



Welcome to the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative

Intro Working Group



BACKGROUND

- U.S. at war for over a decade
- 2.8 Million Deployed → Drawdown
- 325,000 vets currently in Los Angeles
 - 12,000 more per year estimated
- “Sea of Goodwill”



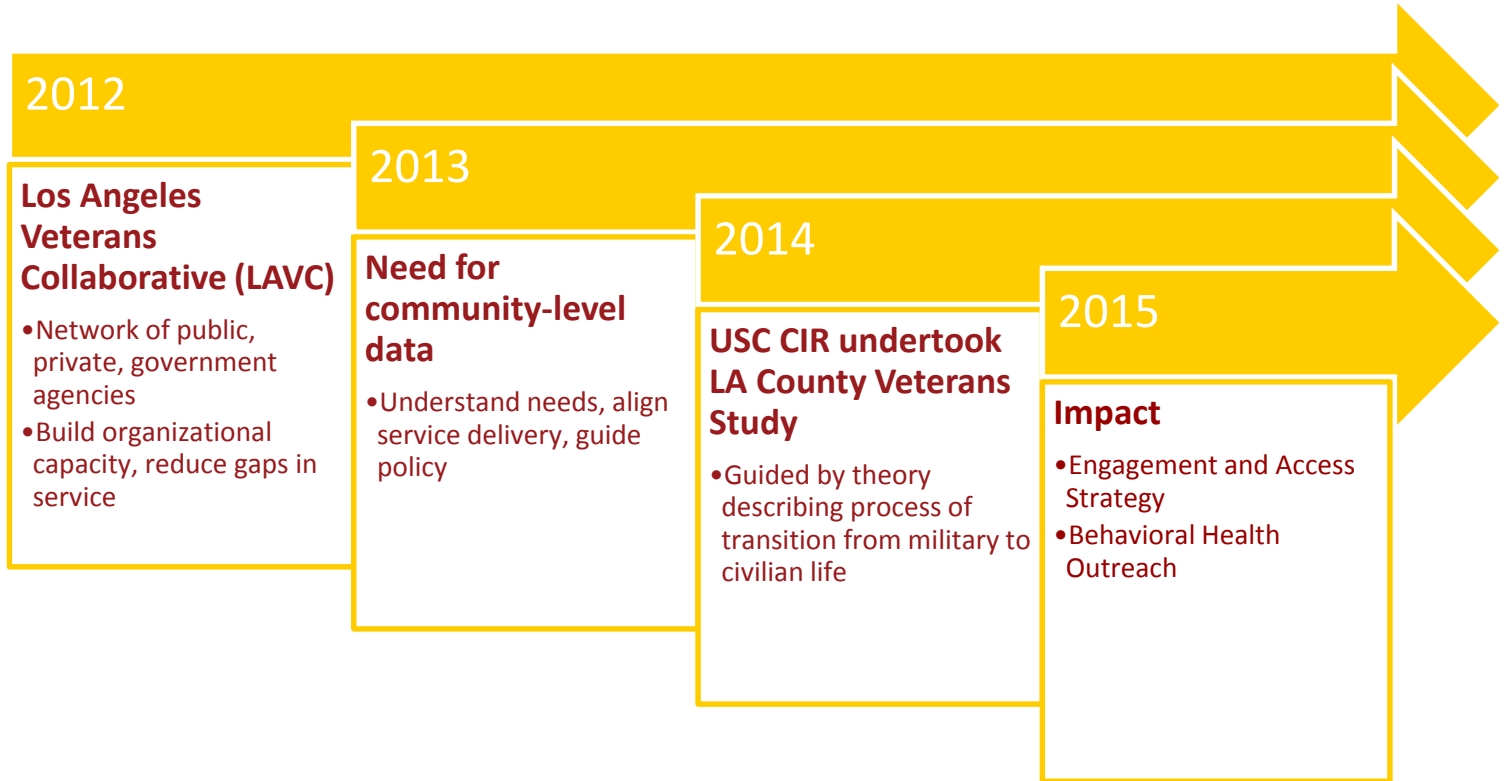
Disconnected



- Less than 1% of the Population has served in the last 13 years
- 50% of public says the wars have made little difference in their lives. (Pew Research Poll)



BACKGROUND (cont'd)





Los Angeles Collaborative

Data



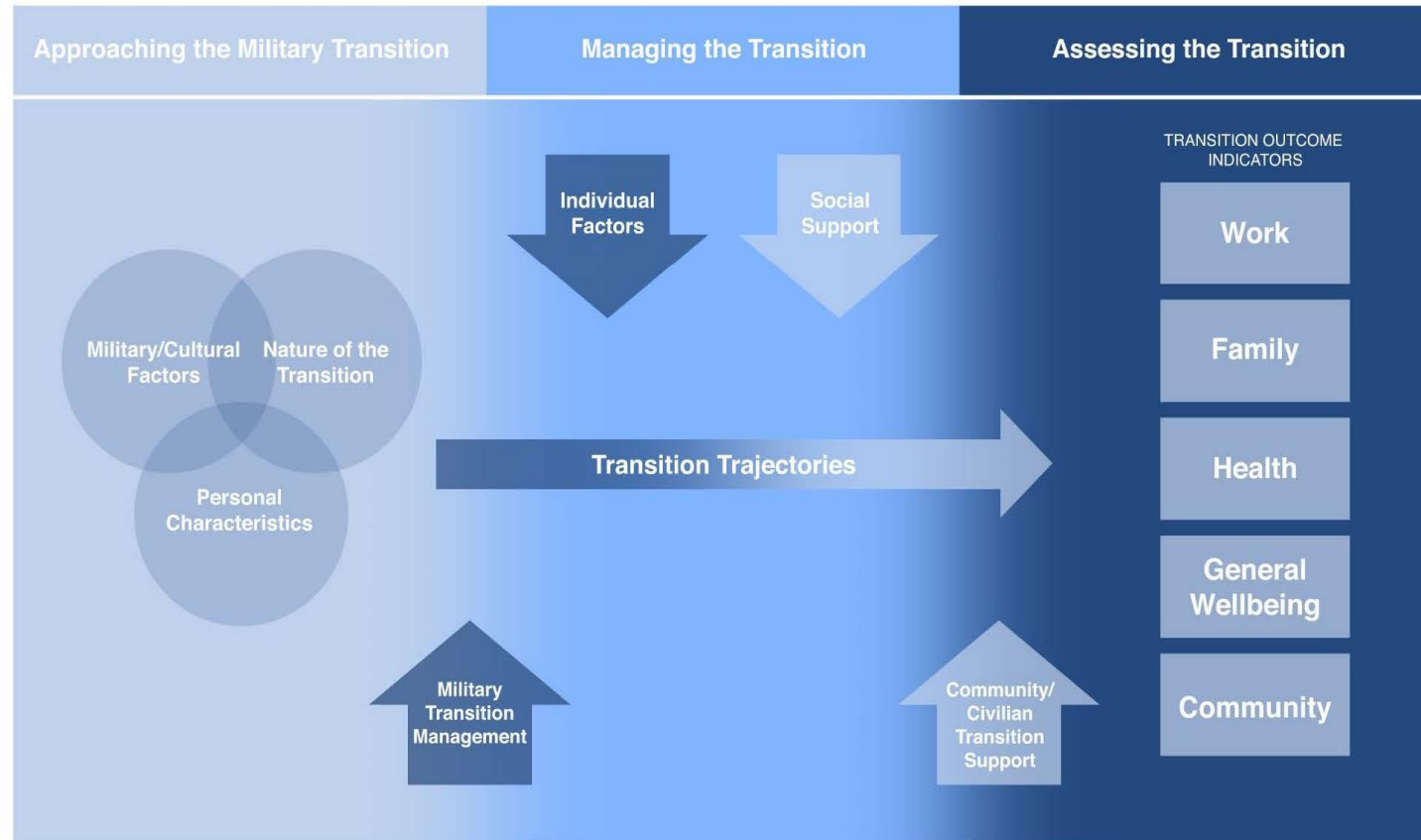
Action



Impact



MILITARY TRANSITION THEORY



RESULTS



Survey: 1,356 LA County veterans

- 50% Served **prior** to September 11, 2001
- 38% Served **after** September 11, 2001
- 12% did not provide date of service

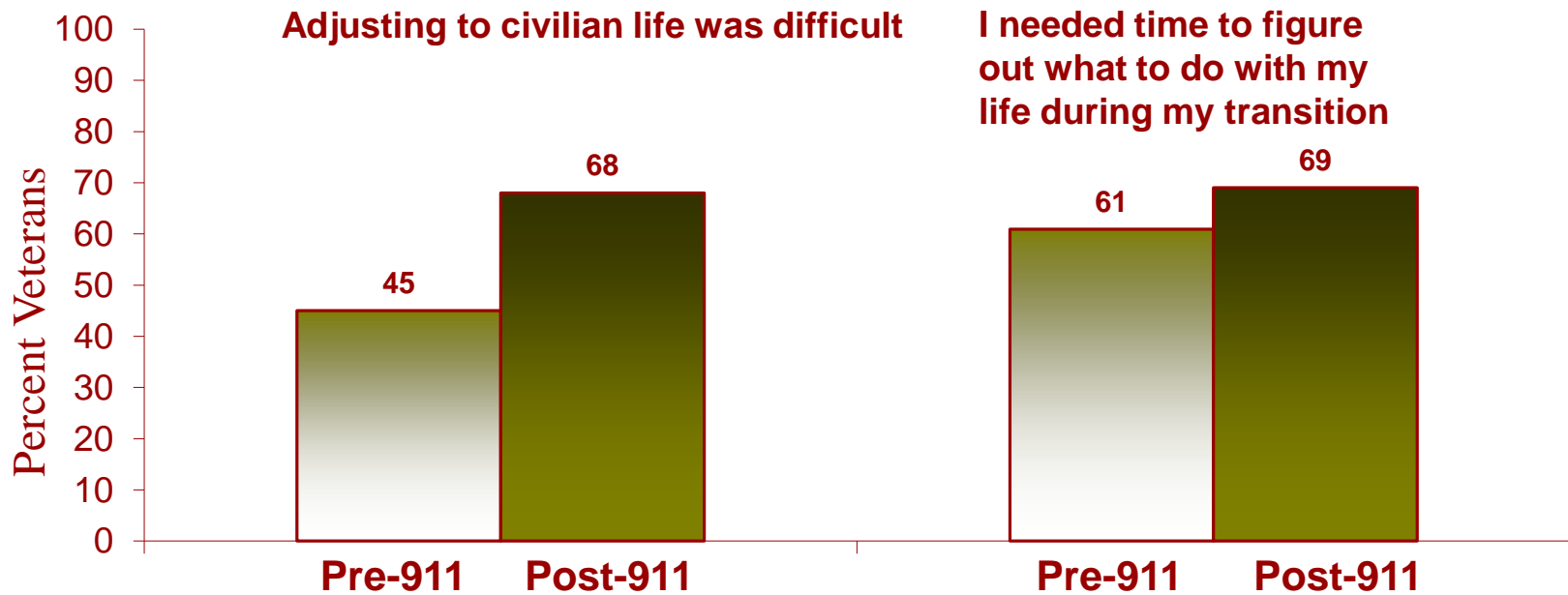
Focus Group Interviews

- 72 participants

Transitioning Out of the Military



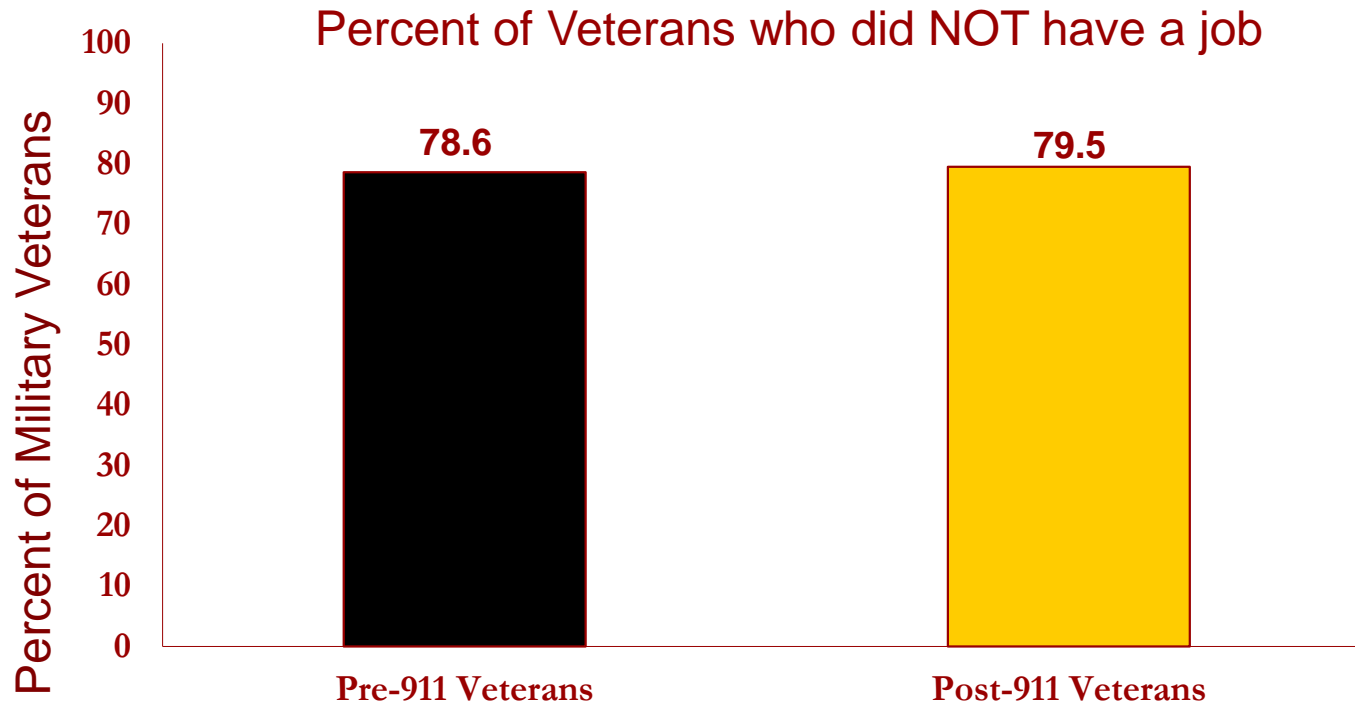
Today's veteran reports greater difficulty transitioning from the military back to civilian life compared to previous veterans.



Job Prospects

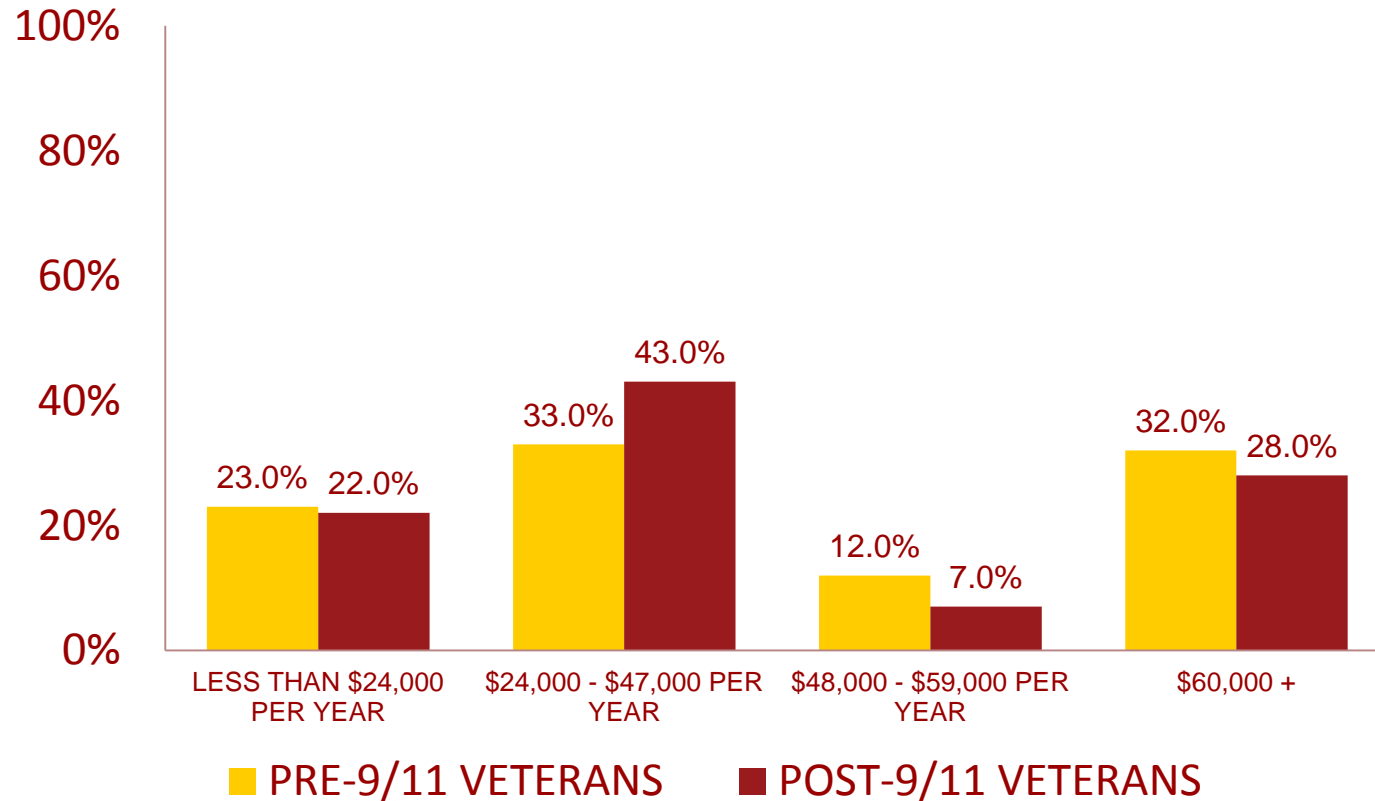


Most veterans did not have a job when they left military service.



Median Income

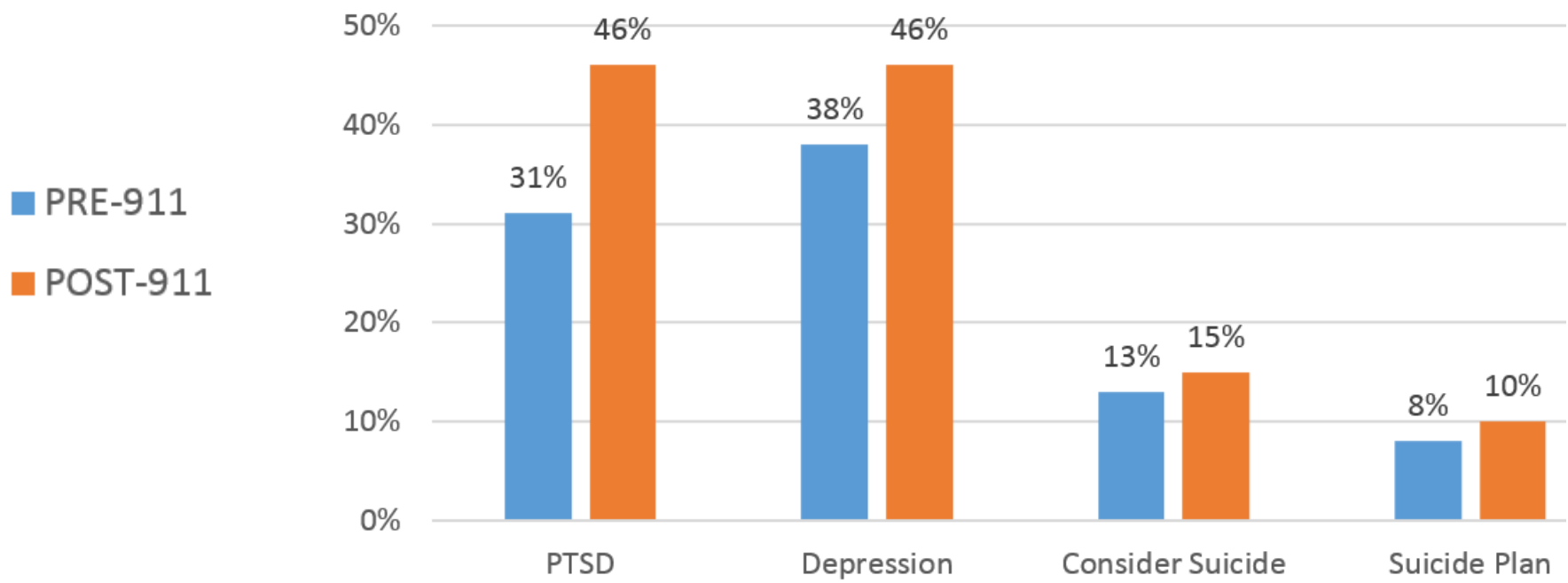
Of the veterans who do work full-time (44%), twenty-two percent have jobs at or below poverty.





MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

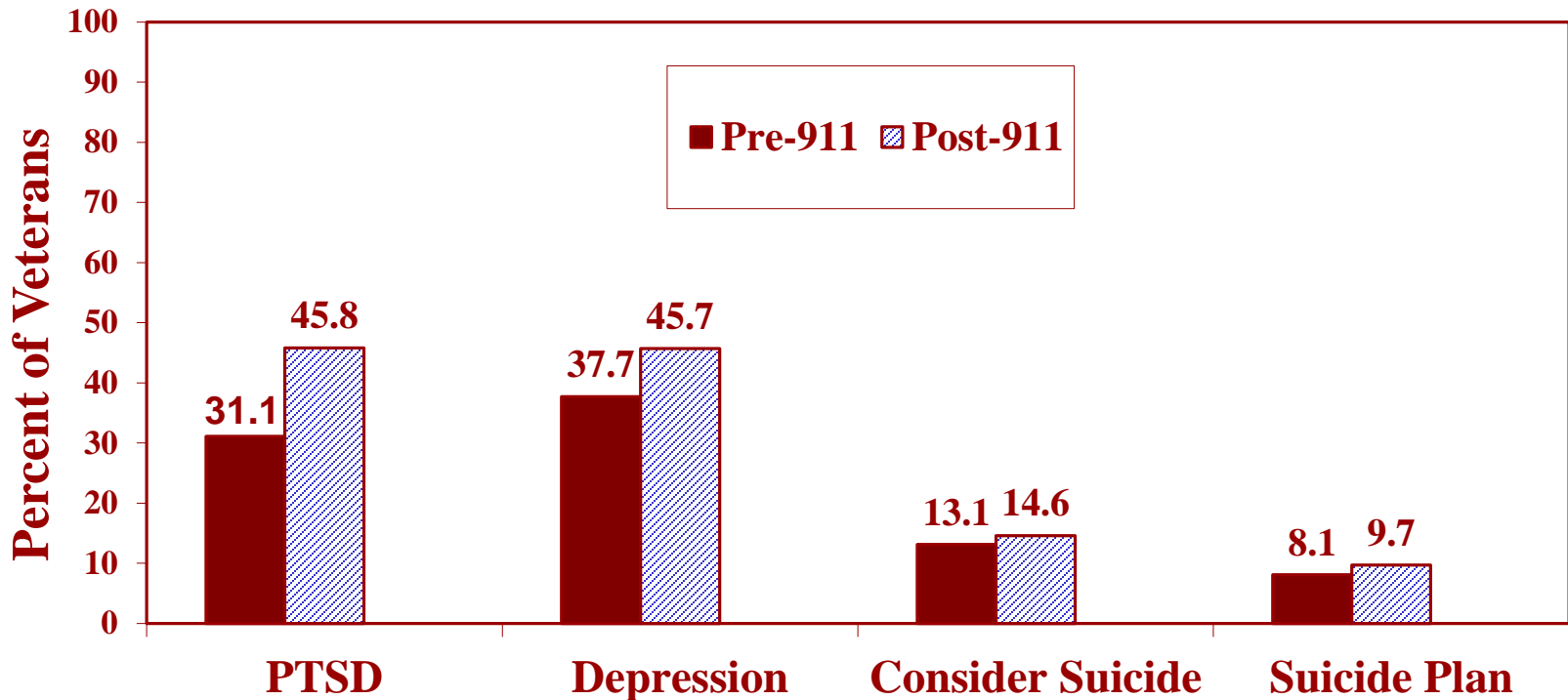
Most veterans **believe** their mental health is **pretty good** when they leave the military, then **later realize** they have significant unmet issues.



Psychological Health of Veterans

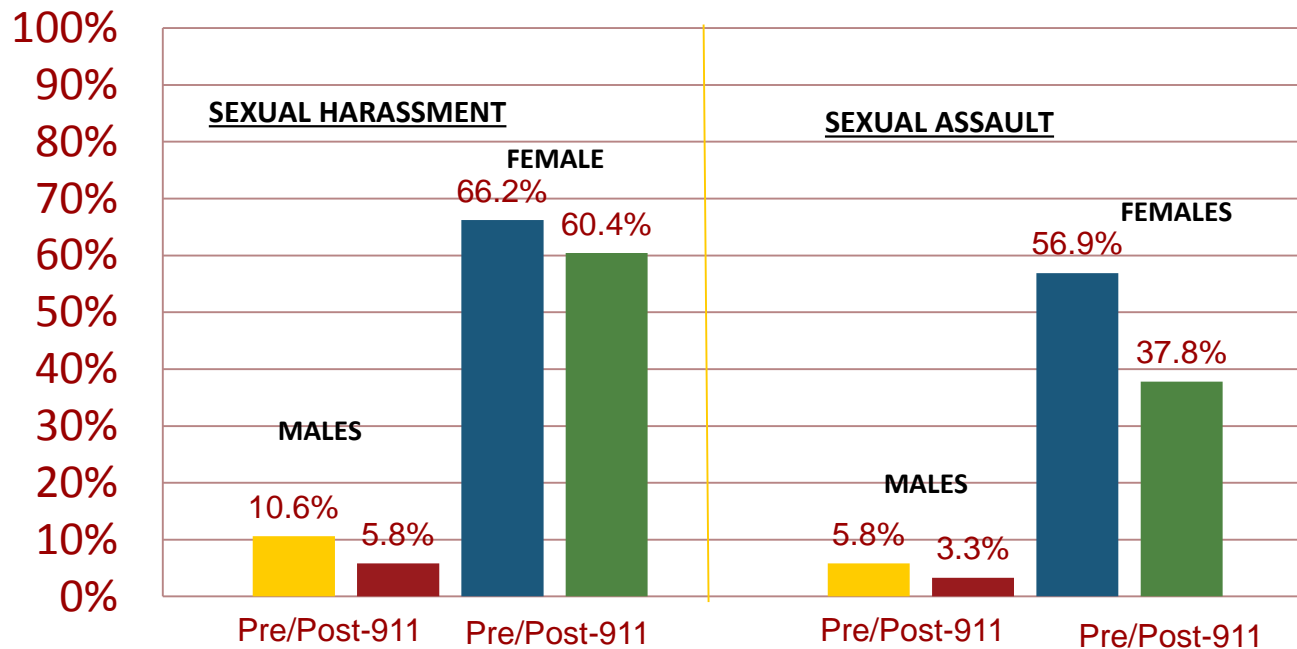


Veterans have significant psychological health issues, including PTSD and suicidal ideation.



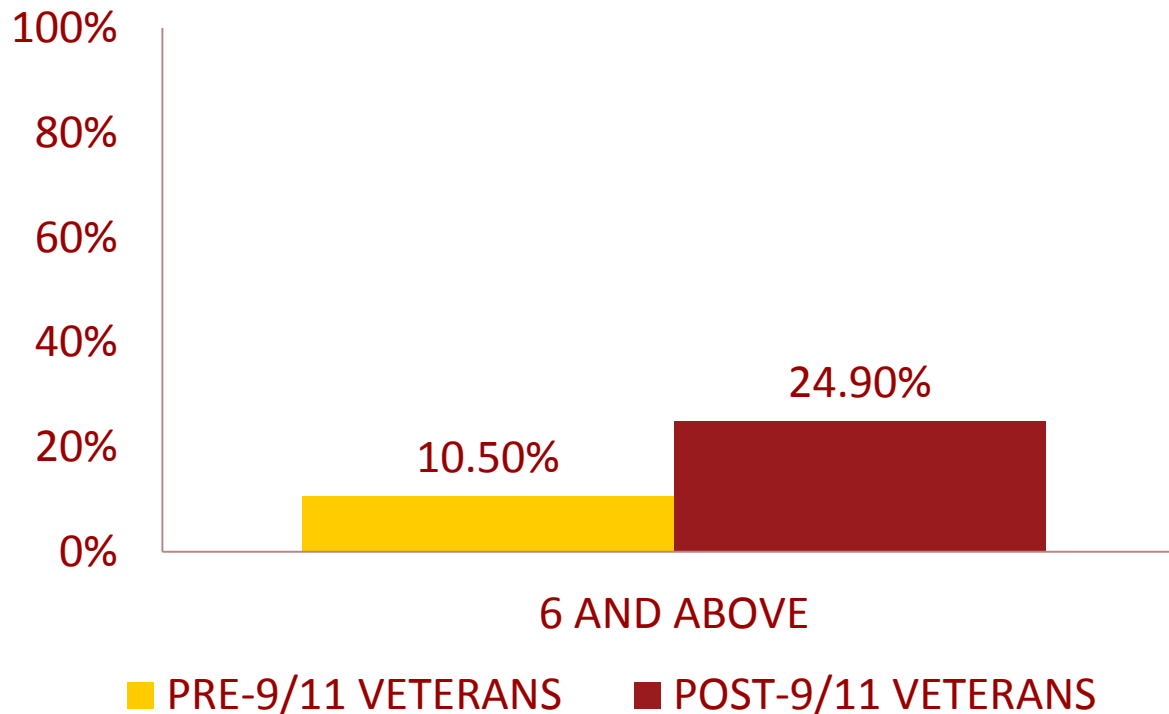
Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault

Percent of male and female pre-9/11 and post-9/11 veterans who were sexually harassed or assaulted during military service



Veterans with Alcohol Concerns

Percent of pre-9/11 and post-9/11 veterans who screened positive on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) alcohol consumption scale.



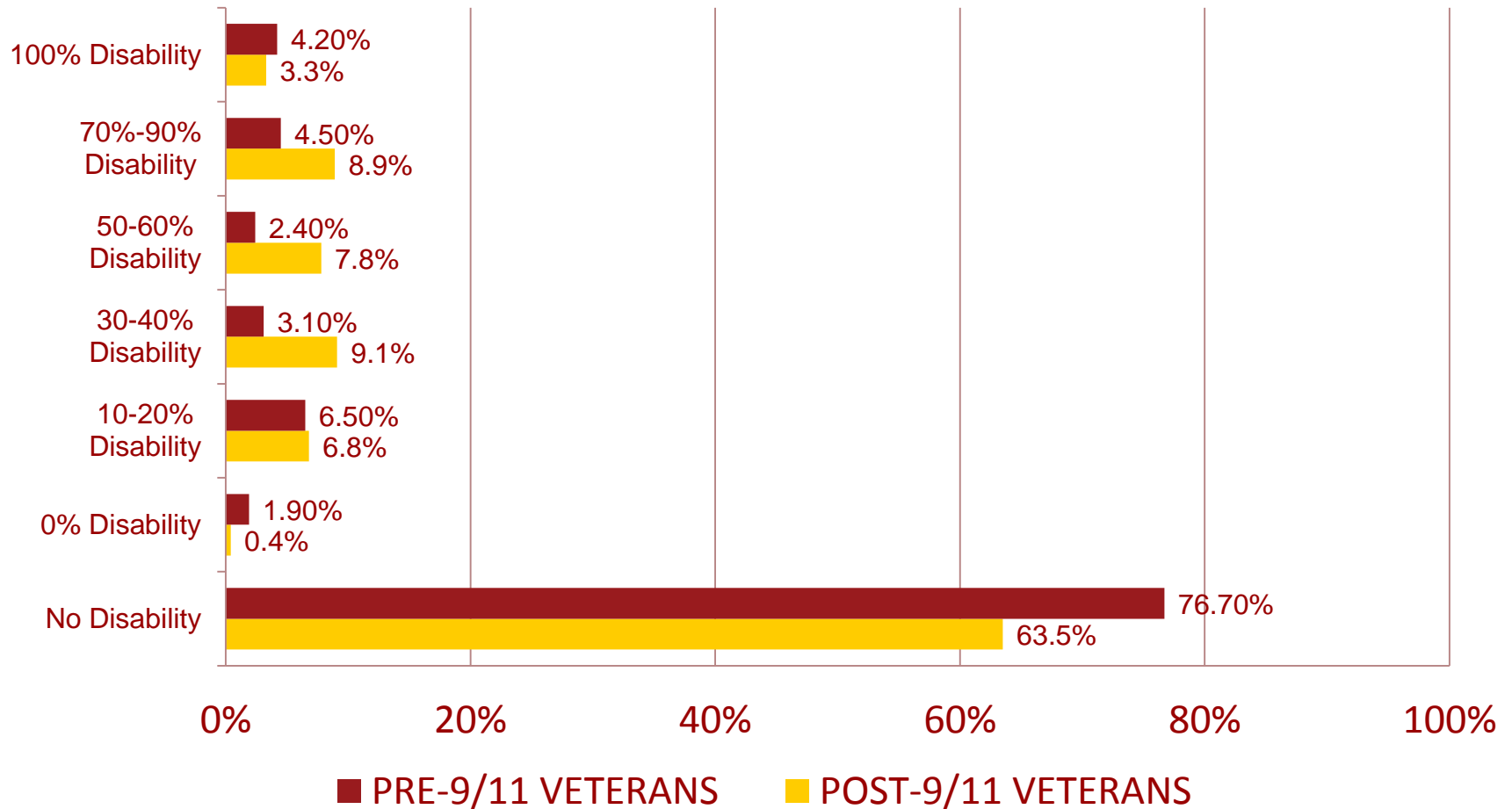


PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Over **50%** report significant physical health conditions that **impair their daily functioning**, which is not necessarily reflected in a VA disability rating.



VA Disability Rating





VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

- Over **70%** of veterans **use VA services**, primarily for medical care and education.
- Of those that use the VA, **50% believe** the VA needs to significantly **improve** their services.
- In particular, veterans are unhappy with:
 1. Wait time for appointments
 2. VA disability rating system
 3. Support for the GI Bill for Education





FINANCIAL AND LEGAL ISSUES

- Over **40%** of veterans face significant **financial issues** stemming primarily from low-paying jobs.
- Legal issues, although not frequently encountered by veterans, **range from misdemeanor** offenses such as traffic violations, **to more serious issues** such as domestic violence and drug or alcohol offenses.

Veterans Barriers to Care





Veteran Service Needs

Veterans identified a **wide range of services needed** during transition, including employment, healthcare, mental health, housing, education and others.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Establish a **veteran community support network**
 - Comprehensive and **holistic** plan to engage and support veterans in transition, which can take up to 2 years
- Utilize a **peer-to-peer** strategy through creation of civilian military transition mentors



Military Identity

Today's veterans have **strong** personal and social **military identities** that, while admirable and desirable, **can interfere** with a successful civilian transition.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Develop a **comprehensive reorientation program** focusing on differences and similarities between military and civilian culture
 - Provide **realistic** employment/housing expectations
- Structure local **community veteran support services** to begin where TAP/Transition GPS leaves off
- Encourage and support veterans building **new networks** with civilians while on active military service



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Data → Action → Impact



HOW ACTION WORKS

2nd Wednesday of the month

Large gathering Announcements/events relating to the veteran community

Working groups for one hour session in one of seven working groups;

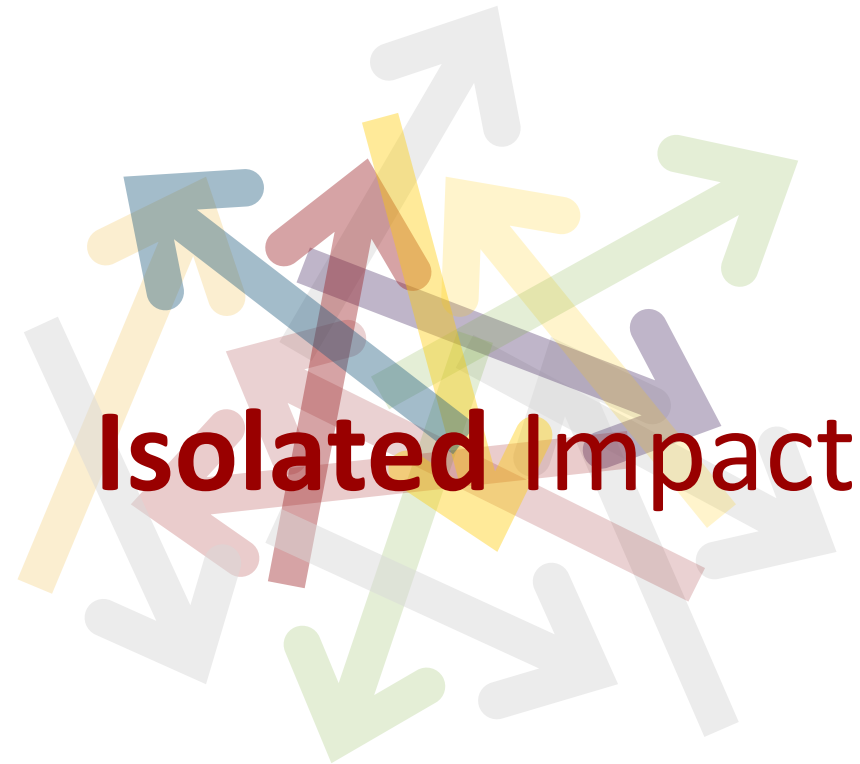
(1) Behavioral Health, (2) Career Advancement, (3) Families and Children, (4) Housing and Homelessness, (5) Legal and Reentry, (6) Faith Based and (7) Higher Education, Healthcare

Reconvene to share Objectives, Missions, Action items and possible collaborations

Meeting Structure



- **Engagement and Access Working Group** (9:00am)
- **Collective Meeting** (10:00 am)
 - Welcome
 - Announcements
- **Working Group Session** (10:30 am)
 - Continue work on Measurable Goals, Outlining strategy
 - Break down into tasks to assign POC
- **Collective Review** (11:30 am)
 - Report Back, Action updates, Goal update







5 elements of **collective impact**

**COMMON
AGENDA**

**SHARED
MEASUREMENT**

**MUTUALLY
REINFORCING
ACTIVITIES**

**CONTINUOUS
COMMUNICATION**

**BACKBONE
ORGANIZATION**



working in collaboration
requires a ***mindset shift***

***ADAPTIVE
PROBLEM
SOLVING***

VS.

***TECHNICAL
PROBLEM
SOLVING***



How to Collaborate

1. ACHIEVE A PERPETUAL STATE OF SIMULTANEOUS PLANNING AND DOING
2. PAY ATTENTION TO RELATIONSHIPS
3. LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN FOR HOW TO RESPOND TO UNANTICIPATED RESULTS
4. ADOPT AN ATTITUDE OF “BURNING PATIENCE”



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Working Groups

Behavioral Health Working Group

Who: Agencies, social workers, family therapists, and practitioners who provide behavioral health support to Veterans and their families throughout Los Angeles.

Goal: The working group is centered on identifying the unique needs and challenges veterans have for accessing behavioral healthcare as well as identifying best practices for veteran treatment.

Career Advancement Working Group

Who: America's job centers, work source centers, HR professionals, veteran employments training programs, corporations, VA vocational rehab representatives and individuals looking to hire veterans.

Goals: Educate employers, develop best practices for service providers and work to identify veteran in need of meaningful employment.

Working Groups

Families & Children Working Group

Who: Spouses, adult children of military families, pediatric nurses, social workers and family advocates.

Goal: heightening awareness and impacting policy related to the concerns and needs of military affiliated (connected) children and their families, with particular attention on solving challenges facing families of the Guard and Reserve not fully accessing resources within the military service delivery system.

Healthcare Working Group

Who: Hospital and health insurance administrators, VA hospital staff and both non traditional and traditional models for recovery

Goals: Educate employers, develop best practices for service providers and work to identify veteran in need of meaningful employment.

Working Groups

Higher Education Working Group

Who: Representative certifying officials, admission coordinators and Veteran Resource Center contacts from community colleges, trade schools, and universities across LA County.

Goal: Develop and share best practices with schools, share resources and develop an agenda of working items that can drive a better educational experience for veterans in Los Angeles.

Housing & Homelessness Working Group

Who: VA contracted agencies, housing authorities, individual non-profits, and organizations working with homeless veterans.

Goal: solve systemic issues, pass legislature, write policy briefs and educate and rally providers toward more coordination and better support.

Working Groups

Legal & Re-Entry Working Group

Who: Lawyers, legal professionals, policy makers, public counsel, Veteran Affairs legal teams and aids.

Goal: Develop policy objectives, education, identifying laws affecting veterans and service delivery, building capacity with legal professionals to work with Veteran clients in Los Angeles as well as organizing to solve large scale legal barriers facing veterans with criminal or legal issues.

Faith-Based Working Group

Who: chaplains, Rabbi's, clergy, pastors and religious organizations who seek to learn, educate and share best practices for working with veterans and military families in their respective communities.

Goal: As focused on awareness and education of military and veteran of faith community with curriculum and



Next Steps

Let's work together to support our returning veterans and their families.



Questions