

Survey of Veterans in the Upstate

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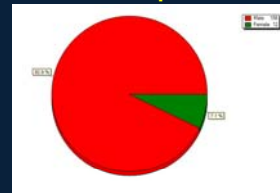
Purpose of the Survey

- Complaints by veterans and their families about the resources available in the Upstate
- No data to clarify just how many veterans felt this way
- Issues:
 - Number with psychological/adjustment problems
 - Number with physical/medical problems
 - Homeless
- Survey also assessed social aspects
- Provide data so veterans can get needed resources

Methods

- Used existing veteran surveys
- Responses from 172 veterans and their families
- Items assessed:
 - Medical conditions
 - Psychological conditions
 - Adjustment issues upon returning
 - Use of existing services
 - Social needs (meet other veterans)

Participants



What our Veterans are Saying



When asked what services were lacking for the veteran community our Veterans answered:

"I have to drive 200 miles to get an x-ray and to see a doctor I have to drive 82 miles - 41 miles 1 way, I get per diem when I drive to Columbia but not to Greenville, SC"

"Medical, If you need X-rays or anything you have to go to Columbia. There is no service officers in the immediate area. there is no mental health help just that rinky dink satellite office that can do nothing but send you to Columbia"

"Everything, mostly help with the claims, the Spartanburg vets office is worthless in every area"



When asked about the challenges they faced after getting out of the military our Veterans said:

"Withdrawal and readjustment back into society whether a job or relationships and most of all people not appreciating your service to your country"

"Racism, job discrimination, fair housing and fair wages"

"Finding a job"

"Going new places and meeting other people who don't understand me. Sometimes I get paranoid about things most people don't even think about."

"Depression, Loss of employment"

"Finding someone to help me with my claims. Finding gainful employment Not being able to focus on anything but pain and how the govt seemed to have turned its back on me."

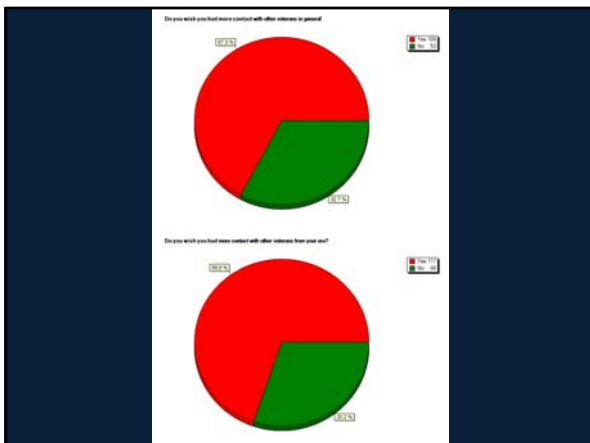
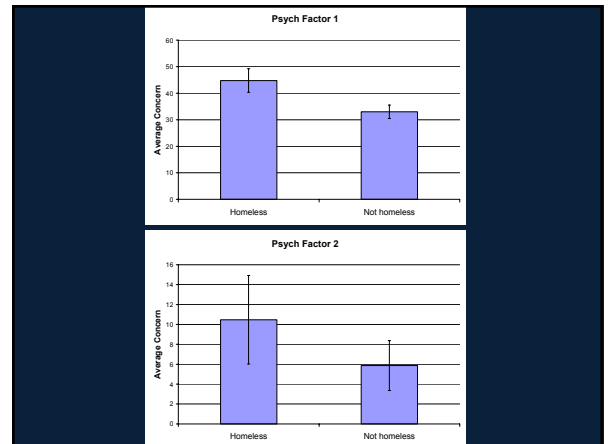
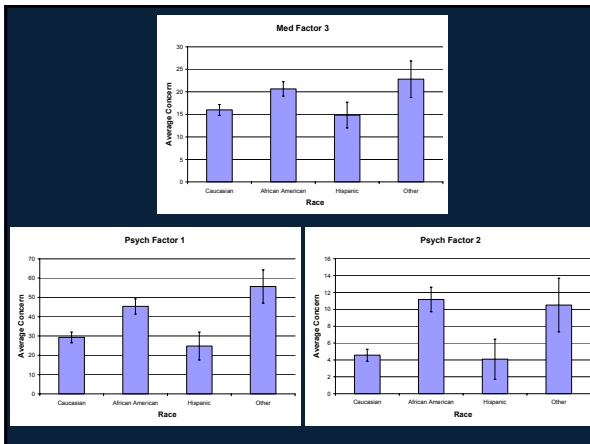
"Money, job, Home life is hard"

Medical and Psychological Factors

- **Medical Factor 1:** Chronic Medical Problems (Cancer, COPD, liver, GI, skin, head trauma) (α : 0.92)
- **Medical Factor 2:** Cardiovascular Disorders (HBP, heart, diabetes) (α : 0.88)
- **Medical Factor 3:** Psychosomatic Issues (Orthopedic, oral/dental, reproductive) (α : 0.69)

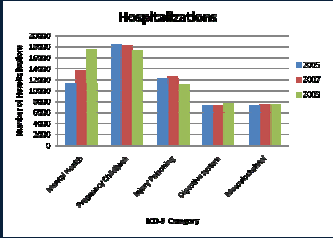
Medical and Psychological Factors

- **Psychological Factor 1:** Mood Disorders (PTSD, depression, anxiety, sleep, mood) (α : 0.94)
- **Psychological Factor 2:** Psychoticism (Alcohol/Drug, schizophrenia, psychotic disorders) (α : 0.79)



Immediate Results

- Data has been shared with Rep. Inglis and his staff, sparking further analyses
- Resources are now being considered for the Upstate
- Developing a training day for therapists at USC-Upstate on these issues



Future

- Continue in other counties in Upstate
- Share with Veterans Administration
- Enable changes in the Upstate

