

What is the Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT)?

There are three levels in the VAT:

1. Less vulnerable
2. Moderately vulnerable
3. Highly vulnerable

The VAT assesses a person's level of vulnerability in 10 areas:

- Survival skills
- Basic needs
- Indicated mortality risks
- Medical risks
- Organization/Orientation
- Mental health
- Substance use
- Communication
- Social behaviors
- Homelessness

People with high medical issues who are homeless and confused about their medical needs (i.e. not taking their medication) could be considered highly vulnerable.

Examples of people who may fit the highly vulnerable category:

- someone who has difficulty accessing services without assistance;
- someone requiring prompting to follow up on personal needs such as hygiene or nutrition or may neglect basic needs completely;
- someone experiencing symptoms associated with mental illness and lack of insight into symptoms;
- someone disorganized in speech and behavior due to cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities.

Alcohol or drugs may play a co-occurring role.