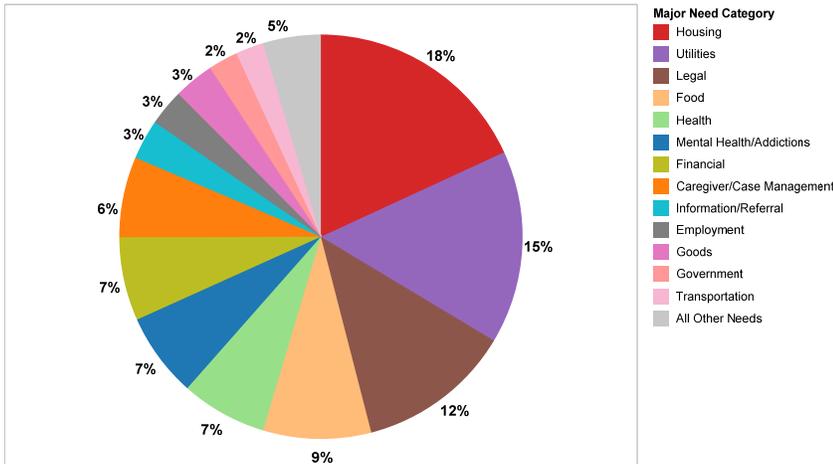


“Broken Promise” Leaves Many Veterans Living in Poverty

A November 10, 2011 U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee report entitled ***Broken Promise: The Need To Improve Economic Security For Veterans***, indicates that “Consistent with the overall rise in poverty, the percentage of veterans in poverty increased significantly in recent years, rising from 5.4 percent in 2007 to nearly 7 percent in 2010. In all, more than 1.4 million veterans are living below the poverty line, and another 1.4 million veterans are living just above it— numbers that have likely not yet peaked given the tepid recovery from the Great Recession and the large number of service members expected to leave active duty in the near future.”

Connect2Help 2-1-1 call data from November 2010 through October 2011 corroborate this grim picture of an increasing number of veterans struggling to survive economically. More than 1,600 veterans called 2-1-1 for help in the last 12 months; this is a **99% spike** compared to the same time period last year.

Veterans' Needs: November 2010-October 2011



- The things most necessary for survival – **housing, utilities and food** – dominated the list of needs presented by veterans. The percentages in these categories were nearly identical to those of ALL 2-1-1 callers.

- However, **housing** needs were slightly higher for veterans than for ALL callers (18% vs. 15%).

- Veterans also requested help finding **legal assistance** more frequently than ALL callers (12% vs. 7%).

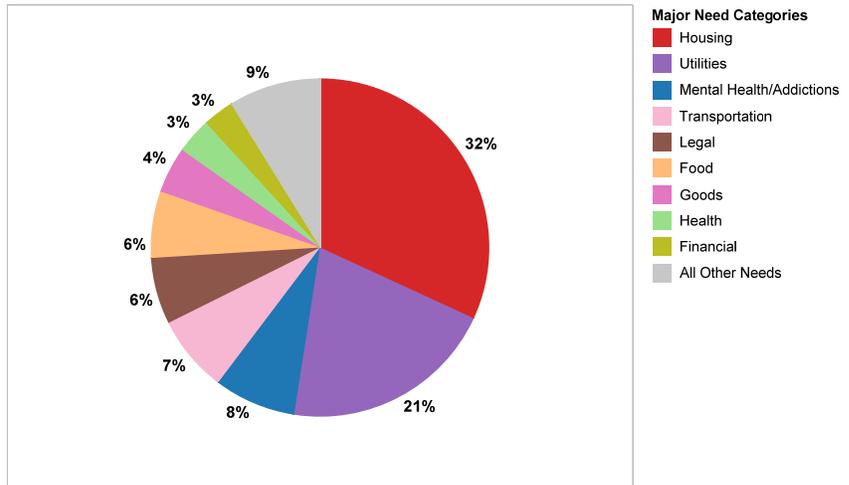
- **Mental health and addiction** issues also were higher for veterans (7%) than for ALL 2-1-1 callers (5%).

- **Seven percent (7%)** of veterans’ needs were recorded as “**unmet**,” this is identical to the unmet need percentage for ALL callers.

- **More than half** of all unmet needs were related to **housing and utilities**. For veterans, as with ALL callers, these essentially financial needs are persistently difficult to meet because the need is always greater than the community’s resources.

- **Mental health and addictions** needs were the third largest unmet need category. Eight percent (8%) of these needs were unmet for veterans, compared to 3% for ALL callers.

Veterans' Unmet Needs: November 2010-October 2011



Based on data reported by callers, the majority of veterans (70%) calling 2-1-1 for help lived in Marion County; 11% lived in the counties surrounding Marion; and 19% lived outside of Central Indiana.

Twenty-two percent (22%) were ages 18-29; 18% were in their 30’s; 20% were in their 40’s; 24% were in their 50’s; and 16% were 60+.

Nearly a third (32%) reported SSD or SSI as their main source of income; 19% reported Social Security/pension; 14% had no income; 14% were employed (8% FT and 6% PT); 9% received Food Stamps; and 12% had some “other” type of income.



Community Partner

For assistance or more information about veterans’ needs in Central Indiana, dial 2-1-1 or (317)926-4357.

