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CASE STUDY: WOMEN VETERANS IN CALIFORNIA

California's Women Veterans Survey

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Presentation Overview

- History
- Methodology
- Findings
- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Next Iteration

History

Commission holds hearings about needs of women veterans in CA
2007/2008

First survey about needs of women veterans conducted by CRB, 2009

CRB introduces Short Subjects about Women Veterans, 2012

CRB, Commission and CalVet launch 3rd iteration, 2013

Commission asks CRB to complete survey about needs of women veterans, 2008/2009

CRB, Commission and CalVet repeat survey, 2011

First legislation based on survey research introduced in CA., 2012

Coalition for Survey

- ◎ California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
 - Adding a gender lens to policies
 - Power to commission hearings and research
 - Funding
- ◎ California Research Bureau
 - Non-partisan research org for Legislature, Governor, and Constitutional Officers
 - Academic researchers and research librarians
- ◎ CalVet
 - Subject-matter experts
 - Contact with veterans/outreach

Methodology: Survey Development

- ◉ Team of members from each coalition partner meet regularly to develop survey
- ◉ Call for public input
- ◉ Outreach to specific organizations to solicit input for questions for this iteration
- ◉ Academically vetted after public comment period input integrated
- ◉ CRB provides bulk of academic work on survey. CalVet provides bulk of subject matter expertise. Commission ensures gender lens.

Methodology: Sampling

- Iterations 1 & 2: Opt-in samples
- Iteration 1 = 197 Ss
Iteration 2 = 843 Ss (substantially representative)
- Seeding – Distributed at a few key locations and advertised on CalVet Website and on CA Library website (Iterations 1 & 2)
- Hard copies available at some key locations (Iterations 1 & 2)

Methodology: Sampling, Third Iteration

- Convenience sample with some aspects of a snowball sample
- Email and listserv outreach
- Survey links on multiple websites
- Press coverage
- Outreach at public events with internet bars and paper surveys
- Postage paid mailback options for paper surveys
- Social media outreach
- PSAs, Billboards, Bus boards, and other ads

Findings

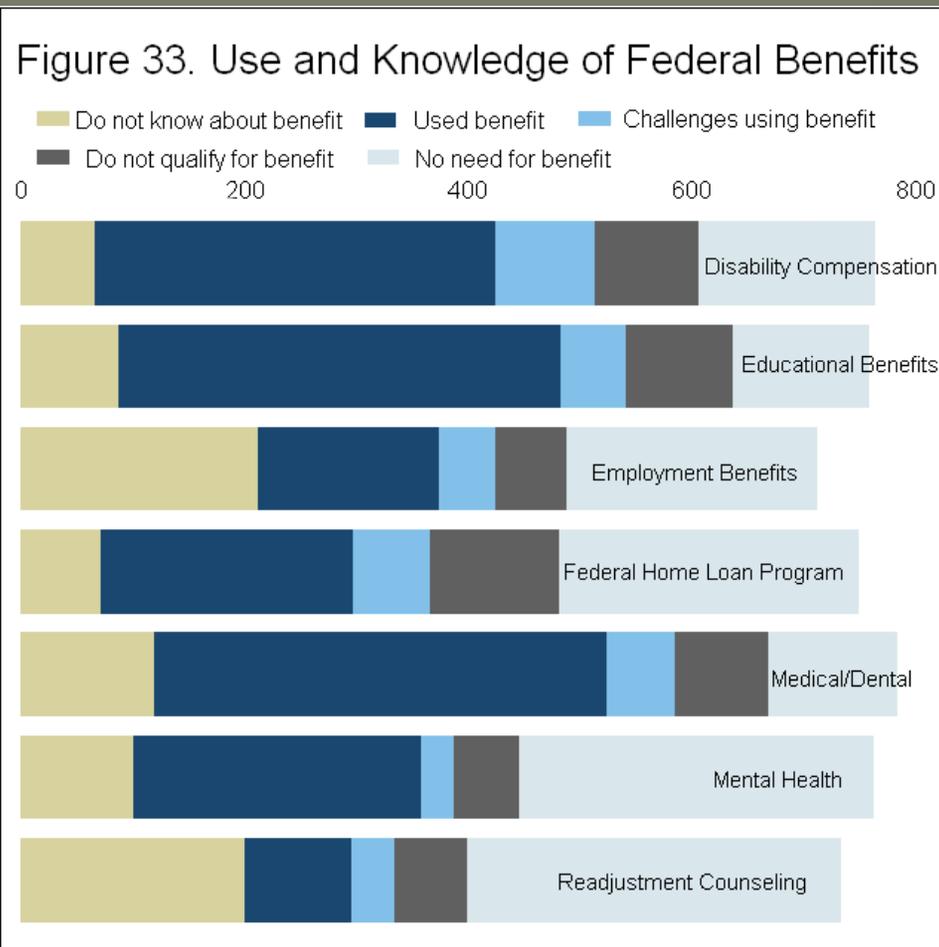
- ◎ Findings about women veterans different than some other surveys because of approach.
- ◎ We asked women, “What do you need?” rather than looking at demographics and determining needs.
- ◎ This is more feminine approach to research and generates different outcomes.

Findings, Continued

ITERATION 2: Question Areas

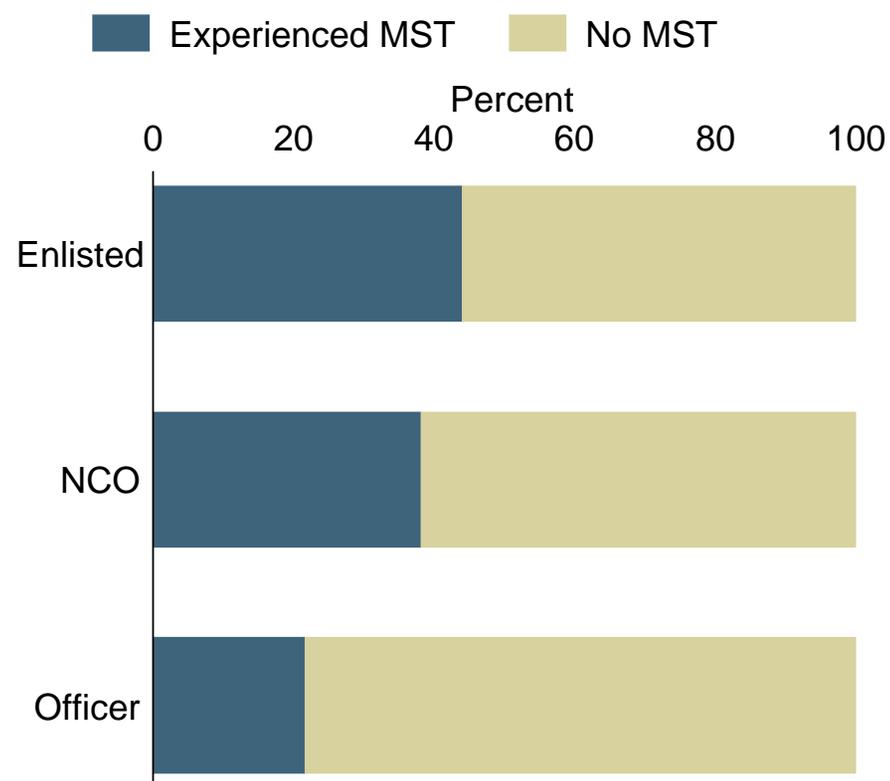
- Demographics
- Health/Mental Health/PTSD
- Military Sexual Trauma
- Benefits Utilization (state and federal)
- Feelings about CalVet and VA
- Homeless status
- Health insurance coverage information
- Military Experience
- Needs at discharge and current

Findings: Benefit Utilization



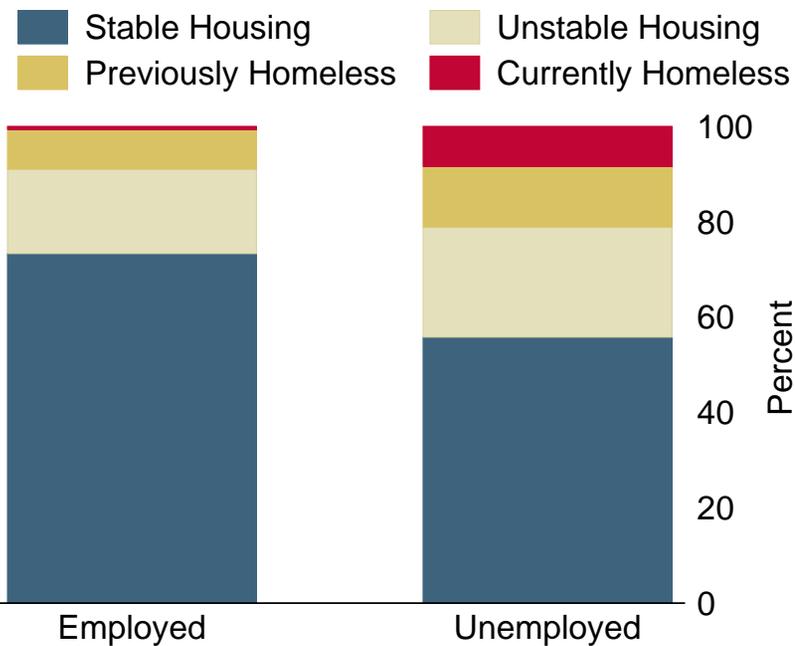
Findings: Military Sexual Trauma

Figure 28. MST by Rank



Findings: Homelessness

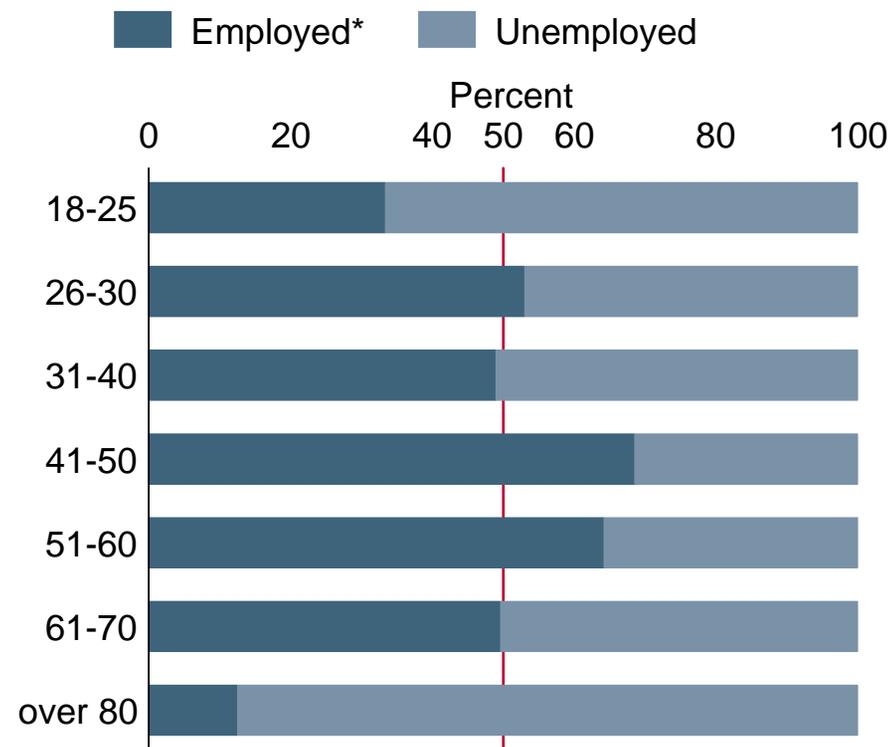
Figure 1. Employment is Key to Stable Housing for Women Veterans



Source: CRB 2011 Women Veterans Survey.

Findings: Employment

Figure XX. Percentage of Age Group Currently Employed



*Employed includes full time, part time, and self-employed.

Outputs

- ◉ Preliminary Report – 12 page report released in March 2012
- ◉ Full Report – 99 page report released in May 2012
- ◉ Seven “Short Subjects” released between August 2012 and January 2013
- ◉ Two academic conference presentations
- ◉ Five stake holder presentations
- ◉ Four state-legislative testimony presentations

Outcomes

- ◉ AB186 and AB258 written and looking pretty successful at this point
- ◉ Systematic data gathered on the needs of women veterans
- ◉ 20+ newspaper articles and blog reviews
- ◉ Raised awareness of state legislators
- ◉ CalVet has tied its strategic plan to benchmarks in the survey
- ◉ Became a tool of effective government

Contact Informaton

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Sources from Rebecca Blanton's presentation can be found at the following links:

- Military Families and Child Care Needs in CA <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/13/S-13-008.pdf>
Military Spouses and Professional Licensing <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/13/S-13-001.pdf>
CA Women Veterans and Homelessness <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/12/S-12-011.pdf>
CA Women Veterans and Military Sexual Trauma <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/12/S-12-004.pdf>
CA Women Veterans and Mental Health <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/12/S-12-005.pdf>
CA Women Veterans and Employment <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/12/S-12-007.pdf>
CA Women Veterans and Benefit Utilization <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/12/S-12-008.pdf>
CA Women Veterans At-A-Glance <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/12/S-12-009.pdf>

Full 99 page report *California Women Veterans: Responses to the 2011 Survey*:
<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/12/12-004.pdf>

Use of these works, with proper citation of the source, is encouraged!