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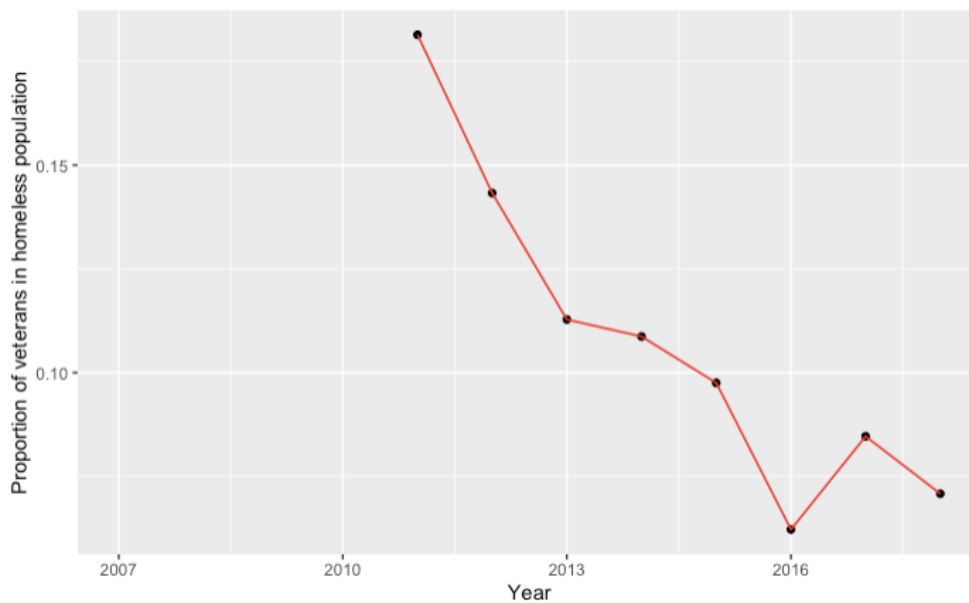
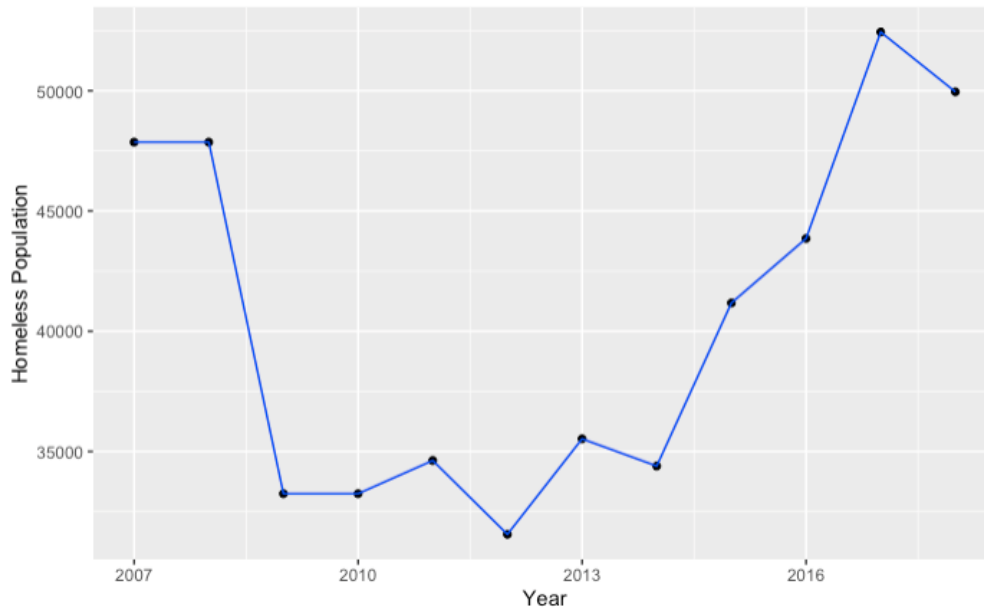
Public Health 460

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Veteran Homelessness in Los Angeles 2011-2018

Homelessness in the United States has been prevalent for years and is not ending anytime soon. According to the 2018 Annual Homelessness Report to Congress, an estimate of 553,000 were experiencing homelessness on a given night. When it comes to homelessness, veterans share the same struggle as regular civilians. They must navigate the lack of affordable housing and economic hardship that everyone faces. However, they must face these along with the challenges brought on by multiple and extended deployments. Veterans returning from deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq often face invisible wounds of war, including traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, both of which correlate with homelessness.

To better visualize the data, our group created a plot for overall homelessness in Los Angeles, which includes veterans along with other civilians, and a plot for just the veteran homelessness in proportion to the overall homelessness within Los Angeles. These are the charts produced using given the data:



Looking at the graph of overall homeless, we can see that in Los Angeles, the homeless population is increasing each year. In contrast, the proportion of veterans in homelessness is decreasing every year. These two analyses can be seen clearly in these plots. This means veterans are not part of that the increase in homelessness each year. However, the reasoning for these results is not clear from just looking at these plots. Through researching, I found that the

main contributing factor for the decline in veteran homelessness was rapid re-housing, through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, and permanent supportive housing, through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program (HUD-VASH.)