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# NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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*Philanthropic Solutions*

## **Veteran Services Brief**

In 2014, Texas had the second highest population of veterans in the nation. Tarrant County is home to 118,000 veterans, of whom 23,000 have service-connected disabilities.

More than 17,000 of Tarrant County veterans have served our country since 9/11. Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) are the longest military operations since Vietnam. Military personnel serving in OEF and/or OIF have a 28% longer deployment time than previous operations and have a higher risk for death and injury.

Veterans, and subsequently their families, face many challenges transitioning into civilian life after several years within an active military environment. The available data shows that 56% to 87% of post-deployed service members experiencing psychological problems did not receive the help they needed. In 2015, approximately 41,000 Texas veterans were unemployed, with Tarrant County veterans experiencing an unemployment rate of 7.1%, compared to 4% for the general population.

Additionally, veterans are overrepresented in the US homeless population. Veterans comprise 12.3% of all homeless adults in the US, yet make up 9.7% of the total US population. Affordable housing options for veterans and their families are limited. Tarrant County has 118,000 veterans but only 230 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) units available.

The total number of homeless veterans that were living in unsheltered, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven housing types increased by 6%, from 193 in 2015 to 205 veterans in 2016. Veterans Health Administration currently provides minimal support to veteran family members.

While unemployment rates are slightly higher among veterans, JPMorgan's *New Skills at Work for Dallas-Fort Worth* report points to two promising opportunities on the horizon in which veterans tend to have higher levels of expertise: healthcare (5.5% annual growth) and information technology (3.6% annual growth).

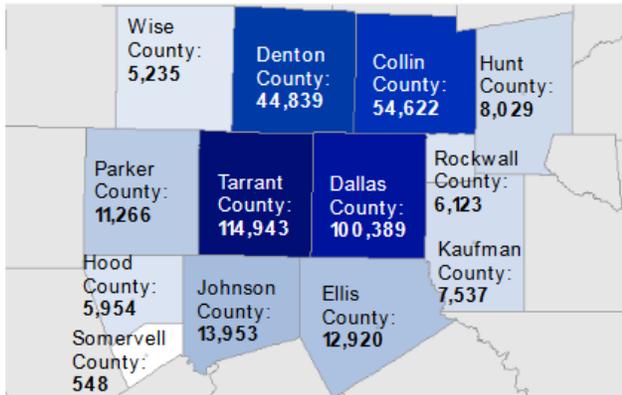
*Sources: 2015 United Way of Tarrant County Community Assessment.*

*Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment status of veterans 18 years and over by state, 2015.*

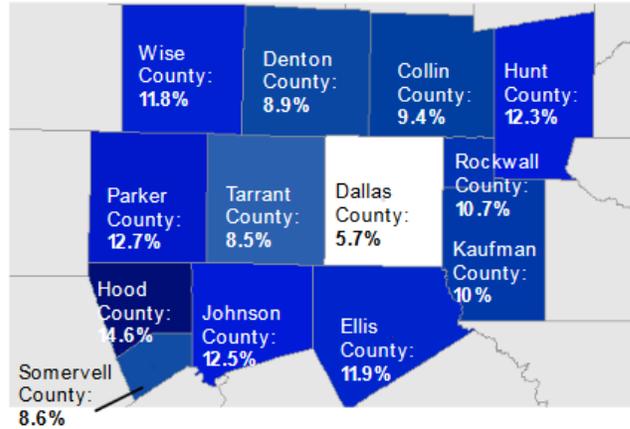
*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Risk Factors for Homelessness Among US Veterans.*

# PowerPoint Slides

**DFW REGION VETERANS POPULATION**

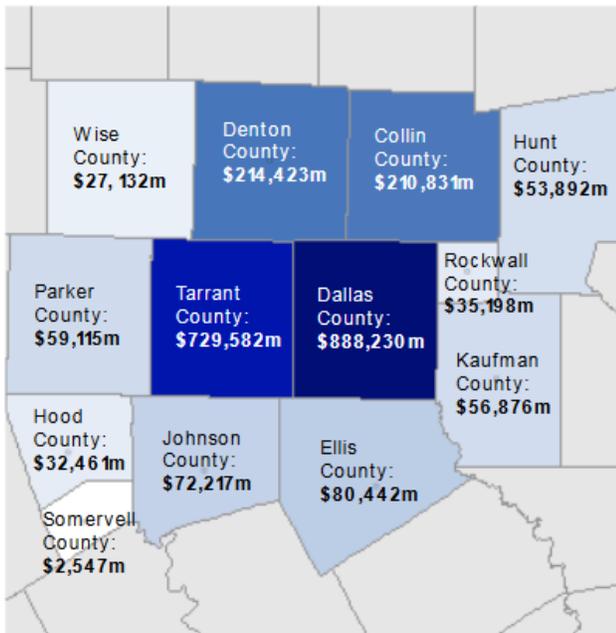


**DFW REGION VETERANS PER CAPITA**

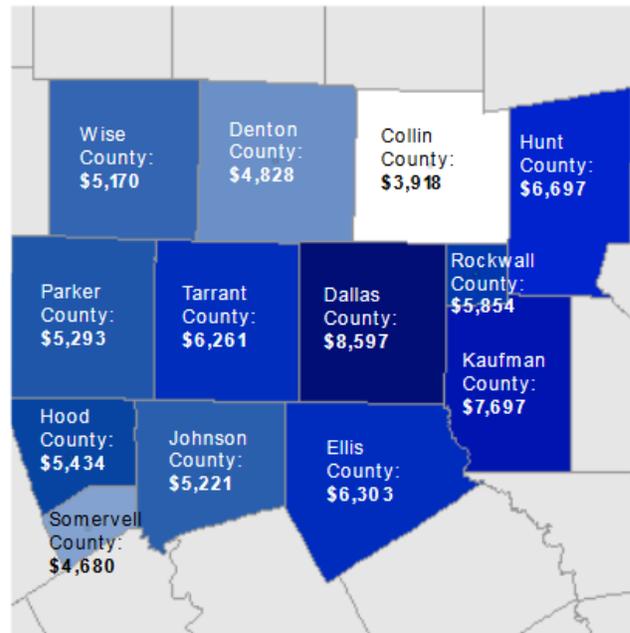


Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Population Projection Model, 2014

**Figure 8. Geographic Distribution of Expenditures**



**Figure 9. Geographic Distribution of Expenditures per Veteran**



Department of Veterans Affairs Geographic Distribution of Expenditures Report, 2014