**Missouri Military Community Needs Assessment**

**Project Background**

The Missouri Military Community Needs Assessment gathered information from Veterans, Service Members, family members of Veterans, and service providers on the health care needs of and available to the Missouri military community. Emphasis was placed on traumatic brain injury, mental health, and substance use.

The goal of the needs assessment was to systematically identify needs and measure the gaps between current conditions and wanted conditions through participation of Veterans, Service Members, family members, and behavioral health and health service providers.

**Who Participated?**

475 people took the online survey, of which 461 were complete.

- 41% of providers have served in the US Armed Services
- 80% of providers served active duty
- 80% of survey participants were between the ages of 25 and 64

**Leaving Military Service with Untreated Health Issues**

Participants were asked whether they had untreated health issues when leaving military service.

- 100% of 18-24 years old
- 87% of 25-44 years old
- 58% of 45-64 years old
- 52% of 65 years or older
- 68% of total

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In addition, funding for this assessment was made possible to the Missouri Department of Mental Health by Missouri Health Foundation, and Missouri Traumatic Brain Injury Partnership Project by Health Resources and Services Administration.
HEALTH INSURANCE

Participants were asked what type of health insurance they utilize. Though many had more than one type of insurance, the most commonly listed for each participant group included:

- 52% of Veterans utilize VA Health Care, while 41% receive insurance through their current or former employer
- 84% of Service Members and 62% of Family Members utilize TRICARE
- 54% of incarcerated individuals have no health insurance

VETERAN'S HEALTH

Participants were asked if they feel a substantial amount of military Service Members and Veterans have untreated mental and/or physical health issues.

The number of participants who agreed with this statement included:

- 87% of providers
- 82% of Family Members of Veterans

BARRIERS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Participants were asked about the barriers faced when accessing health services.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

- 22% of participants stated they or their family member had experienced either a TBI or an injury to the head during service.
- 80% of Veterans and 62% of Service Members stated they were not screened for TBI at the time of the event or shortly thereafter.

MENTAL HEALTH

Participants were asked if Service Members and Veterans are getting the care they need for mental health injuries, including Combat-related Stress.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service Members</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Members</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providers</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>63%</td>
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SUGGESTED PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

Offer continuing education courses on:
- military culture for civilian service providers
- how to support Veterans in accessing services from the VA to civilian service providers and family members

Research and provide resources on TBI to service providers to increase familiarity with:
- the screening process
- how TBI effects behavior
- treatment process
- survivor resources

Transition support to Veterans and family members either returning home or relocating offered by local communities.

Help Veterans connect with local behavioral health resources while retaining privacy; connect Veterans needing help with high quality resources.