Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is the premier veterans advocacy and support organization on the planet. Every day, we fight for veterans. Hard. We are the tip-of-the-spear non-profit engine of impact that connects, unites and empowers over 400,000 veterans and allies nationwide.

Founded by an Iraq veteran in 2004, IAVA is the non-partisan leader in advocacy, public awareness and 1-on-1 case-management support. We organize locally, and drive historic impacts nationally.
## Contents

// IAVA’S BIG 6 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES 4  
// PROFILE OF AN IAVA MEMBER 6  
// POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT 14  
// POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS 16  
// EMPLOYMENT 18  
// SUICIDE 22  
// BURN PITS 24  
// WOMEN VETERANS 26  
// SEXUAL TRAUMA AND ASSAULT 30  
// RATING VA HEALTH CARE 32  
// RATING VA BENEFITS 38  
// GI BILL AND EDUCATION 42  
// CANNABIS 46  
// TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL 48  
// FIREARM OWNERSHIP 51  
// MENTAL HEALTH 53  
// GENERAL HEALTH 56  
// TRANSITION EXPERIENCES 60  
// ISSUES FROM THE HEADLINES 64  
// SURVEY METHODOLOGY 68  
// AUTHOR 69  
// THANK YOU 70  
// SUPPORT IAVA 71
Last year also brought huge obstacles. Demand for veterans services continued to climb, suicide took countless lives and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) remained riddled with problems. The VA saw massive turbulence and a major leadership change as Secretary Shulkin was ousted and Secretary Wilkie was named, but only after Dr. Ronny Jackson withdrew under a swirl of controversy. And on Veterans Day 2018, news broke that thousands of veterans had received late or inaccurate GI Bill payments, throwing many in our community into financial hardship before the holidays. And a wild year ended with the widely-respected Secretary of Defense and retired Marine Corps General Mattis stepping down.

Coming off of all that, 2019 will be the most important year for veterans in modern times. As Washington continues to be marred by partisanship, gridlock and government shutdowns, our needs are often relegated and our brothers and sisters fighting overseas are often forgotten. But veterans stand ready to continue to serve -- and represent a source of hope and leadership for all Americans. Our voices have never been more vital.

IAVA's annual member survey represents those voices. It is the richest, most comprehensive non-governmental survey of Iraq and Afghanistan combat veterans in America -- and one of the largest. We asked vets about suicide, employment, education, and VA reform -- and sought IAVA member opinions on hot topics like firearms, immigration, support for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, President Trump's military parade proposal and the NFL protests.

Over the last few years, through this widely-cited survey, the collective voices of IAVA members have driven the national conversation for veterans and powered our current Big 6 Advocacy Priorities and broader Policy Agenda and victories including the 2016 Campaign to Defend the GI Bill, the 2014 Campaign to Combat Suicide, the 2013 Campaign to End the VA Backlog, the Vow to Hire Heroes Act and much more.

But post-9/11 veterans are not a monolith. Our community is diverse and ever-changing. However, there are key numbers and trends that cannot be ignored. This survey is a continued call to action on veteran suicide -- with 59 percent reporting knowing a post-9/11 veteran who has died by suicide. Meanwhile, burn pit exposure continues to rise, with a stunning 82 percent reporting exposure. Over 80 percent support legalizing medical cannabis. And for the first time since we began polling, over half of IAVA members support legalizing recreational cannabis.

This survey also shows that post-9/11 vets are rising. Ninety-seven percent of IAVA members are registered to vote. And as Washington welcomes a new, bipartisan “Camouflage Wave” of veterans to Capitol Hill, 86 percent of IAVA members believe that having more veterans in Congress will have a positive impact on Washington's ability to address national issues.

This survey is a major driver for all that IAVA does. And it should be a roadmap for all Americans -- from the Pentagon to Silicon Valley to the White House.

The post-9/11 generation of veterans has served for year after year. They have been there and done that. And they have plenty to say about their experiences and the state of our country that can help guide our nation forward to a brighter, stronger future.

We appreciate you taking the time to hear our voices and learn more.

Best,

Paul Rieckhoff
Founder and CEO
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
This "Big 6" contains the challenges and opportunities that IAVA members care about most—and see as areas where we can uniquely make an impact. IAVA members are poised to educate the public, design solutions for positive impact, and lead the way to the future.
Key Findings from the Big 6 Priorities

1. Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
   43% report suicidal ideation since joining the military, a 6% rise from 2017

2. VA Reform
   81% rate VA care as average or above average

3. Toxic Exposures, including Burn Pits
   82% report exposure to burn pits or toxic exposures

4. Education Benefits
   78% agree that the post-9/11 GI Bill is important for recruitment

5. Women Veterans
   78% of IAVA members feel that it’s important IAVA focus on the issues impacting women veterans

6. Utilization of Medical Cannabis
   90% IAVA members support researching cannabis for medicinal purposes
AVA members served around the world, from Iraq and Afghanistan to Bahrain, Syria, Kuwait and other locations globally. They’ve deployed in every major combat operation since 9/11 and continue to serve at home, through community and veteran service organizations.
76% would recommend military service to a family member or friend.

### Branch of Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Corps</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast Guard</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Officer or Enlisted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enlisted</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior enlisted</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Where have you served on Active Duty?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONUS</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Command AOR</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guantanamo Bay</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Number of Deployments

**Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)**

- **Zero Deployments:** 23%
- **One Deployment:** 51%
- **Two Deployments:** 18%
- **Three Deployments:** 5%
- **Four Deployments:** 1%
- **Five+ Deployments:** 2%

**Iraqi Freedom (OIF)**

- **Zero Deployments:** 12%
- **One Deployment:** 57%
- **Two Deployments:** 24%
- **Three Deployments:** 5%
- **Four Deployments:** 1%
- **Five+ Deployments:** 1%

**New Dawn (OND)**

- **Zero Deployments:** 78%
- **One Deployment:** 20%
- **Two+ Deployments:** 2%

**Resolute Support (ORS)**

- **Zero Deployments:** 95%
- **One Deployment:** 4%
- **Two+ Deployments:** 1%

**Inherent Resolve (OIR)**

- **Zero Deployments:** 90%
- **One Deployment:** 8%
- **Two+ Deployments:** 2%

58% Were, or are currently, a member of the National Guard or Reserves

### Year Separated from the Military

- **Not separated:** 12%
- **2018:** 2%
- **2017:** 3%
- **2016:** 4%
- **2015:** 4%
- **2014:** 6%
- **2013:** 6%
- **2012 or Earlier:** 63%
Discharge Status

- Honorable discharge: 98%
- General discharge: 1%
- Other than Honorable Discharge: 0.5%
- Dishonorable Discharge: 0.5%

How important is it for you to interact regularly with other veterans and military service members?

- Extremely important: 26%
- Very important: 32%
- Moderately important: 26%
- Slightly important: 12%
- Not at all important: 4%

How do you interact with other veterans and military service members?

- Social media: 53%
- In my daily life: 48%
- At work: 44%
- Meet-ups: 28%
- Calling on the phone: 28%
- Social clubs: 18%
- Video chats: 2%
- Other: 12%

Gender

- Male: 86%
- Female: 11%
- Gender Variant/Nonconforming/Transgender: 1%
- Other: 1%
- Prefer Not To Answer: 1%
Household Income

- Prefer Not to Answer: 12%
- More than $150,000: 14%
- $100,000 - $149,999: 20%
- $90,000 - $99,999: 6%
- $80,000 - $89,999: 7%
- $70,000 - $79,999: 7%
- $60,000 - $69,999: 7%
- $50,000 - $59,999: 7%
- $40,000 - $49,999: 7%
- $30,000 - $39,999: 6%
- $20,000 - $29,999: 4%
- $10,000 - $19,999: 2%
- Less than $10,000: 1%
### Education

- Bachelor’s Degree: 30%
- Master’s Degree: 27%
- Some college credit, no degree: 16%
- Associate’s degree: 12%
- Trade/technical/vocational training: 5%
- Professional Degree (JD, DVM, MD, etc): 4%
- High school graduate or equivalent (GED): 3%
- Doctoral Degree (PhD): 2%
- Some high school, no degree: 0.1%

### Marital Status

- Married: 69%
- Widowed: 1%
- Divorced: 13%
- Separated: 2%
- Single, never married: 12%
- Domestic Partnership: 3%

### Children

- 0: 27%
- 1: 16%
- 2: 28%
- 3: 17%
- 4+: 12%
Ethnicity

White: 73%
Hispanic or Latino: 11%
Black or African American: 6%
American Indian or Alaska Native: 1%
Asian: 2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 1%
Other: 6%

Political Party Affiliation

No affiliation/independent: 37%
Republican Party: 33%
Democratic Party: 23%
Libertarian Party: 5%
Green Party: 0.5%
Other: 2%
Religious Affiliation

- Christian: 61%
- Agnostic: 11%
- Atheist: 9%
- Jewish: 2%
- Muslim: 0.5%
- Hindu: 0.5%
- Other: 16%

Sexual Orientation

- Heterosexual: 92%
AVA members are incredibly engaged in the policies and politics affecting the nation. From voting to speaking out on the issues that matter most, IAVA members are an important voice in American political life.

86% think having more veterans in Congress would have a positive impact Congress to address national issues.

36% have considered running for public office.

89% definitely planned on voting in 2018 Midterm Elections.*

*Reflects data collected before November 6, 2018
Registered to Vote

Registered: 97%
Not registered: 3%

Political Party Affiliation

No affiliation/independent: 37%
Republican Party: 33%
Democratic Party: 23%
Libertarian Party: 5%
Green Party: 0.5%
Other: 2%

Top 5 Issues Influencing Support for Political Candidate

1. Veterans Issues
2. Economy
3. Military/defense issues
4. Health Care
5. Gun control/2nd Amendment rights
AVA Members are engaged with the news of the day and have varying degrees of trust and support for political figures.

- **46%** believe President Trump acts in the interest of veterans.
- **25%** believe Congress acts in the interest of veterans.
- **68%** believe the American public supports veterans.
### The American public understands the sacrifices of veterans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 3%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 16%</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree: 14%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 36%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 31%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Congress acts in the interest of veterans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Somewhat agree: 23%</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree: 22%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 31%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 22%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### President Trump acts in the interest of veterans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 26%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 20%</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree: 12%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 11%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 31%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Employers see value in hiring veterans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 8%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 38%</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree: 24%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 21%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 9%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### The American public supports veterans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 23%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 45%</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree: 17%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 11%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Top 5 mediums IAVA members get their news through:

1. Websites/Apps
2. Online Newspapers
3. Cable Television
4. Social media
5. Radio
Unemployment has been consistently declining, particularly for the post-9/11 generation. This year, we continue to see this trend among IAVA members with the lowest unemployment rate ever recorded. But job satisfaction, underemployment, veteran-friendly employment practices and other factors continue to impact the overall employment outlook for the post-9/11 generation.

Did you have a job secured before you left the military?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes: 31%</th>
<th>No: 69%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

[Table showing survey results]
How long were you without a job after transitioning out of the military?

- Less than 30 days: 11%
- 31 to 60 days: 13%
- 61 to 90 days: 13%
- 91 to 180 days: 13%
- 181 to 365 days: 9%
- Over 365 days: 20%
- Have not experienced unemployment: 4%
- Opted to attend school: 17%

Top 3 Job Incentives

1. Salary/benefits package
2. Job is meaningful
3. Translating military skills

Did you receive support/training for transitioning to the civilian workforce before leaving the military?

- Yes: 40%
- No: 60%

At which level do you currently work?

- Associate Level: 30%
- Junior Management: 26%
- Entry Level: 18%
- Senior Management: 16%
- Executive Level or Business Owner: 10%

Are you personally satisfied with your current job?

- Extremely satisfied: 29%
- Somewhat satisfied: 41%
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 12%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 12%
- Extremely dissatisfied: 6%
Top 5 Job Satisfaction Factors:
1. The environment and/or people
2. Job is mission driven/has an impact
3. Opportunity to apply skills/abilities
4. Compensation
5. Job is challenging

Top 5 Reasons Unsatisfied with Job:
1. Job does not best use my skills
2. The environment and/or people
3. Compensation
4. Job does not match my education/experience level
5. Job is not challenging

Top 5 Challenges faced in finding work:
1. Competing with candidates in the workforce longer
2. Lacking required education/certification
3. Explaining how military skills translate
4. Employers avoid hiring veterans
5. Mental health injuries

Top 3 Reasons Not Looking for Work:
1. Family responsibilities
2. Health concerns
3. Childcare conflicts / In school or trainings

Top 5 Reasons Unsatisfied with Job:
1. Job does not best use my skills
2. The environment and/or people
3. Compensation
4. Job does not match my education/experience level
5. Job is not challenging

Plans to start own business or non-profit enterprise:
- Yes: 20%
- No: 72%
- I am already a business owner: 8%

What challenges do you anticipate for starting your business/non-profit?
- Start up capital: 88%
- Operating costs: 62%
- Navigating federal and state regulations: 53%
- Can't qualify for loans: 37%
- Lack of industry experience: 36%
- Lack of available training: 22%
- Other: 13%

38% Are aware of VA/Department of Labor small business support programs.
For nearly a decade, IAVA and the veteran community have called for immediate action by our nation’s leaders to appropriately respond to this crisis of 20 military and veterans dying every day from suicide. IAVA members are at the forefront of this crisis. Every year we see a rise in the percent of IAVA members who know a post-9/11 veteran that has died by suicide or attempted suicide. This year is no different. This is a time to redouble our efforts as a nation and answer the call to action. And IAVA will continue to maintain our leadership on that charge.
59% Personally know a post-9/11 veteran who has died by suicide

65% Personally know a post-9/11 veteran who has attempted suicide

77% Do not believe as a nation we are making progress in combating military/veteran suicide

Reported suicidal ideation since joining the military:

- 2018: 43%
- 2014: 31%

Reported suicidal ideation prior to joining the military:

- Yes: 9%
- No: 91%

Are you aware of the Veterans Crisis Line, the 24/7 toll-free hotline connecting veterans in crisis with trained responders, which can be reached at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1)?

- Yes: 95%
- No: 4%
- Unsure: 1%

Have you ever contacted the Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255)?

- Yes: 26%
- No: 74%
It’s known as the Agent Orange of the post-9/11 generation for a reason. Burn pits were a common way to get rid of waste at military sites in Iraq and Afghanistan, particularly between 2001 and 2010. There are other hazards beyond burn pits that occurred in Iraq and Afghanistan that may pose a danger for respiratory illnesses, including high levels of fine dust and exposure to other airborne hazards. Year after year, we have seen an upward trend in the number of members reporting symptoms associated with burn pits exposure.
82% were exposed to burn pits and/or airborne toxic materials.

Do you believe that you have symptoms associated with burn pits or toxic exposure, such as respiratory issues?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes: 39%</th>
<th>Maybe: 45%</th>
<th>No: 16%</th>
</tr>
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</table>

Are you aware of the VA's 'burn pits' registry?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes: 70%</th>
<th>No: 30%</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Registered in the VA's 'burn pits' registry:

- 2018: 47%
- 2017: 38%
- 2014: 10%

Did you have any issues when registering with the VA's 'burn pits' registry?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>None: 64%</th>
<th>Few: 19%</th>
<th>12%</th>
<th>5%</th>
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</table>

None: 64%  Few: 19%  Some: 12%  Many: 5%
In 2017, IAVA launched our groundbreaking campaign, #SheWhoBorneTheBattle, focused on recognizing the service of women veterans and closing gaps in care provided to them by the VA. We fought hard for top-down culture change in the VA for the more than 345,000 women who have fought in our current wars—and for all Americans. It’s a fight that still continues.
How important do you think it is for IAVA to address issues facing women veterans?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Extremely important: 48%</th>
<th>Very important: 30%</th>
<th>Moderately important: 15%</th>
<th>Slightly important: 4%</th>
<th>Not at all important: 3%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All respondents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
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<td>25%</td>
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<td>Neutral</td>
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<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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</table>

What is your opinion of the Department of Defense’s (DoD) decision that opened combat MOS positions to women?

All respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Strongly agree: 34%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 25%</th>
<th>Neutral: 13%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 13%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 15%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male respondents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<td>Somewhat agree</td>
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<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>16%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Female respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Strongly agree: 55%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 25%</th>
<th>Neutral: 9%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 7%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male respondents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<td>9%</td>
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<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
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<td>Neutral</td>
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<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Do you think women’s advancement in the military has been limited by past restrictions on women in combat?

All respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Yes: 40%</th>
<th>Maybe: 31%</th>
<th>No: 29%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Male respondents
| Yes: 40% | Maybe: 31% | No: 29% |
| Female respondents
| Yes: 64% | Maybe: 23% | No: 13% |
Do you believe that lifting restrictions on women in combat has improved the public recognition of their military contributions?

All respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes: 29%</th>
<th>Maybe: 36%</th>
<th>No: 35%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Male respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes: 28%</th>
<th>Maybe: 37%</th>
<th>No: 35%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Female respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes: 34%</th>
<th>Maybe: 33%</th>
<th>No: 33%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Report suicidal ideation since joining the military:

Males: 42%

Females: 49%

Report a service-connected mental health injury:

Males: 55%

Females: 63%

Report difficulty covering expenses in a typical month:

Males: 33%

Females: 37%
Opinions On Changing the VA's Motto:
“To care for him who has borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.”

- Strongly agree the motto should be changed: 28%
- Somewhat agree the motto should be changed: 18%
- Neither agree nor disagree the motto should be changed: 24%
- Somewhat disagree the motto should be changed: 9%
- Strongly disagree the motto should be changed: 21%
Military sexual trauma affects an estimated 1 in 4 women veterans and 1 in 100 male veterans, according to the VA. While there has been much attention on the issue from Department of Defense and VA, sexual assault continues to plague the services. By better understanding the past experience of these survivors, IAVA can better combat sexual assault in the future.

8% are a survivor of military sexual assault.

29% of those assaulted reported it.

66% experienced any kind of retaliation after reporting.
If instead of your commander, a trained military prosecutor had the authority to make the decision to move forward with your case, would it have impacted your decision to report?

- I would have been more likely to report: 51%
- It would not have made a difference in my decision: 46%
- I would have been less likely to report: 3%

61% Do not believe that Department of Defense is effectively addressing the problem of military sexual assault.

If the final decision to send someone to court martial for military sexual assault was a trained military prosecutor instead of the commanding officer, would you view the commander as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less of an Authority Figure: 15%</th>
<th>Would Not Impact View: 77%</th>
<th>More of an Authority Figure: 8%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Top 3 reasons Survivors Did Not Report the Crime:

1. Did not think anything would be done
2. Concerned about impact on my career
3. Concerned that my peers would treat me differently
Problems have plagued VA for quite some time. While there has been much progress legislatively and administratively to ease access to care for veterans at VA, we often hear from IAVA members that their experiences are vastly different. Creating a standardized system of care across all VAs is the ultimate goal, and every year we hear IAVA members ask for VA reform as a top priority.
44% support the expansion of privatizing care at VA.

81% are enrolled in VA health care.

81% rate VA care as average or above average.

Top 3 reforms needed to address improvements to VA health care:
1. Reduce paperwork and bureaucracy to access care
2. Reform hiring and firing practices to improve accountability
3. Consolidate Community Care programs

68% are receiving VA benefits other than health care.

Health Care Sources:

- VA health care exclusively: 27%
- Private insurance exclusively: 25%
- TRICARE and VA health care: 17%
- VA supplemented by private insurance: 15%
- TRICARE exclusively: 8%
- VA supplemented by Medicaid/Medicare: 3%
- Do not have health insurance: 2%
- DOD health care exclusively: 1%
- DOD and VA health care: 1%
- DOD supplemented by private insurance: 1%
Who is your primary source of care?

- VA Provider: 50%
- Non-VA Provider: 50%

When was the last time you sought health care from the VA?

- Less than 1 month: 43%
- 1 - 3 months: 19%
- 3 - 6 months: 9%
- 6 - 12 months: 9%
- 1 - 2 years: 7%
- 2 - 5 years: 5%
- Longer than 5 years: 8%

Rate your overall experience with VA health care:

- Excellent: 18%
- Good: 36%
- Average: 27%
- Poor: 12%
- Terrible: 7%
Top 3 Reasons Not Enrolled in VA Health Care:

1. Have other health benefits
2. Other veterans need the benefits more
3. Prefer private sector provider

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Clinicians provide quality care to veterans:

Rate your overall experience with VA health care:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 19%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 39%</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree: 14%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 17%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 11%</th>
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</table>

Non-VA clinicians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 27%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 39%</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree: 25%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 6%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 3%</th>
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</table>

Clinicians understand the medical needs of veterans:

VA clinicians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 26%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 44%</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree: 12%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 12%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 6%</th>
</tr>
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</table>

Non-VA clinicians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 11%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 33%</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree: 33%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 17%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 6%</th>
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</table>
Rate your level of satisfaction with the following providers:

**VA primary care provider**

- **Extremely satisfied**: 26%
- **Somewhat satisfied**: 35%
- **Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied**: 14%
- **Somewhat dissatisfied**: 14%
- **Extremely dissatisfied**: 11%

**VA specialty care**

- **Extremely satisfied**: 20%
- **Somewhat satisfied**: 33%
- **Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied**: 19%
- **Somewhat dissatisfied**: 15%
- **Extremely dissatisfied**: 13%

**VA mental health provider**

- **Extremely satisfied**: 28%
- **Somewhat satisfied**: 29%
- **Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied**: 14%
- **Somewhat dissatisfied**: 14%
- **Extremely dissatisfied**: 15%

Top 3 Reasons to Use Non-VA Provider as Primary Source of Care:

1. Convenience
2. Higher quality of care
3. Not enrolled in VA health care

Top 3 Reasons to Use VA Provider as Primary Source of Care:

1. Health care is free
2. My only source of health care
3. Provider understands military service
Are you familiar with the VA Choice Card Program?

Yes: 48%  
No: 52%

Have you used the VA Choice Card Program?

Yes: 39%  
No: 61%

Please rate your experience with the Choice program

Excellent: 19%  
Good: 31%  
Average: 21%  
Poor: 15%  
Terrible: 14%

84% Have not heard of the VA MISSION Act and the changes it will make to the VA system.
While many think of health care when it comes to VA, many veterans and their families rely on VA for earned benefits such as pensions and disability compensation. The process to access these earned benefits can be daunting and leave many veterans waiting months or longer for a decision. While progress has been made to update the system, long wait times and a lagging technology system continue to plague veterans waiting on their earned benefits.

Do you have a service-connected disability rating from VA?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes: 75%</th>
<th>No: 25%</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Yes: 75%  No: 25%
**2019 Member Survey**

**How long did it take for the VA to notify you of a decision on your claim?**

- 125 days or less: 24%
- 126-180 days: 25%
- 181-365 days: 23%
- Over 365 days: 25%
- My claim is still pending: 3%

**For those still waiting, length of pending claim:**

- 125 days or less: 20%
- 126-180 days: 4%
- 181-365 days: 14%
- Over 365 days: 62%

**Were you satisfied with the outcome of your claim?**

- Yes: 62%
- No: 38%

**Have you ever appealed a VA disability compensation claim decision?**

- Yes: 32%
- No: 68%
How long did it take for the VA to notify you of a decision on your claim?

- 125 days or less: 17%
- 126-180 days: 18%
- 181-365 days: 14%
- Over 365 days: 24%
- My claim is still pending: 27%

How long did it take for the VA to notify you of a decision on your claim?

- 125 days or less: 18%
- 126-180 days: 11%
- 181-365 days: 14%
- Over 365 days: 57%
Please rate your satisfaction with the following VA benefits:

Disability compensation

- Extremely satisfied: 28%
- Somewhat satisfied: 45%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 15%
- Extremely dissatisfied: 12%

Pension

- Extremely satisfied: 24%
- Somewhat satisfied: 42%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 19%
- Extremely dissatisfied: 15%

GI Bill/Education Benefits*

- Extremely satisfied: 44%
- Somewhat satisfied: 41%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 10%
- Extremely dissatisfied: 5%

Home loans

- Extremely satisfied: 57%
- Somewhat satisfied: 33%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 6%
- Extremely dissatisfied: 4%

Insurance

- Extremely satisfied: 21%
- Somewhat satisfied: 41%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 22%
- Extremely dissatisfied: 16%

Vocational rehabilitation/employment services

- Extremely satisfied: 21%
- Somewhat satisfied: 33%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 21%
- Extremely dissatisfied: 25%

VA Caregiver Benefits

- Extremely satisfied: 17%
- Somewhat satisfied: 35%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 22%
- Extremely dissatisfied: 26%

* Responses collected over time frame of VA GI Bill payment scandal around Veterans Day 2018.

When you have questions about VA benefits, who do you ask?

- Veteran Service Organizations: 61%
- VA employees: 41%
- Friends: 30%
- Family: 7%
- Elected Government Officials: 4%
- Other: 23%
One essential earned benefit is the GI Bill. The post-9/11 GI Bill was a landmark victory in 2008. Since then, almost 2 million veterans and their dependents have used the GI Bill to go to school. While constantly under attack to strip this essential benefit, the Post-9/11 GI Bill sets up the next generation of veterans and their families for success and continues to be a powerful recruitment and retention tool.
How important is the post-9/11 GI Bill for the following:

Military recruitment
- Extremely important: 46%
- Very important: 32%
- Moderately important: 16%
- Slightly important: 3%
- Not at all important: 3%

Military retention
- Extremely important: 35%
- Very important: 27%
- Moderately important: 24%
- Slightly important: 7%
- Not at all important: 7%

Successful transition/reintegration of veterans into civilian life
- Extremely important: 62%
- Very important: 25%
- Moderately important: 9%
- Slightly important: 2%
- Not at all important: 2%

41% took out loans for school. 23% went to for profit school.

Amount of Student Loan Debt
- None: 4%
- Under $1000: 1%
- $1,001-$5,000: 9%
- $5,001-$10,000: 14%
- $10,001-$15,000: 13%
- $15,001-$20,000: 11%
- $20,001-$50,000: 26%
- $50,001-$100,000: 16%
- Above $100,000: 6%
Are you eligible for the post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)?

- Yes: 77%
- Unsure: 14%
- No: 9%

Have you or one of your dependents ever used the post-9/11 GI Bill?

- Have Used: 50%
- Intend to Use: 18%
- Using: 14%
- Transferred to Dependent: 11%
- Plan not to use: 7%

While in school on the post-9/11 GI Bill, did you (or your dependent) graduate?

- Yes: 61%
- No: 18%
- Still in school: 21%

Overall, how would you rate your experience or your dependent’s experience with the post-9/11 GI Bill?

- Yes: 43%
- Good: 37%
- Average: 14%
- Poor: 4%
- Terrible: 2%

- Excellent: 43%
- Good: 37%
- Average: 14%
- Poor: 4%
- Terrible: 2%

60% Of respondents have pursued a degree since separating from the military

17% Of respondents are currently in school

73% Have already finished degree.
Overall level of satisfaction with your educational program(s):

- Extremely satisfied: 44%
- Somewhat satisfied: 38%
- Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied: 8%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 6%
- Extremely dissatisfied: 4%

Top 5 Reasons Chose Institution:
1. Acceptance of GI Bill benefits
2. Location in relation to my home
3. Offering of specific program/field of study
4. Veteran-friendly institution
5. Institution’s academic reputation/availability of online courses

To what level is/are your school(s) veteran friendly?
- Far above average: 27%
- Somewhat above average: 36%
- Average: 29%
- Somewhat below average: 5%
- Far below average: 3%

VA Benefit Used for Education:

- Post-9/11 GI Bill: 74%
- Montgomery GI Bill: 29%
- Reserve Education Assistance Program: 3%
- Other: 13%
Veterans consistently and passionately have communicated that cannabis offers effective help in tackling some of the most pressing injuries they face when returning from war. Our nation is rapidly moving toward legalizing cannabis, and 33 states now permit medical cannabis. Across party lines, medical cannabis is largely unopposed. Yet our national policies are outdated, research is lacking, and stigma persists.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Cannabis should be researched for medicinal uses

- Strongly agree: 72%
- Somewhat agree: 18%
- Neutral: 6%
- Somewhat disagree: 1%
- Strongly disagree: 3%

The VA should allow for research into cannabis as a treatment option

- Strongly agree: 68%
- Somewhat agree: 17%
- Neutral: 8%
- Somewhat disagree: 3%
- Strongly disagree: 4%

83% agree Cannabis should be legal for medicinal purposes.

55% agree Cannabis should be legal for recreational purposes.
Have you ever used cannabis or other cannabinoid products for medicinal use?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes: 20%</th>
<th>No: 76%</th>
<th>Unsure: 1%</th>
<th>Prefer to Answer: 3%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Would you be interested in using cannabis or cannabinoid products as a treatment option if it were available to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Interested: 75%</th>
<th>Interested: 9%</th>
<th>Somewhat Interested: 7%</th>
<th>Not Interested: 6%</th>
<th>Prefer Not to Answer: 3%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Comfort Discussing Medical Cannabis with Doctors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very comfortable: 51%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comfortable: 13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat comfortable: 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little comfortable: 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all comfortable: 18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussed Medical Cannabis with Doctor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes: 31%</th>
<th>No: 67%</th>
<th>Prefer Not to Answer: 2%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Ever used cannabis recreationally?*

| Yes: 66% | No: 20% | Unsure: 1% | Prefer Not to Answer: 13% |

Do you live in state where medical cannabis is legal?

| Yes: 52% | No: 35% | Unsure: 12% | Prefer Not to Answer: 1% |

Do you live in a state where recreational cannabis is legal?

| Yes: 26% | No: 67% | Unsure: 6% | Prefer Not to Answer: 1% |

* Of those that have used cannabis medicinally
While substance use on its own is not alone harmful in the case of legal substances, substance abuse and long-term daily use can have a myriad of harmful health effects from physical to mental health impacts. 

27% reported alcohol use in line with binge drinking at least one day in the past month.
During the last 12 months, how often did you usually have any kind of drink containing alcohol?

- Every day: 8%
- 3 to 6 times a week: 19%
- Once or twice a week: 21%
- 2 to 3 times a month: 14%
- Once a month: 8%
- Less than 10 times in the past year: 10%
- 1 or 2 times in the past year: 6%
- I did not drink any alcohol in the past year, but I did drink in the past: 11%
- I never drank any alcohol in my life: 3%

Typical Number of Drinks Consumed during One Day of Alcohol Consumption:

- 16 or more: 2%
- 12 to 15 drinks: 1%
- 9 to 11 drinks: 2%
- 7 to 8 drinks: 4%
- 5 to 6 drinks: 9%
- 3 to 4 drinks: 26%
- 2 drinks: 32%
- 1 drink: 24%
How often do you use tobacco products?

- Daily: 77%
- 4–6 times a week: 6%
- 2–3 times a week: 5%
- Once a week: 2%
- Less than once a week: 10%

Do you currently use tobacco products?

- Yes: 61%
- No: 39%

Have you ever used tobacco products?

- Yes: 61%
- No: 39%

What form of tobacco products have you used?

- Cigarettes: 78%
- Cigars: 43%
- Dip or snuff: 32%
- Chewing tobacco: 28%
- Vapes: 12%
- Pipe tobacco: 12%
- E-cigarettes: 10%
- Other: 1%
t’s a powerful and often politicized topic in today’s environment, but firearm ownership and storage is a particularly important topic in the veteran community. Veterans are more likely than their civilian counterparts to own and know how to use a firearm for various reasons. And sadly, about 70 percent of veterans that die by suicide use a firearm as the method. Firearm safety and storage is a continuing topic of conversation in the veteran community, and IAVA members are an important part of that conversation.

### FIREARM OWNERSHIP

Of respondents own personal firearms

**68%**

Please select your primary method of storage for your firearm:

- Locked, Unloaded, Ammunition Stored Separately: 30%
- Locked and Loaded: 20%
- Would Rather Not Say: 20%
- Unlocked, Unloaded, Ammunition Stored Separately: 13%
- Unlocked, Loaded: 10%
- Locked, Unloaded, No Ammunition in Home: 2%
- Unlocked, Unloaded, No Ammunition in Home: 1%
- Other: 4%
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following:

**Establishment of community lockers as a means to safely store weapons outside of the home.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 9%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 12%</th>
<th>Neutral: 22%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 13%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 44%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Allowing concealed carry without a permit**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 21%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 11%</th>
<th>Neutral: 9%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 17%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 42%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Banning assault-style firearms**

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<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 24%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 10%</th>
<th>Neutral: 12%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 12%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 42%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Banning high-capacity magazines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 29%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 11%</th>
<th>Neutral: 11%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 11%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 38%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Shortening waiting periods for buying firearms legally**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 19%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 11%</th>
<th>Neutral: 19%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 17%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 34%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Distribution of trigger locks at medical centers, sporting good/gun stores and community centers.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 37%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 28%</th>
<th>Neutral: 21%</th>
<th>4% Strongly disagree: 10%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Universal background checks for individuals purchasing firearms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 70%</th>
<th>Somewhat agree: 16%</th>
<th>Neutral: 7%</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree: 2%</th>
<th>Strongly disagree: 5%</th>
</tr>
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</table>
Mental health injuries impact the post-9/11 generation at an alarming rate. Among IAVA members, mental health injuries like PTSD, anxiety and depression are higher than even VA reported numbers for the post-9/11 generation. Ensuring access to effective treatment options for mental health injuries is paramount to the long term health of post-9/11 veterans.

84% Believe that the military/veteran community are not getting the care they need for mental health injuries.
Top 3 Reasons the military/veteran community not getting the mental health care they need

1. Stigma of seeking help is too great
2. Access to care but not quality care
3. Access but not seeking care

Do you have a service-connected mental health injury?

- Yes: 55%
- No: 45%

Are you seeking care for your service-connected mental health?

- Yes: 75%
- No: 25%

Where are you seeking care?

- VA Mental Health Professional: 71%
- Civilian (non-VA) mental health professional: 27%
- Vet Center counselor: 22%
- Peer support group: 17%
- Religious/spiritual leaders: 15%
- Veterans Crisis Line: 7%
- Civilian DOD counselor: 3%
- Uniformed DOD counselor: 2%
- Other: 11%
Top 3 Reasons for Not Seeking Care:

1. No mental health professional that understands my needs
2. Started treatment but decided to stop
3. Concerned it might affect my career

Has anyone close to you suggested you seek care for a mental health injury?

| Yes: 47% | No: 53% |

Have you sought help as a result of someone close to you suggesting you seek care for a mental health injury?

| Yes: 71% | No: 29% |
Over 50,000 service members have been wounded in action in Iraq and Afghanistan according to Department of Defense. However, many service members came home from war only to develop wounds of war after transitioning. Continuing issues such as chronic pain, hearing loss, and mental health injuries are of great concern for the post-9/11 generation. IAVA members know this well.
86% have experienced a service-connected injury or illness.

72% suffer from chronic pain due to a service-connected injury.

Service Related Injuries:

- Musculoskeletal/joint injuries: 66%
- PTSD: 60%
- Tinnitus: 59%
- Anxiety: 56%
- Depression: 53%
- Hearing Loss: 50%
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): 25%
- Pulmonary issues: 18%
- Scarring or burns: 15%
- Vision Loss: 8%
- Paralysis: 2%
- Loss of limb: 1%
- Other: 29%
How often do your service-connected injuries affect your daily life?

Always: 42%
Most of the time: 28%
About half the time: 11%
Sometimes: 18%
Never: 1%

Have you been prescribed and are you taking any of the following drugs for a service-related injury?

Antidepressant: 40%
Sleeping Pills: 25%
Anti-anxiety: 25%
Opioid: 14%

Alternative Therapies Used in Care Regimen:

Natural products*: 37%
Meditation: 26%
Chiropractic Care: 25%
Yoga: 18%
Nature/outdoor adventure therapies: 18%
Acupuncture: 15%
Cannabis: 14%
Special diets: 13%
Music or Art Therapy: 13%
Animal-assisted therapy: 6%
Service animal: 6%
Other: 9%

*i.e. dietary supplements, vitamins, probiotics
Do you use any of these alternative therapies to treat an injury you received as a result of your service?

| Yes: 63% | No: 37% |

Do you currently have someone assisting you with some aspect of your daily health needs?

| Yes: 20% | No: 80% |

Is that person:

- Spouse: 79%
- Parent: 7%
- Friend: 10%
- Extended Family: 2%
- Paid caregiver or aide: 4%
- Other: 12%

How many daily activities do you need assistance with?

| One: 36% | Two: 27% | Three: 13% | Four or more: 24% |

---

**2019 MEMBER SURVEY**

59
The transition from military to civilian life is often a challenging time for IAVA members. We know a successful transition experience can set up many for a life of continued success. However, a difficult transition experience can have the opposite effect.

Did you experience challenges when transitioning out of the military?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Many: 39%</th>
<th>Some: 39%</th>
<th>Few: 15%</th>
<th>None: 7%</th>
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</table>
Top 5 Transition challenges
1. Difficulty navigating VA benefits
2. Loss of identity/purpose
3. Health Concerns (Mental or Physical)
4. Relating to non-veteran civilians/Reintegrating with community
5. Finding/keeping employment as a civilian

Were you prepared to manage your finances immediately after your transition out of the military?

Yes: 67%
No: 33%

In a typical month is it difficult to cover your expenses and pay all your bills?

Yes: 34%
No: 66%

Believe they may have or did experience predatory loan practices, described as deceptive, unfair, or fraudulent practices.

Predatory Loan Type

Advance Pay-Day: 42%
Car: 34%
Home: 20%
Other: 32%
Did not have a permanent place to live when transitioned out of the military

How long were you without a permanent place to live?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A few days: 8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few weeks: 18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few months: 27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six months to a year:25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longer than a year: 22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you couchsurf, or stay with family or friends temporarily?

| Yes: 84% | No: 16% |

Current Living Situation:

- Own home/have a mortgage: 66%
- Rent: 24%
- With friends/family/significant other: 10%
- Temporary or permanent housing: 3%
- Living with parents/ as a dependent: 2%
- Couchsurfing: 1%
- Don't have place to live and can't afford one: 0.5%
- Base housing/barracks: 0.3%
- Campus housing: 0.2%
- Hospital/VA medical facility: 0.2%
- Other: 2%

Have you participated in or are you currently participating in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)?

| Yes: 34% | No: 66% |

How would you rate your experience in the Transition Assistance Program?

- Very good: 14%
- Good: 25%
- Fair: 33%
- Poor: 17%
- Very poor: 11%
### Active Duty/Guard/Reserve Transition Prep

The following questions were asked of IAVA members who indicated they are still serving in uniform.

#### When do you plan to transition out of the military?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Within the next 6 months</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within the next 6-12 months</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within the next 2 years</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 2 years</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>22%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Have you planned for your transition out of the military?

- Yes: 60%
- No: 40%

#### Challenges expected to face as transition out of military:

- Difficulty navigating VA benefits: 45%
- Loss of identity/purpose: 36%
- Health Concerns (Mental or Physical): 34%
- Relating to non-veteran civilians/Reintegrating with community: 32%
- Finding/keeping employment as a civilian: 31%
- Isolation from unit/service members: 26%
- Readjusting to social life: 24%
- Managing finances: 21%
- I do not expect to face any challenges: 20%
- Reconnecting with family: 12%
- Finding housing: 8%

#### How familiar are you with the public benefits available to you as you transition out of the military?

- Extremely familiar: 7%
- Very familiar: 14%
- Moderately familiar: 40%
- Slightly familiar: 20%
- Not familiar at all: 19%

#### Were any of the following benefits influential to your decision to join the military?

- Education benefits: 83%
- Pay: 59%
- Health Care: 58%
- Life Insurance: 25%
- Housing assistance: 18%
AVA Members are always ready to sound off on the most important issues impacting not only the post-9/11 generation but also all Americans. From immigration to the NFL protests, to the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, IAVA Members are sounding off on the hottest topics of the day.

In all, do you think our engagement in Iraq was worth it, or not?

- Worth it: 22%
- Somewhat worth it: 25%
- Neither worth it nor not worth it: 10%
- Somewhat not worth it: 11%
- Not worth it: 32%
In all, do you think our engagement in Afghanistan is worth it, or not?

- Worth it: 30%
- Somewhat worth it: 32%
- Neither worth it nor not worth it: 10%
- Somewhat not worth it: 11%
- Not worth it: 17%

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Maintaining the Selective Service with the inclusion of women U.S. citizens turning 18 years old in the enrollment process.

- Strongly agree: 50%
- Somewhat agree: 23%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 12%
- Somewhat disagree: 5%
- Strongly disagree: 10%

Ending the Selective Service enrollment process (used in the event of a draft) for male U.S. citizens turning 18 years old.

- Strongly agree: 12%
- Somewhat agree: 9%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 17%
- Somewhat disagree: 19%
- Strongly disagree: 43%

Agree with the U.S. Special Immigrant Visa Program for Afghan nationals.

81%

Currently, military service can serve as a way to expedite the pathway to U.S. citizenship. What is your opinion of this policy?

- Strongly agree: 72%
- Somewhat agree: 21%
- Neutral: 4%
- Somewhat disagree: 2%
- Strongly disagree: 1%
Under current immigration law, non-citizens may be deported after committing a crime, regardless of veteran status or military service. What is your opinion of this policy?

- Strongly agree: 23%
- Agree: 14%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 26%
- Disagree: 14%
- Strongly disagree: 20%

4% have been personally impacted by this immigration policy. 11% know a post-9/11 veteran impacted by this policy.

Opinion on allowing openly transgender persons to participate in military service:

- Strongly agree: 23%
- Agree: 14%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 26%
- Disagree: 14%
- Strongly disagree: 23%

Support for the repeal of the “Dont Ask, Dont Tell” (DADT):

- Yes: 51%
- No: 29%
- No opinion: 20%

Top 3 most important issues for post-9/11 veterans:

1. Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
2. Employment and Jobs
3. VA Reform
Earlier this year, President Trump requested a military parade from the Pentagon. Please rate your support for the President’s proposed military parade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Support: 16%</th>
<th>Support: 11%</th>
<th>Neutral: 16%</th>
<th>Oppose: 9%</th>
<th>Strongly Oppose: 48%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

What is your opinion of the ongoing “NFL protests” where players kneel during the national anthem to protest social injustices?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree: 28%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat agree: 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral: 13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat disagree: 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree: 43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to answer: 2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How do you plan to respond to the various protests during professional sports games?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support protests, continue watching NFL: 28%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disagree with protests, won’t watch NFL: 24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support protests, not a fan of NFL: 16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree with protests, continue watching NFL: 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object to protests, not a fan of NFL: 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion on protests, continue watching NFL: 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion on protests, not a fan of NFL: 3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 MEMBER SURVEY
4,600 IAVA Members took and completed this year’s survey. That is a record number. With a 1% margin of error at the 95% confidence interval, we can be confident that the numbers and views reflected in this survey accurately and precisely reflect that of IAVA’s veteran and military population nationwide. The survey was distributed among IAVA’s veteran and military members over a month long period from October 19th through November 19th. Almost three-fourths of those that started the survey completed it, a testament to the interest and willingness of our members to share their thoughts, opinions, and experiences. An incentive to complete the survey was provided, Southwest flight vouchers, a common practice in survey design. For more on our methodology, see below.*

*The survey alpha test was distributed among IAVA staff members from July 30 - August 1st and later beta tested among a dozen IAVA leaders and staff members from August 2nd - 6th and October 9th - 15th. The final survey was fielded among all IAVA veteran members from October 19th through November 19th. Emails were sent to IAVA military and veteran members on October 19, 24, November 14, and 16. The opportunity to enter a drawing for five Southwest (SW) Airlines vouchers to fly anywhere SW flies in 2018 was provided as incentive to complete the survey. Social media was utilized to encourage post-9/11 veterans to join IAVA and take the survey. New members were also provided a link in the welcome email received during this time frame. A total of 4,600 participants completed the survey, a record number; 1,586 started the survey but did not complete it, which made for a 74% completion rate. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 1% at the 95% confidence interval.
Stephanie Mullen serves as the Research Director for IAVA, leading the annual member survey and additional research projects. As part of the Policy Department, Steph translates IAVA members’ experiences and views based on surveys and polling to advise the Policy Department on legislative and policy positions.

Most recently, Steph has represented IAVA for a panel discussion on PTSD following a screening of the film, Leave No Trace. Steph is a recurring guest on Connecting Vets where she has discussed topics such as suicide prevention and mental health, burn pits, and Department of Veterans Affairs reforms. Before joining the IAVA team, Stephanie served as National Programs Manager for American Veterans, where she kept AMVETS’ national programs running on time and on budget. Stephanie is a graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA with a BA in International Relations and a MA in Public Policy and currently part of the 2018 Center for Strategic and International Studies Accelerator Series for rising leaders.
Thank you to all of our IAVA Members who participated in this survey. Thank you to Qualtrics for providing the platform to IAVA for survey fielding.

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This project would not have been possible without the creative vision and talent of Eric Schoenborn. Thank you for all your work and sharing your talent to make this project a success.

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- Marsh USA Inc.
IAVA relies on the generosity of our corporate and foundation partnerships and the support of individual contributors to amass the resources necessary to fulfill our mission. This Member Survey is the most comprehensive non-governmental survey of post-9/11 veterans and is an important snapshots of the veteran community that no other organization has the ability to replicate. IAVA is the leading voice advocating on behalf of post-9/11 veterans because our community takes the time to share their point of view and they trust IAVA to execute on their behalf. Help us continue this vital work, by donating to support IAVA's mission today!