disabilities

51%

Are white males, compared to 35% of non-Veterans

50%

Have serious mental health issues

50%

Are age 51 or older

41%

Are between the ages of 31 and 50

32%

Reside in suburban or rural areas

20%

Of male homeless population are Vets

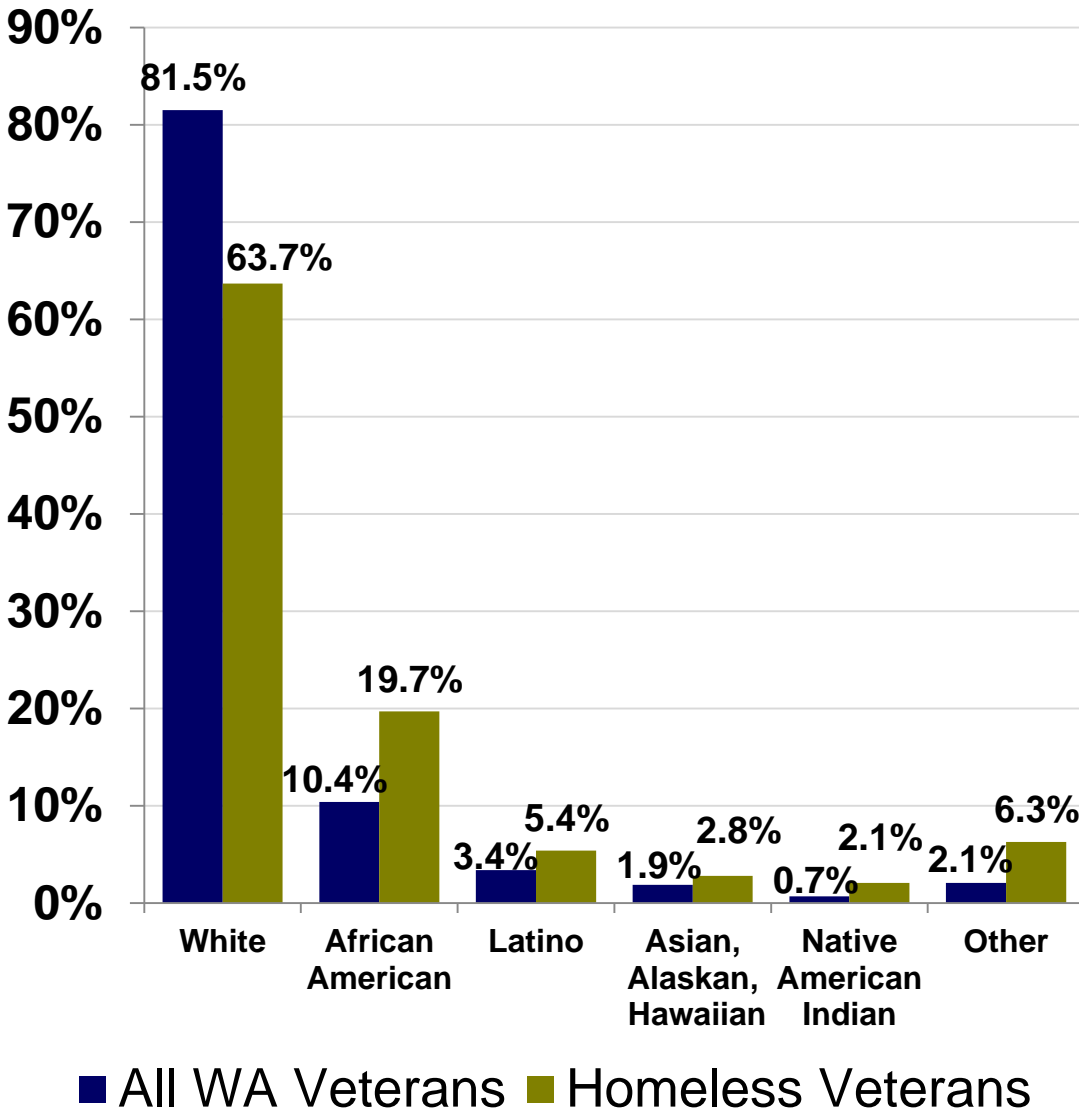
12%

Of total adult homeless population are Vets

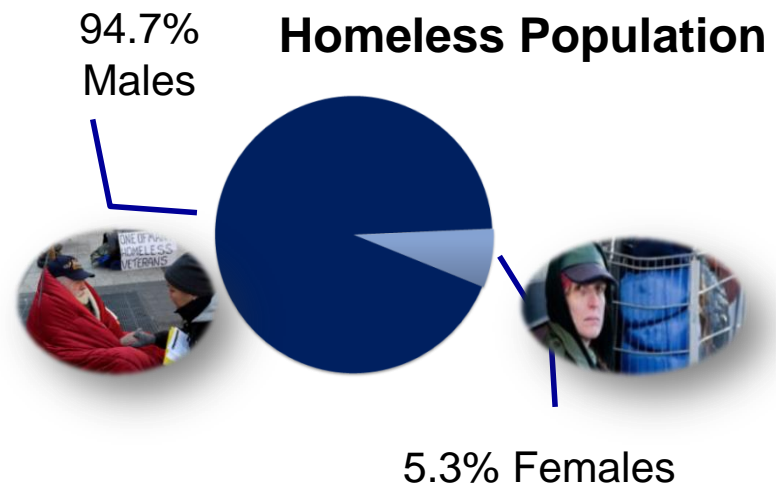
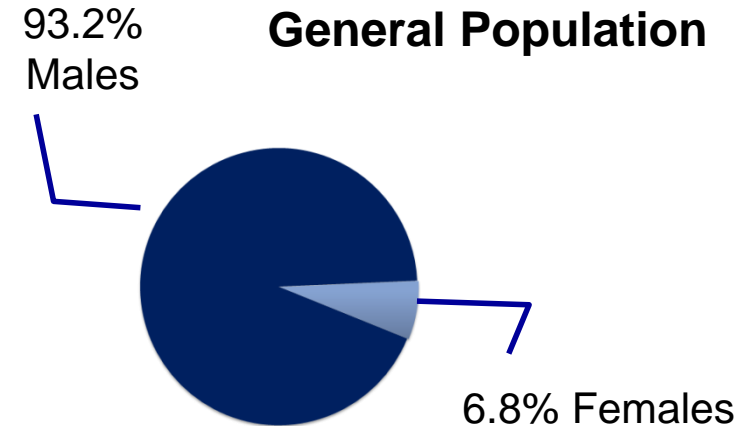
9%

Are between ages of 18 and 30

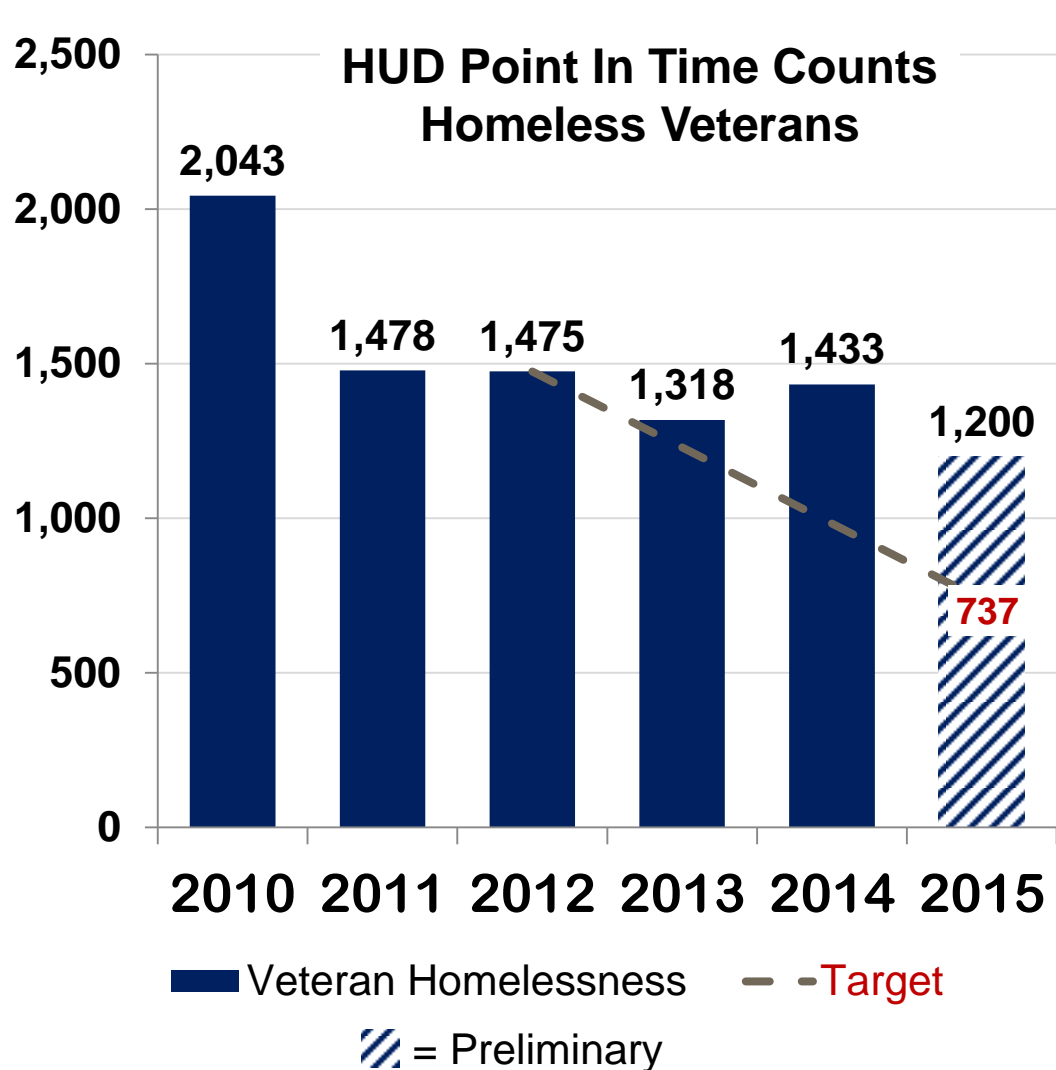
# Current State: Racial and Gender Disparities



• Demographics information unavailable for Unsheltered Homeless



## Current State: Needs Improvement



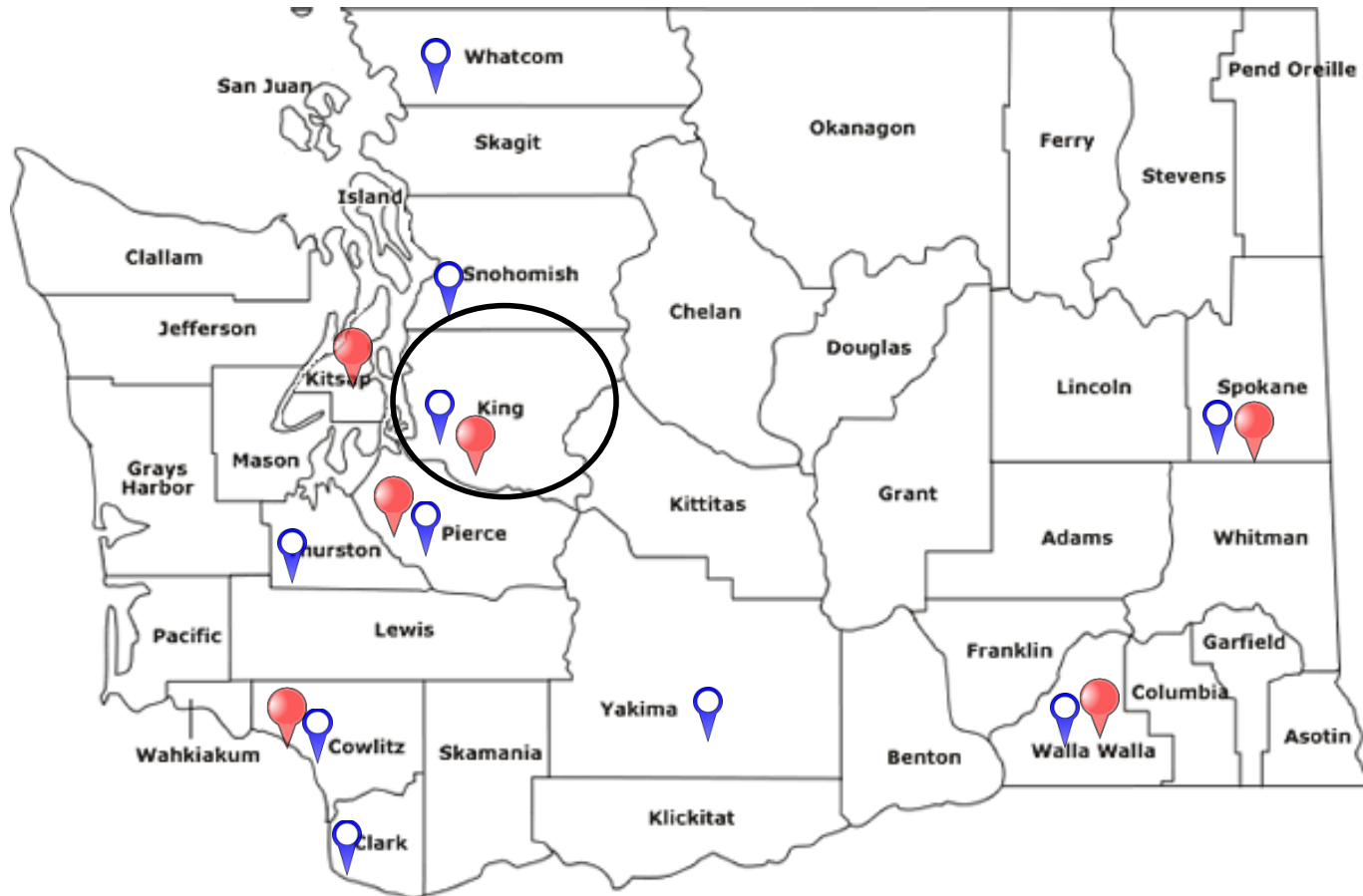
- Not on track to reduce number of homeless Veterans by 50%

### *The Good News*

- Homeless Veterans either reduced or not changed in 31 out of 39 counties

3.1.d: Decrease veteran homelessness from 1,475 to 737 (50%) by 12/31/2015

2010



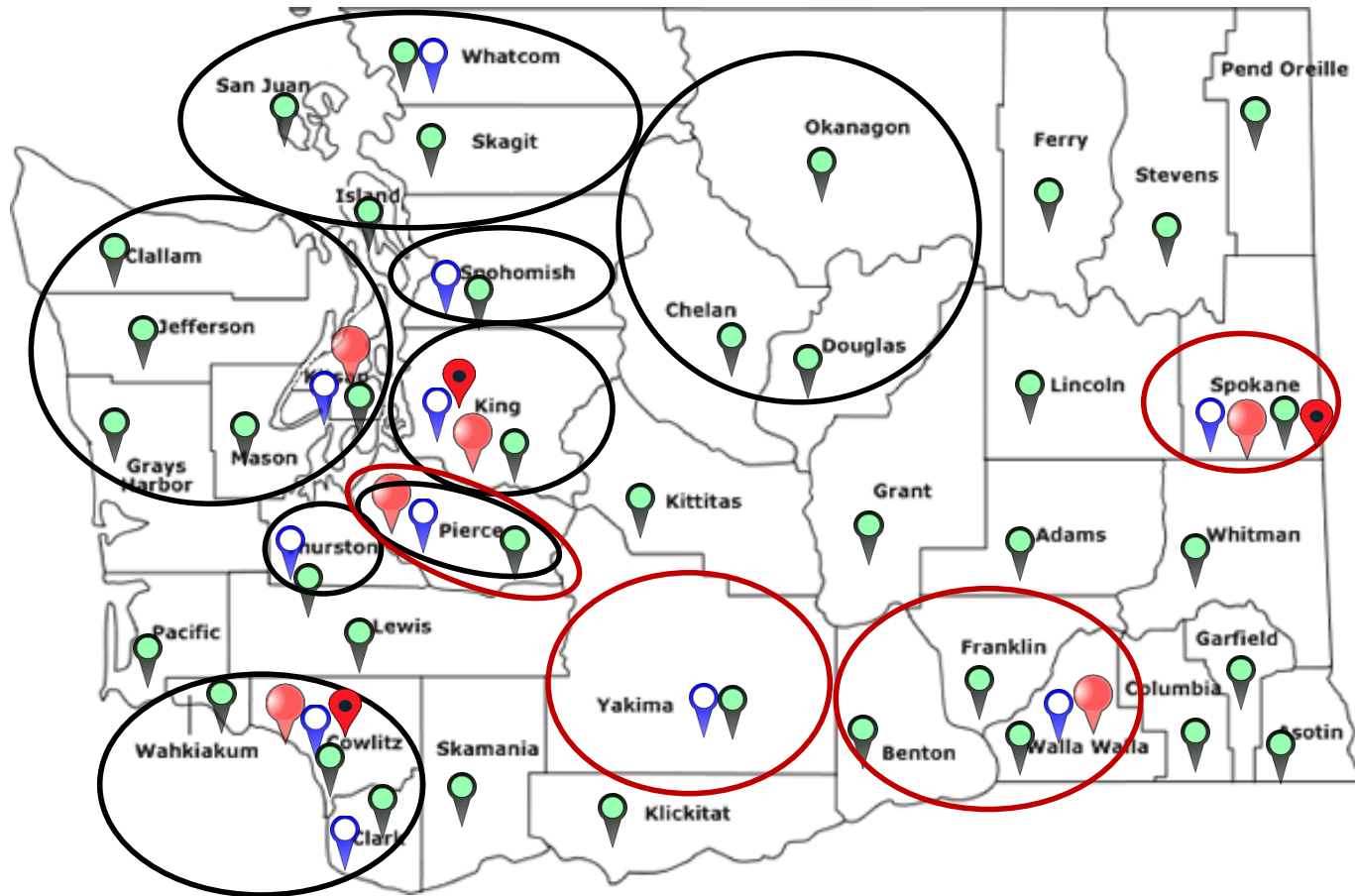
○ June 10, 2010 – First WDVA Homeless Veterans Housing Summit

📍 VA HUD-VASH vouchers – 1,010

📍 VA Grant & Per Diem Beds - 319

3.1.d: Decrease veteran homelessness from 1,475 to 737 (50%) by 12/31/2015

2015



○ WDMA Regional Veterans Housing Summits

○ Homeless Conferences

📍 VA HUD-VASH vouchers – 2,206

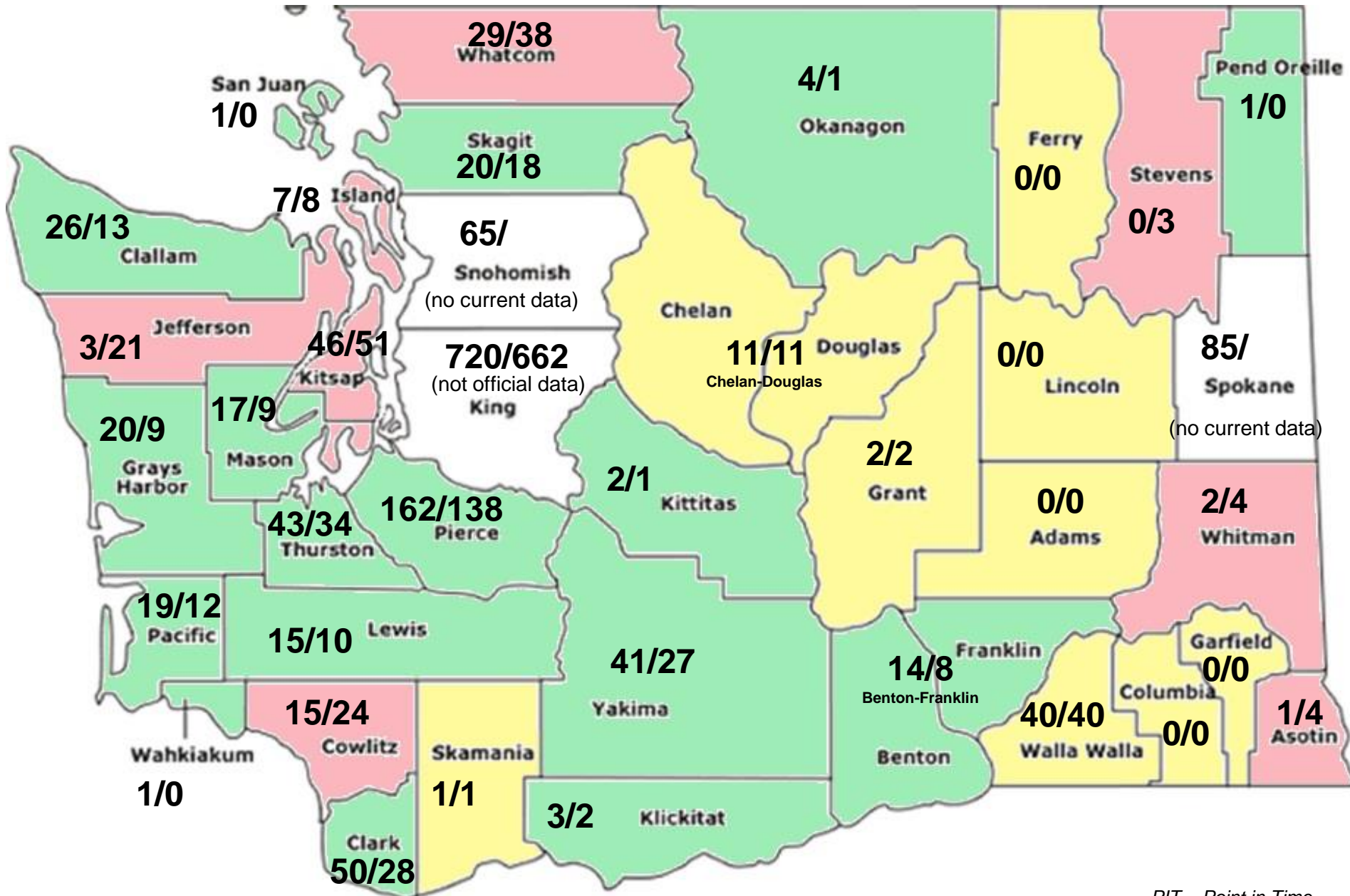
📍 VA Grant & Per Diem Beds - 399

📍 VA Emergency Beds - 43

📍 Counties covered by **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)**- 39 Counties



## 2014 / 2015 Differences in PIT Homeless Veteran Count



### **WDVA Program Results 2010 – 2014**



- Placed **1,704** Veterans into Housing
- Assisted **1,740** Veterans with Job Placements
- **1,438** Veterans assisted with Homeless Prevention

### **USDVA Program Results Fiscal FY 2014**



#### **VA Grant & Per Diem (transitional housing)**

- Avg. Occupancy Rate **88%**
- **11.3%** Female Veterans
- **46%** Chronically Homeless

#### **HUD-VASH (permanent housing)**

- **85.4%** Chronically Homeless
- **92%** of voucher in WA leased-up
- Housing Voucher Value average **\$700**

### **County/Local HMIS Data (first 9 months of CY 2014)**



#### **Veterans entered into:**

- Permanent Housing: **955**
- Prevention (not homeless): **912**
- Temporary Housing: **3,384** (**25%** of known exits then placed into **Permanent Housing** at exit)



## **Opportunity:** *Homeless Prevention*

### **Strategies:**

- Connection to VA Healthcare, Financial and Educational Benefits
- Transition Services on Military Installations (13-1)
- Early Intervention with Justice Involved Veterans
  - Treatment Courts
  - Reintegration
- Crisis Relief and Transition to Education or Employment (Veterans Innovations Program)
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project
- Veterans Estate Management Program (VEMP)

# **Problem:** *Under-resourced Case Management and Access to Affordable Housing*

## **Strategies:**

### **Increase Case Management**

- Facilitate and expand access to Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF) grants
- Expand use of the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals Bringing Recovery Into Diverse Groups thru Engagement and Support Grant Program (**CABHI-BRIDGES**)
- Improve state interagency coordination to leverage and better distribute existing resources

### ***Increase Affordable Housing***

- Increase:
  - Housing commitments by landlords and property managers
  - Awareness and use of veteran housing vouchers
- Identify
  - Vacant state property for re-purposing
  - Vacant school property for re-purposing
  - Sites to build small houses

# Problem: **662** Homeless Veterans in King County

Veterans w/o shelter overnight January 22-23, 2015	
Male	92
Female	6
Trans*	2
Other	1
Unknown or refused	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>

## Facts:

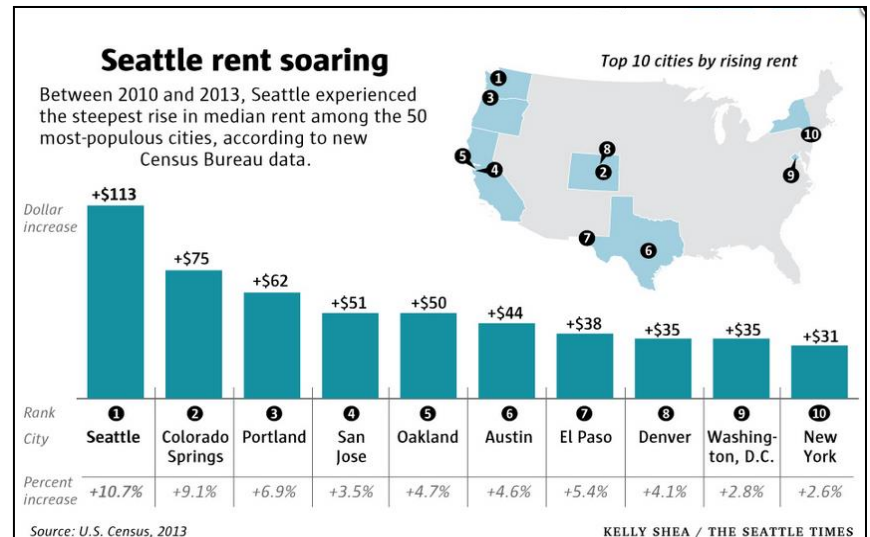
- Seattle is the fastest growing city in the Nation
- King County has a 2-percent vacancy rate
- Most resources (VASH and SSVF) rely on private market rental units
- Nearly 800 Veterans were permanently housed in King County in 2014

Subset w/ Known CH Status			
	CH	Not CH	Total
Male	13	15	<b>28</b>
Female	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>

(CH- Chronically Homeless)

Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF)

Source: Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness ([www.homelessinfo.org](http://www.homelessinfo.org))



# King County Strategy: *System Coordination and Alignment*

## System Coordination Efforts:

- 5 Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans in King County
- 25 Cities Initiative
- Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families Priority 1 Community Plan
- Zero: 2016



## How We Coordinate:

- Use common tools to identify, assess, assist and match Veterans with choice to housing.
- Meet weekly to enhance outreach, system navigation and access to available housing options.
- Leadership team to address barriers, monitor progress and make success visible.
- One Home Campaign to increase landlord engagement in the private rental market.
- Refine data collection, sharing and reporting across multiple systems and agencies.

# Detailed Action Plan:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Task Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Research utilization and development of existing private buildings and land especially in King, Pierce, Snohomish, Grant (Larson AFB) Counties</b>	WDVA	WestCare, King County, Pierce County RallyPoint 6 Metropolitan Development Council	Creation of affordable housing opportunities	Not started	Sep 30, 2015
<b>Improve data integrity</b>	WDVA	DSHS, DOC, Commerce	Case management system	In process	
<b>Partner with VA to provide outreach on underutilized HUD-VASH and focus on King County landlords</b>	WDVA	VA – Kathy Gerard HUD - Ryan Mielcarek King County – Pat Lemus	100% usage of HUD-VASH vouchers	Not started	Sep 30, 2015
<b>Provide technical assistance to WA Tribes on VASH voucher opportunities for Native American Veterans</b>	WDVA	Tribes, VA – Kathy Gerard HUD – Ryan Mielcarek	Additional housing and case management for Native American Veterans	Not started	Sep 30, 2015

## Governor's Assistance Needed:

- Declare Ending Homelessness in Washington State a State Priority with subsequent executive actions, media and communication.
- Reenergize the Washington Interagency Council on Homelessness in order to make greater impact on the Chronically Homeless and Homeless Prevention





# Customer Focus

## Veteran: *Travis Yazzie*



- US Army Combat Engineer 2005-2014
- Served 3 Tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom & Enduring Freedom
- WDVA Veterans Innovations Program Grant Recipient and VA WorkStudy
- Current Electrical Engineering Student, South Puget Sound Community College