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Life After Service Survey

2014 National Conference Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN)

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Background

- Sponsored by Veterans Affairs & Department of National Defence
- Canadian Forces members retired between 1998-2012



Objectives

- 1. To assess the health outcomes in Canadian Veterans who have transitioned from military to civilian life
- 2. To provide more information on the transition period between military and civilian life
- 3. To identify health behaviors which influence disease outcomes



Survey Design

- Average survey length: 30 minutes
- Sample frame: Canadian Forces and Veterans Affairs administrative records
- Telephone interview using CAI
- Non-proxy interviews only
- Collection February 4 – March 18th, 2010
- Response rate: 70%



Sample design

Type of veteran	Rank of veteran	Selected Individuals	Responding Individuals	
Regular Forces	Officer	1,217	872	
	Senior	1,225	950	
	Junior	1,246	800	
	Total	3,688	2,622	
Reservists	Class A/B	875	514	
	Class C	1454	1,013	
	Total	2329	1,527	



Content

- General Health
- Height and Weight
- Mastery
- Chronic Conditions
- Hearing loss
- Pain and discomfort



Content - continued

- Restriction of activities
- Activities for daily living
- SF-12 (v2)
- K10 distress scale
- PTSD screener
- Social support



Content - continued

- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Suicide
- Health care utilization
- Contact with professionals
- Alternative health care provider
- Unmet health care needs



Content - concluded

- Insurance
- Education
- Employment
- Income
- Satisfaction with income



Indicator	Regular Force released 1998-2012	Reserve Class C released 2003-2012	Reserve Class A/B released 2003-2012
Mean age	44 ↓	40 ↓	31 ↓
Women	13% ↓	23% ↓	19% ↓
Married	74% ↑	72% ↑	56% ↑
Education post-secondary	52% ↓	71% ⇄	73% ↑
Unemployment	7% ⇄	5% ⇄	6% ⇄
Labour force employed in 2013	72%	80%	84%
Low income ⁶	8% ↓	8% ↓	12% ↓
Adjustment to civilian life	56% easy 27% difficult	61% easy 24% difficult	74% easy 11% difficult
Self-rated health very good/excellent	53% ↓	61% ⇄	69% ⇄
Self-rated mental health very good/excellent	62% ↓	67% ↓	74% ⇄
Arthritis	22% ↑	16% ↑	6% ⇄
Back problems	35% ↑	32% ↑	17% ↑
Hearing problem	9% ↑	5% ↑	<5% ⇄
Obesity	26% ↑	24% ↑	18% ⇄
Chronic pain	34% ↑	28% ↑	13% ⇄
Activity limitation ⁷	50% ↑	40% ↑	23% ⇄
Mental health condition ⁸	24% ↑	17% ↑	9% ⇄
Past year suicide ideation	7%	5%	<5%
Community belonging strong	58% ↓	60% ⇄	57% ⇄
Satisfaction with life satisfied/very satisfied	86% ↓	89% ↓	94% ⇄
Daily smoking	17% ⇄	13% ⇄	10% ⇄
Heavy drinking	25% ⇄	28% ⇄	32% ⇄

⇄ equal to Canadians ↑ higher than Canadians ↓ lower than Canadians



Other Related Projects

- Survey on Transition to Civilian Life - 2010
- Canadian Forces Cancer and Mortality Study - 2011
- Pre- and Post-Release Income: Life After Service Studies, 1998 to 2011
- Canadian Forces Mental Health Study



Differences between STCL and LASS

- Design
- Reference period
- Subject matter
- Scope of sample
- Target population



What has been done so far?

- Comprehensive descriptive, comparative analysis between Regular Force Veterans and Former Reservists (Classes A/B & C)



Who might want to use this data?

- Anyone interested in PTSD, chronic mental health conditions, co-morbidity



Who might want to use this data?

- Anyone interested in health & well-being of Veterans



Who might want to use this data?

- Anyone with experience using CCHS data



Who might want to use this data?

- Anyone interested in doing comparative analysis