A Presentation to the
Department of Veterans Affairs

Rocky Hill VA Campus

Study of DVA Campus for
Additional Housing
Rocky Hill, CT
BI-C-287

26 April 2016

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Study of DVA Campus for Additional Housing – BI-C-287

Demographic Study Report

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Demographic Study Report

Research Conducted

- Overview of previous studies, available data on U.S. and Connecticut Veterans, non-Veterans, and homeless populations

- Interviews

  - Maria Cheney, Director of Residential Programs and Services, Rocky Hill Veterans Home, and staff

  - Babatunde Green, former Director of Planning, Department of Veterans Affairs

  - Laurie Harkness, VA Connecticut Errera Community Care Center

  - Maureen Pasko, Director of VA Connecticut Homeless Program

  - Ronald Gantick, Property Manager of Victory Gardens housing

Study of DVA Campus for Additional Housing – BI-C-287

Executive Summary

Study of DVA Campus for Additional Housing – BI-C-287

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Demographic Study Report

Executive Summary

- The number of CT Veterans will decline within the next 20 years

- The age/gender breakdown of the CT Veteran population is changing

- The Veteran population may vary from the projections depending on political, economic, and programmatic forces

- There will continue to be a need for different types of Veteran housing, including transitional housing, permanent housing, assisted living, and family housing

- The Home should continue to provide a reasonable and modest amount of housing, but should consider altering the bed types and amount of housing it offers to match the population composition and needs of the future Veteran population

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Demographic Study Report

State of Connecticut Veteran 20 Year Population Forecast

Overall Connecticut Veteran Population

- *2014:* estimated 213,420 Veterans

- *2024:* estimated 155,158 Veterans, a decline of about one-quarter

- *2034:* estimated 114,469 Veterans, a decline of about one-half

Gender Balance in 2034

- Men will still be the majority of the population, but will constitute a smaller proportion

- Women will continue to comprise only a small proportion of the population, but their proportion will increase

- In the population age 65 and older, the number of men will decline, but the number of women will increase

Demographic Study Report

State of Connecticut Veteran 20 Year Population Forecast

Age Groups in 2034

- Veterans age 55+ will constitute a smaller proportion of the population
    - Older adults, age 55 to 74 will constitute a *smaller* proportion of the population
    - Elderly adults, age 75+, will constitute a *larger* proportion of the population
- Younger Vets, age 20 to 34, will continue to comprise only a small portion of the population
- Using a wider definition, younger Veterans, age 20 to 44 will grow as a proportion of the Vet population, but only modestly
- Projections may quickly change if there is an increase in the numbers serving in the armed forces, for any reason

Source: Data stem from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs actuarial model, "Veteran Population Projection Model (VPPM) 2014"

Demographic Study Report
Implications for Rocky Hill Home

- Reorganize type of beds and program:
  - 2/3 short-term and transitional beds
  - 1/3 longer term beds
  - Assisted Living Unit
  - If desired, analyze and consider providing family housing
- Anticipate higher proportion of residents age 20 to 39
- Anticipate and prepare for more female residents
- Number of needed beds could vary from 133 to 256

Current U.S. and Connecticut Veteran Population

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Current U.S. and Connecticut Veteran Population

TABLE 1: U.S. AND CONNECTICUT VETERAN POPULATION, BY SERVICE PERIOD, 2013

Service Period	U.S. Estimate	%	CT Estimate	%
Gulf War 2001 and Later	2,445,335	12%	16,128	7%
Gulf War 1990 to 2001	3,529,787	17%	23,756	11%
Vietnam War	7,463,586	35%	75,628	35%
Korean War	2,445,335	12%	29,423	14%
WW II	1,828,685	9%	27,461	13%
Other (Between Wars, Before WW II)	3,551,051	17%	45,769	21%
Total	21,263,779	100%	217,947	100%

Source: American Community Survey, 2013, Table S2101

- Biggest single group by period of service is the Vietnam War service period (U.S.: 35%; CT: 35%)

- Combining the two Gulf War periods at the national level approaches the size of the Vietnam War cohort, (U.S.: 29%), but is a much smaller proportion of the CT Veteran population (18%)

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Demographic Study Report
Age

TABLE 2: U.S. AND CONNECTICUT VETERAN POPULATION, BY AGE, 2013

Age	U.S. Estimate	%	CT Estimate	%
18-34	1,722,366	8%	11,333	5%
35-54	5,337,209	25%	44,679	21%
55-64	4,911,933	23%	47,294	22%
65-74	4,507,921	21%	51,000	23%
75+	4,784,350	23%	63,641	29%
Total	21,263,779	100%	217,947	100%

Source: American Community Survey, 2013, Table S2101

- U.S: Largest cohorts are ages 55 to 64, and 65 to 74 (44%)
- Adding in the oldest cohort of ages 75+, 2/3 are middle aged or older
- 1/3 is under the age of 55

Compared to the national Veteran population:
- CT has a similar population of 55 to 64 and 65 to 74 year olds (U.S.: 44%; CT: 45%)
- CT has significantly fewer below age 55 (U.S.: 33%; CT: 26%), and significantly more in the oldest cohort of ages 75+ (U.S.: 23%; CT: 29%)

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Demographic Study Report
Service-Connected Disability

Disability Status, and Level	U.S. Estimate	%	CT Estimate	%
No Disability	17,784,887	84%	194,518	89%
Disability	3,478,892	16%	23,429	11%
Total	21,263,779	100%	217,947	100%
0% Disability	225,813	1%	1,923	1%
10% or 20%	1,195,300	6%	9,382	4%
30% or 40%	599,065	3%	3,577	2%
50% or 60%	381,728	2%	2,190	1%
70% +	802,278	4%	4,368	2%
Not available	274,708	1%	1,969	1%

Source: American Community Survey, 2013, Table B21100

TABLE 3: U.S. AND CONNECTICUT VETERAN POPULATION, BY SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY STATUS AND LEVEL OF DISABILITY, 2013

- Majority of Veterans do not have a service-connected disability (U.S. 16%, CT: 11%)

- *(See also Table 5, which compares Vets and non-Vets on general disability status that is service or non-service connected.)*

Note: Will not add to 100% due to rounding.

Demographic Study Report
Gender and Race

TABLE 4: U.S. AND CONNECTICUT VETERAN POPULATION, BY GENDER AND SELECTED RACE AND ETHNICITY CATEGORIES*, 2013

Gender and Race/Ethnicity	U.S. Estimate	%	CT Estimate	%
Men	17,784,887	93%	194,518	95%
Women	3,478,892	7%	23,429	5%
Total	21,263,779	100%	217,947	100%
White *	17,882,838	84%	197,024	90%
Black *	2,360,279	11%	14,385	7%
Hispanic (of any Race) *	1,190,772	6%	8,500	4%

Race categories will not to 100% due to omission of race categories. Hispanic persons can be of any race.

Source: American Community Survey, 2013, Table B21100

- Only a small % of Veterans are women. CT is lower than U.S. (U.S.: 7%; CT: 5%)

- CT Veterans are less likely to be Black or Hispanic

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Demographic Study Report

Veterans vs. Non-Veterans: Financial Health

TABLE 5A: COMPARISON OF VETERAN AND NON-VETERAN (CIVILIANS AGE 18 AND OLDER) MEDIAN INCOME, U.S. AND CONNECTICUT, 2013

	U.S. Estimate	CT Estimate
Median Income		
Veteran	**$37,346**	**$42,984**
Non-Veteran	**$25,968**	**$32,592**
Source: American Community Survey, 2013, Table S2101		

- All U.S. and CT Veterans have higher average incomes than non-Veterans, and are also less likely to be at or below the poverty level

- Income: CT income greater than U.S.

- Veterans less likely to be unemployed than non-Veterans, but unemployment is a particular problem for younger Veterans*

  - In 2013, 6.6% of U.S. Veterans were unemployed

  - A much higher % of younger Veterans were unemployed: Ages 18 to 24 (21%); Ages 24 to 35 (10%)

    * Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Demographic Study Report

Veterans vs. Non-Veterans: Financial Health

TABLE 5B: COMPARISON OF VETERAN AND NON-VETERAN (CIVILIANS AGE 18 AND OLDER) POVERTY STATUS, U.S. AND CONNECTICUT, 2013

	U.S. Estimate	CT Estimate
Poverty Status past 12 months		
Veteran	7%	5%
Non-Veteran	14%	10%

Source: American Community Survey, 2013, Table S2101

- % Veterans at or below the poverty level:
  U.S.: 1.5 million; CT: 11,000

- Below Poverty Level: CT Veterans are less likely to be at or below the poverty level

Demographic Study Report

Veterans vs. Non-Veterans: Disabilities

TABLE 5C: COMPARISON OF VETERAN AND NON-VETERAN (CIVILIANS AGE 18 AND OLDER) DISABILITY STATUS, U.S. AND CONNECTICUT, 2013

	U.S. Estimate	CT Estimate
Disability Status		
Veteran	26%	24%
Non-Veteran	14%	12%
Source: American Community Survey, 2013, Table S2101		

- Service-Related Disabilities: U.S.: 16%; CT: 11%
- All Disabilities: U.S.: 26%; CT: 24%
- Veterans are much more likely to have a disability compared to non-Veterans
- CT Poverty gap related to Veteran Disability for Veterans Age 18 to 64
  - *With* disability, living in poverty: 13%
  - With *no* disability, living in poverty: 7%

Demographic Study Report

Homelessness

Unemployment, poverty, and disability status are all factors related to homelessness (Tables 5A, 5B, and 5C)

U.S.

- Estimated that 1/3 of homeless adults nationally are Veterans
- 2013: 58,000 homeless Veterans, a decline of 24% since 2010

Connecticut

Previous Homeless Estimates

- In Connecticut, in 2014, one organization estimated that there were about 300 Veterans who were homeless
- As recent as 2010, however, there were Point-in-Time survey estimates of 800 to 3,000 homeless Veterans in Connecticut

Spring 2015

- Connecticut 1st state to eradicate chronic Veteran homelessness
- Only 80 Veterans found in emergency shelters in February 2015
- Homelessness eradicated by investments in affordable housing; collaboration to provide rental assistance vouchers, case management and clinical services, skill training

Demographic Study Report
Connecticut Veteran 20-Year Population Forecast

Figure 1: Projected Veteran Population, Connecticut, 2014 to 2034
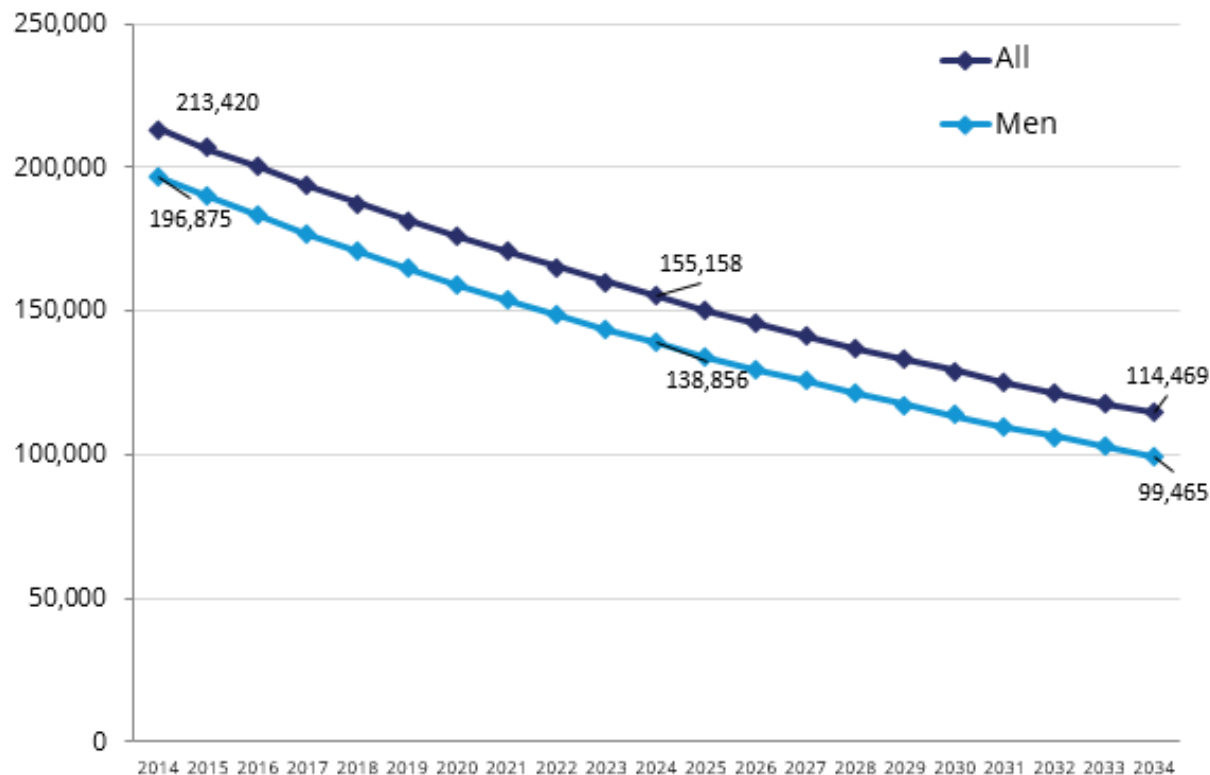
Source: http://va.gov/vetdata (9L_VetPop2014)

**2014 Snapshot:
213,420 Veterans**

- 93% are male
- 69% are age 55+
- Females are younger, overall, than males
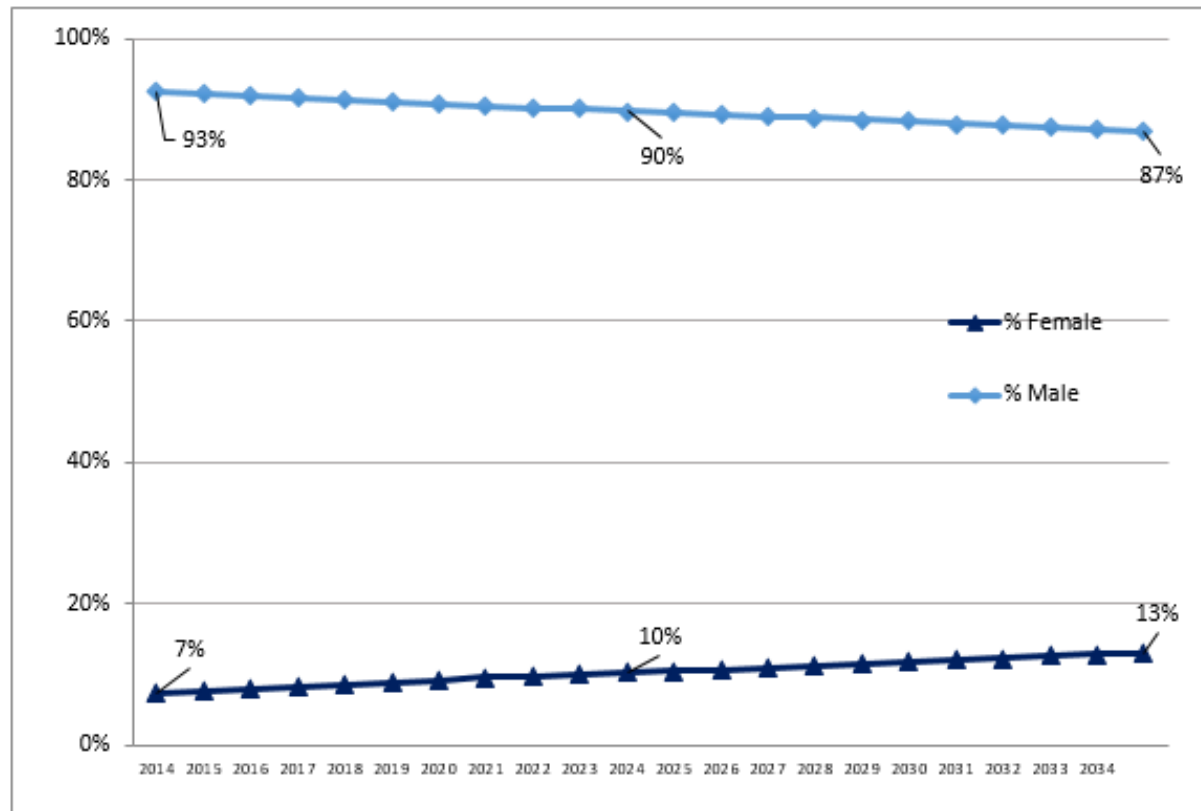
**2034 Snapshot:
114,469 Veterans Projected**

- Population will decline to about half the 2014 population
- Number of Veterans in every age group will decline
- In the population age 65+, the number of men will decline, but the number of women will increase

Demographic Study Report

Connecticut Veteran 20-Year Population Forecast, by Gender

Figure 2: Projected Veteran Population, % Male and Female, Connecticut, 2014-2034

Proportion of the CT Veteran Population

- Men will still be the majority of the Veteran population, but will constitute a somewhat smaller proportion

Source: http://va.gov/vetdata (9L_VetPop2014)

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Demographic Study Report
Connecticut Veteran 20-Year Population Forecast, by Age

Figure 3: Projected Veteran Population, Connecticut, by Age, 2014 to 2034

Number of Veterans, by Year
2014: 213,420
2024: 155,158
2034: 114,469
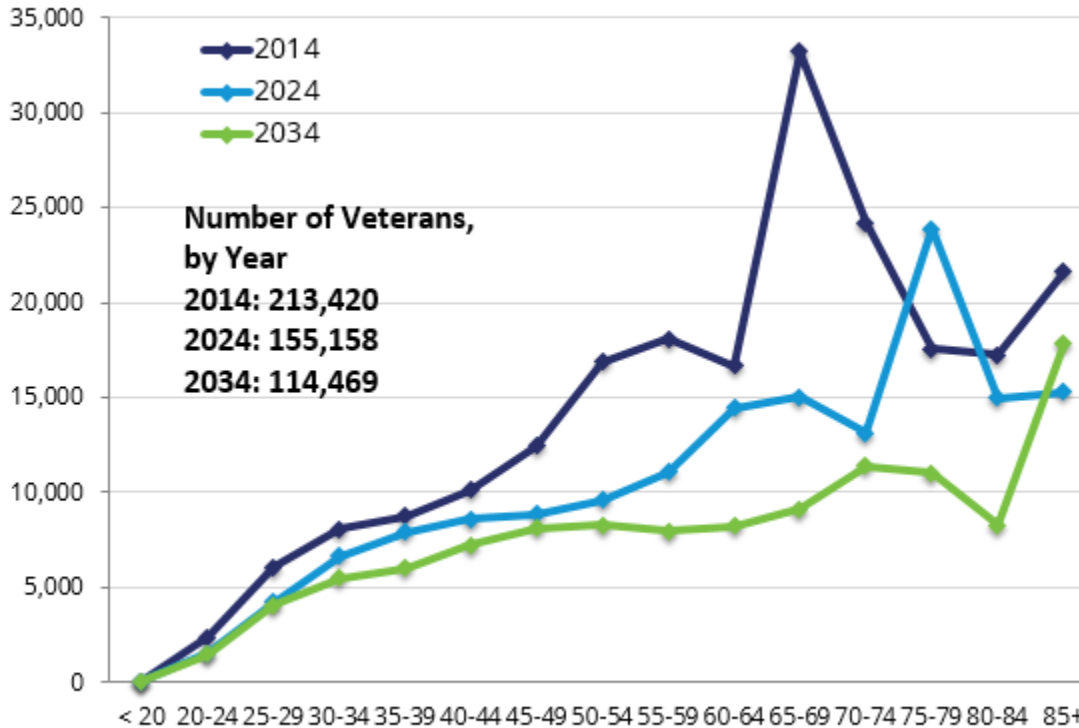
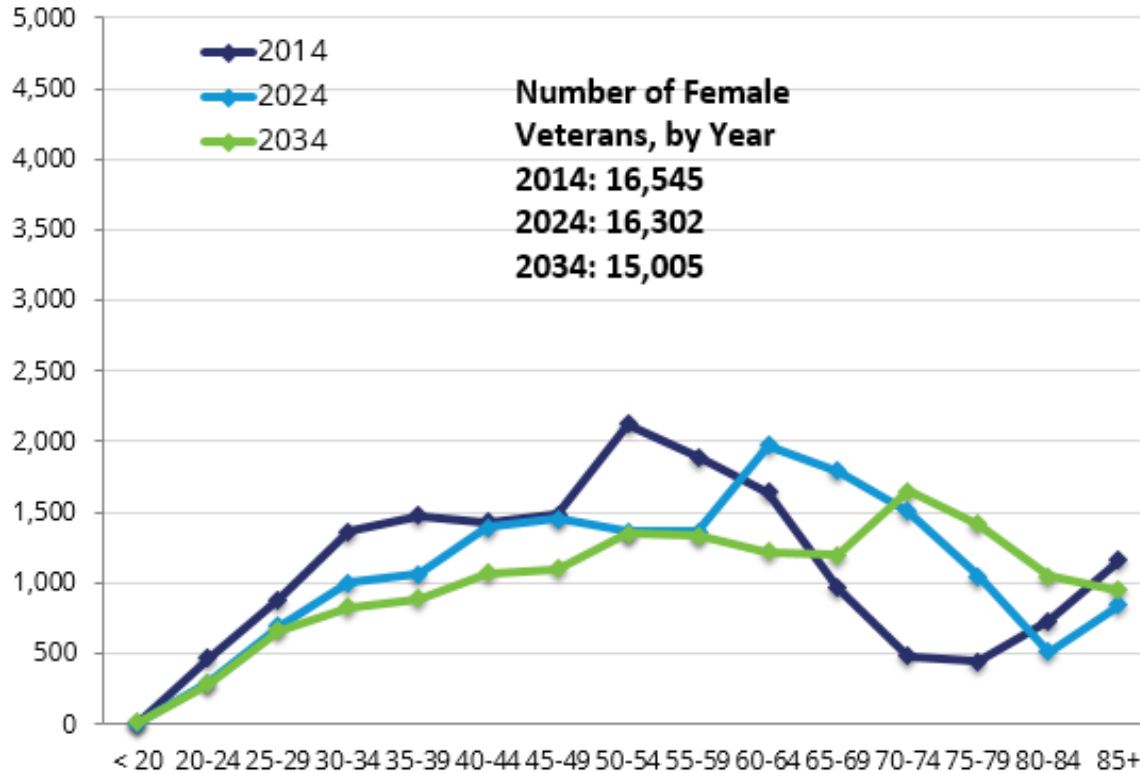Source: http://va.gov/vetdata (6L_VetPop2014)

Proportion of the CT Veteran Population

- Smaller % age 55+
- Smaller % Older adults, age 55-74
- Larger % Elderly adults, age 75+
    - But # elderly will decline strongly
    - Most needy group in terms of care
- Younger Veterans, age 20 to 34, will continue to be small %
- Using a wider definition, younger Veterans, age 20 to 44, will grow modestly in %
- *Note: Projections may quickly change if there is an increase in the numbers serving in the armed forces, for any reason*

Demographic Study Report
Connecticut Veteran 20-Year Population Forecast, for Women

Figure 4: Projected Female Veteran Population, by Age, Connecticut, 2014-2034

Number of Female Veterans, by Year
2014: 16,545
2024: 16,302
2034: 15,005

Source: http://va.gov/vetdata (6L_VetPop2014)

- Women are younger than men
- Peak age group for women is 50 to 54, compared to 65 to 69 for men

Demographic Study Report
Detailed Supporting Data for Connecticut

Veteran Numbers

- Overall CT Veteran population decline from 2014 to 2034 of 46%, from 213,420 to 114,469

- Decline in next decade (2014 to 2024) of 27%, from 213,420 to 155,158

- Number of men, aged 65+; 2014: 113,833; 2034: 57, 603 (Decline of 49%)

- Number of women, aged 65+; 2014: 3,781; 2034: 6,260 (Increase of 51%)

Proportion of the Veteran Population

- Overall CT Veteran population decline from 2014 to 2034 of 46%, from 213,420

- % male declines, from 93% of population in 2014, to 87% of population in 2034

- % female still small, but increases, from 7% of population in 2014, to 13% in 2034

- In 2014, women are younger than men; the current peak age group for women is 50 to 54, compared to 65 to 69 for men

- Going forward, the number of men in the elderly adult population 75+ will decline by 34%, while the number of women will increase by 46%

- Smaller % are age 55+, from 69% to 64% of population

    - Declining % Older adults: % age 55-74, from 43% to 32% of population

    - Increasing % Elderly: % age 75+, from 26% to 32% of population

- Younger Veterans age 20-34 do not comprise a significant portion of the population in either 2014 or 2034

    - Increase only from 8% to 10% of population

- Using a wider definition of younger Veterans, age 20 to 44, will grow as a proportion of the population, but only very modestly (% 20 to 44; 2014: 17%; 2034: 21%)

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Demographic Study Report
Connecticut Veteran Housing Demographics

Age of Residents	%
Under 40	1%
40 to 49	7%
50 to 59	34%
60 to 69	42%
70 to 79	11%
80 or older	5%
Total	100%

Source: "Veterans' Home at Rocky Hill: Residential Services," Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee, December 2014

TABLE 6. AGE OF RESIDENTS, ROCKY HILL HOME, FALL 2014

Rocky Hill Home

- June 2015: 216 domiciliary residents

- Resident population almost entirely age 50+ and includes only 4 single women

- About 3/4 have some indications of heart disease, about 1/2 have diabetes, almost 1/3 have cognitive impairments, and over 1/2 have a psychiatric and/or substance use diagnosis

- 9 to 12 currently receive assistance with daily tasks

- According to staff, young Veterans only come to Rocky Hill Home after exhausting other options. Most young Veterans are seeking short-term housing options and opportunities to prepare for independent life

- Other younger Veterans with deep problems may require more structure and seek out a *longer term* option at the Rocky Hill Home or elsewhere

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Demographic Study Report
Connecticut Veteran Housing Demographics

Length of Stay	%
< 1 year	20%
1 to 3 years	20%
3 to 5 years	7%
5 to 10 years	36%
10 to 20 years	15%
> 20 years	2%
Total	**100%**

TABLE 7: LENGTH OF STAY OF RESIDENTS, ROCKY HILL HOME, FALL 2014

Rocky Hill Home

80% of current domiciliary residents have remained for more than 1 year, and 60% for 3 or more years

Note: Data lack precision as the endpoints of the time categories for length of stay are overlapping, e.g., 5 to 10, and 10 to 20

Demographic Study Report
Rocky Hill Home Scenario Modeling: Summary

Some of the unmet demand for Veteran housing in CT relates to Veterans not finding the *types of housing* that they seek

A renovated Rocky Hill Home, with reorganized bed types *has the potential to receive a greater share* of the CT Veteran population needing housing

Scenario #1 is based on current resident numbers, reorganized by type of beds and type of program

Future Scenario #1: Current Beds Reorganized by Type

Short term transitional:	128 beds
Longer term housing:	63 beds
Assisted Living housing:	25 beds
Total:	216 beds

- OPTIONAL: Connecticut *demand currently exists for more housing*;
  In renovated facility, could possibly anticipate another 40 beds but *only in the next few years*, total beds = 256

Study of DVA Campus for Additional Housing – BI-C-287

Demographic Study Report
Rocky Hill Home Scenario Modeling: Summary

Scenario #2 considers demographic change over the next 20 years:

- Increased number of younger Veterans (both male and female, age 20 to 44)

- 32% decline in number over the next 20 years

- Increased demand for housing by women and the % of women being housed in other CT programs

- 49% decline anticipated in the older Veteran population, age 45+

Future Scenario #2: Incorporating Demographic Change

Men 20 to 44 in short-term transitional and longer-term programs:	24 men
Men 45+ in short-term transitional and longer-term programs:	64 men
Women in short-term transitional and longer-term programs:	20 women
Men in Assisted Living programs:	25 men
Total:	133 beds

Demographic Study Report
Implications for Space Programming

- Guiding principle: different populations require different housing spaces

- Consider unit types and amenity spaces needed, by gender, age, and disability status

- If family housing is desired and provided, consider family needs

- Parking need may increase as short-term Domicile residents increase in proportion

- As Connecticut Veteran population declines in the future, partnerships will become important opportunities for use of beds, for example, possible coordination with U.S. VA for short-term PTSD or other unit

Demographic Study Report
Rocky Hill Home, and Other Connecticut Veteran Residences: Age

TABLE 8: AGE OF RESIDENTS, ROCKY HILL HOME FALL 2014, VA CT HCHV AND GPD (ON INTAKE) FY 2014, AND HOMES FOR THE BRAVE

Age	Home %	VA CT Intake % (HCHV, GPD *)	Homes for the brave.org
20 to 29	0%	8%	7%
30 to 39	1%	11%	8%
40 to 49	7%	18%	3%
50 to 59	34%	33%	23%
60 to 69	42%	25%	39%
70 +	16%	6%	20%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

* Healthcare for Homeless Veterans, and Grant Per Diem programs

Sources: State of Connecticut Residential Facility Data, NEPEC Annual Report for FY 2014 for VA Connecticut Intake, Homes for the Brave 2014 Annual Report

Young Veterans Projected to be a Bigger % of future Rocky Hill Housing

- **Rocky Hill home has significantly lower % young Veterans**

- *Young Veteran housing demand exists:*

  - *Risk factor for homelessness: more likely to be unemployed and in poverty*

  - *Future demand: % of population will grow modestly*

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Demographic Study Report

Rocky Hill Home, and Other Connecticut Veteran Residences: Women

**Women projected to be a bigger % of future Rocky Hill Housing,
but still a small number**

- % Women Veterans in CT increasing to 13%

- Other Connecticut organizations that provide Veteran housing already have a higher % of women in housing than in the Rocky Hill Home

- A reasonable proportion of housing for single women is projected to be about 10% to 11% of housing at the Rocky Hill Home

Demographic Study Report

Detailed Population Implications for Rocky Hill Home: Age, Men

Age groups for future (Rocky Hill Home) housing

- Anticipate higher % age 20 to 39 (up from 1% currently, to 19% in future)

- Anticipate lower % age 65+ (down from 35% currently, to 12% in future) in the Domicile area

- Approximately 25-30 long-term residents now in Domicile to be transferred to and accommodated in proposed Assisted Living area. (Currently, 12 are receiving assisted care, and there is demand for additional 15 to 17.)

Male beds in future Domicile housing (excluding Assisted Living)

- Currently about 210, and about 60% in long-term (3 years or more)

- Anticipate men to be approximately 89% of the population

- Based on current resident numbers, anticipate about 165 male beds

- Anticipate higher % short term transitional (2/3), and lower % (healthy) long term (1/3)

- OPTION: Connecticut demand currently exists for more housing; with renovated facility, could possibly anticipate another 40 beds but only in the next few years, total men 205

Demographic Study Report
Detailed Population Implications for Rocky Hill Home: Women, Families

Female beds for future housing

- Anticipate women to be about 11% of total population

- Suggested community maximum of 20 to 25

- Population will be younger than men due to more recent periods of service

Family homes for future housing

- Currently 5 family homes are managed by outside contract, 4 are occupied

- Home has recently received 3 new referrals

- CT demand exists for permanent Veteran family housing

- If space and programmatic challenges to providing family housing are addressed and within the mission and scope of the Rocky Hill Home, community of 10 to 20 units could be considered

See Table 8 and related discussion.

Source: Interview with Victory Gardens Property Manager, Ron Gantick: Victory Gardens has 34 current resident families and a waitlist of 25 to 30 families.

Demographic Study Report
Building Programming: Population Differences

Recommended room and bathroom types

- **Women**: private rooms with private bathrooms, or, at minimum, 2 private rooms joined by 1 shared bathroom

- **Men**: private or semi-private rooms; for short-term residents, provide group bathroom type in hall; for long term residents - could provide group bathrooms in hall, but should also include at least 1 single-use hall bathroom as privacy option

- **Family**: require 2 to 3 bedroom affordable options

Amenity spaces needed

- Spaces to entertain visitors

- Outdoor recreation spaces, including walking trail, pavilion and grill

- Indoor fitness and recreation spaces

- Services - e.g. laundry, hair salon/barber, computer room

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Demographic Study Report

Building Programming: Population Differences

Questions on Amenity Sharing

- Determine which spaces can be shared by different groups within the Domicile (e.g., women, short-term men, long-term men), or within all populations at the CT Home, vs. which spaces need to be unique

- Determine which spaces will be shared with the proposed Veteran Center for Excellence and open to Veterans living in the community

- Determine what amenities and services should be offered on the Home campus vs. in the community

Family homes

- If provided, would need to be physically separate from Domicile population

- Requires own amenity spaces, including unique spaces for children and for group gatherings (for community-building purposes, and for safety)

Handicap accessibility

- Re-analyze proportion of Domicile rooms and indoor and outdoor amenity spaces required to be ADA-approved handicapped accessible if long-term handicapped are transferred from the Domicile to proposed Assisted Living unit

Parking

- Need may increase as short-term Domicile residents increase in %

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