



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION'S

2014 HOUSEHOLD SURVEY OF THE UK'S EX-SERVICE COMMUNITY



WE SCREENED

20,700

ADULTS TO INTERVIEW

2,121

MEMBERS OF THE
EX-SERVICE COMMUNITY



6.2
MILLION



WE ESTIMATE THAT
THERE ARE BETWEEN
6.1 AND 6.2 MILLION
MEMBERS OF THE
EX-SERVICE
COMMUNITY LIVING
IN THE UK IN 2014

WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER...



THE ADULT EX-SERVICE COMMUNITY
IS ELDERLY AND DECLINING IN SIZE

64% ARE OVER 65
(AND NEARLY HALF ARE OVER 75)

BUSTING MYTHS

THERE ARE A NUMBER
OF MYTHS ABOUT
VETERANS; SUCH AS:

Myth or
Fact?

MYTHS... FACTS...

Most are
damaged by
their Service

The majority enjoy
good mental health

Many are
homeless

Only 3% of the London
homeless population
are ex-Service

Many are
in prison

Only about 3-7% of
prisoners are veterans

AND AROUND
469,800

MEMBERS OF THE
SERVING COMMUNITY

BUT THE LEGION'S SURVEY HAS FOUND SOME PROBLEMS AFFECTING WORKING AGE VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

LONG TERM ILLNESS

Working age veterans are
more likely than the general
population to report having
a long term illness –

24% VS 13%

This includes:

DEPRESSION

10% VS 6%

HEARING PROBLEMS

6% VS 2%

BACK PAIN

14% VS 7%



VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT

Working age
veterans are less
likely to be in full
time work than
the male general
population of the
same age –

57% VS 68%

They are more
likely to be
unemployed –

11% VS 6%

And more likely
to be economi-
cally inactive –

25% VS 17%

SPOUSES' & PARTNERS' EMPLOYMENT

Working age
adult depend-
ants of veterans
are less likely to
be in full time
work than the
female general
population of the
same age –

28% VS 39%

They are less
likely to be
unemployed –

3% VS 5%

But much more
likely to be
economically
inactive –

41% VS 28%

CARING RESPONSIBILITIES

And one in four working age members of the ex-Service
community have unpaid caring
responsibilities (for someone
other than their own children)
– which is nearly double the
rate in the general population –

23% VS 12%

