



For Immediate Release

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HOMELESSNESS ON THE DECLINE DESPITE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

Progress seen as a reflection on the changing nature of homelessness assistance

WASHINGTON, DC – [The National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) has released [The State of Homelessness in America 2016](#), the sixth report in a series tracking the nation's progress toward ending homelessness.

According to this year's report, which provides data aggregated from community point-in-time counts, overall homelessness decreased by nearly 12 percent from 2010 to 2015, a trend that the Alliance attributes to the shift in programs and assistance.

"More than a half-million people experienced homelessness on one single night in 2015, but the consistent downward trend confirms that the changes we, as a nation, have made to homeless assistance are working to better serve those in need," said Nan Roman, President and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. "But we are not there yet, and have much work to do, not only in taking proven approaches to scale, but also in addressing the underlying issues of housing affordability and inadequate incomes."

According to Roman, while there is progress at the national level, the story is often quite different in individual jurisdictions and among different populations.

"The report also points out some less positive trends. For example, today, there are more poor households that have to spend too much of their income on housing or doubled up with family and friends than before the recession," she said, "This means that despite the improving economy, more families and individuals are vulnerable to homelessness."

Here are a few highlights from this year's report:

- The national rate of homelessness dropped in 2015: from 18.3 homeless people per 10,000 in 2014 to 17.7 homeless people per 10,000.
- Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia (D.C.) reported decreases in overall homelessness, while 16 states reported increases. The states with decreases in homelessness were concentrated in the South and Midwest.
- The rate of veteran homelessness continues to decline. The rates reported by individual states ranged from 145 homeless veterans per 10,000 veterans in the general population in D.C. to 9 in Virginia.

- The focus on permanent housing solutions to homelessness continued to spread. Thirty-eight states and D.C. increased rapid re-housing capacity from 2014 to 2015. Thirty-five states reported increases in permanent supportive housing capacity.
- In 2014, 7 million people in poor households were doubled up with family and friends, the most common prior living situation before becoming homeless. The number of poor renter households experiencing severe housing cost burden, those households in poverty paying more than 50 percent of their income toward housing, totaled 6.6 million.

Would you like more information about your state or the national snap shot of homelessness in the United States? Download the full report at www.endhomelessness.org/SOH2016 or check out our blog series at www.endhomelessness.org/blog.

For additional information or to request an interview:

Contact

Erin Fitzgerald

Digital Communications Specialist

(202) 942-8297

efitzgerald@naeh.org

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The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonprofit, non-partisan, organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. As a leading voice on the issue of homelessness, the Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, cost-effective policy solutions; works collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity; and provides data and research to policymakers and elected officials in order to inform policy debates and educate the public and opinion leaders nationwide.