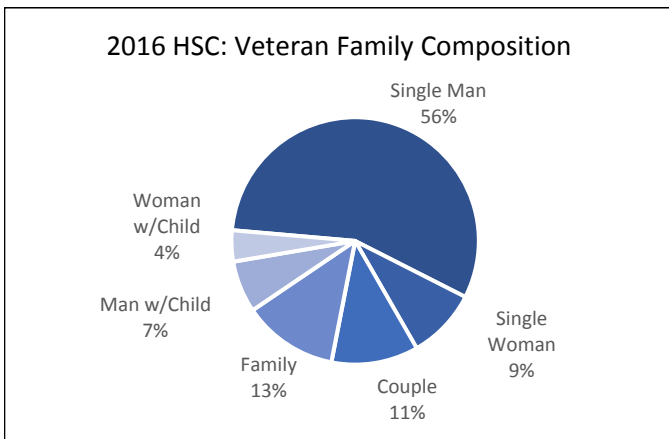
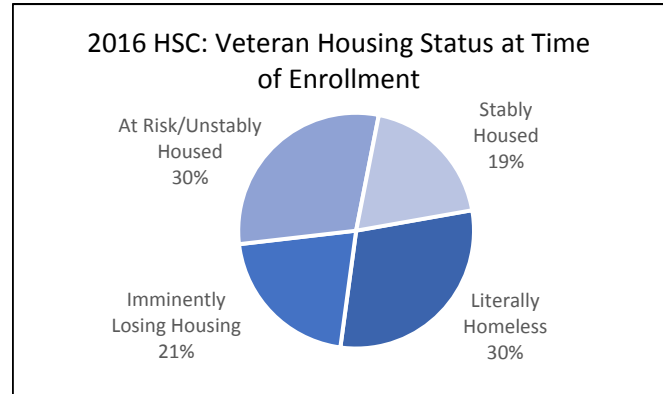
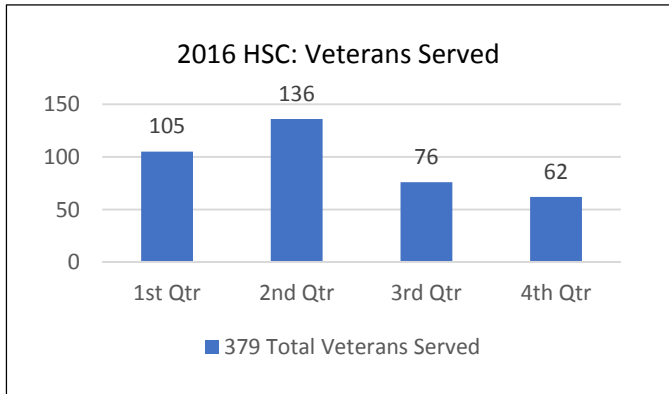


# Veteran Homelessness in Kitsap County

Updated: September 2017

## Housing Solutions Center Served 379 Veteran Households in 2016

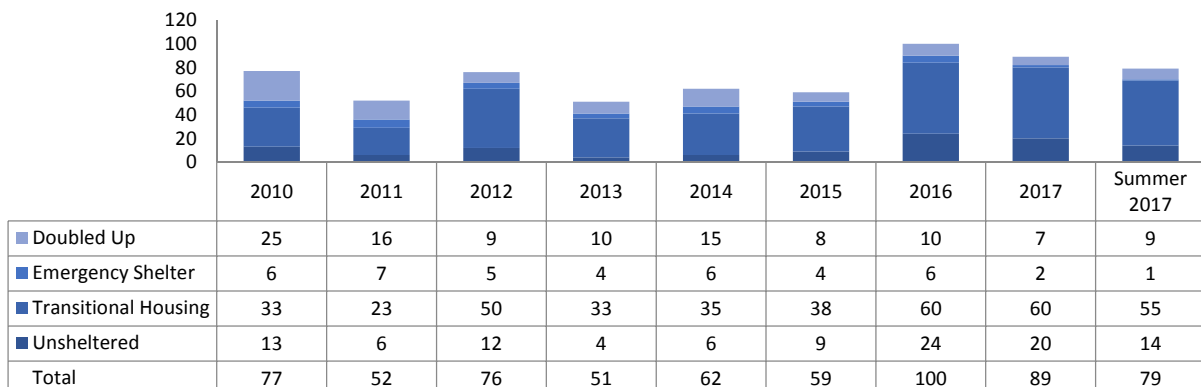
The Housing Solutions Center (HSC), Kitsap’s coordinated entry program for all people needing housing assistance, served an average of 95 veteran households each quarter in 2016. 56% were single men. 30% were literally homeless (unsheltered) and 21% were imminently losing housing. 9% of those who were unsheltered had been homeless for a year or more, down from 33% in 2015.



## Veterans Surveyed in the Homeless Point In Time Count

The “Point in Time” count is an annual survey that gathers information about people experiencing homelessness during a 24-hour period in early January and provides critical information regarding the scope and nature of homelessness in our community. During the 2017 count, 100 total homeless veterans were counted. Of those, 21 were unsheltered, living in places not meant for human habitation (outside, vehicle, building lacking one or more basic amenities). *Certified Data*

Kitsap Point in Time Count of Homeless Persons: Veterans



# What We Are Doing to Help Homeless Veterans

## *Homes for All Who Served (HAWS) Initiative*

*Homes for All Who Served* is lead through a collaborative effort of federal, state, and local veteran housing and services providers, with the goal of ending veteran homelessness as soon as possible.

Between July 2015 and September 2017, the *Homes for All Who Served* initiative has assisted **160 veteran households** out of homelessness and onto the path to self-sufficiency. In addition, another 200 veterans have been connected with critical services, such as legal assistance, food, and housing. Additional homeless veterans have been identified and are also being assisted.

### HAWS Initiative Projects:

- Developing a Plan to End Veteran Homelessness in Kitsap.
- Outreach to veterans on the By Name List to offer housing and services.
- Improving the accuracy of the veterans counted in the annual Point In Time Count, which is the basis for award of additional HUD Veterans Assistance Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers administered through the Housing Authorities.
- Creating a list of veteran services available in Kitsap and distributing it widely.
- Outreach to landlords requesting their commitment of units for homeless veterans.
- Continuing to align and increase resources to better serve homeless veterans.

## *Veterans Housing Options Group (VHOG)*

A result of the HAWS initiative, each Monday from 1pm – 2pm at Kitsap Community Resources, federal, state, and local veteran housing and service providers hold a Veterans Housing Options Group – an open house for any veterans who need housing assistance. No appointment necessary. The VHOG has helped an average of **10 veterans per week** get connected services with since its inception in October 2015.

## *Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)*

The SSVF program provides short-term rental assistance and flexible funding to overcome barriers to housing for veteran households. Between July 2015 and September 2017, it assisted **205 veteran households** with connection to permanent stable housing. The program is managed by the Metropolitan Development Council and Catholic Community Services.

## *Stand Down for Veterans*

Stand Downs are services fairs that connect veterans with many local social services and housing programs. They are sponsored by the Kitsap Area Veterans Alliance and the Kitsap County Veterans Program. Stand Downs are generally scheduled for April and October. For more information: <http://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/veterans/VA.htm>

# What You Can Do to Help Homeless Veterans

- **Refer any veterans experiencing homelessness** or housing instability to the Housing Solutions Center: 360-473-2035 or to the Veterans Housing Options Group (information above).
- If you are a landlord or property manager, **commit housing units to veterans in need**. For more information, contact the Landlord Liaison Program, 360-473-2136.



### **Kitsap County Department of Human Services**

Housing and Homelessness Program

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[http://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/housing/housing\\_grant.htm](http://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/housing/housing_grant.htm)

- Volunteer with your group to **prepare a dinner at the Benedict House**, an emergency shelter for men that hosts many veterans. 360-277-6136.
- **Donate mini-toiletries, outdoor gear, or tube socks** to the Salvation Army, who provides them to unsheltered veterans, 360-373-5550.
- **More ideas:**  
[http://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/housing/housing\\_grant.htm](http://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/housing/housing_grant.htm)