

VETERAN REINTEGRATION: USEFUL DATA (OCT 2014)

Many myths surrounding Veteran reintegration are not founded in facts.

The following statistics are useful when considering the scope and nature of the challenges Veterans face in their reintegration back to civilian society. While these statistics are not complete and can imply a lot, they also rebuke some of the myths surrounding Veterans.



Key Veteran Statistics

Veteran Population: The DVA Veteran Population Projection Model estimates there are more than 21.6 million living veterans in America today. While the total number of living veterans will decline over the next 20 years to 15.7 million, the percentage of the total that post-9/11 veterans comprise will increase over the same time period from 10.8% to 26.2%.¹

Transition Rate: More than 200,000 Service Members will transition from active duty each year over the next five years.

Veteran Unemployment: In 2013, the average overall veteran unemployment rate was 6.6% as compared to a non-veteran unemployment rate of 7.2%. Unemployment among post-9/11 veterans was 9.0% with the 18-24 year old cohort averaging 21.4% as compared to 14.3% for non-veterans in the same age cohort.^{2,3} In Aug 2014, the 8-24 year old veteran unemployment rate was 14.2% compared to a non-veteran rate of 12.0%. DOD paid over \$780M in unemployment benefits in FY13.⁴

Veteran Employee Performance: Analysis of Corporate Executive Board survey data reveals that veteran employees perform at a level that is 4% higher than non-veterans and the turnover rates of veterans are approximately 3% lower than non-veterans.⁵ For a 1,000-employee company that averages \$150,000 in revenue per employee, this translates to a \$6 million yield due to veteran employee productivity and leads to savings of \$1.3 million annually due to lower veteran employee turnover.⁶

Mental Health: A review of studies focused on "US combat Veterans" (those that deployed in support of combat operations) and PTSD noted a prevalence range of 2-17%.⁷ In comparison, a study following Hurricane Katrina found that PTSD prevalence was 19% for police officers and 22% for firefighters involved in response efforts.⁸ Furthermore, over 26% of American adults are affected by some mental health disorder each year with anxiety disorders contributing some 18%.⁹

Education: In the 2011-2012 academic year, a Veteran student cohort from across 23 campuses averaged a 2.98 GPA, had a 90.5% success rate in earning the college credits that they pursued, and showed a "Persistence Rate" of 97%.¹⁰ Student Veterans of America's research found a student Veteran completion rate of 51.7% (vocational certificate or higher).

Talking Points

- More than 200,000 service members will transition each year over the next five years.
- Veterans make highly-productive employees who turnover less frequently than their non-Veteran counterparts.
- Overall, Veteran unemployment rates are slightly below the national average, however post-9/11 veteran unemployment is higher than the national average and the youngest veterans are unemployed at substantially higher rates.
- Less than one-quarter of US combat Vets suffer from PTSD. 26% of all Americans are diagnosed each year with mental illness. Mental health issues are a societal challenge, not just a military problem.
- Recent surveys indicate that Veteran students are much more successful in attaining their degree than what has been reported in the media.

1. www.va.gov/vetdata/

3. Office of Economic Opportunity, VBA

5. <http://img.en25.com/Web/CEB/CLC7538513SYN.pdf>

7. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20073563

9. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2847357/pdf/nihms176704.pdf

10. www.operationpromiseforservicemembers.com/Completing_Mission_II.pdf

11. Student Veterans of America Million Records Project Full Report

2. <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat48.pdf>

4. Department of Labor Service invoices

6. www.executiveboard.com/blogs/the-undeniable-business-case-for-military-hiring

8. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23316739>



Chairman's Office of Reintegration

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