

About the Survey

Several outreach methods were used to encourage Veterans, Active Duty Service Members, family members and caregivers to participate in the survey. Nearly 40,000 Veterans were emailed a link to the online survey. In addition, DVS compiled a list of about 4,600 mailing addresses of Veterans who were mailed a postcard inviting them to participate in the online survey. A random sample of 2,425 of these addresses were also mailed a hard copy of the survey that could be returned in a postage paid envelope. DVS also promoted the survey via social media ads. Another 3,000 hard copy surveys were distributed to Veterans at various community events. A total of 3,166 completed surveys had been received over the 6 months that the survey was active. This number surpassed our goal of 1,800 which was our target for statistical significance. Veteran family members and caregivers were asked questions about their Veteran family member or receiver of care, as well as questions about themselves. These “proxy” responses were combined with the answers from the Veterans to provide a picture of the status of Veterans in NYC.

	Veterans (N=2,358)	Active Duty, Reserve or Guard Members (N=719)	Family Members/ Caregivers (N=123)
Most Veterans and Active Duty Service Members were Male, while most Family Members/Caregivers were Female.	86% Male 14% Female	83% Male 17% Female	22% Male 88% Female
Active Duty Service Members tended to be more racially/ethnically diverse than Veterans or Family Members/Caregivers. (Percents add to more than 100% as respondents could choose more than one group.)	39% White (Not Hispanic) 27% Black/African-American 22% Hispanic or Latinx 18% Another racial/ethnic group	31% White (Not Hispanic) 26% Black/African-American 24% Hispanic or Latinx 23% Another racial/ethnic group	42% White (Not Hispanic) 33% Black/African-American 20% Hispanic or Latinx 19% Another racial/ethnic group
Active Duty Service Members, Reservists or National Guard Members were less likely to have annual household incomes below \$40,000* than were Veterans or Family Members/Caregivers. (Percent of those willing to report household incomes.)	31% <\$40,000 per year 	24% <\$40,000 per year 	45% <\$40,000 per year
Most survey participants had health insurance, but a small proportion did not have health insurance coverage.	14% had no health insurance coverage	14% had no health insurance coverage	6% had no health insurance coverage
The most common Veteran service organizations (VSOs) with which survey participants were associated were the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans.	45% involved with a VSO 	44% involved with a VSO 	36% involved with a VSO
About one-quarter of Veterans and Active Duty, Reserve or Guard Members reported feeling lonely 3 or more days in a typical week. This was even higher among Family Members/Caregivers.	24% feel lonely 3+ days 	25% feel lonely 3+ days 	35% feel lonely 3+ days
Two in 10 Veterans, Servicemembers or Family Members/Caregivers reported that they were in current need of assistance, services or care. ¹	23% Needed Assistance	23% Needed Assistance	21% Needed Assistance
Of those survey participants reporting needing assistance, the top needs varied by survey group, although a common need across the groups was access to new housing. ²	Top 3 Types of Assistance Needed		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater opportunities for recreational or other physical activities Access to new housing Access to better housing conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to new housing Greater opportunities for recreational or other physical activities Access to better housing conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to healthcare and related benefits Access to new housing Access to legal assistance

* Income thresholds coincide with 2020 federal poverty level (FPL).

¹ Survey participants were informed that if they were having thoughts of suicide or hurting others, or experiencing an emotional crisis, that they should call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room for immediate assistance. They were also provided phone numbers for the Veterans’ Crisis Line and NYC Well, as well as options for texting with these resources.

² DVS connects service members, veterans, survivors, caregivers, and military families to services from our partner organizations, including veteran service organizations, non-profit community organizations, and government agencies through the VetConnectNYC platform. Veterans may be eligible for certain benefits based on their military service.