WHATCOM COUNTY VETERAN SURVEY

Administered by Western Washington University, in partnership with Whatcom County Health Department.
Survey Distribution

• An online survey was administered through Campus Labs and distributed county wide.
• Survey open from 01/25/16 through 03/04/16
• 25 questions
• 313 respondents with an 81% completion rate
• The survey was announced through the Bellingham Herald as well as sent from veteran service providers to veterans
• A small number of paper surveys were also administered
DEMOGRAPHICS
Minimum age = 23 years
Maximum age = 94 years
Avg. age = 52 years
Who lives in your home with you?

- Spouse: 38.56%
- Spouse & children: 22.22%
- Live alone: 19.38%
- Other: 11.76%
- Roommates: 8.17%
If you have children, how many do you have?

- 1 child: 46.91%
- 2 children: 30.88%
- 3 children: 13.58%
- 4 children: 7.41%
- 7 children: 1.23%
Communication Methods
Other Sources of News and Information

• Blogs
• Podcasts
• U.S. Post Office mail
Which forms of social media do you use?

- Facebook: 54.40%
- None: 25.73%
- Other: 6.44%
- Twitter: 5.11%
- Instagram: 5.11%
Other Forms of Social Media

- LinkedIn
- Email
- Reddit
- Tumblr
- YouTube
- Blogs
Military Service Information
The bar chart shows the frequency of different branches of service. The Army has the highest frequency at 37.42%, followed by the Navy at 32.08%. The Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard have frequencies of 13.21%, 13.21%, and 4.09%, respectively.
SURVEY RESULTS OF VETERAN NEEDS AND ENGAGEMENT
Are you currently working outside of the home?

- No: 53.14%
- Yes: 45.86%
Other Reasons

- Disabled
- PTSD
- Volunteering
- Ageism
Are you connected with other veterans in Whatcom County?

- Yes: 59.48%
- No: 40.52%
Where do you usually connect with other veterans?

- American Legion
- Vet centers
- School
- VVA
- Online
- Church
- At work
- In my neighborhood
What do you see as a primary need of your veteran peers?

- Physical healthcare: 25.56%
- Mental healthcare: 22.35%
- Employment services: 14.06%
- Peer support: 11.98%
- Education services: 6.01%
- Other: 19.12%
Other Needs

- Housing Assistance
- Legal services
- Substance abuse services
- Home healthcare
- Food Services
- Service animals
Do you think there are adequate veteran services in the county?

- No: 57.89%
- Yes: 42.31%
Suggestions for adequate veteran service

• Faster processing of benefits
• Better communication
• More advertising
• Direct contact with vets
• Don’t know what there is
What additional services and events would you like to see for veterans in the community?

- Housing services
- Transportation services
- VA clinic
- Dental services
- Service animals
- Job training
- Health and medical care services.
What services have you accessed in Whatcom County?

- Veteran service officers: 19.34%
- None: 16.25%
- Education services: 14.88%
- Physical healthcare: 14.70%
- Peer support: 10.25%
- Mental healthcare: 8.51%
- Employment services: 8.12%
- Other: 7.93%
Other Services

- Food services
- Legal services
- Substance abuse services
- Home healthcare
Why aren't you currently using any services in Whatcom County?

- No need for them: 45.44%
- I don't think I qualify: 19.10%
- I don't know how to access them: 17.98%
- Other: 12.36%
- I don't have transportation: 1.12%
Other Reasons

• Don’t know what’s available
• These services are not available near me
Other Offices

- County/City offices
- Health department
- Public political meetings
- WWU Veteran Services
- WCC Vet office
- VVA
Other Groups

- Combat Veterans International
- Growing Veterans
- Rotary
- AA
- Athletic clubs
- VFW
- MOAA
- Marine Corps League
Suggestions for those groups for providing veteran friendly programs or events

- Advertise more
- Welcome younger veterans
- Veteran Ski trips, hiking and biking
- Provide awareness campaigns
- Provide outreach to women veterans
Would you attend a county wide veteran event?

- Yes: 30.41%
- No: 19.59%
Where are some other place you go to address your mental/physical health care needs?

- County/city parks: 37.58%
- Hiking trails: 26.96%
- Other: 21.44%
- Church: 14.01%
Other Places

- Doctors office
- Fishing at lakes
- Gyms
- VA
- Other outdoor activities
Are you interested in learning about opportunities for veterans in Whatcom County?

- Yes: 55.43%
- No: 44.57%
Questions?
Observations?