



Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness

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The Challenge

- In 2010, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*
- In June of 2014, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden encouraged mayors and local leaders to make a commitment to end Veteran homelessness in their communities



The Challenge in Delaware

- In June 2014, County Executive Thomas P. Gordon joined elected officials around the country in signing on to the Challenge
 - Governor Jack Markell, Mayor Dennis Williams and Mayor Polly Sierer joined in 2015 making it a statewide challenge
- Working groups consisting of local service providers, state and federal agencies were formed to coordinate, analyze and advance strategies to house Veterans experiencing homelessness in Delaware



The Challenge in New Castle County

- A steering committee consisting of representatives from New Castle County, the City of Wilmington, the City of Newark, HUD and the Homeless Planning Council have collaborated on the following:
 - New Castle County Summit on May 19, 2015
 - Over 80 attendees
 - NCC Plan developed during the Summit
 - Veterans Point-in-Time Count – November 10, 11, and 12, 2015
 - Care Pack Drive with Salesianum School to provide supplies for newly housed Veterans
 - Presentation to the Delaware Apartment Association to increase housing options for providers



The Challenge & the New Castle County Government

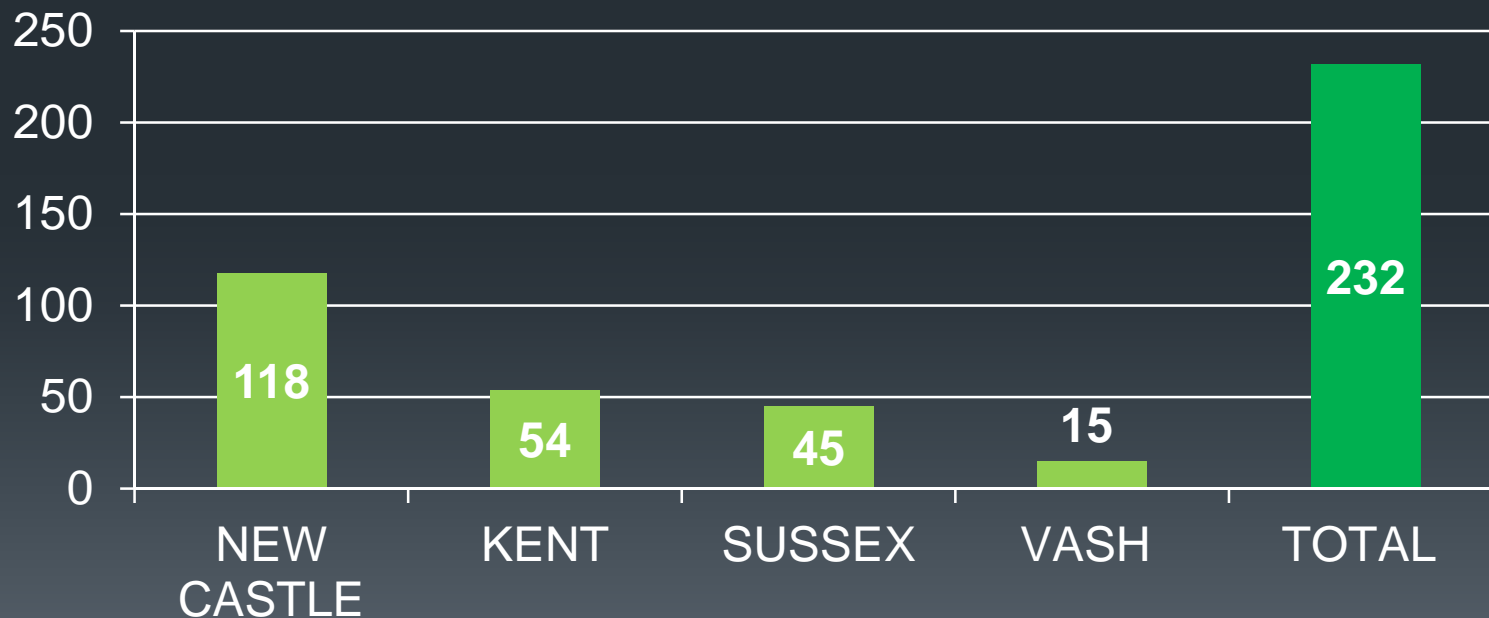
- Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) Housing Vouchers
 - 24 homeless veterans housed through VASH
 - Eight new apartment complexes added to housing list
 - Best Practice – VASH clients who are stable become New Castle County Section 8 clients
- Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List
 - Veterans are a preference on the new waiting list
- Emergency Solutions Grant Program funding
 - Rapid Rehousing and Emergency Shelter Operations



State Progress

January 29, 2015 – February 19, 2016

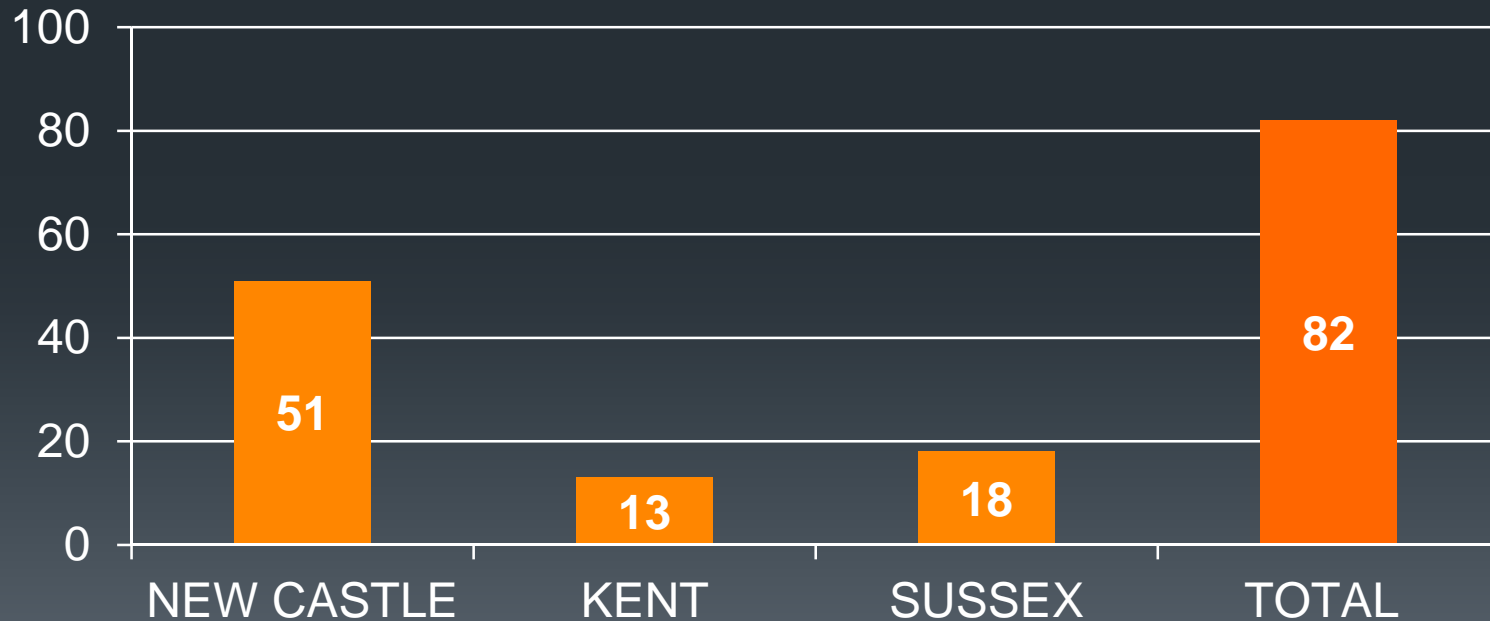
Total Veterans Housed by County



State Progress

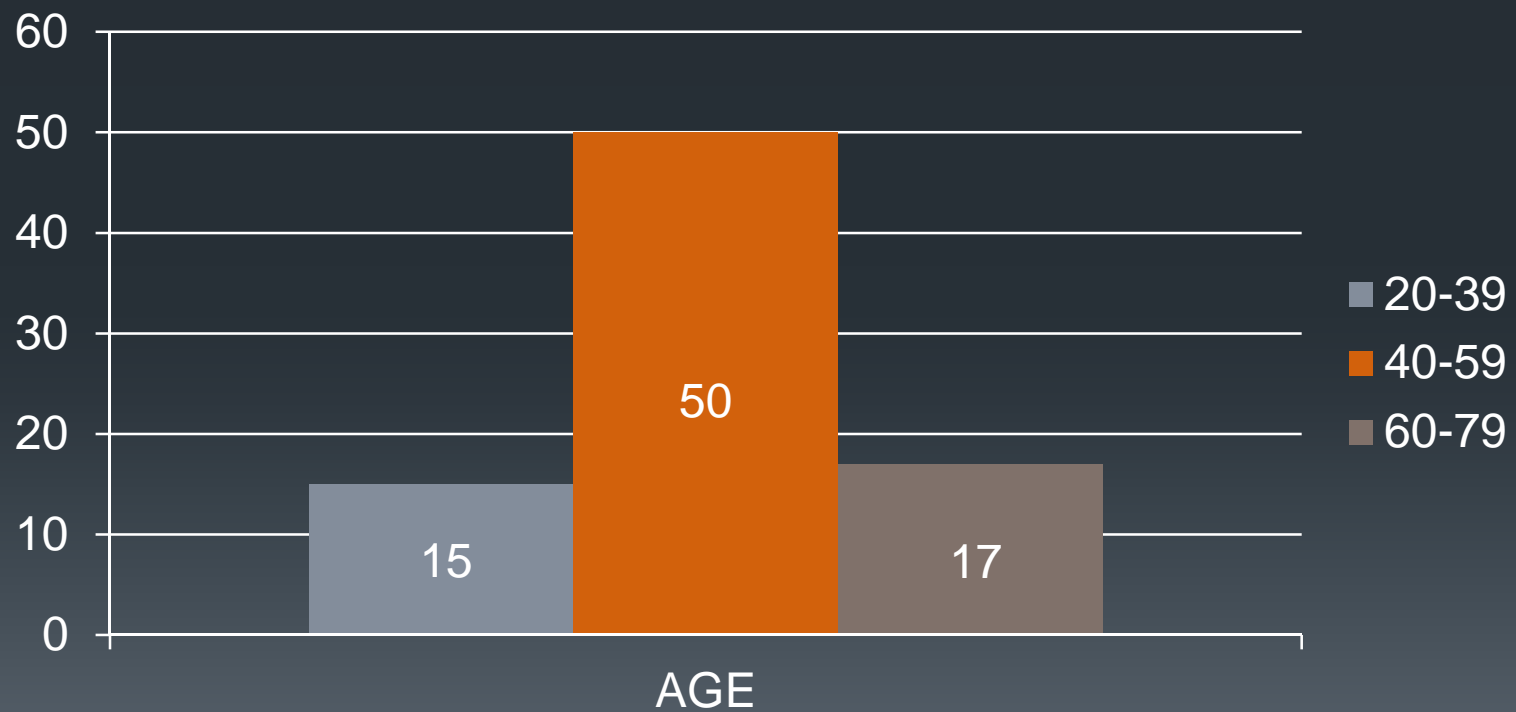
January 29, 2015 – February 19, 2016

Total Veterans Remaining Homeless by County

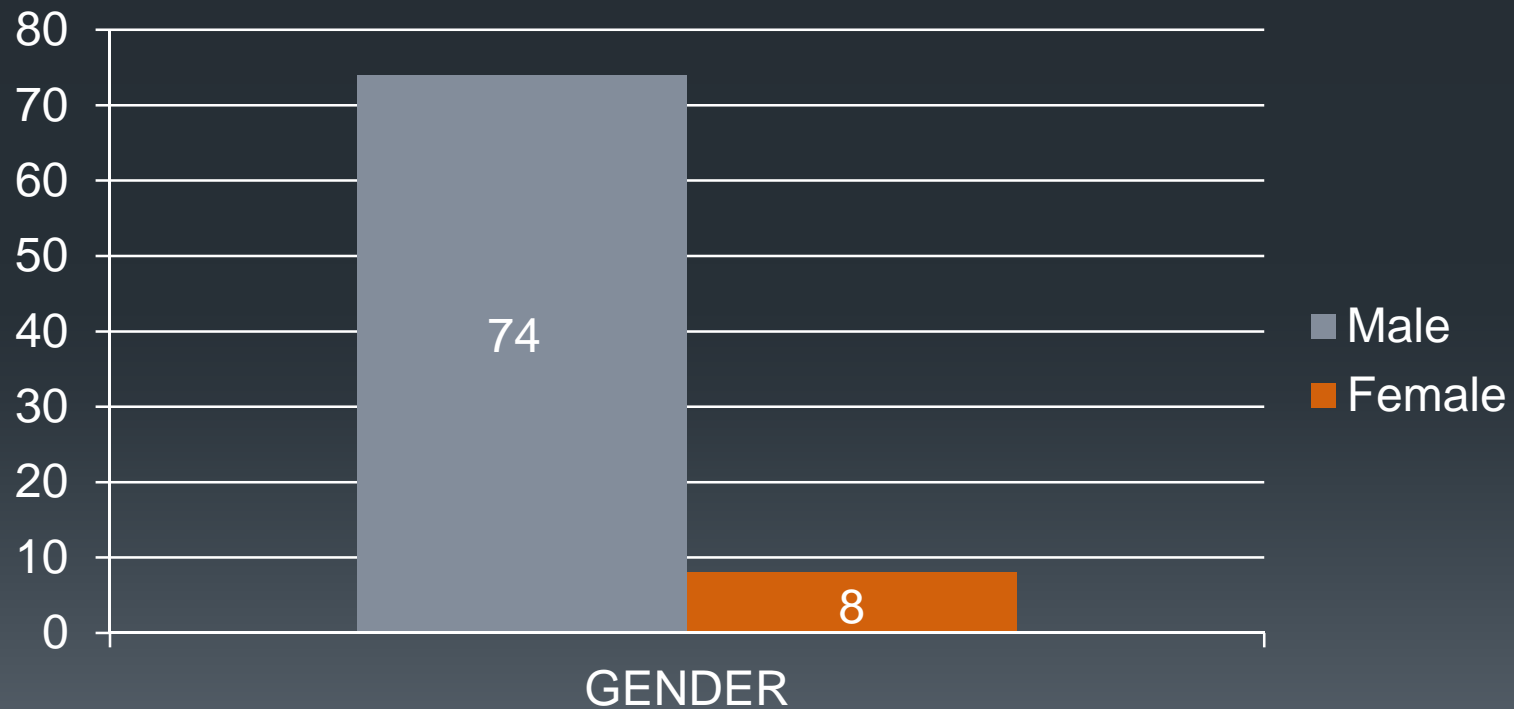




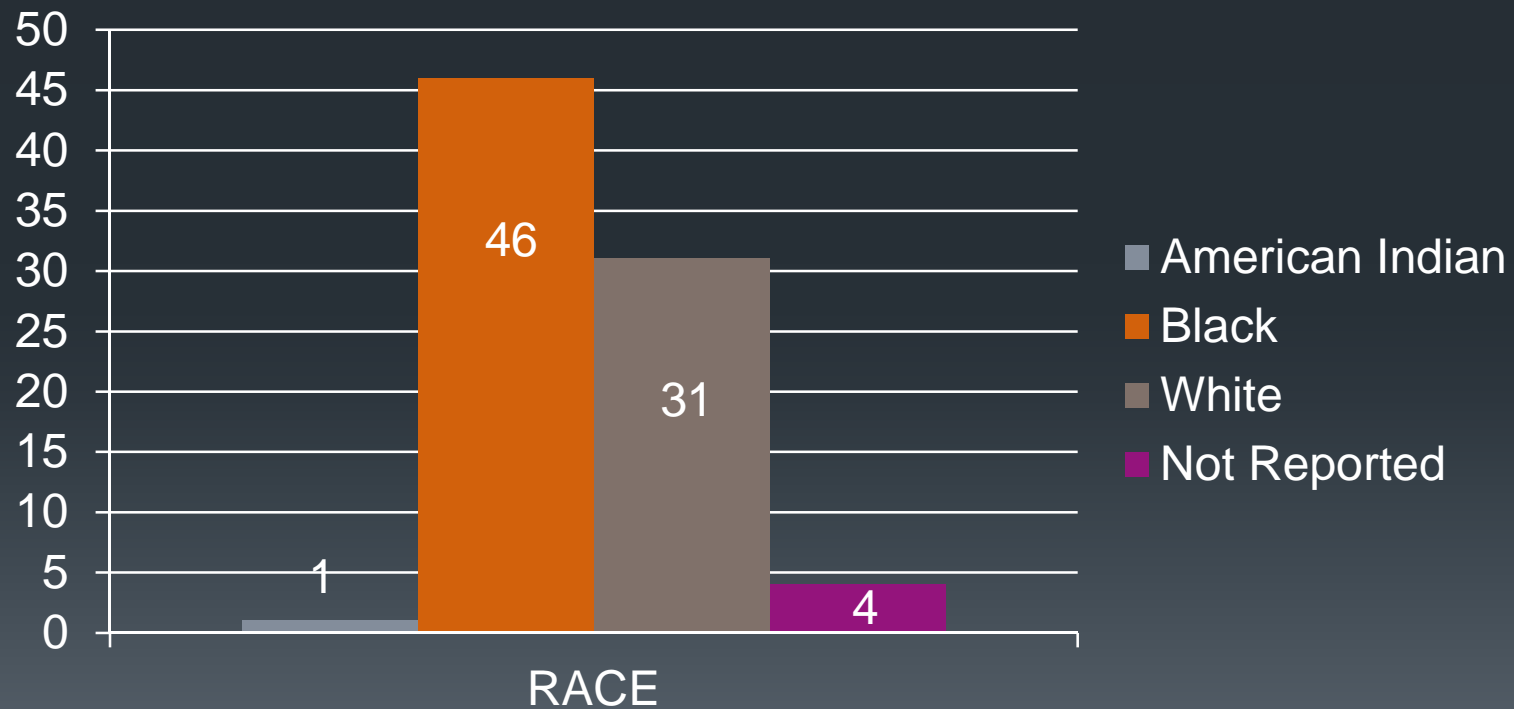
Homeless Veterans Demographics



Homeless Veterans Demographics

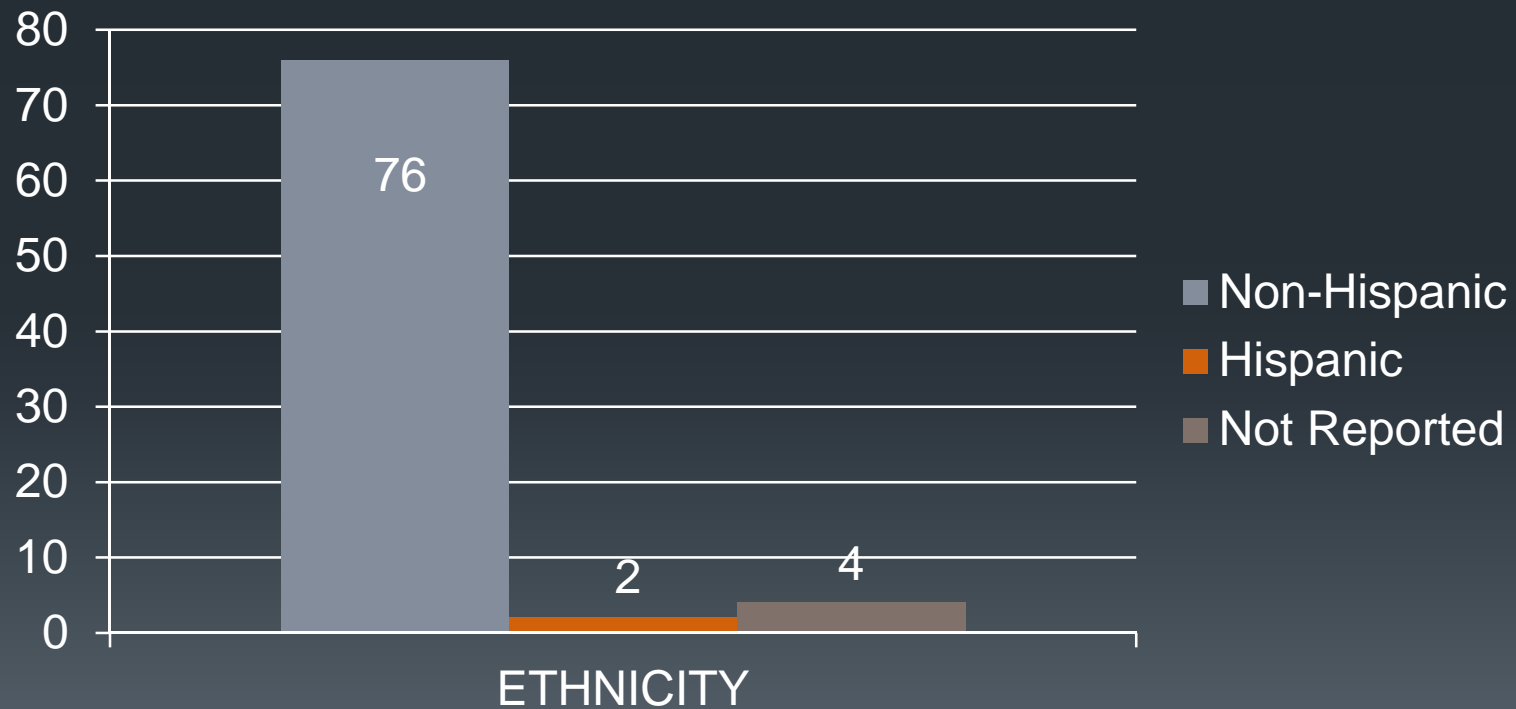


Homeless Veterans Demographics





Homeless Veterans Demographics





The Challenge's Next Steps

- Launch housing blitz to house remaining homeless veterans
- Continue to convene biweekly meetings of the Statewide provider team
- Engage other needed partners, service and housing providers
- Continue and expand landlord recruitment efforts
- Use the Veterans Challenge as a model for upcoming Challenge to end chronic homelessness (2017) and family homelessness (2020)

Highlights of the Veterans Challenge

