UC San Diego

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Introduction

- Homelessness is a significant issue in the U.S., with Los Angeles experiencing one of the highest prevalence rates.
- Approximately 47,000 are experiencing homelessness in L.A.
 - This represents about 8.5 % of the U.S. homeless population, despite L.A. representing 1.3% of the U.S. population.
- Veterans represent 8% of the U.S. population, but 17% of homeless persons.
- Houseless individuals face limited access to:
- Sanitary resources and proper housing
- Mental and physical health services
- Food security
- Limited access to these resources contributes to the development of new health problems and exacerbates pre-existing conditions.

Objective

• To understand the reasons associated with homelessness by veteran status in Los Angeles County.

Methodology

- Data was collected by the Los Angeles Homeless Authority in January of 2016.
- 11,121 participants were asked questions from a survey.
- Data included:
- Gender, Age, and Ethnicity
- Veteran status
- Reasons for homelessness
- Chronic Conditions
- Our analyses included 8,109 of the participants who answered yes or no regarding their reason for homelessness.
- Descriptive statistics and Fisher's exact tests were used to analyze the data.

Tab

Gen Fema Male Tran Unk Age Mea Eth Ame Asia Blac Hisp

Non

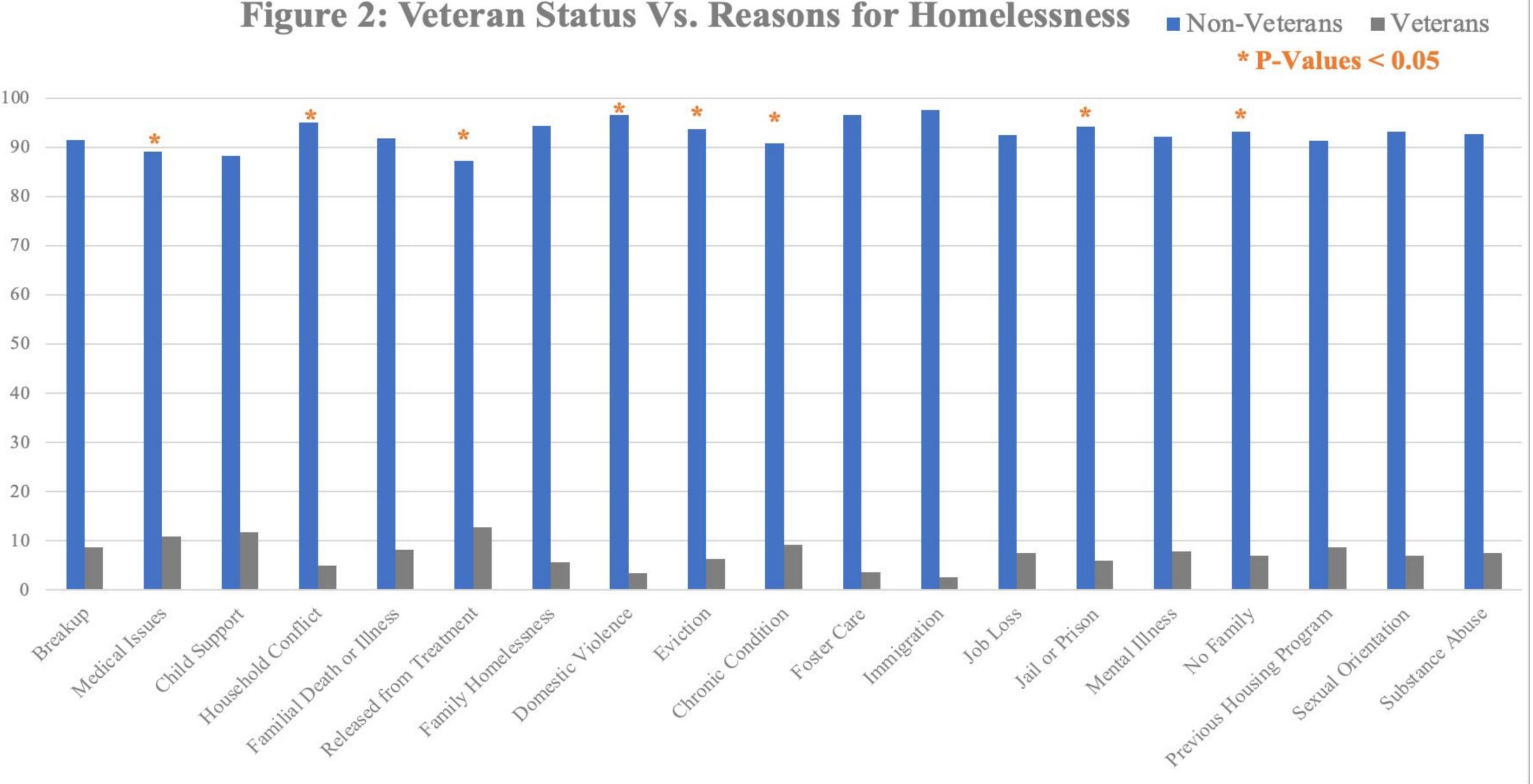
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Exploring the Factors Contributing to Homelessness among U.S. Military Veterans: A Cross-Sectional Study

Results

ble 1: Demographics	(N= 8109)
nder	
nale	26.4%
le	71.9%
nsgender	0.8%
known	1.1%
e	
an	47.01 ± 11.52
nicity	
erican Indian/Alaskan Native	2.0%
an	1.1%
ck	38.6%
panic	26.8%
n-Hispanic White	11.0%
er	20.4%

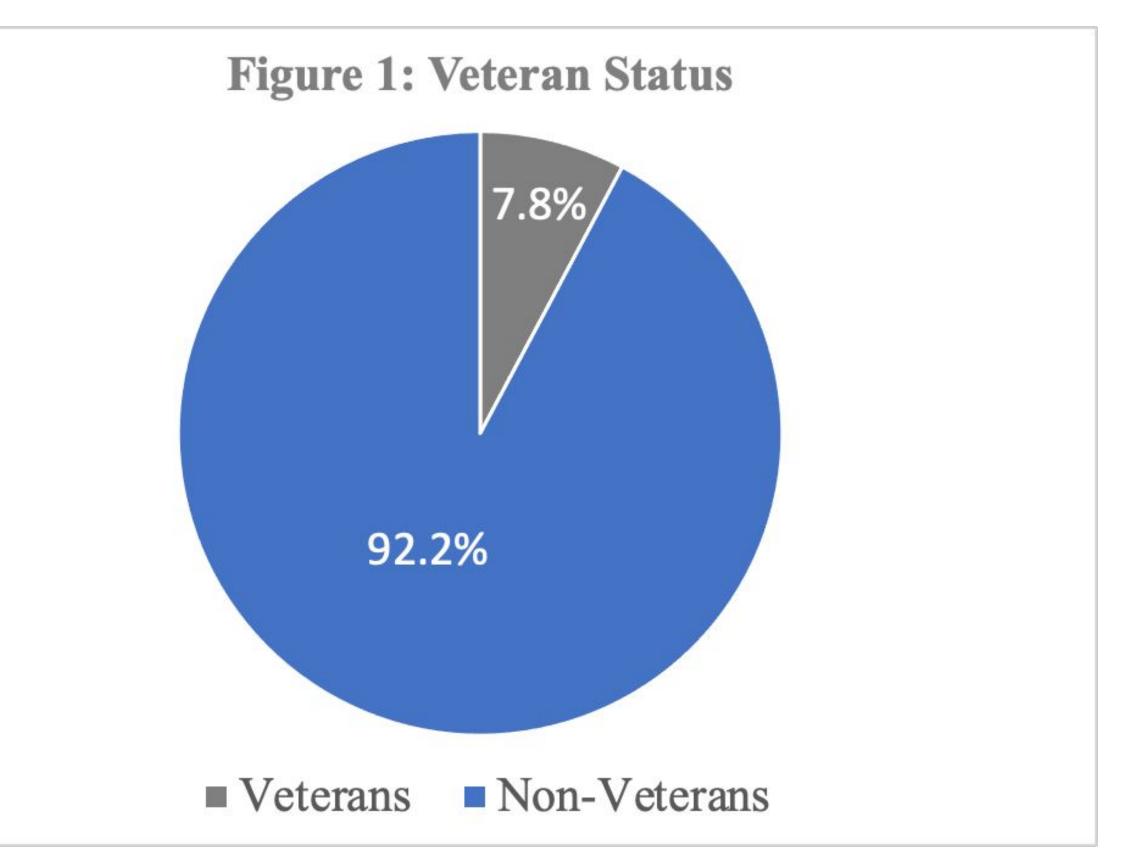


Conclusion

• Veterans are more likely to experience homelessness as a result of chronic conditions, medical issues or being recently released from a treatment facility, indicating lack of access to affordable and efficient health care is a key factor in experiencing homelessness among veterans (p < 0.05).

• Non-veterans are more likely to experience homelessness as a result of domestic violence, household conflicts, past imprisonment, or lack of familial support (p < 0.05).

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Policy Implications

- Ensuring that all veterans are able to access benefits with the VA Healthcare system could improve health outcomes and rates of homelessness.
- The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans supports policy S. 2172, which addresses issues with the VA and identifies barriers affecting veteran housing and health outcomes:
- Expanding public transportation
- Providing stable housing
- Delivering temporary care for veterans awaiting long-term care placement.

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