

Department of Connecticut VFW Auxiliary

“ GRATEFUL HEARTS SERVING OUR VETERANS “

Department President Cheryl Costello-Pelkey's Project

HOMELESS VETERANS

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Homeless Veterans Bulletin 1

Homelessness among veterans has been of major public concern for over 3 decades. Homelessness among substantial numbers of veterans was first documented after the Civil War but it was not until the early 1980s, a period characterized by high inflation and 2 economic recessions, that veteran homelessness began to be recognized as an important public health problem.

Reducing and preventing homelessness among women Veterans starts by recognizing some of the contributing factors unique to them:

*Trauma: there's evidence of a connection between women Veteran homelessness and trauma. Women Veterans who were homeless have told VA researchers that the experience of trauma before, during and/or after military service contributed to their housing instability.

*Military sexual assault: it has also been found that one in three women say “yes” when screened by VA health care for military sexual assault (MST), which is sexual assault or threatening sexual harassment during a person's military service.

*Intimate partner violence: many women Veterans who are homeless also report having a history of intimate partner violence.

*Poverty: Housing is a large expense for anyone, but studies show that women are more likely than men to be at risk of poverty.

*Single parenthood: Women also shoulder more of the costs of child-rearing, particularly as single parents.