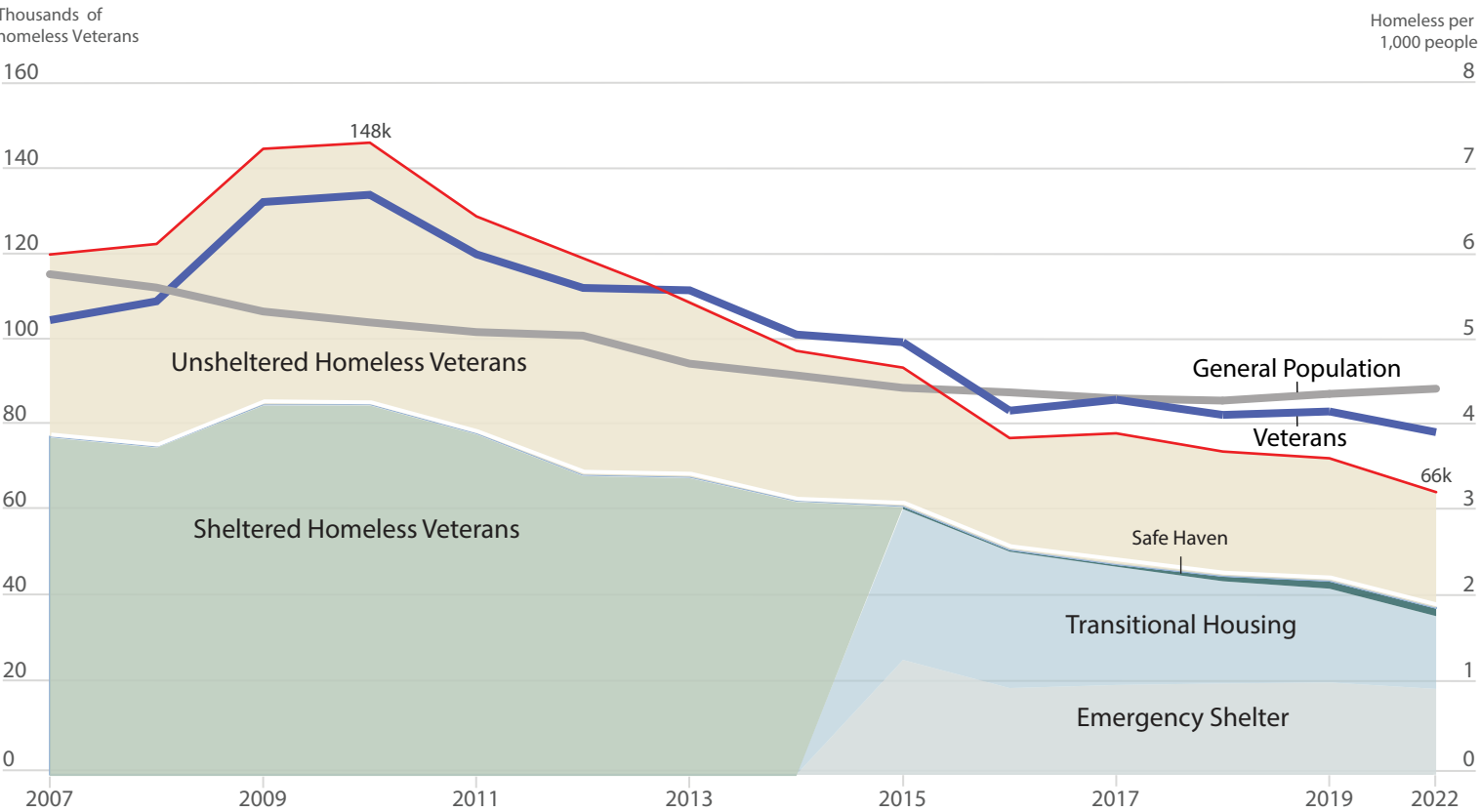


# Graphic detail Veteran Homelessness

The Economist February 21, 2023

## Homelessness among U.S. Veterans has been reduced by more than half since peaking in 2010

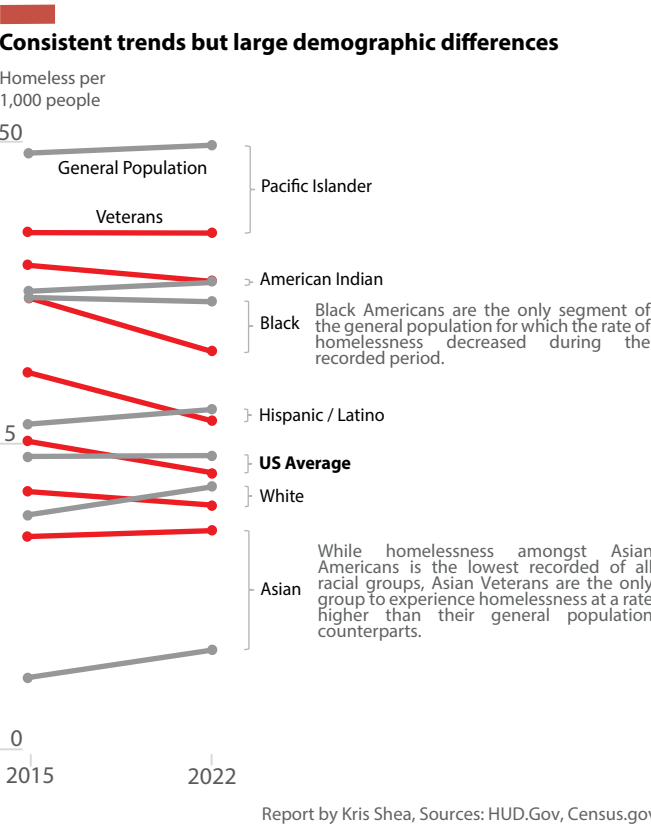


## Ending veteran homelessness

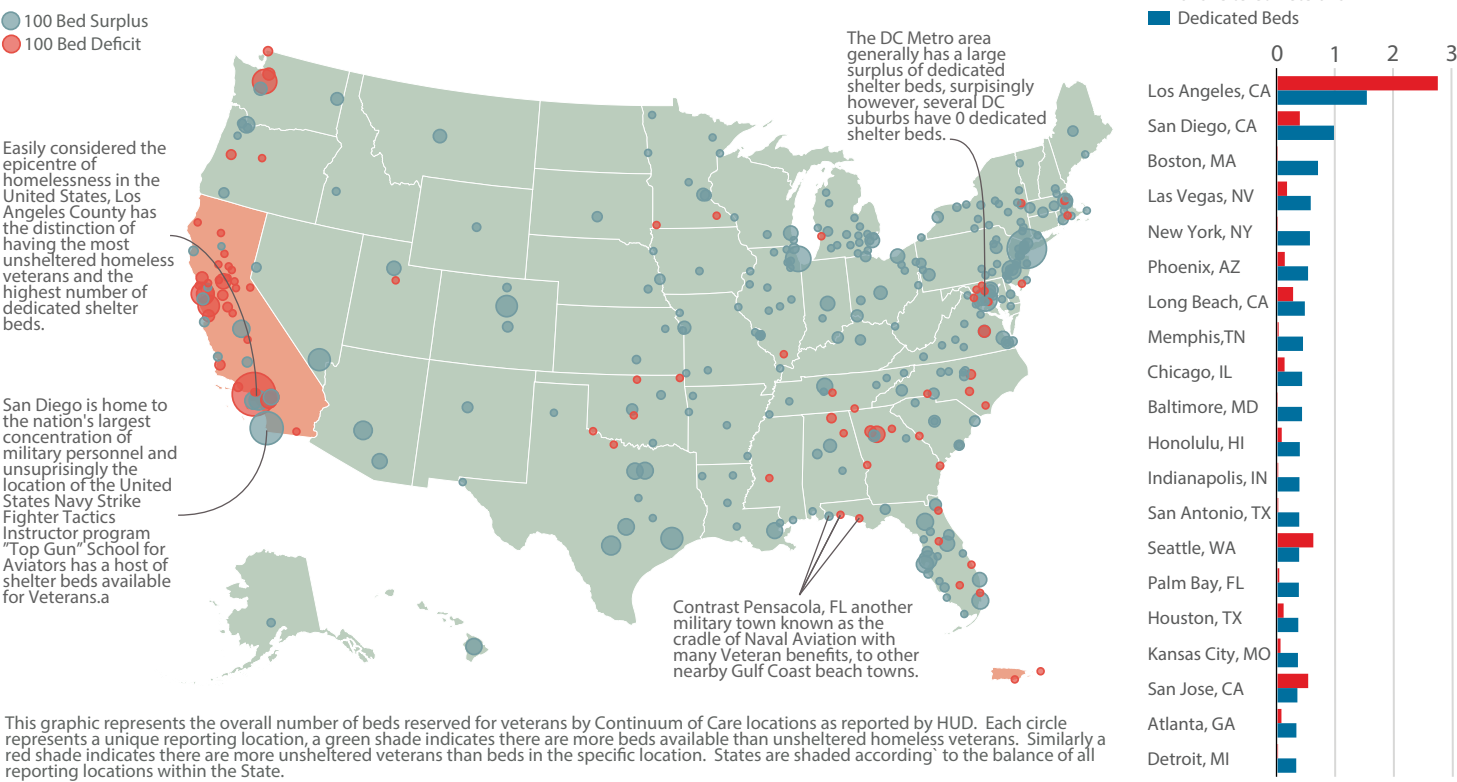
Homelessness in most, but not all demographics among Veterans has decreased in recent years.

Impressive strides have been made housing Veterans in the United States. Led by efforts from the department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and supported by the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the number of homeless Veterans has decreased from a recent peak of 148,000 to 66,000 in 2022 - less than half. The reduction in homeless Veterans however accompanies a decline in the overall number of Veterans in the United States as aging Veterans of World War II, the Korean War and increasingly of the Vietnam War die of natural causes. This reduction results in a less impressive reduction in the rate of homelessness among veterans, however when compared to increases in the rates of homelessness among the non-veteran population the difference is stark. Despite a period between 2008 and 2016 where Veterans were more likely than the general

population to be homeless, the latest data show Veterans less likely to be homeless again. Sheltered individuals considered to be homeless as reported by HUD include individuals in **safe haven housing**: A form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services, **emergency shelter housing**: Any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements, and **transitional housing**: temporary housing with supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the goal of interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. Graphics in this article explore differences in homelessness among Veterans vs the General population for select demographic groups and the phenomenon of a national surplus of dedicated shelter beds for homeless Veterans. ■



## All states but California have a surplus of shelter beds reserved for Veterans



## A laudable reduction in overall homeless Veterans, but an increasing percentage are unsheltered

